

Returning FTFs

Foreign
 terrorist
 fighters



Why are they coming back?



Disillusioned /
 remorseful



Still driven by
 ideology, want better
 living conditions
 (opportunistic)



Sent to carry out an
 attack (or feel they can
 do more for the cause
 in Europe than in
 Syria/Iraq)



Captured and returned
 unwillingly

FTFs in numbers

42 000+ Foreign terrorist fighters from **120+** countries joined terrorist organisations between **2011** and **2016**, of which **+/-5 000** came from Europe. Departures peaked in **2015** and have decreased since then.

Who are the returnees?

Different nationalities, ethnicities, ages and genders
 All have some level of trauma and emotional / psychological issues

Key actions to consider

Overall approach



A tailored approach for
 each returnee



Establish coordination
 mechanisms across
 government agencies



Immediate risk
 assessment



Multi-agency case
 management



(Local) Communication
 strategy



Intervention
 action plan

Scenarios



Prosecution

- Prioritise resocialisation & reintegration during prison / probation
- Train specialised staff
- Tailored prison placement & transfer options



Non-prosecution /
 resocialisation

- Build relationship & support returnee's family if possible
- Information and / or training for everyone in contact with returnees
- Holistic approach to mentoring, (mental health) treatment & practical support



Children

- Focus on normalisation and resocialisation as soon as possible
- Develop an overview of expertise focused on child trauma & indoctrination
- Train first-line practitioners working with returnee children

Adults



Men

- Higher risk of combat experience and skills
- Often involved in and exposed to war atrocities
- Variety of roles within the terrorist-held territories



Women

- Family role and mother to future soldiers
- Driven by sense of empowerment and their role in building the 'caliphate'
- Involved in recruitment, indoctrination of children and others



Children

- Intense ideological indoctrination through education and socialisation
- Recruited for combat and other violent activities from age 9
- Severely traumatised