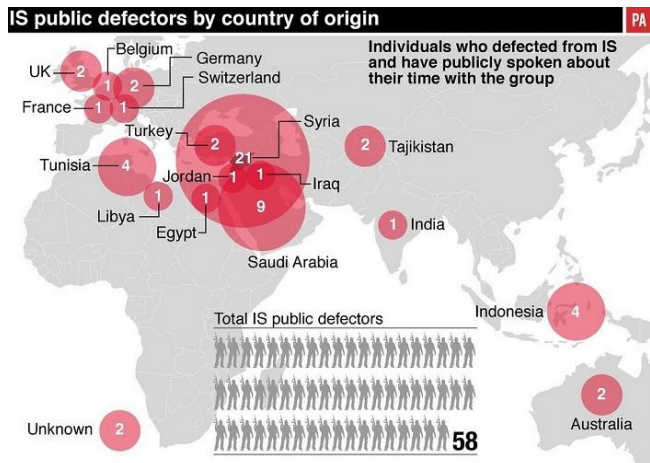


New Report: Australian Islamic State defectors tell the true story

By Gerard May

23 September 2015



Islamic State defectors have spoken out, including two Australians, shattering many of the myths about the I.S. and its fighters. Gerard May reports.

Two Australian defectors from Islamic State (I.S.) are among those [speaking out](#) against it.

The [International Centre For The Study Of Radicalisation and Violence](#) has released a [report](#) claiming 58 defectors stories can be used as a powerful tool in the fight against I.S. — stating their testimony can help prevent young people from being radicalised and recruited.

The report says:

'No one has more credibility in challenging the I.S. narrative and giving a realistic impression of the group and the totalitarian society it seeks to create than the people who have experienced it.'

Reasons differ for why they defect.

Some found the reality of fighting in Syria very different to what they thought it would be.

One said:

"Muslims are fighting Muslims.... [The whole] jihad was turned upside down."

Two decided to defect upon learning their commanders were planning to deploy them as suicide bombers.

Islamic State defectors reveal disappointment about life in 'jihadist utopia' <http://t.co/j93KGKmk3S> pic.twitter.com/6nVLG0PJXS

— HuffPost UK (@HuffPostUK) [September 22, 2015](#)

The defectors shatter the image of unity an convey. worst e

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Until no have "d out. Littl background and reasons for leaving.

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What prevents them from speaking out is fear of reprisals and the worry that prosecutors in their own countries may use their openness against them.

The report categorises why people join I.S. into three categories.

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1. atrocities carried out by the

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[@QuilliamF](#) Great piece by [@si_sarah](#) "The defectors' handbook to destroying Islamic State" Policy makers take note <http://t.co/OKTU2Zrk5V>

— Brent McCamon
(@McCamonBrent)
[September 22, 2015](#)