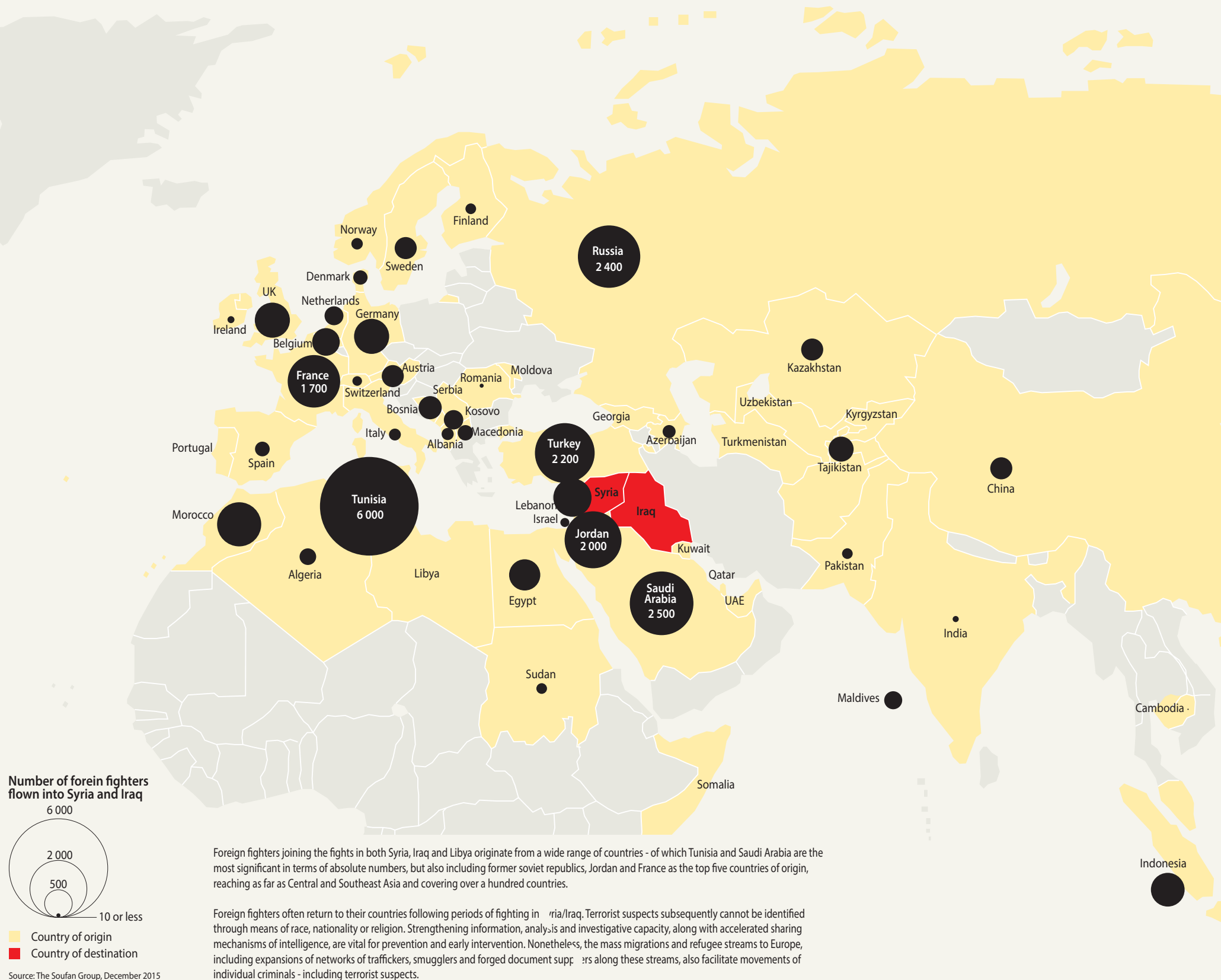


Flow of Foreign Fighters into Syria and Iraq



Foreign fighters joining the fights in both Syria, Iraq and Libya originate from a wide range of countries - of which Tunisia and Saudi Arabia are the most significant in terms of absolute numbers, but also including former soviet republics, Jordan and France as the top five countries of origin, reaching as far as Central and Southeast Asia and covering over a hundred countries.

Foreign fighters often return to their countries following periods of fighting in Syria/Iraq. Terrorist suspects subsequently cannot be identified through means of race, nationality or religion. Strengthening information, analysis and investigative capacity, along with accelerated sharing mechanisms of intelligence, are vital for prevention and early intervention. Nonetheless, the mass migrations and refugee streams to Europe, including expansions of networks of traffickers, smugglers and forged document suppliers along these streams, also facilitate movements of individual criminals - including terrorist suspects.