



A Canadian is among the dead in an Islamic terrorist attack on Thursday in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta. Daesh, also known as ISIS or the Islamic State, has taken responsibility, marking their second deadly foreign attack this week. Just two days earlier, a suicide bomber targeted tourists outside Istanbul's famous Blue Mosque. The Jakarta attacks were described by those on the ground as a "Paris-style massacre," with explosions and gunfire simultaneously rocking the Southeast Asian city. What a sad reminder of our time - that Paris, once known as the City of Light and Europe's cultural capital, has now become synonymous with mass murder and senseless attacks against civilians going about their daily lives. These attacks show a departure in strategy by the so-called Islamic State. Daesh was once only concerned with a ground war in Iraq and Syria, and building their 'caliphate,' or Islamic kingdom governed by fundamentalist Sunni teachings. But they are now launching more and more attacks outside the Middle East. The assaults against Istanbul and Jakarta also contradict a common narrative - that Daesh's terrorist attacks are mere retaliation for Western sins. A popular opinion on the political left is that Islamic State terrorists only attack those who stand in their way. Those who don't participate in the coalition bombing campaign, such as Costa Rica and Sweden, some argue, do not get attacked. A Russian airliner was brought down over Sinai last year because of Putin's involvement in Iraq and Syria. Paris was attacked because of France's role in the coalition airstrikes. And the San Bernardino attack was a result of America's long involvement in Middle Eastern affairs. Some Canadians are susceptible to this narrative. A recent poll found that 10% of Canadians who oppose our involvement in the bombing mission cite "fear of backlash" as the reason. If we interfere in Daesh's rampage over there, the thinking goes, they will come over here and attack us. The problem with this line of thinking is that it seeks to rationalize, and even justify, the acts of radicals and extremists. It also simply doesn't stand up to the facts. Islamic terrorism is not a grievance-based conflict. It is not driven by inequality or exclusion. Like the 9/11 hijackers, Daesh terrorists typically come from middle-class backgrounds and educated families. These radical Islamists are fighting an ideological war. They kill innocent victims because they want to overthrow our society and impose their radical Islamic values onto others. They want us all living under their Sharia. Turkey and Indonesia — both considered among the most secular and moderate of the world's Muslim countries — have not provoked Daesh. The opposite is true. Russia recently accused Turkey of being a secret terrorist ally and propping up Daesh by buying their oil. Indonesia, the world's most populated Muslim country, has not offered military support or joined the US-led bombing coalition in Iraq and Syria. Instead, they've focused on fostering peace and tolerance at home, and avoided getting drawn into the conflicts of the Middle East. Neither is standing in Daesh's way. But just like France and the United States, these countries are still targeted. Islamic terrorists are provoking a global war against non-believers, including against moderate Muslims. If you reject and refuse to cower to their archaic and oppressive



## Stop pretending Islamic terror is our fault

laws, you are their enemy. The sooner we come to terms with these truths, and stop pretending this is all our fault, the better equipped we will be to fight and win this war. Read the original, from Toronto Sun, [here](#).