

Seen on euronews: Refugees and the Paris attacks: what you need to know

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Isis themselves have said they will use migrant tide to flood European continent with their jihadists.

9:03 PM - 16 Nov 2015

755 652

Such rhetoric, says Ines von Behr of the RAND global policy think tank, is playing into the hands of ISIS. "ISIS is keen to create a divide between Muslims and the West. It is up to us to not fall into the trap. It is in ISIS' interest of self-legitimization to claim that Muslims are not welcomed in Europe," she argues.

The Paris attacks already seem to be affecting the US plans to resettle refugees: on Thursday the House of Representatives passed a bill tightening the restrictions on such resettlement. The measure was passed with 289 supporting it and 137 against. President Barack Obama has said he will veto the bill if it reaches his desk.

Have EU-born radicals learnt to exploit Europe's open borders?

It may be wrong to accuse the movement of refugees of the increased terror threat but Europe's accessibility and open borders do appear to have helped the terrorists: check-free movement from Belgium to France and back made it easier to organise the attacks.

Assailants have learnt to fool the system by laying low: several of them seem to have gone to the Middle East and North Africa to fight and returned without attracting much attention of the authorities.

"Foreign-born terrorists tend to enter on student visas, tourist visas, business visas, have asylum applications pending, or are lawful permanent residents – all non-immigrant or immigrant categories face fewer security and background screenings than refugees do," stresses political analyst Alex Nowrasteh of the Cato Institute.

"Many radicals come from rough neighbourhoods with high unemployment rates and faced with social exclusion. Instead of only worrying about the situation and the potential influx of radicals from abroad, Europe needs to start looking into their home-grown problem of radicalisation and extremism and start to tackle the situation on their own soil," – says Ines von Behr of RAND.

Supporters of the theory that some refugees could be a source of terror point to the Boston Marathon bombers, Tsarnayev brothers who sought asylum in the USA and have been naturalised before committing the attack in April 2013. But the opponents maintain that the brothers were children in 2002 when their parents applied for asylum.

Analyst Alex Nowrasteh of the Cato Institute: "They did not adopt a radical interpretation of Islam or start plotting a terrorist attack until years after coming here. Their case does not reveal flaws in the refugee vetting process."

Refugees and radicalised Europeans: a dangerous mix?

Some analysts argue that asylum seekers could and will be targeted by extreme Islamist groups within Europe even if they arrive hoping to build a new life, leaving violence behind. Dr James Corum, a counter-insurgency historian who served in the US army in Iraq in 2004 and researched security issues extensively claims that there is a large number of "radicalised communities in Europe".

He believes that a link-up between at least some of the new asylum seekers and these communities is inevitable. "So you have a situation where if there's a fire and you want to put it out you don't go and throw gasoline on the fire," argues the analyst.

So how can the European governments put out radicalism fires? There is an active debate over whether:

- 1) it is possible to check the new arrivals identities effectively and
- 2) there is a chance for long-term integration into society which will prevent alienation and disenfranchising.

Dr Corum who teaches at University Of Salford, Manchester, believes the European countries willingness to admit refugees is suicidal. "If I wished to strike at the Western nations that are carrying out military operations against me, I would certainly slip in some dedicated and trained and organised terrorists in with the refugees and let them carry out attacks," he says.

But Daniel L. Byman of the Brookings Institution disagrees with such view. "The actual security risks now are low, but the potential ones are considerable if the refugee crisis is handled poorly," he writes. He argues that there is a need for policing, service provisions and changes to local governance in the areas where refugees are to be settled. All of them have to be introduced with a long-term prospective in mind.

Inviting the refugees and then losing interest to them would be the most unwise and dangerous scenario.

By [Kateryna Khinkulova](#)

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