

(U) ISIS media has recently called for attacks on Christian and Jewish communities, including in the Homeland, and will likely intensify calls for attacks during Ramadan and possibly through Easter and Passover. [The Times of Israel](#), [MEMRI](#)

- (U) In January 2024, Al Furqan Media Foundation, an official IS media, released a speech and the corresponding transcription titled “And Kill Them Wherever You Find Them,” in which IS spokesman Abu Hudhaifah Al- that encouraged supporters to attack “religious targets like synagogues and churches before others” and suggested Western cities to attack, including “Washington. [MEMRI](#)
- (U) Later in January, pro-ISIS media released a poster with Arabic text from the speech, an image of a gunman, the St. Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City, the Israeli Prime Minister, and the Israeli Defense Minister. The poster states, “destroy the hearts of the Jews, Christians, and their allies” and “turn their gatherings and celebrations into bloody massacres. [On Poster Depicting St. Peter's Basilica, IS-aligned Unit Cites Spokesman's Call to Action for Lone Wolves](#)
- (U) On 28 January, ISIS claimed responsibility for an attack on a Catholic Church during a mass service in Istanbul, Turkey that killed one person and injured another. [CNN](#)

(U) Recent Incidents:

(U) On 22 March, ISIS—through its Amaq News Agency on Telegram—claimed the attack at the Crocus City Hall in Moscow that had reportedly killed at least 40 people and injured over 100, according to open-source information..

- (U) ISIS claimed, “Islamic State fighters attacked a large gathering of Christians in the city of Krasnogorsk on the outskirts of the Russian capital, Moscow, killing and wounding hundreds and causing great destruction to the place before they withdrew to their bases safely.” (NCTC Operations Center)
- (U) ISIS media has used this attack to encourage similar attacks in the West and has praised the attack for targeting Christians. (multiple SITE reports) [ISIS claims responsibility in deadly attack on Russia's Crocus City Hall \(msn.com\)](#)

(U) On 28 January, The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for an attack on Santa Maria Catholic Church in Istanbul during Sunday Mass, resulting in one fatality. [AP News](#)

(U) On 3 December, ISIS supporters attacked a Catholic mass service in the southern Philippines that resulted in at least three deaths and seven injuries. Police are investigating whether the explosion was caused by an improvised explosive device or a grenade. [Mindanao, Philippines: ISIS claims deadly blast at Catholic mass in Marawi | CNN](#)

Recent Alleged Plots to Catholic Churches

(U) In December 2023, ISIS-K linked members allegedly plotted to attack a German and Austrian Cathedral in late December. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/german-police-arrest-three-more-over-alleged-cologne-cathedralattack-plot-2023-12-31/>

(U) In 2019, ISIS-inspired terrorists sent suicide bombers to attack three churches (2 Catholic and 1 Protestant church) and three hotels on Easter Day in Sri Lanka killing at least 260 people and injuring hundreds. <https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2019/04/world/sri-lanka-attacks/>

