

# FROM CRIMINALS TO TERRORISTS AND BACK?

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## INTRODUCTION

The total number of radicalised individuals examined for the year 2015 in Italy is 58. Of these, 29 were expelled, 25 arrested, and 4 are currently at large. Also, 1 of the expelled individuals was re-arrested in his country of origin, 5 were released, and at least 3 of them died (two after being sentenced and one while at large).

Moreover, at least 15 of the 58 individuals were under surveillance by either intelligence agencies from Europe (Italy, France) or their countries of origin.

It is important to emphasize how in some sections of the research it was not possible to collect information, specifically education, health, or military service. It was also extremely complicated to detect specific paths of radicalisation

Since more than half of the radicalised individuals examined were expelled, one last observation must be addressed to the strategy of expulsion/deportation carried out over the years by the Italian authorities as it covers an extremely important role in the security of the country and has clearly demonstrated its effectiveness, with many individuals considered a threat to national security removed from Italian soil. The expulsion/deportation procedure is an administrative measure that is conducted in coordination with law enforcement and the Ministry of the Interior. The minister signs the injunction after being briefed by the investigating force. After the measure is signed, the individual is taken into custody and placed on a flight back to his/her home country.

## SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

Regarding gender and age, among the 58 cases there are 49 males and 9 females. The average age of the total dataset is 20.4 years old. The youngest individual is 19 and the oldest is 61.

As to education and employment, it was extremely complicated to find reliable information, and in general, it resulted in insufficient data to provide specific numbers. However, the limited information gathered showed that many of the examined cases had a very low educational level.

The employment variables were also complicated to collect because many of the examined individuals worked illegally, in the “black labour market”.

In relation to employment, some analyses showed a correlation between a lack of employment and a radicalisation path<sup>1</sup>. The majority of the individuals in the cases analysed that were involved in terrorism-related offences had a job that required less than their qualifications.

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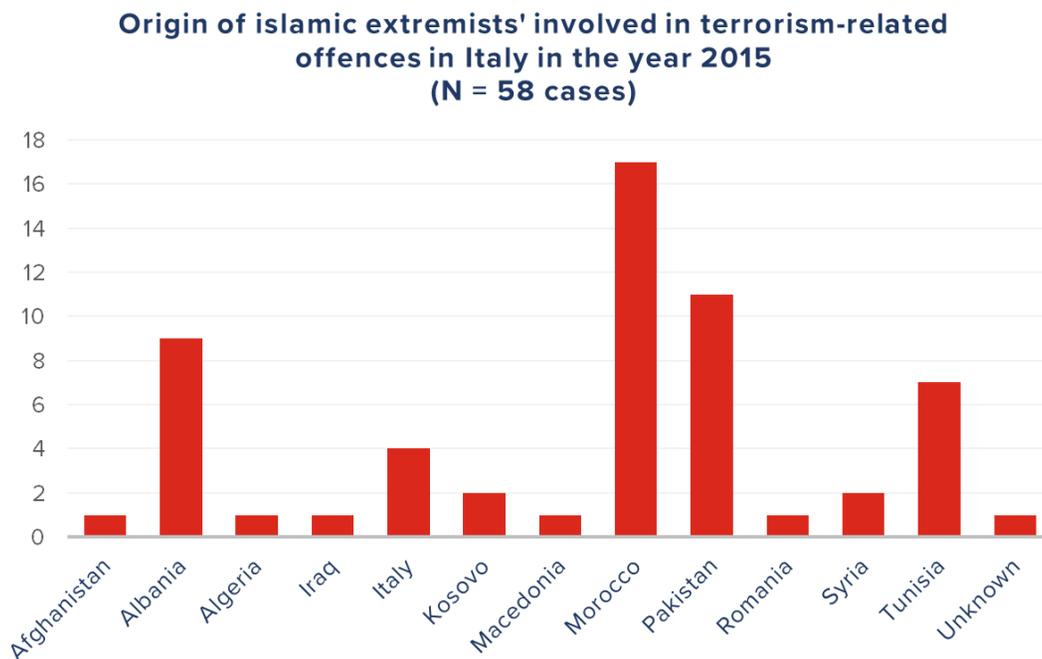
<sup>1</sup> Boncio, Alessandro. 2016. Italian Foreign Terrorist Fighters: a quantitative analysis of radicalization risk factors. ITSTIME - Security, Terrorism and Society International Journal. Issue 2/2016, pp. 7-19.

## NATIONALITY/ORIGINS

Of the 58 cases, only 4 are Italian citizens, all from the same family, while 1 additional individual is an Italian citizen of Albanian origin. The nationality that is mostly represented is Moroccan (16 cases), followed by Pakistani (11), Albanian (9), and Tunisian (7). Overall, it appears evident that 54 of the 58 individuals examined are foreigners, which clearly indicates a link between immigration and radicalisation.

Another interesting element is that 4 of the 5 Italian cases belonged to the same family unit—parents and daughters. Moreover, this family unit was related to at least two Albanian families by marriage of 1 of the 2 daughters with an Albanian citizen living in Albania (they both joined ISIS in Syria).

Fig. 1.



## GEOSPATIAL ANALYSIS OF INDIVIDUALS' RESIDENTIAL LOCATIONS

To understand the spatial distribution of arrested and expelled individuals linked to terror-related offences, information about the locations of the residences of the individuals involved in terrorism-linked activities in 2015 was collected. Indeed, this method is not certain as the information about the actors' residential locations is not always available and, moreover, the majority of the cases were recorded only at the city level or, in some sporadic cases, at the street level.

The first method used to examine the spatial distribution and identify clusters of residential locations of individuals involved in terrorism-related activities is choropleth mapping<sup>2</sup>. The choropleth map in Fig. 2 shows the distribution by area of the residential locations of individuals expelled or arrested for terror-related activities in Italy in 2015. The sample is composed of 57 cases out of the 58 total. One case, that of ITA 36, was excluded because he was arrested at Orio al Serio Airport on November 18, 2015, while attempting to board a flight to Malta using a fake passport<sup>3</sup>. In this case, the administrative unit in use is the province, which is too general, given that for each province we have considered the number of cases and generated a graduated colour map in which deeply shaded provinces show higher values and lightly shaded provinces show lower values. In the end, it was decided to use an equal interval classification for setting values. An initial examination of the map reveals that most of the cases are located in northern Italy, in fact the provinces of Bologna (Emilia-Romagna region) and Milan (Lombardy region) indicate the highest value (7 cases and 5 cases, respectively), followed by the provinces of Brescia and Bergamo (3, 4), and then Grosseto Province (Tuscany region) with 3 cases.

<sup>2</sup> See: Eck, John E., Spencer Chainey, James G. Cameron, Michael Leitner, and Ronald E. Wilson. 2005a. *Mapping Crime: Understanding Hot Spots*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice (NIJ); Boba Santos, Rachel. 2012. *Crime Analysis with Crime Mapping* (3rd Ed.). Radford University, USA: SAGE.

<sup>3</sup> Q., F. "Terrorismo, Siriano Arrestato a Orio Al Serio: "Organico a Isis. Sua Foto in Divisa"." *Il Fatto Quotidiano*. November 28, 2015. Accessed June 25, 2019. <https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2015/11/28/terrorismo-siriano-arrestato-a-orio-al-serio-organico-a-isis-sua-foto-in-divisa/2260606/>.

Fig. 3 shows the percentage of the total from a regional point of view. Here, about 28% of the total cases are located in the Lombardy region, 14% in the Emilia Romagna region, 10.5% in the Tuscany and Veneto regions, and 5.2% in the Piemonte and Sardinia regions.

Fig. 2. Number of individuals' residential locations linked to terrorism-related offences in Italy during 2015 (provincial variation)

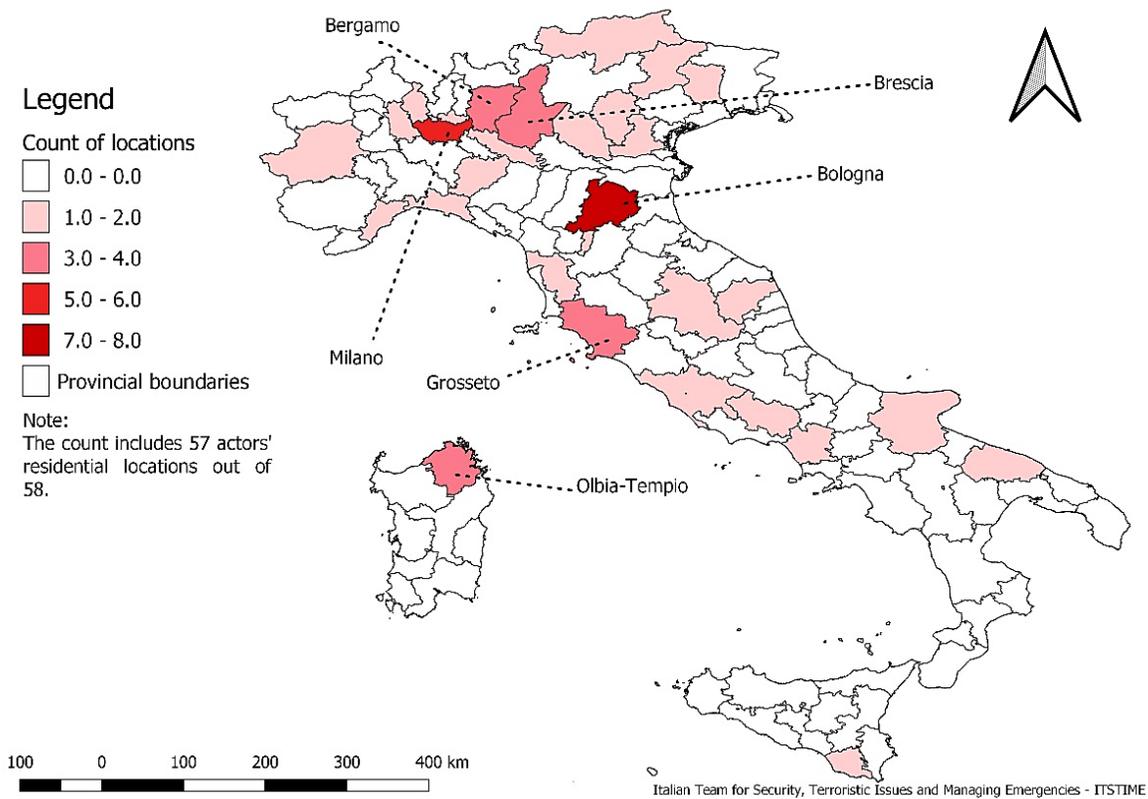
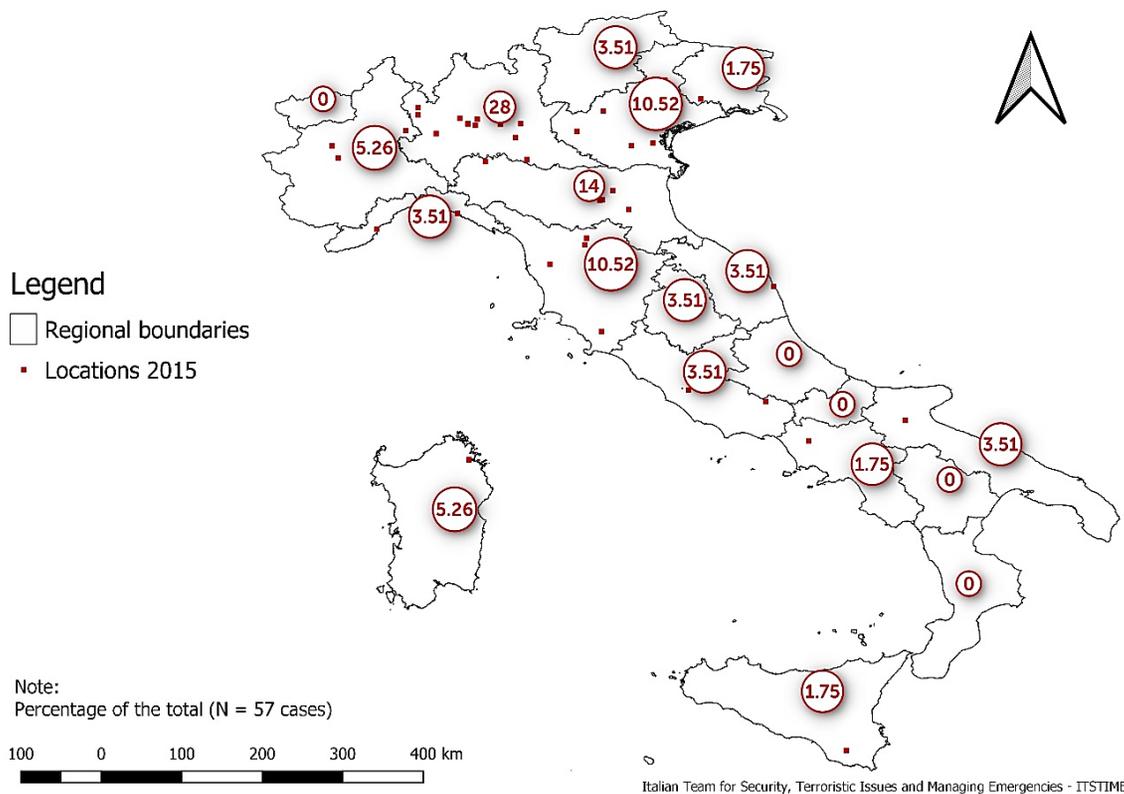


Fig. 3. Percentages of the total number of residential locations of individuals linked to terrorism-related offences in Italy in 2015 (regional variation)



Another method used to conduct hotspot analysis and determine areas with a high concentration of residential locations of the individuals is Kernel density estimation (KDE). This technique is considered the most accurate of the common hotspot methods<sup>4</sup>. KDE uses a grid with same-sized cells to estimate the density of events across the entire area of interest. To do this, the KDE algorithm calculates the distance between each grid cell's centre and each event point and determines the weight of the cell in relation to the events. In other words, events that are far away from the cell centre are weighted less than those closer to the centre; thus, for each grid cell, a Kernel function is used to weight event points that fall within its search radius. Density mapping was created using CrimeStat software<sup>5</sup> using specific parameters: grid-cell size, type of Kernel function, and the search radius (also called bandwidth). Therefore, as suggested by Paulsen and Robinson<sup>6</sup>, the choice of these parameters were based on how the density map looked in relation to the spatial distribution, then using trial and error to arrive at the final view. As for cell size, we set the value of the column grid cell to 1000, a number that corresponds to a cell size of 1.5 x 1.5 Km. The method of interpolation used to create the Kernel function and weighting events points within each grid cell is called the negative exponential. This Kernel function allows us to limit the point interpolation to cluster events, avoiding any type of density over-representation, which can be difficult to interpret. In other words, this function “keeps the risk tightly focused around the original offense location [point] and spreads only a little risk towards the edges of its radius [...] negative exponential functions tend to produce and emphasize many small hot and cold spots and thus produce a “mottled” appearance on [the] map<sup>7</sup>”. For this analysis, the bandwidth was defined as 1,000 metres, with the aim to highlight the cluster of extremists' residential locations within a kilometre from each grid-cell centre point, generating a very useful density output. The final parameter selected is the calculated density-type; thus, we used the relative density that mathematically divides the absolute density by the area of the grid cell, generating a measure that is in units of measurement<sup>8</sup> (point events per square kilometre).

Fig. 4 shows the Kernel density map for the individuals' residential locations involved in terrorism-related offences in 2015. To classify data, we used natural breaks (Jenks' algorithm), a technique that determines natural clusters of values in data. The map reveals two main hotspots of high density: the first covers the centre and east-west side of the Lombardy region and mainly includes the provinces of Milan, Monza-Brianza, Lodi, Cremona, Brescia, Bergamo, Lecco, and Varese. These provinces present a range of density from 6 cases/km<sup>2</sup> to 27 cases/km<sup>2</sup>. The second largest hotspot is in the provinces of Bologna (12 cases/ km<sup>2</sup> to 27 cases/km<sup>2</sup>) and Prato (3 cases/ km<sup>2</sup> to 12 cases/ km<sup>2</sup>). The Fig. 5 shows the detail of the KDE map in which we emphasize other lower-density hotspots, such as those in Turin, Bolzano, Verona, Grosseto, Perugia e Macerata and Olbia (Sardinia region). Northern Italy is confirmed as the main hotspot in Italy, with the highest presence of expelled or arrested actors.

Considering jihadi foreign fighters who have left Italy, Marone and Vidino underlined that “in relation to the individuals' place of residence, it can be argued that, in general, the foreign-fighter phenomenon has mainly affected northern Italy, especially the region of Lombardy, and to a lesser extent central Italy. Most likely this can be explained by the fact that the north of Italy remains the main industrial pole, where it is still possible to find employment. In addition, it is also important to point out that the regions of Lombardy and Emilia Romagna have a strong presence of Salafi congregations. This geographical distribution mirrors Italy's broader jihadist landscape. Interestingly, unlike other Western European countries, Italy's foreign fighters do not predominantly hail from metropolises or large urban centres.”<sup>9</sup>

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4 See: Mclafferty, Sara, Doug Williamson, and Philip G. McGuire. 2000. 'Identifying Crime Hot Spots Using Kernel Smoothing'. In *Analyzing Crime Patterns: Frontiers of Practice*, 77–86. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications, Inc.; Levine, Ned. 2017. 'CrimeStat: A Spatial Statistical Program for the Analysis of Crime Incidents'. In *Encyclopedia of GIS*, edited by Shashi Shekhar, Hui Xiong, and Xun Zhou, 381–88. Cham: Springer International Publishing.

5 Levine, Ned. 2015. *CrimeStat: A Spatial Statistics Program for the Analysis of Crime Incident Locations* (v 4.02). Ned Levine & Associates, Houston, Texas, and the National Institute of Justice, Washington, D.C. August.

6 See: Paulsen, Derek J., and Matthew B. Robinson. 2009. *Crime Mapping and Spatial Aspects of Crime*. Prentice Hall.

7 See: Bruce, Christopher W., and Susan C. Smith. 2011. 'Spatial Statistics in Crime Analysis: Using CrimeStat III'. National Institute of Justice (NIJ), p. 89. <https://www.iadllest.org/Portals/0/Files/Documents/DDACTS/Docs/CrimeStatCAWorkbookV2.pdf>.

8 Ibid.

9 Marone and Vidino. 2019. *Destination Jihad: Italy's Foreign Fighters*. ICCT Report, March 2019. p. 3 Url: <https://icct.nl/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Marone-Vidino-Italys-Foreign-Fighters-March2019.pdf>.

Fig. 4. KDE of residential locations of individuals linked to terrorism-related offences in Italy in 2015 (provincial variation).

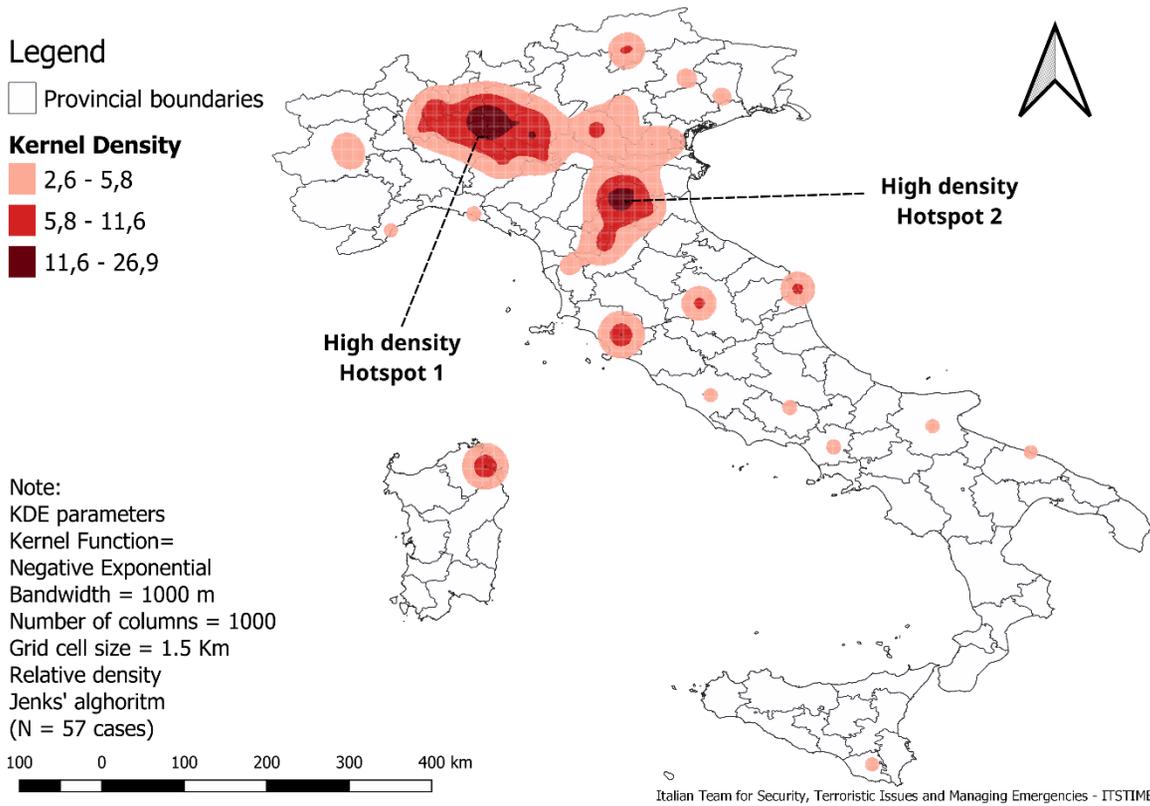
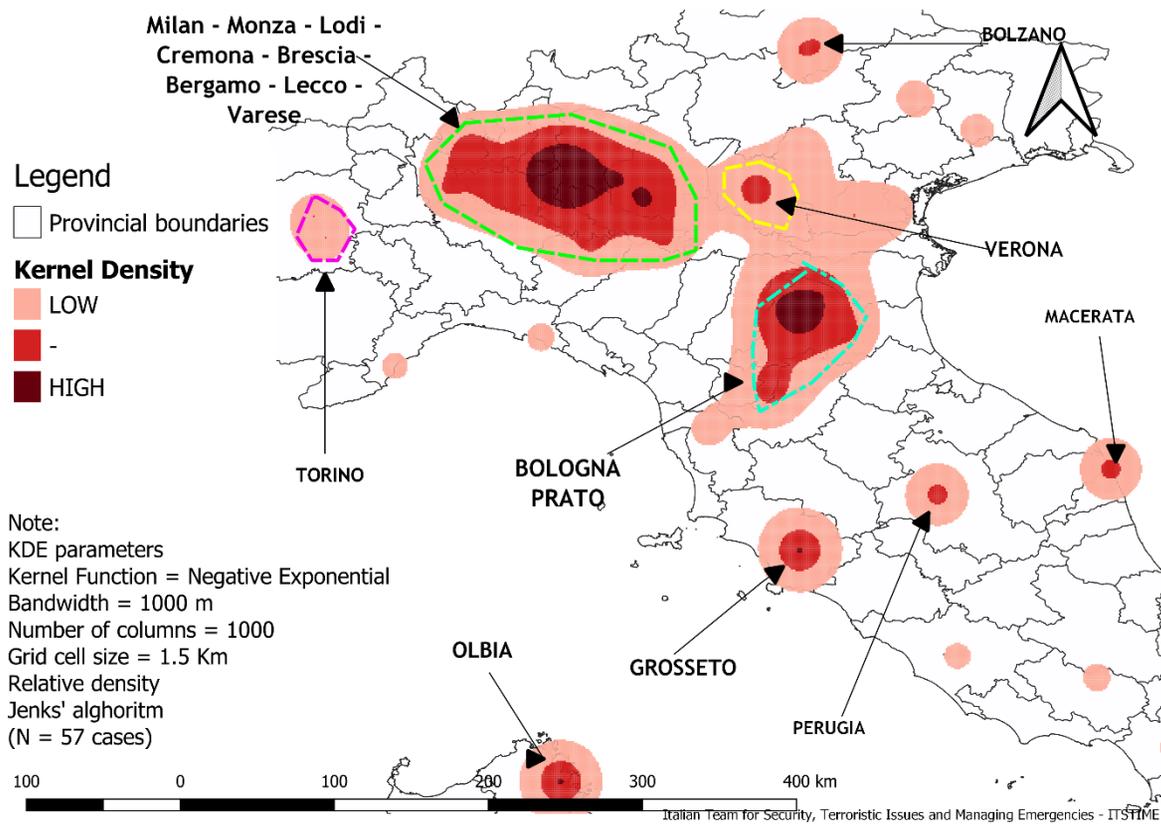


Fig. 5. KDE of residential locations of individuals linked to terrorism-related offences in Italy in 2015 (provincial variation)



## FOREIGN FIGHTERS

While it was not possible to obtain information regarding the military service of any of the individuals examined, it was possible to collect information regarding the jihadist militancy of some of them.

At least 2 of the individuals were part of the Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan and 5 others (four females and one male) joined ISIS in the Middle East. Of the females, 1 (a Canadian citizen of Syrian origin) operated from Saudi Arabia as a propagandist and recruiter who used Skype. The male, a Moroccan citizen, was expelled from Italy in 2015 and later joined ISIS and was killed. A sixth individual, a citizen of Kosovo with a criminal record who was expelled, was arrested in his country of origin in October 2018 and charged with belonging to a terrorist cell.

In addition, 3 more individuals, all Italian citizens belonging to the same family unit, were arrested while preparing to leave for Syria to join ISIS.

It is interesting to note how, even if Italian citizens represent a minority of the total number of cases, 4 out of the 5 were either about to join ISIS or had already done so.

## CRIMINAL HISTORY

Only 7 out of the 58 have a proven criminal history. The offences range from financial crimes to human trafficking and recruiting for Ansar al-Islam. An additional 2 individuals were detained in prison for 10 years. Their average age is 35.6, far higher than the total average of 20.4 cited above. All 9 are foreigners who were floating between unemployment, temporary work, and blue-collar jobs.

The related crime-related profiles are presented below with the aim to briefly give their biography, role/terrorism offences, and criminal history.

As shown below, the criminal history of the 7 individuals involved in terrorism-related offences in 2015 is not particularly extensive. It is possible to classify them into two categories: the first is composed of individuals who presented violent behaviour specifically connected to social and familial problems. For example, ITA 42 boosted his radicalisation process after breaking up with his wife; he then started to “lock himself” into the internet, increasing his sense of a need of revenge against the West. In another case, ITA 35 showed violent behaviour after separating from his wife and then presenting ranting/raving and anti-social behaviour. They both had a criminal background linked to petty crime and drug offences.

The second category of individuals presented a criminal past strictly related to terrorist activities; moreover, their dodgy background was useful to shape their future terrorist acts. A case of note involves ITA 38, whose criminal background moved side by side with his extremism; he was in fact linked to criminal groups active in the Balkans, specifically in Kosovo; thanks to these contacts, he was able to acquire weapons from dealers which he used in terrorist attacks. His criminal past ranges from drug offences to credit-card forgery. ITA 38 has several demonstrated connections to extremist and criminal networks. For instance, he had close links to a gang of robbers, Kosovans, who attacked a gas station in Cremona province on December 14, 2013. The robbery had the objective of financing the armed struggle in Syria, although ITA 38 always denied that<sup>10</sup>. After his expulsion from Italy in 2015, he moved to Kosovo, and then in October 2018, authorities arrested ITA 38 and charged him with involvement in a terrorist cell that was planning terror acts in Kosovo, Belgium, France, and Macedonia. He was part of a jihadist group called *Ndihmëtarët e shtetit Islam në Tokën e Shqiponjave*<sup>11</sup>. The terror operations were financed from the Islamic State branch in Eastern Europe.<sup>11</sup>

ITA 38 had a logistic role, indeed, he should have acquired explosives, firearms, and operatives to commit the attacks, and therefore his role in the planning reflects his capacity to exploit criminal networks of traffickers and to get access to the black market in order to acquire material (e.g., weapons and fake documents) and human resources (volunteers). Considering the extremist network, he was deeply tied to several jihadists. For instance, ITA 38 was in contact with Pakistani extremist Ahmed Riaz, expelled from Italy in March 2015<sup>12</sup>. More recently, in April 2019, Italian authorities expelled the Kosovan and preacher Naser Baftija because of his extremist sermons. He was a leading figure of the Balkanic Islamic communities in Cremona and Mantova provinces. The preacher was in touch with ITA 38<sup>13</sup>.

10 Bazoli, Gilberto. “Isis, Il Kosovaro Espulso: ‘Voglio Tornare in Italia.’” Cremona. February 26, 2015. Accessed June 25, 2019. <https://www.laprovinciacr.it/news/cronaca/110747/Isis--il-kosovaro-espulso-.html>.

11 “I Akuzuari Për Terrorizëm Kundërshton Gjykatësin: Avokatit Mos I Thuaj Mbrojtësi Im, Mbrojtës Kam Vetëm Allahun.” Raporto Korrupsionin! KALLXO.com. April 11, 2019. Accessed June 25, 2019. <https://kallxo.com/i-akuzuari-per-terrorizem-kundershton-gjykatesin-avokatit-mos-i-thuaj-mbrojttesi-im-mbrojtetes-kam-vetem-allahun/>.

12 “Brescia, Operazione Antiterrorismo Dei Ros: Fermato Un Pakistano Di Trent’anni.” Repubblica.it. March 18, 2015. Accessed June 25, 2019. [https://milano.repubblica.it/cronaca/2015/03/18/news/brescia\\_fermato\\_per\\_terrorismo\\_un\\_30enne\\_pakistano\\_l\\_operazione\\_dei\\_ros-109849169/?ref=search](https://milano.repubblica.it/cronaca/2015/03/18/news/brescia_fermato_per_terrorismo_un_30enne_pakistano_l_operazione_dei_ros-109849169/?ref=search).

13 Giacalone, Giovanni. “Espulso Predicatore Kosovaro: Impartiva Lezioni Di Jihadismo Ai Ragazzi.” IlGiornale.it. April 14, 2019. Accessed June 25, 2019. <http://www.ilgiornale.it/news/cronache/espulso-predicatore-kosovaro-impartiva-lezioni-jihadismo-ai-1679285.html>.

Another relevant case is the one involving ITA 49, whose criminal background is strictly related to terrorist activities. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 2007 for falsification of documents and illegal immigration. He also managed a recruitment network for the Ansar al-Islam group. The leader of the Ansar network, Mera'j (aka, El Ayashi Abd El Samie), was in touch with ITA 49<sup>14</sup>, who was released from prison in 2014<sup>15</sup>.

On December 7, 2015, the Italian authorities re-arrested ITA 49 because he provided fake documents and accommodations to individuals from Pakistan, Egypt, Iran, Morocco, and Turkey.

In the same way, ITA 49 and his brother were arrested for financial offences, probably related to terrorist operations.

It is possible to state that of the 58 cases in 2015, there is no strong crime-terror nexus; however, as explained above, there are 7 cases with a criminal background that show a crime-terror nexus to various degrees.

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14 Web, Redazione. "Terrorismo, Guerriglia E Giudizi." Home - Giuristi Democratici. January 28, 2005. Accessed June 25, 2019. <http://www.giuristidemocratici.it/Giustizia/post/20050207053220>.

15 Palma, Nicola. "Milano, Incubo Jihad: Torna Libero Il Reclutatore Di Combattenti." Il Giorno. July 22, 2018. Accessed June 25, 2019. <https://www.ilgiorno.it/milano/cronaca/jihad-combattenti-1.4050596>.

## Profiles of individuals with a criminal background, in brief

<p><b>ITA 42</b></p>	<p>Biography and network:</p> <p>ITA 42 is Tunisian and was married to an Italian with two children. He lived in several accommodations in northern Italy. In previous years, he attended various Islamic centres, but they banned him for his extremist view. When he broke up with his wife, he increasingly isolated himself from society, spending hours online, especially on Facebook. He was in touch with several extremists online.</p>
<p><b>Role/terrorism offence:</b></p>	<p>Italian law enforcement agencies intercepted his communication online with other jihadi extremists. He clearly expressed the will to take revenge on Italy and the West through a martyrdom operation. First, he wanted to kill his ex-wife because she was Christian and responsible for educating their children to the Christian religion.</p>
<p><b>Criminal history:</b></p>	<p>He has a record of petty crime.</p>
<p><b>ITA 38</b></p>	<p>Biography and network:</p> <p>Born in Kosovo in 1992, he moved to Italy in 2009 and lived in Pozzaglio (Cremona province, northern Italy). From open sources, there is evidence that he conducted public proselytism activities in Italy at the end of 2012. He used to record his sermons during the conversion of Italian proselytes. He attended the Islamic centre in Cremona<sup>16</sup>. After his expulsion from Italy, he tried to obtain asylum in Germany, but his request was rejected. Then, ITA 38 went back to Kosovo.</p> <p>He was in contact with Chaddad Tamer, a key recruiter of fighters from Italy to Syria. The Prizren (Kosovo) preacher Mazllam Mazzlami influenced Kastrati's Islamic vision; the former was arrested in September 2014 for his extremist sermons. Another influencer of ITA 38 was the notorious Bosnian imam Husen Bilal Bosnic, who was a street preacher in several Italian cities, including Cremona and Motta Baluffi<sup>17</sup>. The preacher was arrested during a counter-terror operation by Bosnian authorities in September 2014 for inciting young people to join the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq<sup>18</sup>.</p>
<p><b>Role/terrorism offence:</b></p>	<p>Italian authorities expelled ITA 38 on January 19, 2015, in relation to his extremist view. Specifically, he exalted the <i>Charlie Hebdo</i> terrorist attack on Facebook and manifested the will to become a martyr; moreover, he tried to organize <i>hijra</i> to Syria. Then, he indoctrinated several Italians to the Muslim faith. On October 2018, authorities in Pristina arrested ITA 38 and other extremists from Kosovo. They were members of a terrorist cell that planned terror acts in France, Belgium, Germany, and Kosovo. ITA 38 had a logistic role; in fact, he would have provided firearms, explosives, and volunteers for martyrdom operations<sup>19</sup>.</p>
<p><b>Criminal history:</b></p>	<p>ITA 38 has criminal records for offences against property, drug offences, and assault. In 2013, he accommodated a robbery crew of Kosovars that had attacked a gas station. The robbers were arrested and the authorities investigated ITA 38 for fraud, drug possession, and card forgeries<sup>20</sup>. He was also charged with having a fake driver's license.</p>

16 Ferro, Michele. "Il Jihadista Espulso Indottrinava Ragazzi E Filmava La Conversione." Cremonaoggi. April 01, 2016. Accessed June 25, 2019. <https://www.cremonaoggi.it/2016/04/01/il-jihadista-espulso-indottrinava-ragazzi-e-filmava-la-conversione/>.

17 Bazoli, Gilberto. "Isis, Il Kosovaro Espulso: 'Voglio Tornare in Italia.'" Cremona. February 26, 2015. Accessed June 25, 2019. <https://www.laprovinciacr.it/news/cronaca/110747/isis--il-kosovaro-espulso-.html>.

18 "U Policijskoj Akciji "Damask" U Bosni Uhapšen Bilal Bosnić." Sandžak PRESS. September 03, 2014. Accessed June 25, 2019. <https://sandzakpress.net/u-policijskoj-akciji-damask-u-bosni-uhapsen-bilal-bosnic>.

19 Giacalone, Giovanni. "L'ex Amministratore Della Pagina "Musulmani D'Italia" Arrestato in Kosovo." IlGiornale.it. October 09, 2018. Accessed June 25, 2019. <http://www.ilgiornale.it/news/lex-amministratore-pagina-musulmani-ditalia-arrestato-kosovo-1585988.html>.

20 Pizzorni, Sara. "Aveva Confezionato Una Patente Falsa. Condannato Il Jihadista Espulso Kastrati." Cremonaoggi. April 18, 2016. Accessed June 25, 2019. <https://www.cremonaoggi.it/2016/04/18/kastrati/>.

<b>ITA 48</b>	<p>Biography and network:</p> <p>ITA 48 lived in Chiari with his brother.</p> <p>The brothers were in contact with several Balkan extremists, for example, in December 2017, with a Kosovar foreign fighter who was expelled by Italian authorities for security reasons (indeed, from 2014 to 2015, he had joined a terrorist group in Syria called Rinia Islame Kacanik<sup>21</sup>).</p>
<b>Role/terrorism offence:</b>	<p>The investigation began in 2014 when authorities started to monitor a Facebook page used by several IS foreign fighters. The Facebook page published propaganda materials towards residents in the Balkans and Italy. During the counter-terror operation codenamed “Van Damme”, Italian and Kosovar authorities dismantled a terror cell led by ITA 48’s brother, which had operated from Hani I Helezit (Kosovo). The two brothers lived in Chiari and ITA 48 had been expelled from Italy. Italian police found IS propaganda materials and several personal computers in the safehouse in Chiari that had been used to connect with other jihadists.</p> <p>Another cell member, a Macedonian called Arben Suma, was arrested in Savona<sup>22</sup>. Other members, Amir Rakipi and Ezval Rakipi, lived in Italy.</p> <p>ITA 48 was expelled with his son. The brother, and the leader of the cell, was arrested in Kosovo. The cell was linked with jihadist groups close to IS leader Lavdrim Muhaxheri.</p> <p>The cell members used Facebook accounts to spread their extremist views, indeed they wrote several messages threatening Pope Francis, exalting the Paris terrorist attacks, and threatening the former U.S. ambassador to Kosovo<sup>23</sup>.</p>
<b>Criminal history:</b>	<p>ITA 48 and his brother were arrested and charged with financial offences, such as credit card forgery, before 2015. The authorities did not rule out the use of these criminal acts to finance terrorist activities<sup>24</sup>.</p>

<b>ITA 7</b>	<p>Biography and network:</p> <p>ITA 7 arrived in Italy in 2013 after living between Brescia and Milan. He lived in Verona (northern Italy) with his brother ITA 6. The two brothers were unemployed and they attended the local mosque. ITA 7 was waiting for a residence permit while ITA 6 was illegally in the country. Another brother, was arrested on drug possession charges<sup>25</sup>.</p>
<b>Role/terrorism offence:</b>	<p>ITA 7 and his brother ITA 6 were expelled from Italy by the authorities. They celebrated on Twitter over an IS propaganda video about the beheading of two Coptic Christians, then they became very active online with sharing and collecting jihadi propaganda. The authority found in their flat several personal computers and smartphones probably used for recruitment and proselytism<sup>26</sup>.</p>
<b>Criminal history:</b>	<p>ITA 7 was arrested and charged with the possession and manufacture of fake IDs on April 9, 2015, and resisting arrest on September 4, 2012.</p>

21 “Terrorismo Espulso Foreign Fighter Con Contatti Nella Bassa.” Brescia Settegiorni. December 29, 2017. Accessed June 25, 2019. <https://brescia-settegiorni.it/cronaca/terrorismo-espulso-foreign-fighter-con-contatti-nella-bassa/>.

22 “Terrorismo, 4 Fermati Tra Italia E Kosovo. Sul Web Scrivevano: “Questo Sarà L’ultima Papa.”” Repubblica.it. December 01, 2015. Accessed June 25, 2019. [https://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2015/12/01/news/terrorismo\\_arresti\\_e\\_perquisizioni\\_in\\_italia\\_e\\_in\\_kosovo-128530461/](https://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2015/12/01/news/terrorismo_arresti_e_perquisizioni_in_italia_e_in_kosovo-128530461/).

23 Kinzler, Jean. “Le Forum Catholique.” Arrestation De Djihadistes Voulant Tuer Le Pape François. December 02, 2015. Accessed June 25, 2019. <https://www.leforumcatholique.org/print.php?num=792623>.

24 Petenzi, Wilma. “Terrorismo, Operazione Van Damme: A Chiari La Cassa per La Jihad.” Corriere Della Sera. December 02, 2015. Accessed June 25, 2019. [https://brescia.corriere.it/notizie/cronaca/15\\_dicembre\\_02/terrorismo-operazione-van-damme-chiari-cassa-la-jihad-cfb19848-98d2-11e5-85fc-901829b3a7ed.shtml](https://brescia.corriere.it/notizie/cronaca/15_dicembre_02/terrorismo-operazione-van-damme-chiari-cassa-la-jihad-cfb19848-98d2-11e5-85fc-901829b3a7ed.shtml).

25 Priante, Andrea. “«Fumo, Bevo Alcol E Odio L’Isis Vi Sembro Un Terrorista Islamico?».” Corriere Del Veneto. April 15, 2015. Accessed June 25, 2019. <https://corrieredelveneto.corriere.it/rovigo/notizie/cronaca/2015/15-aprile-2015/fumo-bevo-alcol-odio-l-isis-vi-sembro-terrorista-islamico-2301258472875.shtml>.

26 “Â«Inneggiano All’IsisÂ» Espulsi Dall’Italia Due Fratelli Tunisini.” Il Gazzettino.it. November 30, -0001. Accessed June 25, 2019. [https://www.ilgazzettino.it/pay/belluno\\_pay/inneggiano\\_isis\\_espulsi\\_italia\\_fratelli\\_tunisini-972993.html](https://www.ilgazzettino.it/pay/belluno_pay/inneggiano_isis_espulsi_italia_fratelli_tunisini-972993.html).

<b>ITA 35</b>	<p>Biography and network:</p> <p>ITA 35, of Moroccan origin, lived in Vaiano municipality (Tuscany) since 1998.</p>
<b>Role/terrorism offence:</b>	<p>In 2015, he reached a high level of radicalisation, expressed through violent and unstable behaviour and held extremist views close to the jihadism<sup>27</sup>. Several times, he expressed the will to commit terror acts. On November 13, 2015, he was expelled for reasons of national security.</p>
<b>Criminal history:</b>	<p>After the separation from his wife, ITA 35 started to show violent behaviour<sup>28</sup>. For instance, in January 2015, he had a violent reaction outside his daughters' school, rambling that he would be a terrorist and threatening a new 'Paris attack'<sup>29</sup>. In November 2015, ITA 35 was checked on by the police, during which he exalted the terrorist attacks in Europe, threatening new attacks<sup>30</sup>. In both cases, he was investigated for public intimidation. He has several criminal records for personal offence, property offence, and drug offences, all perpetrated with physical and verbally violent behaviour<sup>31</sup>.</p>
<b>ITA 49</b>	<p>Biography and network:</p> <p>Born in Baghdad in 1970<sup>32</sup>, ITA 49 was a key player in a recruitment network operated in the first decade of 2000 when he arrived in Italy. During his stay in Milan, he was very close to the preacher Abu Omar.</p> <p>After his arrest in 2005, the authorities revealed that he had strong ties to several Al-Qaeda members. During his imprisonment in the Benevento penitentiary (Campania region), he met a preacher from the Molenbeek mosque (Belgium) named Bassam Ayachi. The preacher was also involved in a counter-terrorism investigation after having been arrested in 2012 at the port of Bari (Puglia region) with an affiliate named Raphael Gendron. After that, Ayachi went to Syria where he was wounded during an ambush. His name also emerged during the investigations about the November 2015 Paris terrorist attacks.</p>
<b>Role/terrorism offence:</b>	<p>In 2005, ITA 49 was arrested during a counter-terrorism operation led by Italian authorities. He was associated with the terrorist network of El Ayashi Radi Abd El Samie Abou El Yazid (aka Mera'i) with the aim to plan a terrorist act in Italy and abroad. The network was linked to the terrorist organisation known as Ansar al-Islam, composed of several cells spread geographically in Europe, North Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Specifically, ITA 49 handled a recruitment network in Italy and led a group of jihadi volunteers from Italy to the Mera'i training camps in Iraq to fight against US troops<sup>33</sup>.</p> <p>In 2007, he was sentenced to jail for 10 years.</p> <p>In July 2015, ITA 49 was arrested for the facilitation of illegal immigration in relation to an international terrorism investigation. He was accused of managing a Kebab shop that fronted an operation moving foreign fighters from Bari; however, there seems to be no clear evidence about the use of revenue for a terrorist purpose. Most of his income had been transferred to his wife Khalida in Iraq.</p>
<b>Criminal history:</b>	<p>As stated above, on July 17, 2007, ITA 49 was sentenced to jail for dealing in stolen goods, falsification of documents, and illegal immigration with the aggravating element of a terrorist purpose<sup>34</sup>.</p>

27 La Nazione. "Inneggiava Alla Jihad E Minacciava Di Emulare Charlie Hebdo, Marocchino Espulso." La Nazione. November 14, 2015. Accessed June 25, 2019. <https://www.lanazione.it/prato/cronaca/inneggiava-alla-jihad-e-minacciava-di-emulare-charlie-hebdo-marocchino-espulso-11484841>.

28 B.,E. Espulso L'uomo Che Seminava Il Terrore Inneggiando Ad Allah, Non Potrà Tornare in Italia Prima Di 10 Anni [notiziediprato.it]. November 14, 2015. Accessed June 25, 2019. <http://www.notiziediprato.it/news/espulso-l-uomo-che-seminava-il-terrore-inneggiando-ad-allah-non-potra-tornare-in-italia-prima-di-10-anni-1>.

29 Dà in Escandescenza Davanti Alla Scuola Dei Figli, Carabinieri Bloccano Quarantenne Che Dice Di Essere Un Terrorista [notiziediprato.it]. January 13, 2015. Accessed June 25, 2019. <http://www.notiziediprato.it/news/da-in-escandescenza-davanti-alla-scuola-dei-figli-carabinieri-bloccano-quarantenne>.

30 Fermato Dalla Polizia Comincia Ad Inneggiare Ai Terroristi Islamici E a Minacciare Attentati [notiziediprato.it]. November 13, 2015. Accessed June 25, 2019. <http://www.notiziediprato.it/news/fermato-dalla-polizia-comincia-ad-inneggiare-ai-terroristi-islamici-e-a-minacciare-attentati>.

31 "Inneggiava Alla Jihad E Minacciava Di Emulare Charlie Hebdo, Marocchino Espulso." La Nazione. November 14, 2015. Accessed June 25, 2019. <https://www.lanazione.it/prato/cronaca/inneggiava-alla-jihad-e-minacciava-di-emulare-charlie-hebdo-marocchino-espulso-11484841>.

32 "Islam, La Sentenza Forleo E L'appello Dei Pm." Libertà E Giustizia. January 31, 2005. Accessed June 25, 2019. <http://www.libertaegiustizia.it/2005/01/31/islam-la-sentenza-forleo-e-l-appello-dei-pm/>.

33 Extracted from the Italian court document.

34 Groppi, Michele. Dossier sulla Comunità Islamica Italiana: Indice di Radicalizzazione. 2011. ICT, Herzliya, Israel. Accessed June 25, 2019 <https://www.rivistaetnie.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Dossier-islam-italia-radicalizzazione.pdf>

<b>ITA 32</b>	<p>Biography and network:</p> <p>Born in Montreuil (France), a Tunisian, ITA 32 lived in Bordeaux. He most likely became radicalised while detained in Naterre for attempted murder and there he began to share his extremist views with other inmates.</p>
<b>Role/terrorism offence:</b>	<p>He was arrested on January 10, 2015, in Lavagna (Liguria region) while with a prostitute during a police check. Inside his car, authorities recovered an axe, a crowbar, various kinds of blades, and a personal computer. During the police search, he reacted violently and injured a police officer. Italian intelligence services warned about his radicalisation in the French prison and then he was sentenced to one year in prison and extradited to France<sup>35</sup>. In addition, during his imprisonment in Marassi (Genoa), ITA 32 was kept in isolation because he tried to invoke jihad with other prisoners<sup>36</sup>.</p>
<b>Criminal history:</b>	<p>ITA 32 has a criminal record for burglary, violence, insulting a public official, and attempted murder<sup>37</sup>.</p>

35 “Condannato L'integralista Islamico. Estradato in Francia.” Repubblica.it. February 05, 2015. Accessed June 25, 2019. [https://genova.repubblica.it/cronaca/2015/02/05/news/allarme\\_bomba\\_a\\_palazzo\\_di\\_justizia\\_slitta\\_il\\_processo\\_all\\_integralista\\_islamico-106583418/?refresh\\_ce](https://genova.repubblica.it/cronaca/2015/02/05/news/allarme_bomba_a_palazzo_di_justizia_slitta_il_processo_all_integralista_islamico-106583418/?refresh_ce).

36 “Lavagna, Espulso Integralista Islamico Vicino All'Isis.” GenovaToday. February 4, 2015. Accessed June 25, 2019. <http://www.genovatoday.it/cronaca/lavagna-integralista-islamico-arrestato.html>.

37 “Espulso Un Altro Islamico. Stava Arrivando a Pisa.” La Nazione. February 05, 2015. Accessed June 25, 2019. <https://www.lanazione.it/pisa/cronaca/pisa-espulso-islamico-1.639484>.



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