



ICT
International Institute
for Counter-Terrorism
With the Support of Keren Daniel

ICT Incident and Activists Database

PERIODIC REVIEW

Summary of Terrorist Incidents and Counter-Terrorist Operations Worldwide January 2014

Highlights

- On January 1, Lebanese authorities announced that Majid al-Majid, the leader of al-Qaeda-linked Abdullah Azzam Brigades (AAB) was arrested in Beirut. However, details of the intelligence operation, regarding his capture (in late December 2013) until the announcement of his death, are ambiguous. It was reported in local media of a US tip-off leading to his capture. The AAB was responsible for the November 2013 attack on the Iranian embassy in Beirut and Majid's arrest was part of an investigation into the attack. On January 4, al-Majid died of kidney failure whilst in a military hospital in Beirut.
- On January 9, a suicide bomber was prevented from attacking the Ibrahimzai School, where 2000 children were attending an assembly, in a Shia dominated area of northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Pakistan. Schoolboys Aitazaz Hassan Bangash, 14 and his cousin Musadiq Ali Bangash became suspicious of a man dressed in school uniform who asked them for directions to the school. Aitazaz challenged the man and during the scuffle, he detonated his explosives, killing both himself and Aitazaz. Two people were injured including Musadiq. Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LEJ) claimed responsibility for the attack. The military called for the nation's highest military award for Aitazaz.
- On January 9, Spanish police arrested eight people with suspected links to Basque Homeland and Freedom (ETA). Amongst the suspects were Arantza Zulueta and Jon Enparantza, two well known lawyers who were accused of trying to revive the 'prisoners front', a wing of ETA aimed at keeping jailed activists in line with the group's aims.
- On January 14, Turkish security forces raided offices and homes aligned to the Humanitarian Relief Foundation, the largest non-governmental organization that is suspected of aiding al-Qaeda. Turkish authorities said that Ibrahim Sen, a senior Al-Qaeda militant who was released from the Guantanamo Bay in Cuba in 2006, was amongst those arrested.
- On 20 January, Detachment 88, Indonesia's anti-terrorism police, thwarted a plot to bomb police stations, nightclubs, and a brothel in East Java, Indonesia. Two militants identified as Isnaini Ramdhoni 30, and Abdul Majid, 35, were arrested.
- On January 22, the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) announced that it arrested three Palestinians from east Jerusalem who were in the advanced stages of plotting to carry out a series of large-scale bombing and shooting attacks on multiple targets in Israel. They were recruited online by Ariv Al-Sham, an al-Qaeda operative in Gaza.
- On January 24, a series of bombs targeted police in Cairo, Egypt killing 10 people and wounding 100 others. Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis (Supporters of Jerusalem) claimed responsibility for the attacks.
- On January 30, 24 people were killed and 50 others wounded when a team of armed militants attacked a government Ministry of Transportation building in north-eastern Baghdad, Iraq and took a number of people hostage; nine were killed. Four bombers detonated their explosives vests during the assault, a fifth was shot dead by security forces and the last died shortly after being shot. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS).

Contents

Highlights	2
Europe	4
Russia.....	4
Spain	5
United Kingdom.....	6
Africa	7
Nigeria	7
Somalia	8
Middle East	9
Egypt.....	9
Iraq	10
Israel and the West Bank	12
Lebanon.....	14
Syria.....	16
Turkey.....	17
Yemen.....	17
North America.....	18
United States	18
Asia	19
Afghanistan.....	19
Indonesia	19
Pakistan	20
Philippines	21
Thailand.....	21

Europe

Russia

On January 9, Russian authorities discovered the bodies of five people and explosive material in several vehicles. The bodies were found near the villages of Tambukan, Zolskaya and Mariinskaya. The number of people found murdered was later updated to six. An improvised explosive device (IED) detonated as the police arrived at the scene of the crime, but no one was hurt in the explosion.¹ Following the incident Russian security forces launched an anti-terrorism sweep and identified the three suspects as: Anzor Margushev, 32, and his brother Artur, 23, as well as Vadim Shogenov, 25. Artur Margushev and Shogenov are both already on a federal wanted list for the killing of a hunter in Stavropol on October 29. They are both suspected members of the KBK Vilayat. It was unclear whether the cases were connected. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.² It was also reported that on the same day security forces detained a suspected black widow equipped with an explosive belt in Stavropol. Authorities said she was traveling with a small boy and they were from Karachayevo-Cherkessia.³

On January 17, 16 people, including several police officers, were injured at a restaurant in Makhachkala. Police said a grenade exploded on the second floor of the restaurant and this was followed by a car bomb that targeted police as they arrived at the scene. No group claimed responsibility for the incident. The following day, on January 18, security forces killed seven militants, including a suspected black widow, in a counterterrorism operation in Makhachkala. Authorities said that the leader of the militant cell was amongst those killed but his identity was not made public.⁴ Authorities said the militants were all suspected of involvement of the restaurant attack.⁵

¹ Jamestown, "Moscow's Capabilities to Protect Civilians From Terrorist Attacks in Doubt", January 13, 2014

² RIA Novosti, "Deaths, blast in Russia's South trigger terrorism sweep", January 9, 2014

³ BBC, "Russia hunts suspects after car shootings in Stavropol", January 9, 2014

⁴ CNN, "Report: 7 militants killed in Dagestan counterterror operation", January 18, 2014

⁵ VOA, "Russia Kills Suspected Militants in Dagestan", January 18, 2014

On January 21, Russian security agents launched a manhunt three suspected "black widows" who were suspected of planning to attack the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.⁶ Security forces identified one of the suspects, Ruzanna Ibragimova, 22; the widow of a jihadist killed by Russian security forces. Authorities believed that Ibragimova traveled to Sochi on January 11. She was allegedly spotted on the street outside the foreign ministry in the city.⁷ Posters and flyers with a photograph of the woman were placed in Sochi hotels and at the airport. A bulletin and photos were also distributed to US and other security agencies.⁸ The other two suspects were identified by police as Zaira Aliyeva, 26, and Dzhannet Tsakhayeva, 34.⁹

Spain

On January 5, Abdeluahid Sadik Mohamed, a suspected member of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), was arrested at Malaga airport. According to the Interior Ministry he posed a serious threat to National security and was returning to Europe, via Turkey, from Syria. Mohamed allegedly left Casablanca, Morocco, on May 2 to travel to Syria, which he entered by crossing the Turkish border after spending a few days in Istanbul. Once in Syria, he trained in a militant training camp linked to the ISIS.¹⁰ Authorities said Mohamed was a suspect in a partially dismantled Spanish and Moroccan network of Islamic militants based in Ceuta and in the nearby Moroccan city of Fnideq.¹¹ Ten militants allegedly linked to this network have been jailed on pretrial charges of terrorism,

⁶ CBC, "Sochi: 'Black Widows' Hunted Ahead Of Games", January 21, 2014

⁷ IBT, "Scarred Black Widow Ruzanna Ibragimova Wanted over Sochi Winter Olympics Terror Plan", January 21, 2014

⁸ CNN, "Police warn Sochi hotels of terror suspect as Olympics near", January 21, 2014

⁹ Sky News, "Sochi: 'Black Widows' Hunted Ahead Of Games", January 21, 2014

¹⁰ CNN, "Suspected militant returning from war in Syria arrested in Spain", January 5, 2014

¹¹ For full details of this incident see ICT June 2013 Database report:

<http://www.ict.org.il/ResearchPublications/DatabaseReports/tabid/380/Articlsid/1206/currentpage/1/Default.aspx>

and September 2013 ICT database report:

<http://www.ict.org.il/ResearchPublications/DatabaseReports/tabid/380/Articlsid/1249/currentpage/1/Default.aspx>

including the alleged leader, Yassin Ahmed Laarbi, who was arrested September 17, 2013 after escaping detention in June 2013. Eight other suspected militants were also detained.¹²

On January 9, Spanish police arrested eight people with suspected links to Basque Homeland and Freedom (ETA). Amongst the suspects were Arantza Zulueta and Jon Enparantza, two well known lawyers who were accused of trying to revive the 'prisoners front', a wing of ETA aimed at keeping jailed activists in line with the group's aims.¹³ Authorities said the Spanish Civil Guard raided Zulueta's office in Bilbao where she and two other lawyers, Jon Enparantza and José Luis Campos Barandiarán, were meeting. The three, who were all arrested, form part of the so-called KT (Koordinazio Taldea) coordinating group, which is considered the terrorist organization's means to control the 421 prisoners serving time in Spanish and French jails. Authorities claimed Zulueta and Enparantza were the main connection between those prisoners and ETA's leaders.¹⁴ The arrests came two weeks after ETA prisoners said they were prepared to drop their insistence on a general amnesty and instead seek their release through legal channels.¹⁵

United Kingdom

On January 13, Yusuf Sawar and Mohammed Ahmed, both 21, from Birmingham, were charged with planning and travelling to Syria for terrorism. They were arrested at Heathrow airport, London on suspicion of terrorism activities in Syria. The men were returning to the UK from a flight from Turkey. Authorities said that the men were accused of traveling to Syria in May 2013.¹⁶ In a separate but similar incident, on January 17, a man, 21, from Birmingham was arrested on suspicion of attending a Syrian terrorist training camp, upon arrival at Gatwick Airport on a flight from Istanbul. West Midlands Police said they questioned the man at a police station before releasing him on bail as their enquiries continued.¹⁷ Following this case, on January 20, a man, 21 was arrested at Stansted Airport on suspicion of being involved in the commission, preparation and

¹² CNN, "Suspected militant returning from war in Syria arrested in Spain", January 5, 2014

¹³ Euronews, "Spanish police launch ETA raids across the Basque Country", January 9, 2014

¹⁴ Reuters, "Lawyer Arantza Zulueta is led away by Spanish Civil Guards following her arrest and search of her offices in Bilbao", January 10, 2014

¹⁵ The Local, "Police arrest eight in Eta raid that nearly failed", January 9, 2014

¹⁶ AP via Guardian, "UK police arrest two men on suspicion of terrorist offences in Syria", January 13, 2014

¹⁷ Reuters, "Police arrest man suspected of attending 'Syrian terrorist camp'", January 18, 2014

instigation of terrorism offenses. The man was detained after returning to the UK from Istanbul, Turkey, via Germany. Authorities did not confirm whether the suspect was connected to Al-Qaeda militants in Syria.¹⁸ Finally on, January 22, two British women became the first to be charged with funding and instigating terrorist acts in Syria. Nawal Msaad, 26, was arrested at Heathrow Airport as she was trying to board a flight to Istanbul, Turkey. Authorities said that Msaad had attempted to conceal £16,500 in cash by wrapping it in cling film and hiding it in her underwear.¹⁹ Amal Elwahabi, 27, Msaad's co-conspirator, was arrested later that day at a residential address in north-east London.²⁰ On January 24, both women appeared in Westminster Magistrates Court, London. They were charged under Section 17 of the Terrorism Act 2000, in connection to the commission, preparation and instigation of acts of terrorism.²¹ Although these cases bared similarities police said there were no direct connections between the arrests but they highlighted an increasing trend of British nationals joining Al-Qaeda linked militants in Syria.²²

Africa

Nigeria

On January 14, a suicide car bomber exploded at a military post in a commercial area in Maiduguri, killing 17 people and injuring 50 others. Authorities said the bomb, was planted in a three-wheel rickshaw taxi and exploded outside the state television offices at 1330.²³ Authorities said they arrested one man in connection with the attack. Boko Haram claimed responsibility for the attack.²⁴

On January 28, 52 people were killed and 26 others wounded by suspected Boko Haram militants, who attacked a marketplace in Kawuri. Witnesses said approximately 50 militants arrived in the village in 22 vehicles, including two armored personnel carriers and six pick-up trucks. Witnesses

¹⁸ BBC, "Terror arrest at Stansted airport", January 20, 2014

¹⁹ Telegraph, "Student tried to smuggle £16,500 in her underwear to Syrian fighters, court hears", January 24, 2014

²⁰ Independent, "British student Nawal Msaad charged with aiding Syrian terrorists 'was caught smuggling €20,000 in her knickers'", January 24, 2014

²¹ AP, "UK charges 2 women with arranging funds for terrorism activities in Syria", January 22, 2014

²² Sky News, "Briton Arrested Over 'Syria Terror Training'", January 17, 2014

²³ BBC, "Nigeria violence: Deadly bomb blast in Maiduguri", January 14, 2014

²⁴ AP, "Car bomb explodes in northern Nigerian city", January 14, 2014

said the militants surrounded the market and began shooting. The gunmen then set the village ablaze, burning dozens of houses.²⁵ On the same day, suspected Boko Haram militants also launched an armed attack in the village of Chakawa in Adamawa state, killing 26 people. During the assault the militants used guns and explosives targeting civilians and then burned buildings to the ground. No group claimed responsibility for either of the attacks but authorities blamed Boko Haram.²⁶

Somalia

On January 1, 11 people were killed and 17 others injured after consecutive car bombings and an attack by armed militants targeted the Jazeera hotel, a heavily fortified hotel, in Mogadishu.²⁷ The hotel is situated near a United Nations compound and Mogadishu's international airport. It is frequented by foreigners and Somali government officials.²⁸ Witnesses said a vehicle loaded with explosives crashed into a police car outside the gate of the hotel and exploded. That was followed, by a second explosion that targeted rescue workers.²⁹ Gunmen then ran towards the hotel and a firefight broke out between them and the police.³⁰ Approximately an hour later, a third bomb exploded inside a car that was being searched by the military.³¹ Al-Shabab Al Mujahedeen claimed responsibility for the attack.³²

On January 10, the Kenyan military released a statement saying they had carried out an airstrike targeting an Al-Shabab Al-Mujihdeen camp in Garbarahey in Gedo region where militant commanders had gathered for a meeting.³³ During the incident 30 militants, including some key commanders, were killed. Five vehicles and other key assets were destroyed at the militant camp.³⁴

²⁵ New York Times, "As Gunmen Kill 45 in Nigeria, Suspicion Falls on Militants", January 28, 2014

²⁶ CNN, "45 killed in Nigeria market attack; police blame Boko Haram", January 28, 2014

²⁷ Garowe Online, "Somalia: Mogadishu hotel rocked by deadly car bomb attacks", January 1, 2014

²⁸ BBC, "Hotel in Somali capital Mogadishu hit by car bombs", January 1, 2014

²⁹ New York Times, "Fatal Attacks Strike a Hotel in Somalia", January 1, 2014

³⁰ Reuters, "Mogadishu hotel targeted by bombs, at least 11 killed", January 1, 2014

³¹ Garowe online, "Somalia: Mogadishu hotel rocked by deadly car bomb attacks", January 1, 2014

³² AP, "Mogadishu car bomb attacks kill 6", January 1, 2014

³³ AP, "Kenya air strike in Somalia 'kills al-Shabaab militants'", January 10, 2014

³⁴ Reuters, "Kenya says killed Shabaab commanders in air strikes", January 10, 2014

It was reported that Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedeen's leader, Ahmed Godane, was the target. According to some reports he was in the vicinity but managed to escape unharmed.³⁵

Following this airstrike, on January 27, the US military carried out a military airstrike in Barawe, southern Somalia. During this incident, it was reported that Ahmed Mohamed Amey, a chemicals expert also known as Sahal Iskudhuq, was killed, as well as four other militants. Authorities claimed that Amey had close ties with Al-Shabab Al Mujahedeen leader Ahmed Abdi Godane. Amey allegedly advised Godane on the operations of Al-Shabab Al Mujahedeen's Amniyat 'secret service', an elite unit blamed for suicide attacks in Mogadishu.³⁶ It was also reported that Godane was in the vicinity and was the main target of the airstrike. He allegedly escaped but was slightly injured in the airstrike.³⁷

Middle East

Egypt

On January 24, a series of bombs targeted police in Cairo, killing at 10 people and wounding 100 others.³⁸ In the first attack, a car bomb exploded outside Cairo's police headquarters, killing four people, including three policemen and injuring 76 others. It caused severe damage and a four metre deep crater formed outside the building. A second explosion near a metro station struck one of the most crowded means of transportation in the city, however there was a relatively low casualty figure as Friday is a day off in Egypt. A third bomb detonated near the Giza pyramids with no damage or casualties reported. In a separate, smaller attack, a home-made bomb exploded across the Nile River in Dokki, killed one person and injured eight others. A fourth explosion occurred outside of a movie theater killing one person as a convoy of security forces passed by. Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis (Supporters of Jerusalem) claimed responsibility for the attacks.³⁹

³⁵ AllAfrica.com, "Kenya Airstrike in Somalia Kills 30 Al-Shabab Fighters", January 10, 2014

³⁶ Reuters, "U.S. strike killed al Shabaab commander: Somali officials", January 27, 2014

³⁷ All Africa, "Kenya: Al-Shabaab Leader On the Run After Two Near-Death Misses", February 7, 2014

³⁸ BBC, "Egypt militants step up campaign with Cairo blasts", January 24, 2013

³⁹ Reuters, "Bomb hits Cairo, Qaeda-linked group claims attacks", January 24, 2014

Iraq

On January 2, 16 people were killed and 22 injured when a suicide bomber driving an explosive-laden car exploded near a car dealership in Balad Ruz, Diyala province.⁴⁰ It was also reported in Baghdad that shootings and explosions killed six people and injured 20 others.⁴¹ No group claimed responsibility for the attacks.⁴²

On January 5, a series of car bombings and bombings targeted Baghdad. In the first attack, two parked car bombs simultaneously exploded near a restaurant and a tea house killing 10 people and wounding 26 others. Authorities said that a parked car bomb exploded in Bagdads Sadr City, killing five people and wounding 10 others. Another bombing killed three civilians and wounded six in a commercial area in the central Bab al-Muadham neighborhood. Police also said that two other bombings killed two civilians and wounded 13. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda in Iraq.⁴³

On January 9, a suicide bomber killed 23 Iraqi army recruits and wounded 36 others at the Muthanna airfield. Authorities also said a sniper killed Special Forces members in Buhriz, north of Baghdad and a car bomb exploded near a health department building in Tikrit. An ambulance driver was killed and five other people wounded. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda linked militants. Authorities said they suspect the attack was in retaliation for the military's offensive and an effort to dissuade potential new recruits from bolstering the Iraqi army's ranks.⁴⁴

On January 13, four car bombs killed 25 people and wounded 78 others in Shi'ite Muslim districts of Baghdad. The worst attack occurred in the mainly Shi'ite neighborhood of Shaab in eastern Baghdad where a car bomb exploded in a commercial area, killing 11 people and wounding 28 others. The attacks coincided with a public holiday to mark the Prophet Mohammad's birthday. Authorities also said gunmen also attacked a checkpoint in southern Baghdad, killing three

⁴⁰ AP, "Iraq truck bombing kills at least 19", January 2, 2014

⁴¹ CNN, "Suicide bombing kills 16 in Iraqi town", January 2, 2014

⁴² AP, "Iraq truck bombing kills at least 19", January 2, 2014

⁴³ Al-Jazeera, "Series of deadly blasts hit Iraqi capital", January 5, 2014

⁴⁴ Reuters, "Suicide bomber kills 23 Iraqi army recruits", January 9, 2014

policemen and wounding four others. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda linked militants.⁴⁵

On January 15, 73 people were killed in a series of bombings in central Iraq. In the worst incident, a suicide bomber detonated his explosives in funeral tent in the village of Buhriz where mourners were marking the death two days ago of a member of a local Sahwa (Awakening Council).⁴⁶ Authorities said that nine car bombs exploded across Baghdad, killing 37 people and wounding dozens more. One of the bombs targeted a busy market in the Baghdad neighborhood of Shaab, and another detonated in front of a restaurant. Police said the attacks in Baghdad could have been worse but police managed to thwart four suicide bombers with explosives-rigged vehicles.⁴⁷ Authorities also reported that 13 people, including nine soldiers, were killed in and around Mosul. Six of the soldiers died when a roadside bomb was detonated as they crossed a bridge at Ain al-Jahash. It was also reported that seven employees of a brick factory were shot by insurgents in the town of Muqdadiyah, while in the town of Dujail a car bomb wounded four people. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda linked militants.⁴⁸

On January 18, a series of bombings targeted neighborhoods around Baghdad killed 30 people⁴⁹ and 74 others injured.⁵⁰ A car bomb exploded near a restaurant in the western neighborhood of Mansour, killing four people and wounding 12 others. Another exploded near a bus station in eastern Baghdad, killing four people and wounding six. In northern Baghdad, the police said a blast near a hospital killed four people and wounded eight. Three other bombs exploded in western Baghdad killing eight people and wounding 26 others. Armed men also attacked a juvenile prison, killing a guard, wounding four others and releasing 20 inmates. Police also said that mortar shells

⁴⁵ Reuters, "Car bombs kill at least 25 people in Iraqi capital", January 13, 2014

⁴⁶ Reuters, "Iraq: bomb attacks in Baghdad, village kill 52", January 15, 2014

⁴⁷ BBC, "Dozens killed in Iraq bomb attacks", January 15, 2014

⁴⁸ AFP, "Over 73 dead in Iraq car bombs, shootings", January 15, 2014

⁴⁹ AP, "Iraq Bombings and Fighting Kill Dozens", January 18, 2014

⁵⁰ CNN, "In tense Baghdad, a wave of deadly blasts", January 18, 2014

landed near a residential area in the Adil neighborhood, killing three people and wounding nine.⁵¹ No group claimed responsibility for the attacks but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda linked militants.⁵²

On January 30, 24 people were killed and 50 others wounded when six armed militants attacked a government Ministry of Transportation building in north-eastern Baghdad, and took a number of people hostage. Initially the militants attempted but failed to detonate a minibus rigged with explosives at the main gate. When the explosion did not actualize, one of the attackers detonated himself to clear the way for his fellow militants, followed by a second bomber who set off his vest at an inner gate. Then the four remaining militants took a number of hostages, most of them members of the Facilities Protection Service for several hours inside the building. Nine were killed. Four bombers detonated their explosives vests during the assault, a fifth was shot dead by security forces and the last died shortly after being shot. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS).⁵³

Israel and the West Bank

On January 2, the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) announced that it had arrested four Palestinian Islamic Jihad operatives for their roles in a bus bombing in a suburb of Tel Aviv on December 22, 2013.⁵⁴ They were identified as: Yusef Salamah, 22, Shehada Ta'amri, 24, Hamdi Ta'amri, 21 and Sami Harimi, 20. Shehada and Hamdi Ta'amri, brothers, have both served time in Israeli prisons; Hamdi, the younger of the two, is a Palestinian Authority police officer who was in the middle of officer's candidate school in Jericho.⁵⁵ The militants admitted that they had planned to carry out a second, larger bombing in Tel Aviv. Authorities said that Harimi caught a ride with a Bedouin citizen of Israel who earned money transporting illegal citizens into Israel to work. Harimi had been working illegally in a bakery in Jaffa. According to the Shin Bet, Harimi went to pray in a mosque and then boarded the bus. He left the bag near the center of the vehicle and got off at an unspecified stop. He then called a cell phone that was attached to the explosive device, detonating the bomb.

⁵¹ Reuters, "Bombs, mortar fire kill 14 people in Baghdad", January 18, 2014

⁵² CNN, "In tense Baghdad, a wave of deadly blasts", January 18, 2014

⁵³ Reuters, "Suicide bombers storm Iraq ministry building, 24 killed", January 30, 2014

⁵⁴ See ICT database December 2013 report for full details of the attack.

<http://www.ict.org.il/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=jtei3NKnM5s%3d&tabid=380>

⁵⁵ MFA, "Perpetrators of Bat Yam terror attack arrested", January 2, 2014.

By that time, the bomb had been spotted and the bus evacuated, averting the bombers' intended heavy death toll.⁵⁶

On January 16, Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system intercepted five rockets fired at the city of Ashkelon from the Gaza Strip.⁵⁷ There were no casualties or damage. In response to attack, the Israeli Air Force (IAF) conducted airstrikes on four sites in northern Gaza, including a hidden rocket launcher, a weapons storage site and a weapons manufacturing facility. The IDF Spokesperson's Unit reported direct hits on all targets.⁵⁸ Following this IAF Operation and in response to further rocket fire at Israel, IAF aircrafts targeted a terror activity site and a weapon manufacturing facility in the northern Gaza strip and a weapon storage facility in the southern Gaza Strip.⁵⁹

On January 22, the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) announced that it arrested three Palestinians from east Jerusalem who were in the midst of preparations to carry out a string of large-scale bombing and shooting attacks on multiple targets in Israel. They were recruited online through *Facebook* and *Skype* by Ariv Al-Sham, an al-Qaeda operative in Gaza.⁶⁰ The group reportedly planned to deploy a suicide bomber against the US Embassy in Tel Aviv, as well as stage an attack against the International Convention Center in Jerusalem. They were also accused of planning to kidnap an IDF soldier and shoot at an Israeli bus in the West Bank.⁶¹ The Shin Bet said Al-Sham recruited the men separately from one another, and had planned to activate three independent terrorist cells via his recruits. According to the Shin Bet, Al-Sham received his orders directly from Al-Qaeda the base leader Ayman Al-Zawahri. The Shin Bet identified the first militant as Iyad Khalil Abu-Sara, 23, of Ras Hamis in east Jerusalem, who has an Israeli ID card. During questioning, Abu-Sara, who was arrested on December 25, admitted to volunteering to carry out an attack on an Israeli bus travelling between Jerusalem and Ma'ale Adumim. Abu-Sara also volunteered to help orchestrate a

⁵⁶ Jerusalem Post, "Security forces nab Islamic Jihad members suspected of planting Bat Yam bus bomb", January 3, 2013.

⁵⁷ Reuters, "Israel shoots down Gaza rockets, responds with air strikes", January 16, 2014

⁵⁸ Times of Israel, "Sirens wail in Ashkelon after rocket fired from Gaza", January 16, 2014

⁵⁹ Jerusalem Post, "IDF strikes terror targets in Gaza", January 31, 2014

⁶⁰ Reuters, "Israel's Shin Bet intelligence agency claims planned suicide attack shows al-Qa'ida is taking root in Palestine", January 22, 2014

⁶¹ Long War Journal, "Israel busts 'global jihad' terror cell planning attacks, including against US Embassy", January 22, 2014

double suicide bombing, involving the dispatching of two suicide bomber to the Jerusalem Convention Center and the US Embassy in Tel Aviv, simultaneously. Subsequently, Abu-Sara planned to detonate a suicide truck bomb in the vicinity of emergency responders arriving at the Convention Center. Al-Sham and Abu-Sara plotted to bring a group of foreign terrorists posing as tourists, using fake Russian passports. Abu-Sara was tasked with preparing their suicide bomb vests and a truck bomb. Abu-Sara was also supposed to travel to Syria for training in combat and explosives manufacturing, and had purchased a flight ticket to Turkey, a gateway to Syria. He was arrested as he prepared to travel to Syria.⁶² The second suspect was identified as Rubin Abu-Nagma. He confessed to the Shin Bet of plotting to kidnap a soldier from the Jerusalem Central bus station, as well as a bombing against a residential building housing Israeli Jews in the Abu Tor neighborhood of east Jerusalem. During questioning, he admitted to learning how to manufacture bombs online.⁶³ The third militant was identified as Ala Anam, who confessed to being in internet communication with Al-Sham, and plotting to set up a Salafi-Jihadi cell in Samaria for the purpose of carrying out terror attacks. Israeli authorities claimed that arrests and thwarting of the plot prove that Gaza has become a base for al-Qaeda linked operations, and that Hamas is supporting the global jihad operations in Sinai and Syria.⁶⁴

Lebanon

On January 1, Lebanese authorities announced that Majid al-Majid, the leader of al-Qaeda-linked Abdullah Azzam Brigades (AAB) was arrested in Beirut. However, details of the intelligence operation, regarding his capture (in late December 2013) until the announcement of his death, are ambiguous. It was reported in local media of a US tip-off leading to his capture. The AAB was responsible for the November 2013 attack on the Iranian embassy in Beirut and Majid's arrest allegedly was part of an investigation into the attack.⁶⁵ It was reported that al-Majid had received

⁶² Jerusalem Post, "3 east Jerusalem al-Qaida recruits arrested, 'planned massive bombings'", January 2014.

⁶³ Ynet, "Shin Bet thwarts al-Qaeda attack on Israel's US embassy", January 22, 2014

⁶⁴ Times of Israel, "Al-Qaeda planned to blow up US Embassy in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem convention center", January 22, 2014

⁶⁵ See November 2013 report.

kidney dialysis at the Military Hospital in Badaro.⁶⁶ After receiving kidney treatment it was he was released and attempted to evade authorities by hiding in a Palestinian refugee camp of Ain al-Hilweh, near Saida. However, he was captured by the Lebanese army. His health deteriorated and on January 4, al-Majid died of kidney failure whilst in a military hospital in Beirut.⁶⁷ He was wanted by the US, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon.⁶⁸ Authorities said the operation to arrest those responsible for the December attack, resulted in additional arrests on January 15, of Jamal Daftardar alias Mohammad Ahmad al-Masri, a commander of the Abdullah Azzam Brigades after raiding a residential address in the Bekaa Valley town of Kamed al-Loz. Daftardar was considered the main candidate to take over the leadership of the Abdullah Azzam Brigades following Majid's death. During the raid the Army also shot and killed a second suspect, Mazen Abu Abbas and arrested several others. Authorities said Abbas had threatened intelligence personnel with a hand grenade and later died of his wounds. He was allegedly involved in aiding the leader of the brigades. Authorities claimed that Abbas, along with other accomplices, helped to transport Majid al-Majid to the Beirut hospital. It was also reported that Iran dispatched its Deputy Justice Minister Abdol-Ali Mirkouhi to Lebanon, to follow up on Lebanon's investigation into the bombing. On January 29, Jamal Daftardar and 12 other militants were charged with belonging to terrorist organizations and plotting attacks in Lebanon. Daftardar was charged with recruiting dozens of men and transferring them to Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Yemen after training them to make weapons and explosives. He was also charged with providing the recruits with forged identify cards to help facilitate their movement. If convicted the men could face the death penalty.⁶⁹

On January 2, four people were killed and 77 others injured when a suicide car bomber exploded on a crowded street in a southern Beirut suburb of Haret Hreik, a Hezbollah stronghold. Several cars were destroyed in the explosion.⁷⁰ Authorities said the bomb contained 20 kilograms of TNT explosives. The Army said the explosives-rigged vehicle was a 1993, dark green Grand Cherokee

⁶⁶ Daily Star, "Majid al-Majid, head of Al-Qaeda offshoot, dies in Lebanon hospital: state news agency", January 4, 2014

⁶⁷ BBC, "Jihadist militant leader in Lebanon Majid al-Majid dies in custody", January 4, 2014

⁶⁸ Al-Monitor, "Al-Qaeda-affiliated emir arrested in Lebanon", January 2, 2014

⁶⁹ Daily Star, "Lebanon charges 13 over links to terror groups", January 29, 2014

⁷⁰ Lebanon Daily Star, "Car bomb in Beirut kills four, wounds 77", January 2, 2014

Jeep that had been parked on Al-Arid Street. The original owner of the vehicle was identified as Hala Othman from Baalbek, east Lebanon.⁷¹ The Lebanese Army identified the suicide bomber as Lebanese Qotaiba Mohammad al-Satem. The military's announcement came after forensic experts ran DNA tests on human remains found in the explosive-rigged vehicle used in the blast as well as on the victims and Satem's father. On January 4, the Islamic State of Iraq (ISIS) claimed responsibility for the attack.⁷²

On January 16, a suicide car bomber targeted a main commercial street, during rush hour traffic and detonated his explosive belt outside two local banks and the main government office in Hermel. Three people were killed and 42 others injured. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.⁷³

On January 21, a suicide car bomber killed four people and injured 46 others in Haret Hreika, a Hezbollah stronghold in a Shia-dominated suburb of Beirut. The military said in a statement, that a stolen four-wheel-drive Kia Sportage was used in the attack and was rigged with 15 kilograms of explosives including three 120 and 130 millimeter mortar bombs. They also confirmed that a suicide bomber was involved but had failed to detonate his explosives belt. The bomber's remains were discovered at the site of the attack.⁷⁴ A previously unheard of group, calling themselves the Al-Nusra Front in Lebanon, believed to be an offshoot of the Al-Nusra Front in Syria, claimed responsibility for attack.⁷⁵

Syria

On January 9, 18 people were killed and dozens injured, the exact figure was unclear, in a large car bombing of the central Syrian village of Kafat, located in Hama province.⁷⁶ The car bombing occurred at the village school leaving a number of women and children as well as pro-government

⁷¹ Reuters, "Car bomb kills at least five in Hezbollah district of Beirut", January 2, 2014

⁷² Lebanon Daily Star, "ISIS claims responsibility for Beirut car bomb", January 4, 2014

⁷³ AP, "Car bomb blasts Lebanese town near Syria border", January 16, 2014

⁷⁴ Lebanon Daily Star, "Suspected suicide bombing in Beirut suburb kills four", January 21, 2014

⁷⁵ AFP, "Al-Nusra Front in Lebanon claims Beirut bombing", January 21, 2014

⁷⁶ Reuters, "Syrian car bomb kills at least 18, dozens wounded - monitoring group", January 9, 2014

militiamen killed and wounded. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda linked militants.⁷⁷

On January 15, a suicide car bomb detonated in Jarablus, Aleppo Province, killed 26 people, including three civilians and injuring dozens of others. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda-linked Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) and said most casualties were rival rebels.⁷⁸

Turkey

On January 14, Turkish security forces raided offices and homes aligned to the Humanitarian Relief Foundation, the largest non-governmental organization that is suspected of aiding Al-Qaeda.⁷⁹ Turkish authorities said that Ibrahim Sen, a senior Al-Qaeda militant who was released from the Guantanamo Bay in Cuba in 2006, was amongst those arrested was. Sen was handed over to Turkish authorities in 2008 and later sentenced by a Turkish court to six years in prison on terror charges.⁸⁰ Another detainee was Halis Bayancuk, said to head Al-Qaeda operations in Turkey.⁸¹

Yemen

On January 7, armed militants in a pickup truck shot Colonel Mubarak Lashram, an official in military supplies department, in Aden. Another soldier was also seriously wounded in the attack. The militants escaped. In a separate attack in the city, a car bomb seriously wounded Colonel Saleh al-Qadhi, an intelligence officer.⁸² Several days prior to this incident, another intelligence officer Colonel Marwan al-Maqbali, was also killed by suspected Al-Qaeda militants in Aden. No groups claimed responsibility for the attacks No groups claimed responsibility for the attacks but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).⁸³

⁷⁷ AP, "Car bomb near school in central Syria kills 16", January 9, 2014

⁷⁸ BBC, "Syria conflict: Half population urgently need aid – UN", January 15, 2014.

⁷⁹ Time, "Turkish Authorities Raid NGO Alleging Al-Qaeda Links", January 14, 2014

⁸⁰ UPI, "Top al-Qaida leaders among terror suspects arrested in Turkish raids", January 14, 2014

⁸¹ World Tribune, "Turkish security forces raid Erdogan-backed charity linked to Al Qaida", January 14, 2014

⁸² Reuters, "Gunmen shoot dead Yemeni colonel in Aden", January 7, 2014

⁸³ AFP, "Car blast wounds Yemen intelligence officer", January 7, 2014

On January 8, two suspected AQAP militants were killed in a US drone attack that targeted their convoy in Hadramout. Following this incident on January 24, a suspected US drone strike targeted a group of militants driving a car in Yemen's central province of Marib, killing four people and injuring seven others.⁸⁴ The Yemeni interior ministry issued a statement after the attack, saying it foiled an attempt by al-Qaida militants to seize some government institutions in Marib province. No further details were given in the ministry's statement.⁸⁵

On 16 January, suspected AQAP militants killed 10 Yemeni soldiers in three simultaneous attacks on army positions in the central Bayda province. Eight militants were killed by the army in the resulting firefight. Four militants were also arrested. Authorities said some of the attackers also died, including a suicide bomber who was killed by soldiers.⁸⁶

On January 31, 18 soldiers were killed and four others wounded by suspected AQAP militants who ambushed an army checkpoint near Shibam, in the eastern province of Hadramout. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities suspected AQAP militants.⁸⁷

North America

United States

On January 31, Ahmed Nasir Taalil Mohamud was sentenced to six years in prison for his part in a San Diego-based conspiracy to provide material support to the terrorist group Al-Shabaab Al-Mujahedeen. Nasir is the last of four defendants to be sentenced; the others were sentenced in November 2013. The other militants included: Basaaly Saeed Moalin who was sentenced to 18 years in prison; Mohamed Mohamed Mohamud, the imam at a popular mosque frequented by the city's immigrant Somali community, who was sentenced to 13 years in prison; and Issa Doreh, who worked at a money transmitting business that was the conduit for moving the illicit funds. He was

⁸⁴ Xinhua, "U.S. drone strike kills four in central Yemen", January 24, 2014

⁸⁵ Reuters, "Three suspected militants killed in U.S. drone strike in Yemen", January 24, 2014

⁸⁶ AFP, "Army: Al-Qaeda attacks kill 10 soldiers in Yemen", January, 24, 2014

⁸⁷ Reuters, "Suspected militants kill at least 15 soldiers in Yemen", January 31, 2014

sentenced to 10 years in prison. Nasir and his co-conspirators were found guilty during a three-week trial in February 2013.⁸⁸

Asia

Afghanistan

On January 17, 21 people were killed and 12 injured, when a suicide bomber attacked the Taverna du Liban restaurant in Kabul. Two gunmen then entered the restaurant and started indiscriminately killing people inside. The restaurant is popular with officials, foreigners and the UN said four staff members were missing. Amongst the casualties were a Somali American, two Britons, two Canadians, a Danish police officer, a Russian, and a Malaysian. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.⁸⁹

On January 26, four people were killed and 22 injured when a suicide bomber detonated his explosives next to a bus carrying Afghan government troops in Kabul. A local journalist was amongst the casualties.⁹⁰ The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack via a message on *Twitter*.⁹¹

Indonesia

On January 1, six suspected militants were killed during a nine-hour firefight with police in south Jakarta.⁹² Authorities said the militants were armed with explosives and were linked to other small terrorism cells across the country. Authorities say they had been monitoring a house in South Tangerang, west of Jakarta, for about two weeks. Authorities raided the house and killed the alleged leader of the cell. During the raid, police discovered six homemade bombs, one which had exploded,

⁸⁸ See February ICT Database Report:

<http://www.ict.org.il/ResearchPublications/DatabaseReports/tabid/380/Articlsid/1168/currentpage/1/Default.aspx>

⁸⁹ Washington Post, "'Taliban attack on restaurant in Afghan capital kills at least 21, including two Americans", January 19, 2014

⁹⁰ Reuters, "Suicide bomber kills four in Kabul attack on Afghan army bus", January 26, 2014

⁹¹ AFP, "Suicide bomber kills 4 in Kabul attack on military bus", January 26, 2014

⁹² Voice of Russia, "Indonesian police kill six suspected militants near Jakarta", January 1, 2014

and they seized pistols and mobile phones. Authorities said the militants were involved in targeted police killings, and planned attacks.⁹³

On 20 January, Detachment 88, Indonesia's anti-terrorism police thwarted a plot to bomb police stations, nightclubs, and a brothel in Surabaya, the capital city of East Java. The police arrested two suspected terrorists, who they identified as Isnaini Ramdhoni 30, and Abdul Majid, 35, near a petrol station in Kedung Cowek and discovered several explosive devices stored in a backpack. Police also seized machetes and daggers from the suspects that police believe were intended to be used in an attack against police. Authorities said the men were part of the terrorist network of Mujahidin Indonesia Timur (Mujahidin of East Indonesia) in Poso. Authorities said they raid the militants rented home and discovered found another bomb stored in the house. The militants allegedly attended a militant training camp in the jungles of Poso district, Central Sulawesi, run by Santoso, Indonesia's most wanted terror suspect.⁹⁴

Pakistan

On January 9, a suicide bomber was prevented from attacking the Ibrahimzai School, where 2000 children were attending an assembly, in a Shia dominated area of northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Schoolboys Aitazaz Hassan Bangash, 14 and his cousin Musadiq Ali Bangash became suspicious of a man dressed in school uniform who asked them for directions to the school. Aitazaz challenged the man and during the scuffle, he detonated his explosives, killing both himself and Aitazaz. Two people were injured including Musadiq.⁹⁵ Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LEJ) claimed responsibility for the attack. The military called for the nation's highest military award for Aitazaz.⁹⁶ Also on January 9, a suicide car bomber exploded targeting the convoy of Chaudhry Aslam Khan, a senior police officer. Khan and two other people were killed. Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed

⁹³ ABC News, "Indonesian police kill six suspected militants in shoot-out outside Jakarta", January 1, 2014.

⁹⁴ Jakarta Globe, "Densus 88 Foil Surabaya Terrorist Bomb Plot, Santoso Associates Arrested", January 21, 2014

⁹⁵ BBC, "Aitaz Hasan: Tributes to Pakistan teenager killed when he stopped a bomber", January 9, 2014

⁹⁶ Time, "Pakistani Boy Dies While Saving School From Suicide Bomber", January 9, 2014

responsibility for the attack and said Aslam was targeted for carrying out operations against the TTP.⁹⁷

On January 19, a large explosion targeted a military convoy in Bannu, killing 20 soldiers and wounding 24 others. An explosion took place in a Toyota Hiace van inside the Bannu parade ground. This was a rented vehicle from the market used by the Frontier Corps for moving its troops. TTP claimed responsibility for the attack.⁹⁸

On January 26, a Taliban suicide bomber killed four people and wounded nine others in Kabul. The bomber was on foot when he detonated himself next to a bus carrying Ministry of Defense staff to work. TTP claimed responsibility for the attack.⁹⁹

Philippines

On January 1, a man riding a motorcycle launched a grenade at a Protestant Church in Cotabato province's Carmen township, killing four people including three children. Police said that three men on two motorcycles were seen speeding away from the scene.¹⁰⁰ Several hours later, six people were killed and 10 wounded when an improvised device detonated at a kiosk in the town of Sumisip, on Basilan Island. The victims were having a New Year's Eve celebration in the kiosk when the explosion occurred.¹⁰¹ No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities suspect Abu Sayyaf.¹⁰²

Thailand

On January 17, one person was killed and 35 others were injured when a grenade exploded at rally attended by approximately 12,000 anti-government protesters. The protest was led by Suthep Thaugsuban but he was unharmed.¹⁰³ The aim of the rally was to demonstrate against the political dominance of fugitive former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, whom they accuse of controlling

⁹⁷ BBC, "Bomb kills Pakistan police chief Chaudhry Aslam", January 9, 2014

⁹⁸ AP, "20 security personnel killed in bomb blast in Bannu", January 20, 2014

⁹⁹

¹⁰⁰ Al-Jazeera, "Deadly bomb attacks in southern Philippines", January 1, 2014

¹⁰¹ VOA, "Philippines: Bomb at New Year's Eve Party Kills 6 ", January 1, 2014

¹⁰² GMA, "Bomb explodes at New Year's Eve party in Basilan, killing seven", January 1, 2014

¹⁰³ BBC, "Thailand crisis: Blast targets Bangkok protest rally", January 17, 2014

the government from self-exile.¹⁰⁴ No group claimed responsibility for the attack.¹⁰⁵ However, police investigating the incident discovered a cache of weapons in an abandoned building near the site of the explosion. Police also discovered a "red cap" with the inscription "Attacking unit"¹⁰⁶ in the building. Authorities said this indicated the attack was linked to Thaksin Shinawatra whose supporters are known as "red shirts" However, the "red shirts" leader denied involvement in the violence.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁴ Al-Jazeera, "Dozens injured in Thai protest explosion", January 17, 2014

¹⁰⁵ CNN, "Explosions hit Thai anti-government protest in Bangkok; 28 injured", January 17, 2014

¹⁰⁶ Bangkok Post, "Weapons found in room near bombing", January 17, 2014

¹⁰⁷ Guardian, "Bangkok anti-government protesters wounded in grenade attack", January 17, 2014

ABOUT THE ICT

Founded in 1996, the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) is one of the leading academic institutes for counter-terrorism in the world, facilitating international cooperation in the global struggle against terrorism. ICT is an independent think tank providing expertise in terrorism, counter-terrorism, homeland security, threat vulnerability and risk assessment, intelligence analysis and national security and defense policy. ICT is a non-profit organization located at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya, Israel which relies exclusively on private donations and revenue from events, projects and programs.

ABOUT ICT INCIDENT AND ACTIVISTS DATABASE

The ICT Incidents and Activists Database is a comprehensive survey of Open Sources of Intelligence (OSINT). The ICT's Database is one of the most all-encompassing non-governmental resources on terrorist incidents in the world. Based on comprehensive and integrated information compiled since 1975, the database records over 35,000 incidents, including successful terror attacks, foiled attacks, and counter-terror operations, along with background and follow-up information. All material is interlinked and cross-referenced in order to provide the user with an interactive system for retrieving data in an intuitive manner.

[Click here for a list of online the ICT Incidents and Activists Database publications](#)

For tailored research please contact us at Webmaster@ict.org.il.

International Institute for Counter Terrorism (ICT)
Additional resources are available on the ICT Website: www.ict.org.il