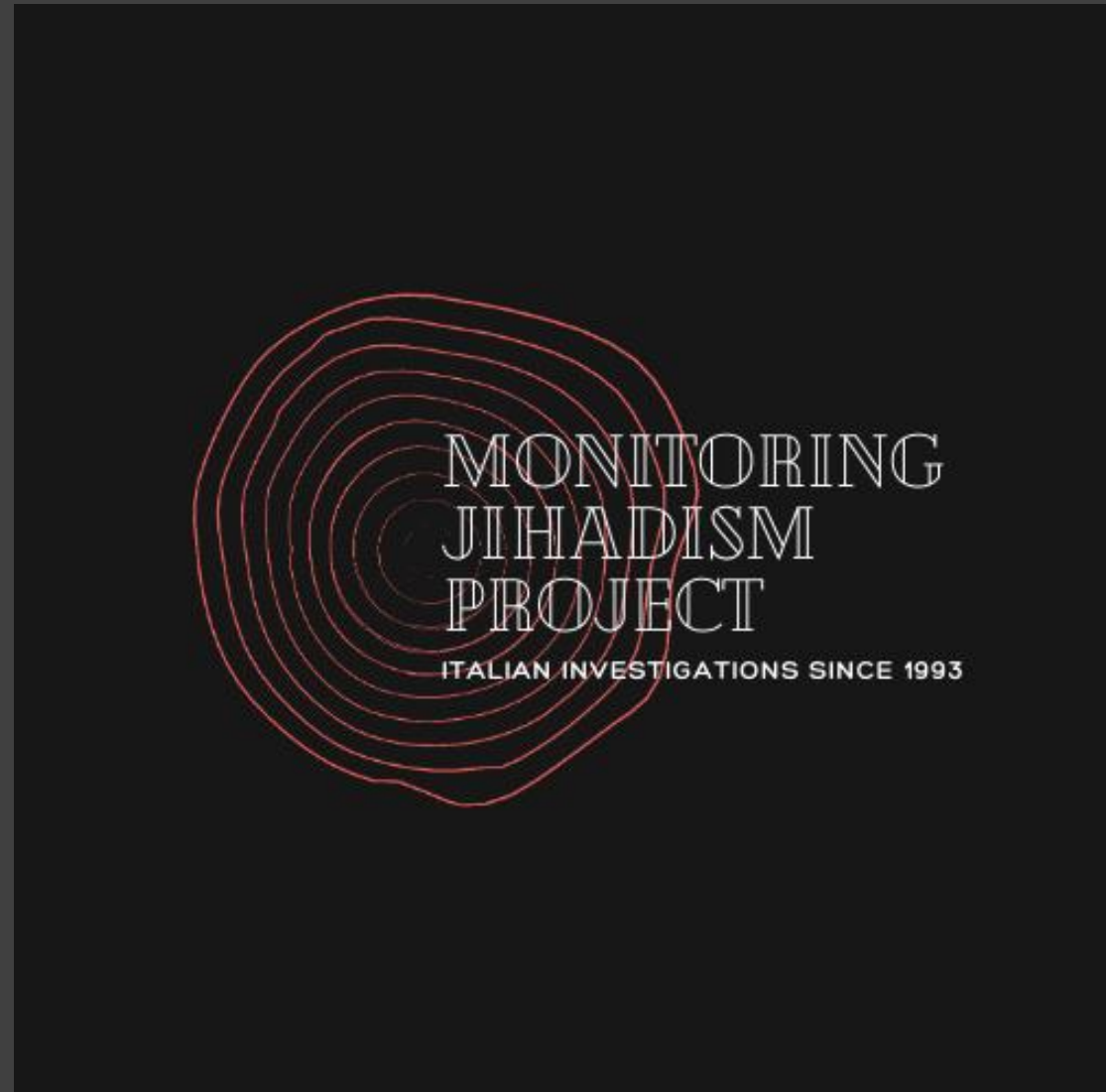


The «Italian jihadism»

A brief analysis on Court documents related to 545 individuals investigated and prosecuted since 1993.

Francesco Bergoglio Errico

*ERCOR Researcher,
Founder of the Monitoring Jihadism Project, Security Analyst.*



Two reference periods

From 1993 to 2009: 283 individuals investigated/prosecuted.

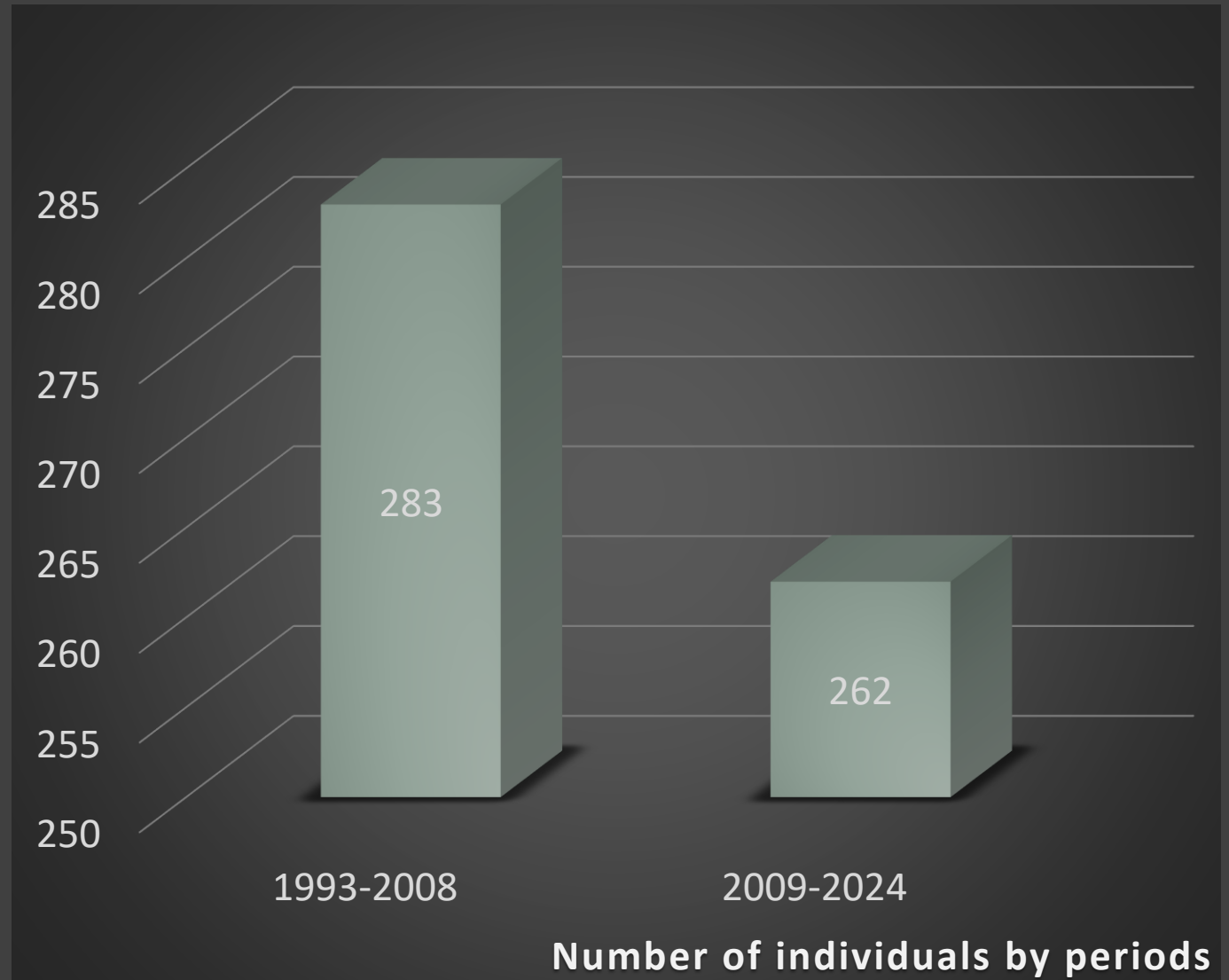
From 2010 to 2024: 264 individuals investigated/prosecuted.

The watershed:

- In 2008, the Matamata operation (crime-terror nexus).
- In 2009, the Mohamed Game attempted suicide bombing at the 'Santa Barbara' barracks in Milan. And the Operation Niriya (first operation against Italian converts).

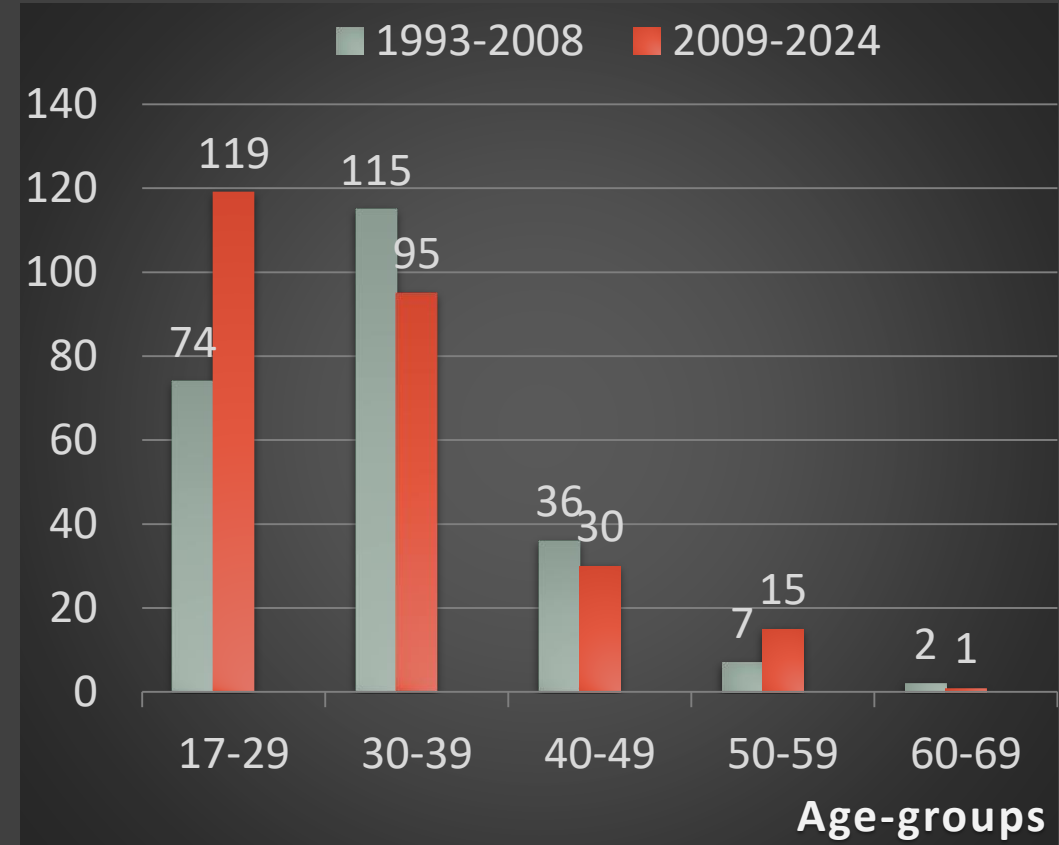
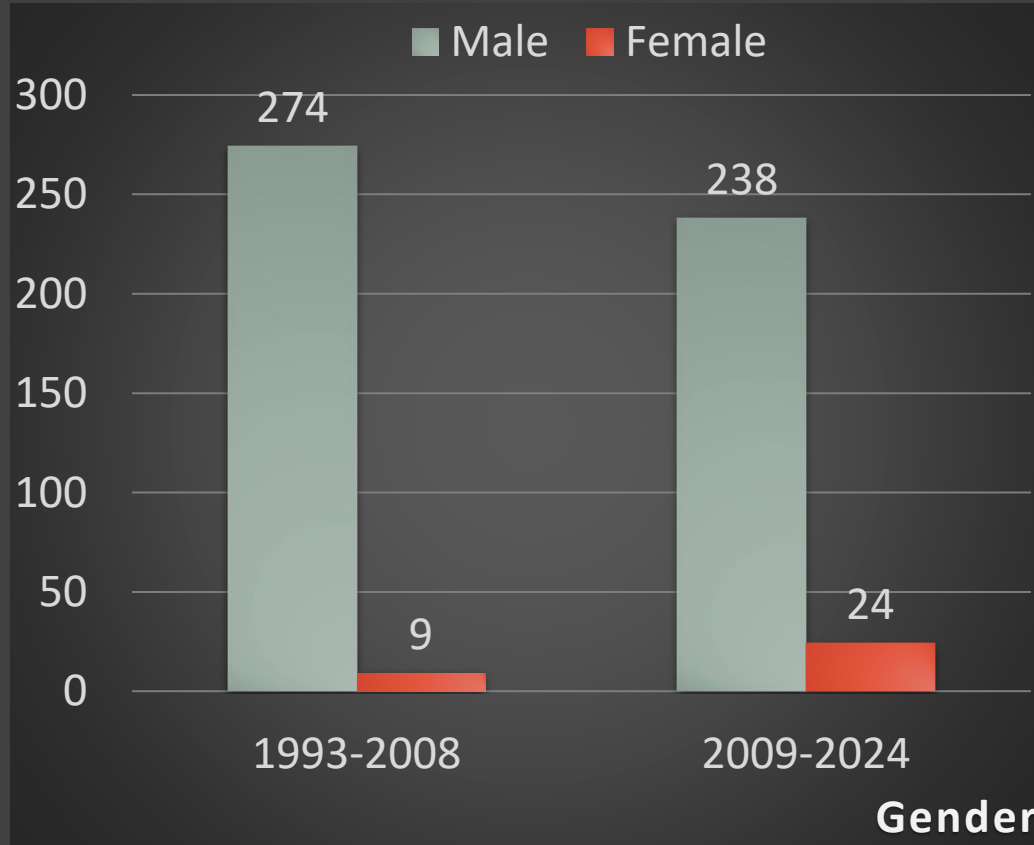
Major differences:

- From large cells to small cells.
- Growing use of online space.
- Growth of women and converts (natives).



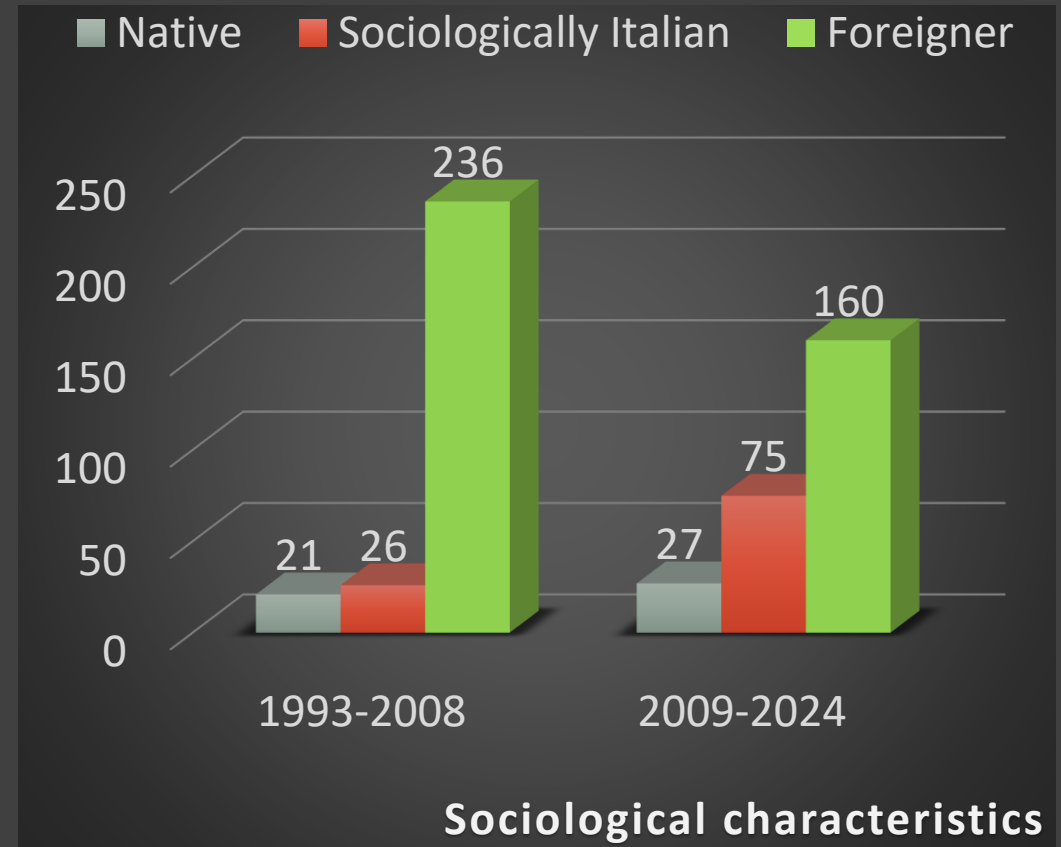
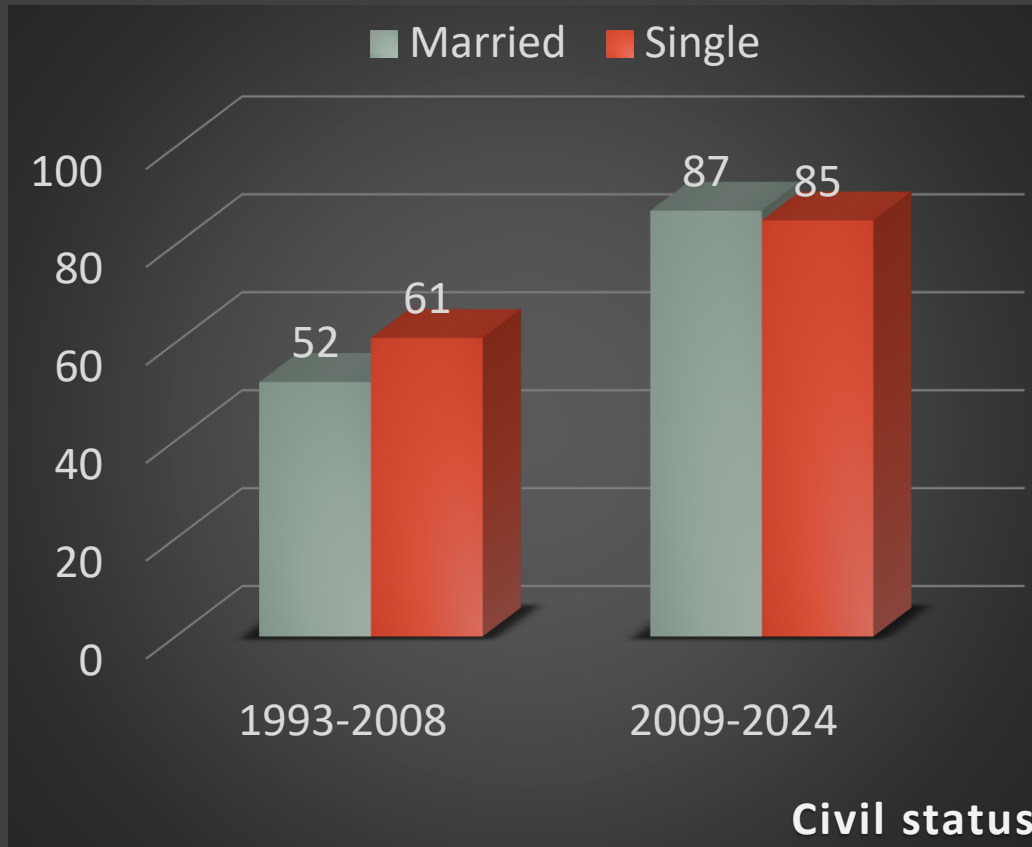
In the first period the radicalised women are only 2 (the other women are not radicalised but part of organised crime collaborating with jihadists).
Strong increase in the number of women, however they remain a minority.

More than half of the sample is between 17 and 35 years old.
Women have an average age of about 26, while men are about 30.



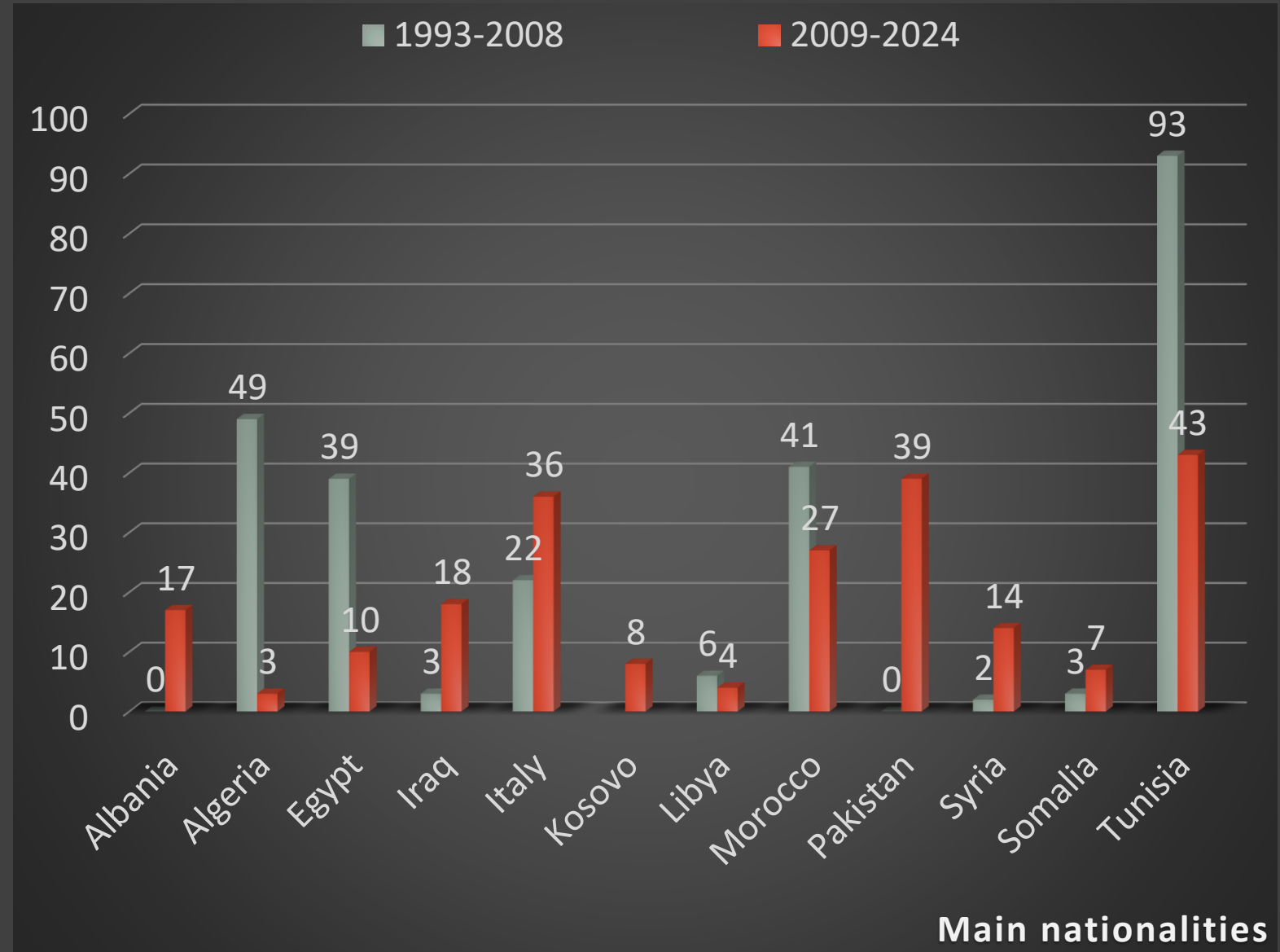
Almost all the women were married.
Marriage was an essential factor for cell cohesion, i.e. through marriages, ties between militants strengthened.

Absolute majority of foreigners: people with little connection to Italy.
In the first period, the radicalised natives are only 3; the others were contiguous to organized-crime and investigated in the Matamata operation.
An important increase of Italian converts (from 3 to 27) and sociologically Italians (double).



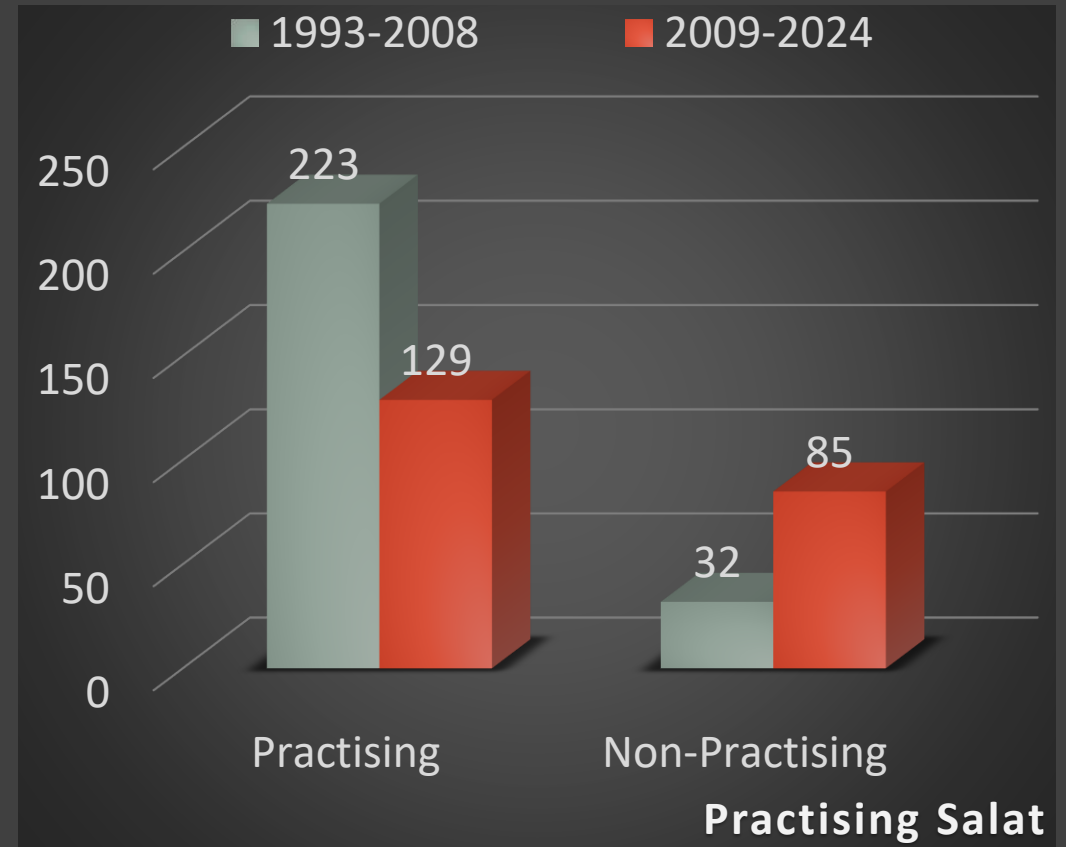
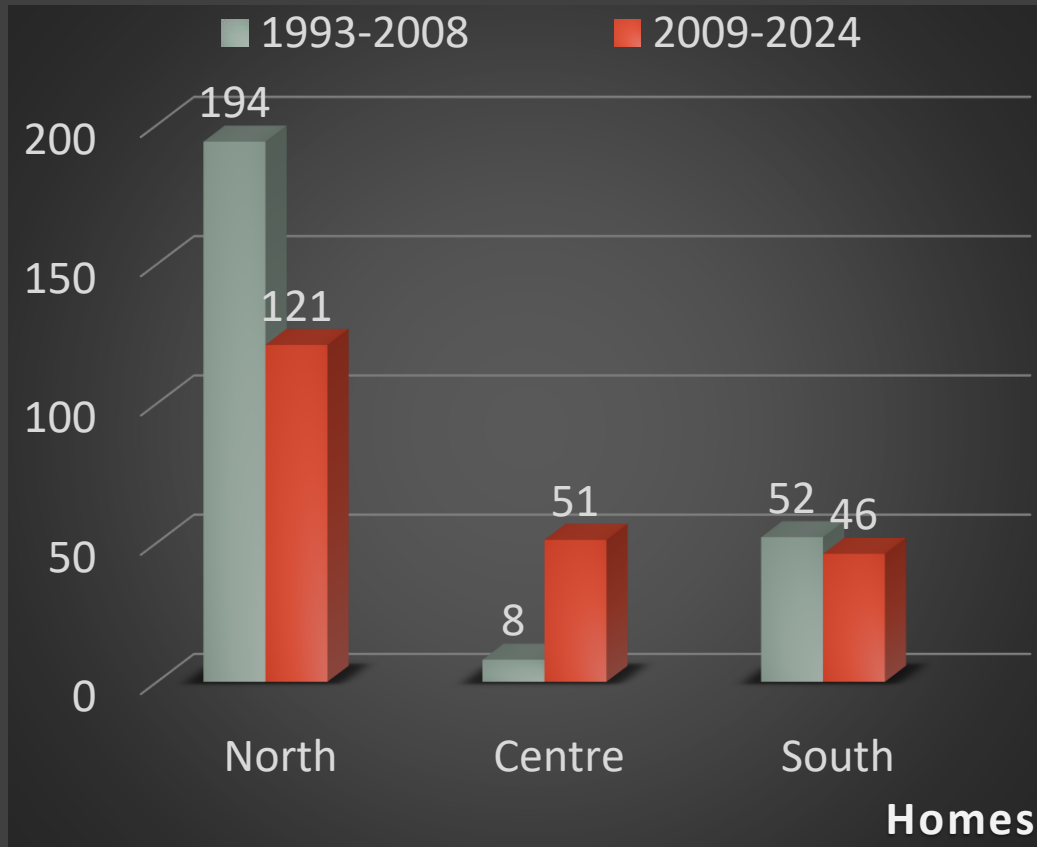
The sample is North African-centric

- The majority is composed by Tunisians.
- Algerians and Egyptians almost disappeared in the second period.
- Balkan countries emerged during the second period.
- Middle-Eastern countries emerged during the second period.



Northern Italy predominates, but in the second period the south (especially Apulia) became an important hub of jihadism.

The role of mosques/cultural centres changed. Progressive withdrawal from mosques. Increasing radicalisation online and in prisons.

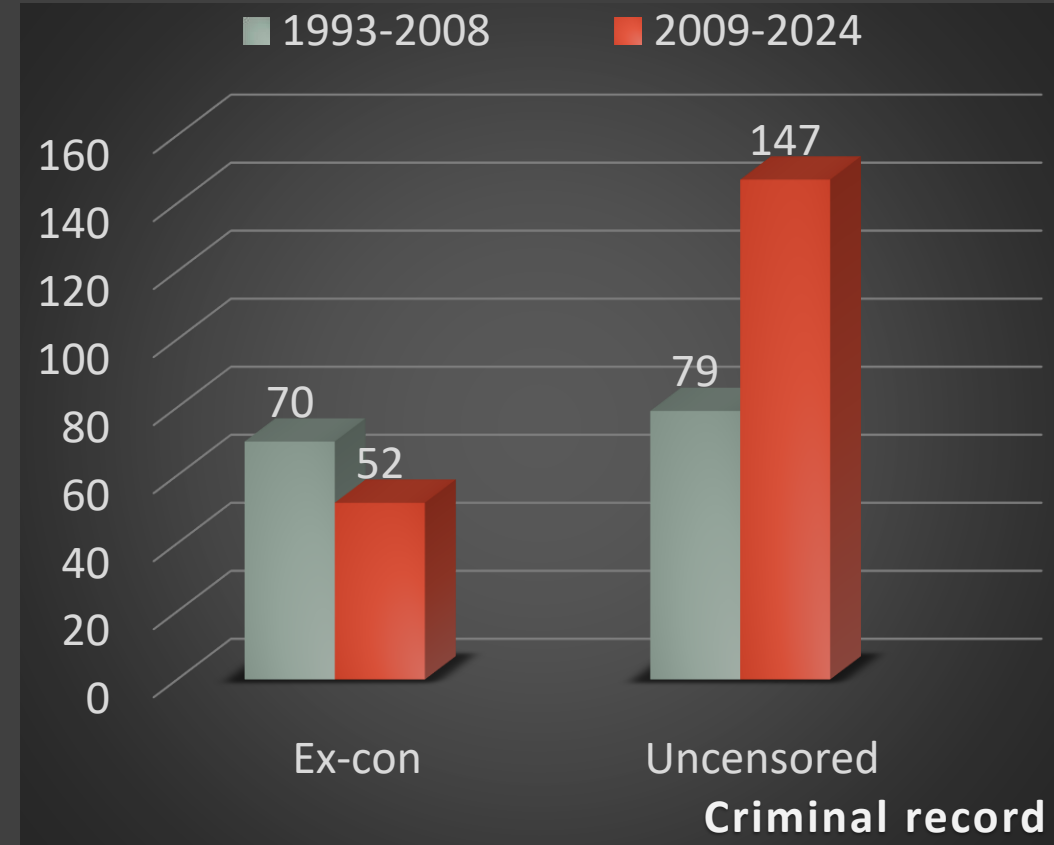
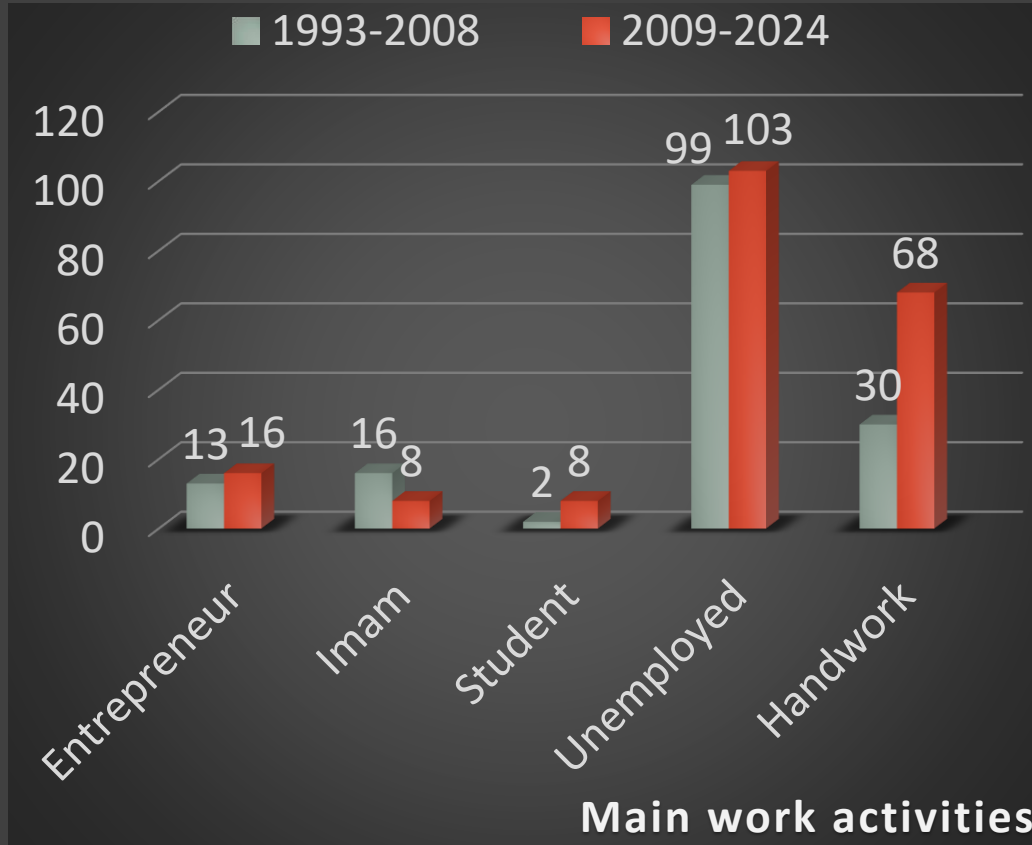


The unemployment figure is misleading: many people worked illegally or were engaged in very lucrative criminal activities.

The role of the Imams for both periods was crucial. Entrepreneurs played a role in financing terrorism.

In the first period, several individuals were investigated and charged for terrorism at least twice.

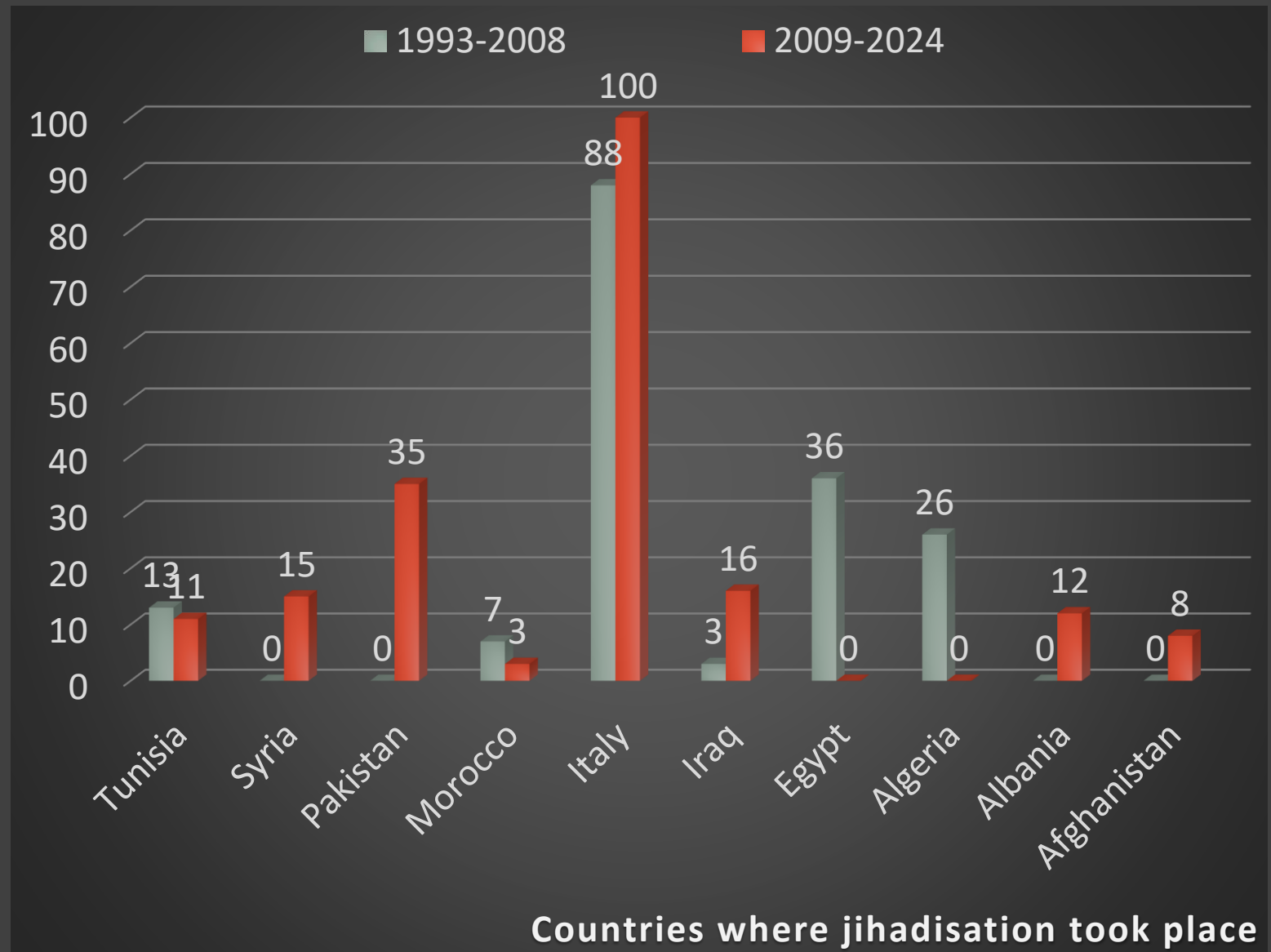
In the second period, just a few individuals were investigated and charged for terrorism two times. Past crimes are generally common crimes, such as theft, drug dealing, smuggling of immigrants.



Radicalisation has always been present in Italy since the 90s.

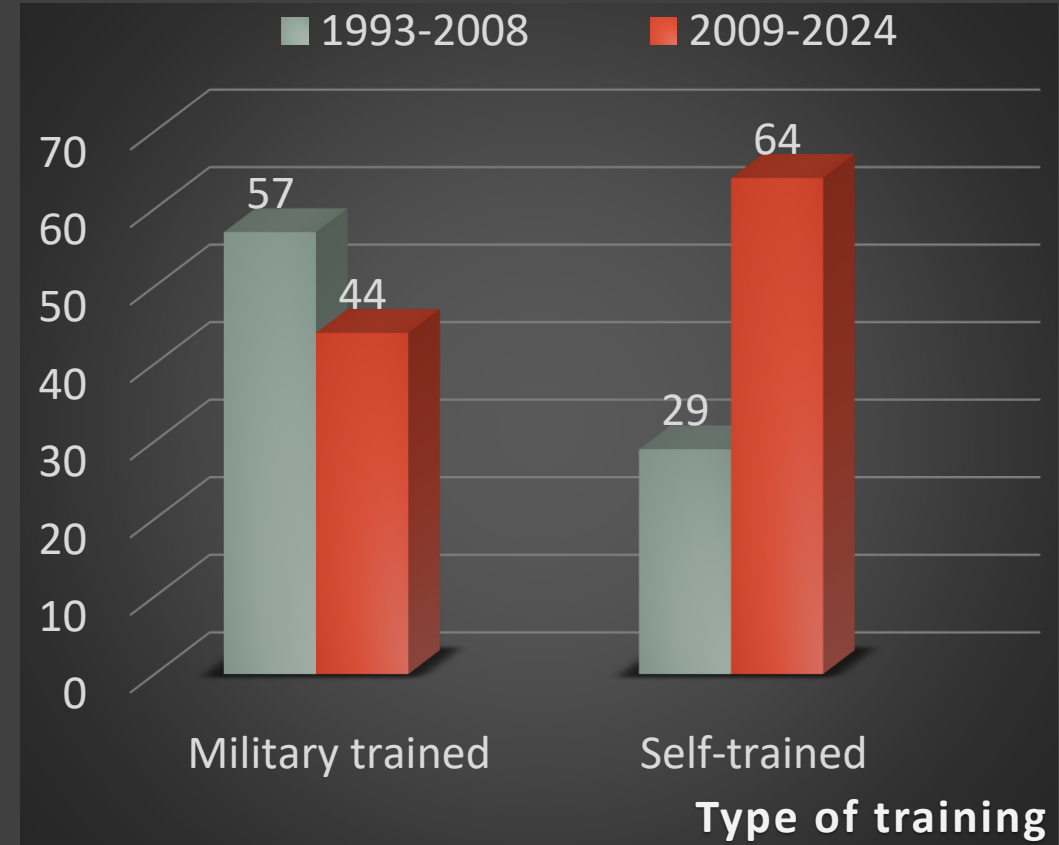
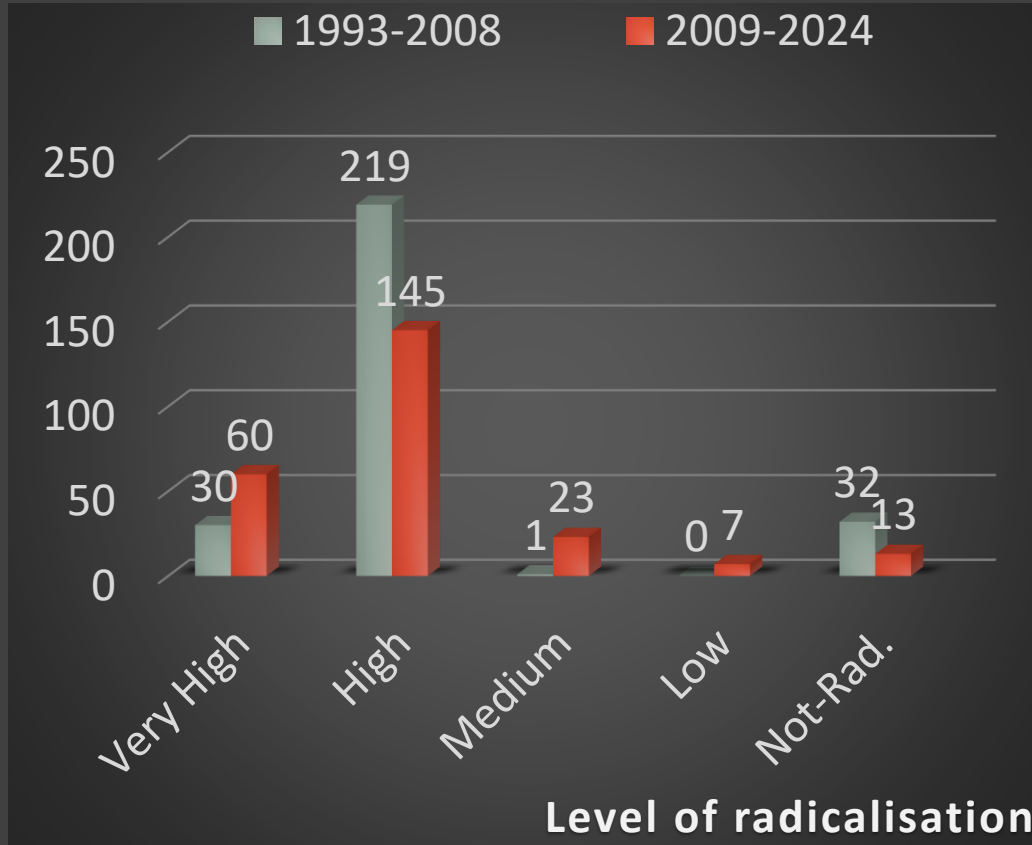
Excluding Italy, the majority of people radicalised in Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia in the first period.

Instead, in the second period, the Middle Eastern countries (+ Albania) expressed the highest number of individuals who arrived in Italy already radicalised.



Double increase of the very high individuals (subjects that emerge from Court papers in the context of devising, planning, and executing a terrorist act). So, the danger is increased. In the second period, 41 individuals with a very high (subjects fully radicalised and well embedded in the fabric of jihadism) level of radicalisation self-trained.

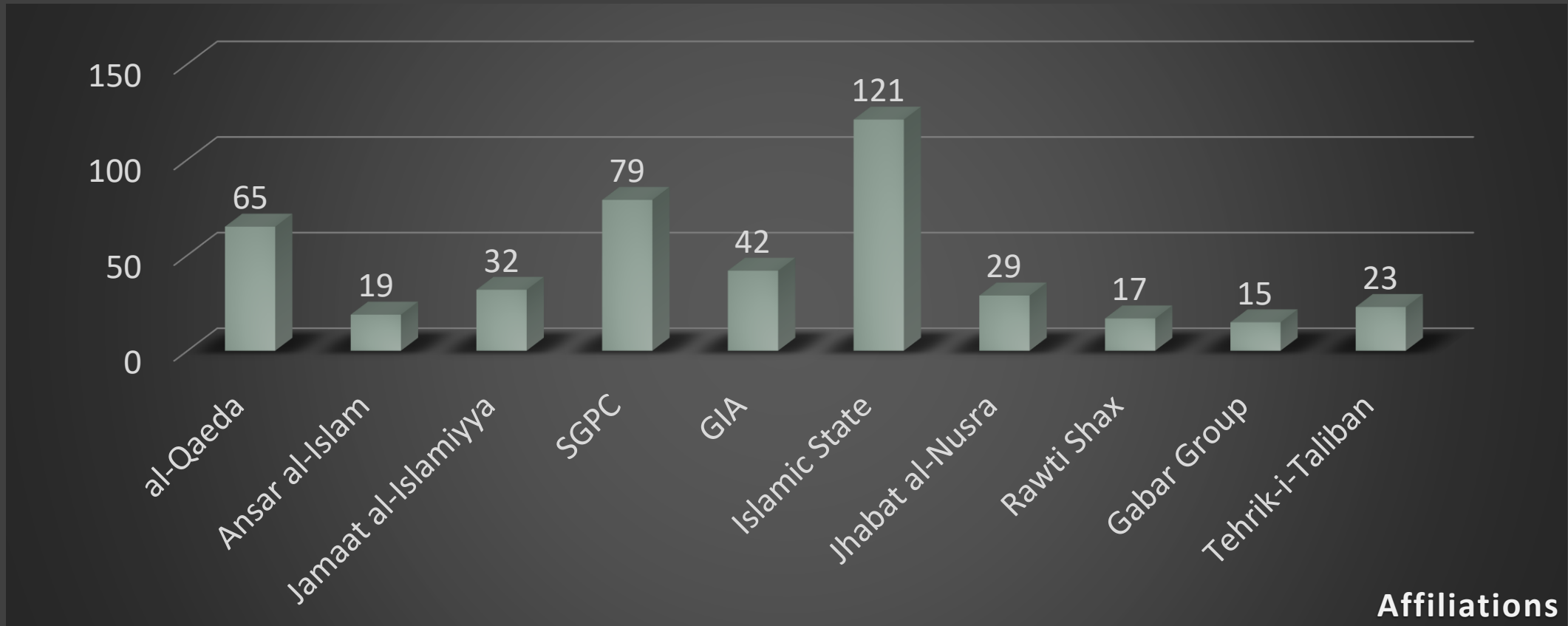
In the first period, the trend was to go and train in Afghanistan (or other war zones) and return to Italy/Europe. Important growth of self-training in the second period.



al-Qaeda and affiliated groups are mainly an expression of the first period.

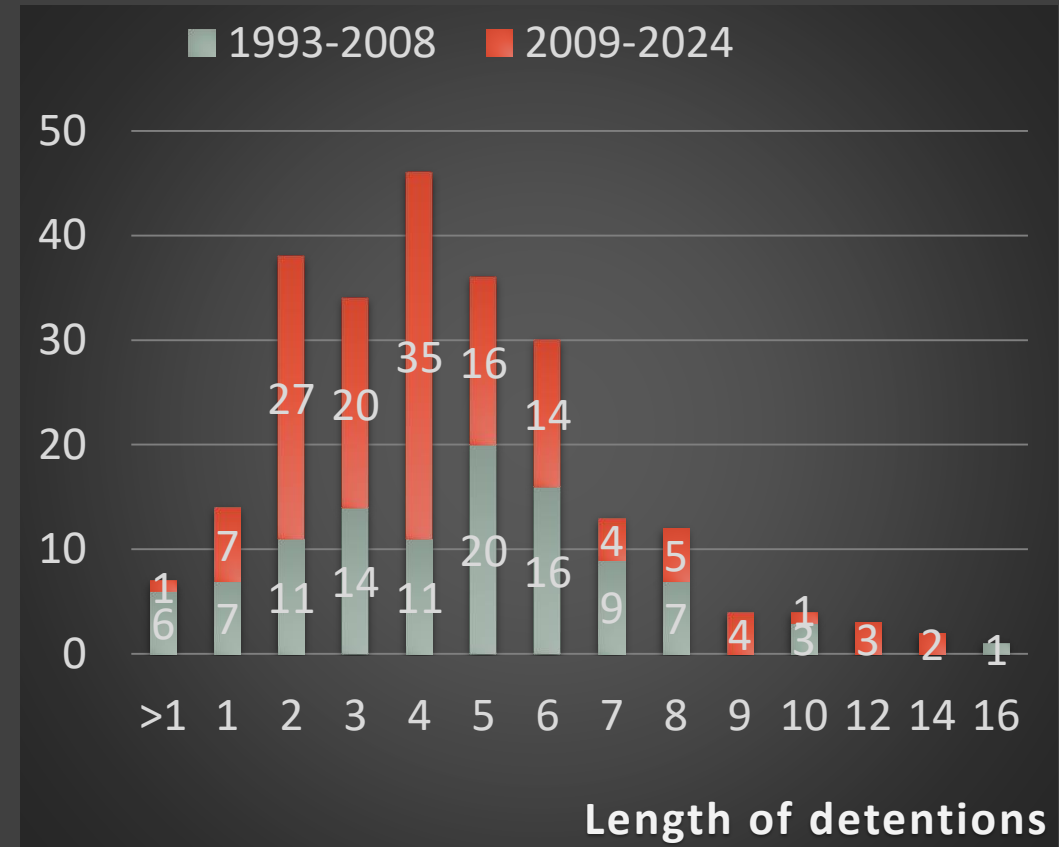
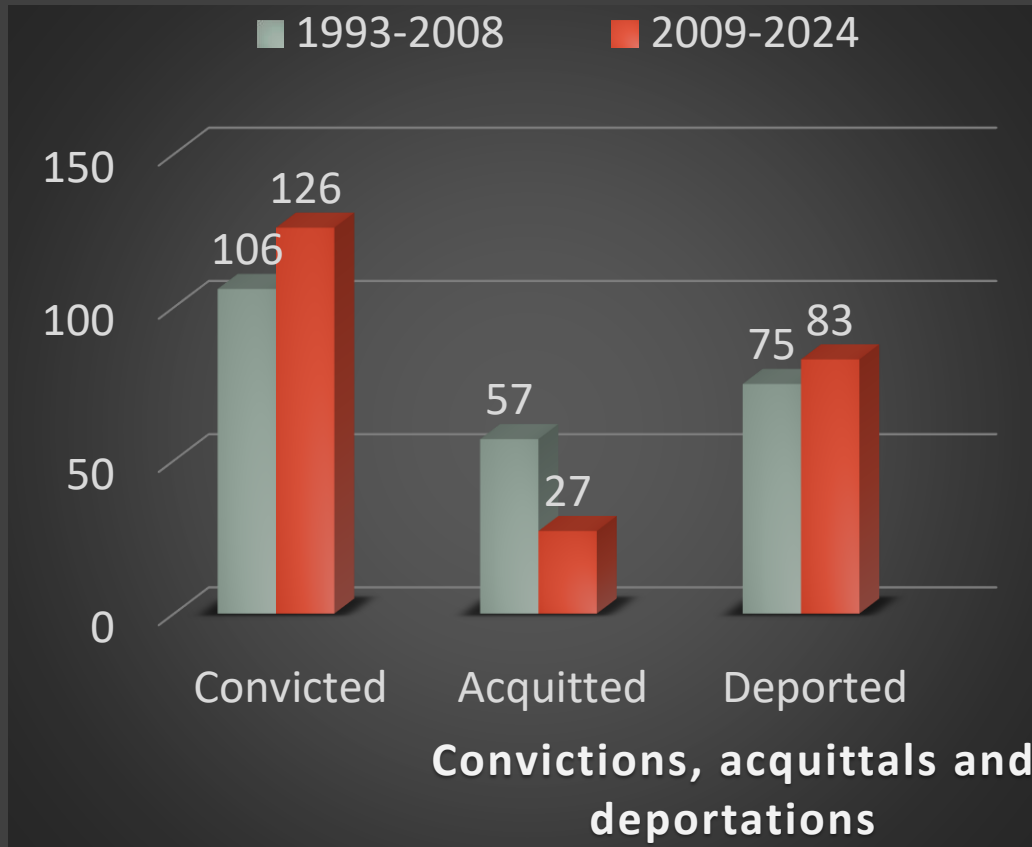
The second period is dominated by Islamic State.

After October 7, 2023, the first arrests of people linked to Hamas and Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades are recorded.



The most commonly charge is under Art. 270 bis of the Criminal Code (participation in a terrorist association, including an international one).
Significant decrease in acquittals.

Average of second period: 4,5 years of detentions.
Average of first period: 4,7 years of detentions.



Thank you very
much for the
attention!!!

Francesco Bergoglio Errico

*ERCOR Researcher, Founder of the
Monitoring Jihadism Project, Security
Analyst.*

Contacts:

bergoglioerrico@monitoringjihadism.com

www.monitoringjihadism.com

