In ISIS’s guide for undercover operatives to attack the West, it said, “Identity change is so important... This makes it extremely difficult for intelligence agencies to know who you really are... find people who can fake ID cards”. That’s because fake IDs allow terrorists not only to hide from governments, but to travel, open fraudulent bank accounts, obtain fraudulent credit cards, and board airplanes under fraudulent identities, like the 9/11 terrorists did.

To that effect, the ISIS terrorists who attacked Brussels and Paris in the last few months were supplied by a fake ID “factory” based in the Belgian capitol. The document mill was raided just weeks before the Brussels attack and yielded computers, scanners, printers, and 1,300 unfinished IDs, reportedly destined for criminals, human smugglers, and other terrorists. The authorities failed to make the connection between the fake IDs and the terrorists who were about to use them to blow up the Brussels airport.

Many of the factory’s fake IDs were used in the planning and carrying out of both the Paris and Brussels attacks. Salah Abdeslam, the ringleader of the Paris attacks that took 130 innocent lives, provided jihadists disguised as Syrian refugees with fake Belgian ID cards as he transported them between Belgium and several European countries to coordinate logistics for the attacks. These fake IDs allowed the impostors to pass through at least two checkpoints in Austria and Germany undetected. Mohamed Belkaid, another major architect of the Paris attacks, and Najim Laachraoui, bomb maker for both the Paris and Brussels attacks, also reportedly used fake IDs from the factory. Khalid el-Bakraoui, the suicide bomber who attacked the Maalbeek station in Brussels, used a fake ID in the name of a professional Belgian soccer player. The investigations are still ongoing with co-conspirators still on the loose and it is uncertain how many other undercover ISIS terrorists may be using the high quality IDs, said to be able to fool authorities in France and Britain.

Belgian ID cards can be used to cross most borders in Europe without a passport. Similarly, we show our driver’s licenses instead of passports to travel between the states here in the U.S. However, verifying our driver’s licenses is more difficult, as each state creates, designs, and issues its own document with varying levels of counterfeit resistance and process security. Furthermore, there is no system in place at U.S. airports to digitally authenticate our driver’s licenses.

America remains a top target for ISIS and the same type of operation could be secretly planned and executed by operatives here using counterfeit or fraudulently issued driver’s licenses to cover their tracks. Hundreds of thousands of high quality counterfeit state driver’s licenses and ID cards are being sold to anyone with $50, the internet, and an address. Many of these are coming in from China, hidden in toys and trinkets to evade customs inspection, and target states that issue IDs with weak security features. Worse, many states still have far too permissive practices at their DMVs and a valid, fraudulently-issued document is far more dangerous than a counterfeit. Islamic State has picked up where al-Qaeda left off by using fake identity documents as weapons. We can take those weapons away by increasing the security of our documents at issuance, implementing better security features into those documents, and shutting down the document mills. We need to act now because we won’t get many more tragic warnings like the attacks in Europe.
Since this organization was formed shortly after the 9/11 hijackings, we have been warning that terrorists use fake IDs as weapons to carry out their attacks. We have been working every day to warn policy makers at all levels, all over the country, to take those weapons away before it’s too late. We’ve been spreading that message in national and local newspapers, TV, and radio to make our voice as loud as possible.

We're telling people that Islamic State is picking up where the 9/11 hijackers, who used over 30 different fake IDs, left off. That Islamic State's own guidebook on attacking the West advises undercover terrorists to "rent cars under fake identity papers and install bombs in them and set off the car bombs near Synagogues, near governmental or police buildings, near gas pipelines or near those who are harming the Muslims."

We cannot afford to ignore the fake ID threat! We have to take those fake IDs away.

### ISIS Exported Terror Timeline

**December 15, 2014**
Sydney, Australia
Man Haron Monis seized a cafe in the name of ISIS, taking 14 hostages and killing two.

**January 7, 2015**
Paris, France
Amedy Coulibaly and two other terrorists storm the Paris offices of Charlie Hebdo, killing 12. Two days later, Coulibaly attacked a grocery store in a Paris suburb, killing four more. He pledged his allegiance to ISIS.

**January 29, 2015**
Sinai, Egypt
Sinai Province Islamic State terrorists attack a complex with coordinated bombings and rocket attacks, killing 50.

**March 18, 2015**
Tunis, Tunisia
Two gunmen stormed a museum targeting foreign tourists, killing 19. ISIS claimed responsibility.

**March 20, 2015**
Sanaa, Yemen
Four suicide bombers in the Yemeni branch of ISIS attack two mosques in the Yemeni capitol, killing 137.

**May 3, 2015**
Garland, Texas
Two ISIS gunmen open fire on a cartoon contest before being gunned down by police.

**July 11, 2015**
Cairo, Egypt
Islamic State in Egypt detonated a car bomb at the Italian embassy.

**October 2, 2015**
Ankara, Turkey
Two suicide bombers kill at least 95 people attending a peace rally.

**October 31, 2015**
Russia - Egypt
An explosive device hidden in a soda can by an ISIS operative detonated inside of an airborne jetliner, killing all 224 on board.

**November 13, 2015**
Paris, France
A series of shootings and explosions throughout the city leave 129 dead and hundreds more injured in highly coordinated ISIS attacks.

**December 2, 2015**
San Benardino, CA
A woman who declared allegiance to ISIS stormed a government building with her husband, armed with military-grade assault rifles and killed 14 people.

**March 22, 2016**
Brussels, Belgium
A series of explosions at the airport and a metro station and injured 200 more. ISIS claimed responsibility.

Keeping IDentities Safe

“WORKING TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF EVERY AMERICAN”