

## News Report 25<sup>th</sup> January - 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016

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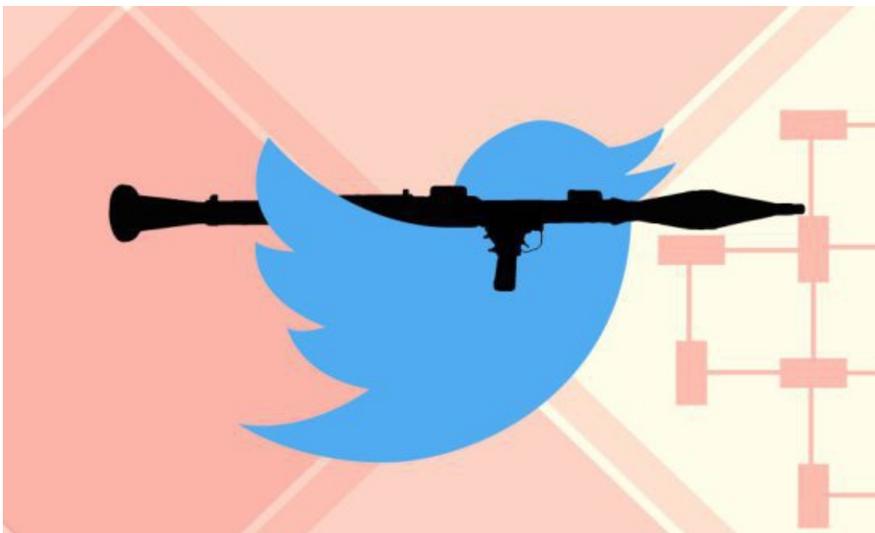


Image: <http://thelachatupdate.com/>

### Key Points:

- **More measures to tackle terrorism on the web**
- **Crisis in the Sahel region deepens, funds are promised**
- **More cooperation in counter-terrorism**
- **Fear and suspect rampage in Europe**

### **More measures to tackle terrorism on the web**

A number of initiatives were launched during the first week of February in order to tackle terrorism on the web. While the US government [held](#) closed-door meetings with Apple, Google and Yahoo and others, Google executive Dr. Anthony House [announced](#) to the British parliament the company will offer Google AdWords Grants to NGOs in order to develop counter-radicalisation ads. Ads will be shown at users searching particularly sensitive keys (e.g. “join ISIS”). In line with this fight against radicalisation is Twitter [announcement](#) the company suspended about 125,000 terrorism-related accounts since mid-2015. From the point of view of funding, instead, by June 2016 the European Union [will develop](#) stricter rules for prepaid cards and virtual currencies.

### **Crisis in the Sahel region deepens, funds are promised to African Union**

As an [attack](#) carried out by Boko Haram in the Nigerian village of Dalori left 85 people dead, a severe crisis hits the country, the attack being only most recent in a long series. This drew attention on the inability of the army in facing Boko Haram and similar groups, with *Time* [blaming](#) the government's corruption, and *The Economist* [highlighting](#) the army's regular violations of human rights. Pressured, the government was forced to hold a [meeting](#) between top senators and service chiefs, while president Buhari had to [make clear](#) his choice to use “minimum force” is aimed at not endangering civilians fleeing fightings. On a regional

scale, several states moved, promising on 1<sup>st</sup> February further funds to the African Union. These funds are aimed at funding the fight against Boko Haram through the donation of about [\\$250 million](#), money which is nevertheless still to be made available.

## **More cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism**

Several declarations have been issued in the period considered in order to step up cooperation in counter-terrorism. In a first instance, the visit by Iranian president Hassan Rouhani to Paris, despite its primarily commercial focus, was touched by the Iranian president's publicly [claim](#) of a need for shared intelligence with France to tackle extremism and terrorism. Meanwhile, speaking in London, Nigerian president Buhari [asked](#) for support for countries hit by terrorism. Finally, Saudi foreign minister Adel al-Jubeir [stated](#) on *Newsweek* the government's full commitment in the fight against terrorism.

## **Fear and suspect rampage in Europe**

Finally, fear of foreign fighters and infiltration by ISIS is rising in Europe. The chief of German domestic intelligence Hans Georg-Maassen started a heated debate when [declaring](#) Islamic State is using refugees to enter Europe unnoticed, while further debate was caused in France over foreign fighters. The debate was initiated by French justice minister Christiane Taubira, who had proposed to act against dual nationals convicted of terrorism by stripping citizenship from them. Debate rapidly turned into outcry, [forcing](#) the minister to resign.

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