

New Zealand Terrorism Update: September – November 2018

Report Number: DMS6-15-699

Report Date: 4 December 2018

Terrorism Threat Level	
LOW	The Combined Threat Assessment Group (CTAG) assesses a terrorist attack in New Zealand is possible, but is not expected.

Summary

- New Zealand's terrorism threat level remains LOW. There were no credible indications of mobilisation to terrorist violence during the reporting period, and no incidents of terrorist violence. Spontaneous acts of violence, and attacks by individuals unknown to authorities, remain possible.
- Domestic terrorist threats from extreme political or issues-motivated groups are plausible, especially given heightened political partisanship internationally and the spread of disinformation online. Efforts to better understand such threats are ongoing.
- The overall appeal of Islam-inspired terrorist groups appears to be waning among those New Zealanders who have gravitated toward extreme interpretations of Islam, despite ISIL's enduring presence online and its continued ability to inspire attacks into Western countries.
- The collapse of ISIL's caliphate in Syria and Iraq has almost eliminated the appeal of travel to that region for extremists, while New Zealanders who remain there face the possibility of death or capture in counter-ISIL military operations. It is possible some will return or be returned to New Zealand.
- New Zealand remains an unlikely target of international terrorism, although New Zealanders abroad remain at risk of harm from terrorist acts, especially in countries that receive large numbers of New Zealand visitors or are home to significant New Zealand expatriate communities.