



**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 June 2014**

## Highlights

- On June 1, 40 people were killed and 12 others were injured when a bomb exploded at a television viewing center for soccer in Mubi, northeast Nigeria. On June 2, authorities arrested one man who was not named but they claimed that he was the main suspect in the attack. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Boko Haram.
- Between June 5-25, militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Al-Sham (ISIS) staged a major offensive in Northern Iraq, capturing significant territories from Mosul to Tikrit, looting targeted police and civilians, military checkpoints, the airport, universities, freed prisoners from jails and stormed the Central Iraq bank looting US\$429 million. Authorities claimed the group is using the money to fund their terrorist activities and that ISIS is the richest terrorist organization to date. Government forces attempted to counter the attacks and recapture several towns north of Baghdad. It was reported that Kurdish forces took back control of Kirkuk, parts of northern Nineveh and north-eastern Diyala province. On June 29, ISIS released a statement, that was translated into several languages and an Arabic audio speech, declaring the group had established a caliphate in Iraq and Syria and that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the groups' leader was proclaimed a "Caliph" - the head of the state.
- On June 8, 10 heavily armed militants attacked the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi, Pakistan, killing 26 civilians and injuring 18 others. All 10 attackers were killed by security forces. The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) claimed responsibility for the attacks and said it was a joint operation.
- On June 11, authorities arrested Abu Sayaff militant, Khair Mundos, near Manila International Airport, Philippines. Mundos was on the US State Department's "most wanted" list, with a \$500,000 offer for information leading to his capture.

- On the night of June 12, three Israeli teenagers, Eyal Yifrach, 19, Naftali Fraenkel, 16, and Gilad Shaar, 16, were kidnapped in the West Bank by two Hamas militants. In response, the IDF conducted an 18-day operation, named 'Operation Brother's Keeper', in search of the three teenagers. During the operation, the IDF arrested 350 Palestinians, including the majority of Hamas' West Bank leaders. Five Palestinians were killed during the military operation. On June 30, civilian search teams discovered the bodies of the three teenagers in a field northwest of Hebron.
- On June 26, police in Kosovo arrested three people on terrorism charges amid a crackdown against home-grown extremists who were accused of joining and recruiting for militant groups in the Middle East, specifically ISIS. The suspects were accused of participation in a terrorist group, recruitment for terrorism and inciting hatred, national, racial, religious or ethnic intolerance.

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## Europe

### France

On June 4, Mehdi Nemmouche, the alleged perpetrator of the Brussels Jewish Museum attack that took place in Belgium in May,<sup>1</sup> appeared in court in Versailles.<sup>2</sup> Prosecutors said that Nemmouche expressed his refusal to be extradited when presented with a European arrest warrant. However, on June 26, the French court ordered Nemmouche's extradition to Belgium. His lawyer said he would appeal the extradition. Belgium sought his extradition under a European arrest warrant, which fast-tracks the legal process.<sup>3</sup>

### Germany

On June 4, federal prosecutors in Germany brought terrorism charges against three people accused of links to the ISIS in Syria. Authorities said they detained the main suspect, a 24-year-old Lebanese man identified only as Ismail I., in southwest Germany.<sup>4</sup> Officials claimed the man had returned to Germany from Syria, where he was suspected of training with the ISIS and joining the organization in August 2013. Authorities said he instructed by ISIS commanders in Syria to acquire military equipment, medicine and money in Germany and bring the supplies back to Syria. Authorities said he was aided by his brother, identified as Ezzeddine I., 33, and another German man identified as Mohammad Sobhan A., 37. Both of these men were charged with supporting a foreign terrorist organization by assisting the main suspect with money, equipment and transportation.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For further details of this incident, see: May 2014 ICT database report.

[http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1194/Summary\\_of\\_Terrorist\\_Incidents\\_and\\_CT\\_Operations-May\\_2014](http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1194/Summary_of_Terrorist_Incidents_and_CT_Operations-May_2014)

<sup>2</sup> It should be noted that he was extradited to Belgium and formally charged on July 30, 2014. More details of this will be published in the July 2014 ICT Database report. See: DPA, "Belgium Jewish Museum shooting suspect charged with murder", July 30, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> BBC, "Brussels Jewish Museum murders: Nemmouche to be extradited", June 26, 2014.

<sup>4</sup> AP, "German prosecutors charge 3 with membership in, support for hard-line Islamic group in Syria", June 4, 2014.

<sup>5</sup> AFP, "Germany Charges Lebanese Man, 2 Accomplices with Terrorism", June 4, 2014.

## **Kosovo**

On June 26, police arrested three people on terrorism charges amid a crackdown against home-grown extremists who were accused of joining and recruiting for militant groups in the Middle East, specifically the ISIS. The suspects were accused of participation in a terrorist group, recruitment for terrorism and inciting hatred, national, racial, religious or ethnic intolerance. Police did not identify the suspects but said that two are from Kacanik and the other is from Hani Elzit. Authorities searched their homes and seized military uniforms, electronic devices, propaganda material, passports and binoculars.<sup>6</sup> Authorities noted that one of the individuals arrested has a social media presence with photographs of trips into Syria showing the individual dressed in military garb and handling weapons.<sup>7</sup>

## **Spain**

On June 16, Spanish police arrested eight people in Madrid, accused of running a militant recruitment cell with suspected ties to the ISIS.<sup>8</sup> The Spanish Interior Ministry said they launched 12 raids, detaining eight people, and that the investigation remained open. It was reported, but not officially confirmed, that the leader of the cell was identified as Lahcen Iksarrien, a Moroccan national who was released from Guantanamo Bay, prior to his return to Spain in 2005 due to lack of evidence.<sup>9</sup> One of the seven other people arrested is believed to be from Spain. Another is from Argentina and the remaining five are from Morocco.<sup>10</sup>

## **United Kingdom**

On June 4, two men, aged 26 and 44, were arrested in Dover as they arrived on a ferry from Calais to the Kent port. The men were arrested under the Terrorism Act 2006<sup>11</sup> and charged with the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism. The men, who are understood to be British nationals, were questioned at a police station in south London. Authorities said two addresses

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<sup>6</sup> AFP, "Kosovo arrests three for terrorism, alleged connections with ISIL", June 30, 2014.

<sup>7</sup> CTC, "Foreign Fighters from the Western Balkans in Syria", June 30, 2014.

<sup>8</sup> CNN, "Eight suspected Islamic militants arrested in Spain", June 16, 2014.

<sup>9</sup> AFP, "Spain Raids ISIL Cell 'Led by ex-Guantanamo Inmate'", June 16, 2014.

<sup>10</sup> BBC, "Eight members of 'ISIS cell' arrested in Spain", June 16, 2014.

<sup>11</sup> BBC, "Two terror suspects arrested in Dover", June 4, 2014.

in west London and one in Hertfordshire were also searched as part of the investigation.<sup>12</sup>

## Africa

### Nigeria

On June 1, 40 people were killed and 12 others were injured when a bomb exploded at a television viewing center for soccer in Mubi, northeast Nigeria. Authorities said the bomb exploded at roughly 18:30 local time and targeted fans who were trying to leave the field after watching a local club match.<sup>13</sup> Some witnesses claimed the explosion appeared to come from within a crowd of people walking across the field on their way home. However, other eyewitnesses reported seeing a car at the scene of the attack that had allegedly been used to deliver the explosives.<sup>14</sup> On June 2, authorities arrested one man who was not named but they claimed he was the main suspect in the attack. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Boko Haram.<sup>15</sup>

On June 2, nine people were killed when a team of gunmen opened fire on a church service in the northeast Nigerian village of Attangara. Witnesses said approximately 10 militants riding motorcycles and one driving a car stormed the church. Some of the worshippers tried to pursue the attackers, killing four of them and capturing three others. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Boko Haram.<sup>16</sup>

On June 18, 24 people were killed and 21 others were injured when a suicide bomber detonated a tricycle taxi with explosives at an outdoor World Cup viewing center in Damaturu in Yobe State.<sup>17</sup> Witnesses said the bomber shouted “Allah Akbar” as he detonated his explosive belt. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Boko Haram.<sup>18</sup>

On June 24, suspected Boko Haram militants attacked a military checkpoint at Bulamburin village in Borno State, killing at least 12 soldiers. According to soldiers at the checkpoint, 25 Boko Haram

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<sup>12</sup> AP, “Two men arrested at Dover on suspicion of terrorism offences”, June 4, 2014.

<sup>13</sup> AFP, “Bomb attack targets football fans in Nigeria”, June 2, 2014.

<sup>14</sup> All Africa, “Bomb Blast Kills Football Fans in Nigeria”, June 1, 2014.

<sup>15</sup> Star Africa, “Nigeria army arrests Sunday bomb suspect”, June 2, 2014.

<sup>16</sup> Reuters “Boko Haram gunmen kill nine in northeast Nigeria church attack”, June 3, 2014.

<sup>17</sup> BBC, “Nigeria World Cup viewers hit by deadly bomb blast”, June 18, 2014.

<sup>18</sup> AP, “Explosion rocks World Cup viewing area in Nigeria”, June 18, 2014.

fighters were killed during the incident.<sup>19</sup> Also on June 24, it was reported that Boko Haram militants abducted dozens more girls and women in northeastern Nigeria, similar to the mass kidnapping of schoolgirls in Chibok in April 2014.<sup>20</sup> Witnesses said approximately 60 girls and women, and possibly more than 30 boys, had been seized in the village of Kummabza, about 100 miles from Maiduguri.<sup>21</sup>

## **Libya**

On June 4, a suicide car bomber attempted to assassinate Khalifa Haftar, a rogue Libyan general who is leading an offensive against Islamist militias, in Benghazi. The explosion killed four of his bodyguards and several others were wounded but Haftar escaped unharmed.<sup>22</sup> No group claimed responsibility for the attack. This was the first assassination attempt against the general since he launched an offensive against extremist militants in Benghazi in May 2014.<sup>23</sup>

On June 12, five Libyan policemen were injured in suicide bombing that targeted the main police station in Benghazi. Authorities said a suicide bomber driving a refrigerated truck detonated as he arrived at the entrance to the police station. Suleiman Al-Agouri, the station commander, said a large amount of explosives had been used in the attack, although he did not specify the exact amount, and that it caused a large crater. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>24</sup>

## **Mali**

On June 11, four Chadian UN armed forces were killed and 10 others were wounded, including four Malian soldiers, when a suicide car bomber targeted a United Nations camp in Kidal (which houses Mali soldiers as well as international troops from the United Nations' MINUSMA peacekeeping force), in northern Mali. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>25</sup> Authorities said this was the first major attack in the Kidal region since the government and the three main rebel groups signed a

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<sup>19</sup> See: <http://www.trackingterrorism.org/article/boko-haram-chibok-kidnappings-not-much-has-changed>

<sup>20</sup> For further details of this incident see April 2014 ICT database report

[http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1183/Summary\\_of\\_Terrorist\\_Incidents\\_and\\_CT\\_Operations\\_Worldwide\\_April\\_2014](http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1183/Summary_of_Terrorist_Incidents_and_CT_Operations_Worldwide_April_2014)

<sup>21</sup> New York Times, "Boko Haram Suspected of New Kidnappings in Nigeria", June 24, 2014.

<sup>22</sup> Reuters, "Libyan renegade general survives assassination attempt: sources", June 4, 2014.

<sup>23</sup> BBC, "Gen Khalifa Haftar: Libya bomb targets home near Benghazi", June 4, 2014.

<sup>24</sup> AFP, "Five Libyan police injured in suicide bombing", June 12, 2014.

<sup>25</sup> BBC, "Mali unrest: Chad peacekeepers killed in Kidal region", June 12, 2014.

ceasefire deal in May 2014 to end the violence in the region.<sup>26</sup>

## Kenya

On June 15, approximately 50 masked gunmen raided a police station in the predominantly Christian town of Mpeketoni. The militants then randomly shot at civilians, some of whom had been watching the World Cup in local bars and hotels.<sup>27</sup> The militants also burned nearby hotels, restaurants, and government offices.<sup>28</sup> According to Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, the Mpeketoni police received warning of the attack ahead of time but did not act on the warning. Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>29</sup> Following this incident, on June 17, militants set fire to houses in the villages of Majembeni and Poromoko, near Mpeketoni. At least 15 people were killed in the overnight attacks. Witnesses reported that the attackers also went door-to-door demanding that residents prove they were Muslim and then shot those who were unable to provide such proof. Five of the suspects were killed in a gun battle with security forces while an undetermined number of others escaped.<sup>30</sup>

On June 25, a car bomb killed 21 people and injured 52 others outside an upscale shopping mall in Abuja. Major damage was caused by the explosion and several cars were destroyed.<sup>31</sup> Police said one suspect was arrested. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Boko Haram.<sup>32</sup>

## Somalia

On June 23, Kenyan military forces, operating as part of the AMISOM mission, launched an air strike targeting two suspected Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen bases in the villages Anole and Kuday in Somalia's Jubbada Hoose region. According to the authorities, the military killed 30 militants in Anole and

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<sup>26</sup> AFP, "Suicide bomber kills four Malian, Chadian troops", June 12, 2014.

<sup>27</sup> AFP, "Mpeketoni attack: Death toll rises to 48", June 16, 2014.

<sup>28</sup> BBC, "Kenya massacre: Aftermath of al-Shabab attack", June 16, 2014.

<sup>29</sup> BBC, "Somali militant group Al-Shabaab admits responsibility for attack on Kenyan coastal town that killed at least 48", June 16, 2014.

<sup>30</sup> Independent, "Kenya attack: Suspected al-Shabaab militants kill 48 people in coastal town of Mpeketoni", June 16, 2014.

<sup>31</sup> BBC, "Nigeria: Abuja bomb blast in Wuse district kills 21", June 25, 2014.

<sup>32</sup> Al-Jazeera, "Mali suicide attack kills four UN peacekeepers", June 12, 2014.

another 50 militants in Kaday.<sup>33</sup> Witnesses also reported that a third area along the Kenya-Somalia border was also bombed. Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedeen denied that it had suffered casualties during the air strike.<sup>34</sup>

## Middle East

### Egypt

Throughout June, a security campaign was launched, waged by the Egyptian military in cooperation with the police against militant groups, specifically Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, in the Sinai Peninsula. On June 5, seven militants killed and 10 hideouts destroyed in security raids in the northern part of Sinai Peninsula.<sup>35</sup> Following this, on June 23, 15 militants were killed in a security raid by the Egyptian army in northern Sinai in Sheikh Zuweid city. Authorities said four gunmen riding a vehicle exchanged fire with the security forces who managed to kill them. Authorities also said a similar raid in the same area killed eight militants and destroyed 31 huts, 10 vehicles and 20 bikes belonging to them.<sup>36</sup>

On June 30, two Egyptian police officers were killed and several others were wounded in two explosions near the presidential palace.<sup>37</sup> The first bomb exploded in a street intersection in Cairo's Heliopolis district, killing one officer and injuring three others. The second bomb exploded nearby an hour later as security forces tried to defuse it, killing one officer. No group claimed responsibility for the attack<sup>38</sup> but authorities blamed Afnan Misr.<sup>39</sup>

### Iraq

Between June 5-25, Islamic State of Iraq and the Al-Sham (ISIS) militants staged a major offensive in Northern Iraq, capturing significant territories from Mosul to Tikrit, looting Targeted police and

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<sup>33</sup> All Africa, "Kenya: Army Airstrike in Somalia Targets Al Shabaab Militants", June 23, 2014.

<sup>34</sup> BBC, "Kenya 'bombs al-Shabab bases' in Somalia", June 23, 2014.

<sup>35</sup> Ahram Online, 'Security raids kill seven Islamist militants in North Sinai', June 5, 2014

<sup>36</sup> Xinhua, "19 gunmen killed in security raid in Egypt's Sinai", June 23, 2014.

<sup>37</sup> Ynet News, "Blast hits near Egypt's presidential palace; 2 officers killed", June 30, 2014.

<sup>38</sup> BBC, "Two Egyptian policemen killed defusing bombs", June 30, 2014.

<sup>39</sup> Reuters, "Blasts near Egypt's presidential palace kill 2 police officers", June 30, 2014.

civilians, military checkpoints, the airport, universities, freed prisoners from jails and stormed the Central Iraq bank looting US\$429 million. Authorities said claimed the group is using the money to fund their terrorist activities and that ISIS is the richest terrorist organization to date. Authorities claimed that up to half a million people fled Mosul and other cities, raising concerns over a new humanitarian crisis.<sup>40</sup> Government forces attempted to counter the attacks and recapture several towns north of Baghdad. It was reported that Kurdish forces took back control of Kirkuk, parts of northern Nineveh and north-eastern Diyala province. On June 29, ISIS released a statement, that was translated into several languages and an Arabic audio speech, declaring the group had established a caliphate in Iraq and Syria and that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the groups' leader was proclaimed a "Caliph" - the head of the state.

The following case studies describe the major terrorist incidents that occurred during the Northern Iraq ISIS offensive:

- On June 5, ISIS militants armed with bulldozers and vehicles mounted with machine guns attacked and captured parts of the city of Samarra, located in central Salah ad-Din.<sup>41</sup> The attack occurred at dawn and the militants took control of the al-Jabiria, al-Shuhada, al-Armushia, al-Khadra, al-Maalamin, and al-Dubat neighborhoods on the east side of the city.<sup>42</sup> The militants targeted a police station south of the city, killing several policemen, before they advanced towards the center of the city in pick-up trucks, raiding checkpoints in the area.<sup>43</sup> They entered the city from the east and west, capturing the municipality building, the university and the two largest mosques. In response, Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) reinforcements were sent from Baghdad and the military managed to regain control of the city, pushing militant forces out of Samarra. ISF forced ISIS to withdraw from the city.<sup>44</sup> The attack also resulted in the deaths of at least 13 ISIS militants, allegedly including the head of

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<sup>40</sup> VOA, "ISIS Takeover in Mosul Displaces Thousands", June 11,2014

<sup>41</sup> AFP, "Six killed as militants overrun Iraq's Samarra", June 5, 2014

<sup>42</sup> See: <http://iswiraq.blogspot.co.il/2014/06/isis-launches-major-multi-front-assault.html>

<sup>43</sup> New York Times, "In Brazen Strike, Sunni Militants Storm Central Iraqi City", June 5, 2014.

<sup>44</sup> Reuters, "Iraq dislodges insurgents from city of Samarra with airstrikes", June 5, 2014.

the organization's military council, Abu Abdur Rahman al-Balawi, and senior commander, Abu Bakr al-Iraqi. Authorities said six ISF members and two civilians were killed, and 45 other ISF personnel and civilians were injured.<sup>45</sup>

- On June 6, ISIS militants attempted to capture various neighborhoods in and around Mosul. Mortar shells fell on the al-Tink area, west of Mosul, killing 40 people. This was followed by clashes between gunmen and ISF.<sup>46</sup> In addition, five people were killed and 43 others wounded when suspected ISIS militants detonated two suicide car bombs in a coordinated attack that targeted worshippers as they were leaving a mosque in the village of Muqdadiyah Bartalah, close to Mosul.<sup>47</sup> Authorities also said five suicide bombers stormed an arms depot killing eleven soldiers. The attackers were shot by security guards.<sup>48</sup> (It took several days of fighting until June 10, that ISIS captured key installations in Mosul. See incident below.)
- On June 9, ISIS militants seized control of Mosul and the majority of its province of Nineveh. This incident was particularly significant as Mosul is Iraq's second largest city.<sup>49</sup> Mosul is also a strategic city as it is at a crossroad between Syria and Iraq, and poses the threat of ISIS seizing control of oil production.<sup>50</sup> Authorities said dozens of heavily armed insurgents seized the provincial capital's headquarters, occupied police stations, overran the airport, and freed prisoners from jails. ISIS also looted the Central Bank in Mosul. Authorities said they absconded with US\$429 million, which authorities claimed the group is using the money to fund their terrorist activities and that ISIS is the richest terrorist organization to date.<sup>51</sup> Residents of the Mosul also reported that black flags carrying the ISIS logo were seen hoisted from buildings in Mosul<sup>52</sup>. It was also reported that 28 Turkish lorry drivers were abducted

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<sup>45</sup> See: <http://iswiraq.blogspot.co.il/2014/06/isis-launches-major-multi-front-assault.html>

<sup>46</sup> BBC, "How can militants take over Iraqi cities?" June 11, 2014.

<sup>47</sup> AP, "Attacks across Iraq kill 27 people", June 6, 2014.

<sup>48</sup> Al-Jazeera, "Deadly fighting breaks out in Iraq's Mosul", June 7, 2014.

<sup>49</sup> BBC, "Militants seize Iraq's second city of Mosul", June 10, 2014.

<sup>50</sup> Jerusalem Centre for Public Affairs, "Is the Fall of Mosul in Iraq to the Jihadists a "Game Changer?", June 11, 2014.

<sup>51</sup> IBT, "Mosul Bank Robbery Isn't The Only Thing Funding ISIS", June 13, 2014.

<sup>52</sup> Guardian, "Isis insurgents seize control of Iraqi city of Mosul", June 10, 2014.

by militants in Nineveh province.<sup>53</sup> Authorities claimed that the drivers were taken hostage after being seized while carrying diesel from Turkey's southern port of Iskenderun to the Geyara Thermal Power Plant in Mosul. Iraq Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki declared a national state emergency.<sup>54</sup>

- On June 11, ISIS militants seized control of the city of Tikrit, which is 150 kilometers northwest of Baghdad and was the hometown of President Saddam Hussein, who was overthrown in the US-led military operation. Tikrit police reported that the militants had freed some 300 prisoners there.<sup>55</sup> On the same day, it was also reported that ISIS militants seized 49 Turks from the Turkish Consulate in Mosul, including Special Forces soldiers, diplomats and children. It was also reported that in another part of the city, ISIS militants had taken 31 truck drivers hostage at a power station in Mosul.<sup>56</sup>
- On June 16, ISIS militants seized control of the city of Tal Afar.<sup>57</sup> According to analysts, this city was strategically important as the city was the state's only outpost in the entire province of Nineveh, which was captured by ISIS militants several days earlier, as the military collapsed. Also the majority of cities captured by the ISIS were largely Sunni populated, however, Tal Afar has a large Shia community, from the Turkmen minority, perhaps one reason why it held out longer than any other town in Nineveh.<sup>58</sup>
- On June 18, ISIS launched an attack on Iraq's largest oil refinery in Baiji with mortars and machine guns. Authorities said that the militants had captured 75 percent of the facility, while a military spokesman claimed the attack had been repelled with 40 insurgents being killed. Witnesses claimed that ISIS black flags were seen at the refinery. Authorities said in the following day, 19 June, government forces claimed to have regained full control of the oil

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<sup>53</sup> BBC, "Militants seize Iraq's second city of Mosul", June 10, 2014.

<sup>54</sup> Yahoo, "Iraq Declares 'State of Emergency' After Second-Largest City Gets Overrun", June 10, 2014.

<sup>55</sup> Guardian, "Isis militants seize central Iraqi city of Tikrit", June 11, 2014.

<sup>56</sup> Today's Zaman, "ISIL seizes Turkish consulate in Mosul, takes diplomats captive", June 11, 2014.

<sup>57</sup> BBC, "Iraq conflict: Militants 'seize' city of Tal Afar", June 16, 2014.

<sup>58</sup> RT, "Sunni militants seize Tal Afar city of 200k citizens enlarging control of Iraq", June 16, 2014.

refinery, after heavy fighting that resulted in the deaths of approximately 100 militants. It was reported that the ISIS militants agreed to leave the city and energy installations of Baiji after negotiations with local tribal leaders.<sup>59</sup> ISIS militants also captured the Al Muthanna Chemical Weapons Facility<sup>60</sup> near Lake Tharthar, 45 miles northwest of Baghdad. By this stage, ISIS had taken control of most of Anbar province as well as Mosul.<sup>61</sup>

- On June 20, ISIS reportedly seized control of al-Qaim, a border post on the Iraq-Syria frontier. This was strategically significant as the area and its neighbouring Syrian counterpart Albukamal are on a strategic supply route.<sup>62</sup>
- On June 29, ISIS declared a caliphate in territories it holds in Iraq and Syria. ISIS released a statement, that was translated into several languages and an Arabic audio speech, declaring the group had established a caliphate in Iraq and Syria and that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the groups' leader was proclaimed a "Caliph" - the head of the state.<sup>63</sup> In the statement the group also renamed itself "Islamic State".
- On June 30, ISIS militants seized control of parts of the Speicher army base to the north of the Tikrit, despite coming under attack from government helicopters.<sup>64</sup>

The following case studies describe the major counter-terrorist incidents that occurred during the Northern Iraq ISIS offensive:

- On June 13, Iraqi forces gathered in the town of Samarra and claimed to have regained control of parts of Saladin Province, namely the town of Dhuluiyah. It was also reported that airstrikes targeting ISIS militants forced the militants to move positions within the cities.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> RT, "Militants seize Turkish consulate, take 80 Turks hostage in Iraqi city of Mosul", June 18, 2014.

<sup>60</sup> WSJ, "Sunni Extremists in Iraq Occupy Hussein's Chemical Weapons Facility, June 19, 2014.

<sup>61</sup> Telegraph, "Isis storms Saddam-era chemical weapons complex in Iraq", June, 19 2014.

<sup>62</sup> France 24, "ISIS militants take key Iraq-Syria border post", June 21, 2014.

<sup>63</sup> Reuters, "Al Qaeda splinter group declares Islamic 'Caliphate'", June 29, 2014.

<sup>64</sup> Reuters, "As caliphate declared, Iraqi troops battle for Tikrit", June 30, 2014.

<sup>65</sup> Al-Jazeera, "Iraq troops mass for offensive against rebels", June 20, 2014.

- On June 14, Iraqi military attacked ISIS forces in al-Mutasim, 22 kilometers south-east of Samarra, driving militants out into the surrounding desert. The Iraqi military also killed seven Kurdish security forces in an airstrike in Diyala which was seized on June 11 by ISIS militants.<sup>66</sup>
- On June 30, Government forces engaged in fierce fighting with ISIS militants in Tikrit, taking control of major parts of the city including the university<sup>67</sup>. The military also said it had destroyed a convoy of about 20 rebel vehicles between Samarra and Tikrit.<sup>68</sup>

Other significant incidents in Iraq in June 2014 included:

- On June 3, a suicide bomber killed Mohammed Khamis Abu Risha and four of his bodyguards while on a joint patrol in Ramadi with Awakening Council members and Iraqi security forces.<sup>69</sup> Abu Risha was the nephew of Sheikh Ahmed Abu Risha, the head of the Anbar Awakening Council (a group composed primarily of Sunni Arab fighters who turned on Al-Qaeda in Iraq in late 2006 and joined forces with the US-led coalition). The sheikh led the province's Awakening Council after his brother, Sheikh Abdul Sattar, was assassinated in 2007.<sup>70</sup> No group claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>71</sup>
- On June 7, a series of 12 car bombs exploded across Baghdad, killing 60 people. Witnesses said militants stormed a university campus and then detonated car bombs in mainly Shi'ite districts of the capital. Authorities said the worst attack occurred in Bayaa, where a car bomb killed 23 people, many of them young men playing billiards. No group immediately claimed responsibility for any of the bombings but authorities blamed the ISIS.<sup>72</sup>
- On June 8, 18 people were killed when a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle near the headquarters of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) party in Diyala Province. After the car bomb exploded, the bomber entered the PUK building and detonated

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<sup>66</sup> Reuters, "Iraqi airstrike kills seven Kurdish security forces in Diyala – police", June 14, 2014.

<sup>67</sup> Al-Jazeera, "Iraq army launches offensive in Tikrit ", June 28, 2014.

<sup>68</sup> BBC, "Iraq crisis: Fighting in Tikrit after 'caliphate' declared", June 30, 2014.

<sup>69</sup> CNN, "Iraqi Police: Abu Risha, head of Ramadi Awakening Council, killed", June 3, 2014.

<sup>70</sup> Long War Journal, "ISIS suicide bomber kills Anbar Awakening leader", June 4, 2014.

<sup>71</sup> Reuters, "Suicide bomber kills anti-ISIL leader in Iraq's Anbar province: source", June 3, 2013.

<sup>72</sup> Reuters, "Car bombs kill 60 in Baghdad, militants attack Ramadi University", June 7, 2014.

his explosives vest. The ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack. According to a statement released by the group, a first suicide bomber drove a car packed with explosives into the PUK's compound and detonated the vehicle, followed by a second suicide bomber (whose name indicated that he was a Kurd) who then entered a crowd of people that had gathered to help those wounded in the first blast, and detonated his explosives belt among them.<sup>73</sup>

- On June 11, a double bombing, targeting a funeral procession in the central town of Baquba killed at least 20 people and wounded 28 others.<sup>74</sup> Also on June 11, a suicide bomber detonated explosives among a gathering of people inside a tent in Baghdad's Shi'a slum of Sadr city, killing at least 16 people.<sup>75</sup>
- On June 25, a suicide bomber detonated explosives at an outdoor market in the predominately Shi'a Mahmudiya area of Baghdad, killing 13 people. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>76</sup>

## Israel and the West Bank

On the night of June 12, three Israeli teenagers, Eyal Yifrach, 19, Naftali Fraenkel, 16, and Gilad Shaar, 16, were kidnapped in the West Bank by two Palestinian militants travelling in a Hyundai i35. The perpetrators were later identified as Hamas militants, Amer Abu Aysha and Marwan Kawasme.<sup>77</sup> Gilad Shaer placed a call to a police emergency hotline to report the kidnapping. The

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<sup>73</sup> Daily Star Lebanon, "Bombing of PUK HQ in Diyala leaves 18 dead", June 8, 2014.

ISIS claims responsibility for Diyala bomb attacks on PUK.

<sup>74</sup> BBC, "Militants seize Iraq's second city of Mosul", June 10, 2014.

<sup>75</sup> Reuters, "Suicide bomber kills 16 people in Baghdad's Shi'ite Sadr City", June 11, 2014.

<sup>76</sup> AP, "Iraqi officials say suicide bomber has targeted an outdoor market south of Baghdad, killing 13", June 25, 2014.

<sup>77</sup> Times of Israel, "What happened on the night of the kidnapping", June 30, 2014. It should be noted that: A gag order was placed on the case but certain details were released to the public including the names the perpetrators, Marwan Kawasme and Amer Abu Aysha, and the mastermind of the attack was identified as Hamas militant, Hussam Kawasme. The perpetrators allegedly drove to his house after killing the three youths. Together, they drove to the plot of land in Halhoul which was bought by Kawasme ahead of time. There, they buried the three teenagers. Kawasme also helped the two killers hide from the Israeli security forces who were scouring the West Bank in search of them.

See also: Times of Israel, "Hamas funded killing of 3 teens, says ringleader", August 6, 2014.

emergency call recording, which was initially placed under a gag order, was partially made public. After Gilad Shaer's whispered message 'they kidnapped me', the taped call also recorded shouting in Arabic from the kidnappers and several sounds of automatic gunfire. The suspects allegedly transferred the bodies to a second vehicle and torched the Hyundai, which was later discovered by authorities. The bodies were deposited in the Kawasme family's field near Halhul, close to Hebron.<sup>78</sup> In response to the kidnapping, the IDF conducted an 18-day campaign named 'Operation Brother's Keeper' in search of the three teenagers. During the operation, Israel arrested 350 Palestinians, including the majority of Hamas' West Bank leaders, 50 of whom had been released as part of the prisoner swap for the return of IDF soldier Gilad Shalit in 2011<sup>79</sup>. Five Palestinians were killed during the military operation. On June 30, civilian search teams discovered the bodies of the three teenagers and forensic experts identified the bodies at the scene.<sup>80</sup> According to the authorities, the bodies were found bound and partially buried in an open field northwest of Hebron, less than 20 kilometers from where they had been abducted.<sup>81</sup>

## **Jordan**

On June 26, radical cleric Abu Qatada was found not guilty on charges of conspiracy to carry out terrorist acts by a panel of civilian judges sitting at the State Security Court in Amman. Abu Qatada had been deported from the UK in July 2013 over an alleged terrorist plot in 1998.<sup>82</sup> A verdict on another alleged plot was adjourned until September 2014. The British Home Office said Abu Qatada would not be able to return to Britain. This verdict comes after a near decade-long legal battle to Abu Qatada to face trial in his home country and raised concerns that he may use his influence to destabilize the Jordanian state at a time of increasing turmoil on its borders.<sup>83</sup>

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<sup>78</sup> Ynet, "Israel fears kidnappers fled Hebron after teens' bodies found", July 1, 2014.

<sup>79</sup> Times of Israel, "IDF commander: Hamas's plan to free prisoners has backfired", June 19, 2014.

<sup>80</sup> Jerusalem Post. "Bodies of three kidnapped Israeli teens found in West Bank", July 1, 2014.

<sup>81</sup> Times of Israel, "Bodies of three kidnapped teens found; Netanyahu calls families", June 30, 2014.

<sup>82</sup> For more details on this case, please see ICT July 2014 database report <http://www.ict.org.il/Article/216/Summary%20of%20Terrorist%20Incidents%20and%20CT%20Operations%20July%202013>

and this special ICT report on the Abu Qatada case. <http://www.ict.org.il/Article.aspx?ID=233>

<sup>83</sup> BBC, "Abu Qatada found not guilty by Jordan court of terror plot", June 26, 2014.

## Lebanon

On June 20, a suicide car bomber detonated his explosives at a police checkpoint on the Beirut-Damascus highway in east Lebanon, killing one police officer and wounding 32 others.<sup>84</sup> Authorities said the 4WD vehicle was rigged with at least 25 kilograms of explosives. General Security Head, Maj. Gen. Abbas Ibrahim, said that he narrowly escaped the attack after the car bomber detonated 200 meters away from his convoy. Several hours after the attack, the Lebanese Army released a photo of a man suspected of being the suicide bomber and asked citizens with information to come forward. In a statement, the Internal Security Forces said they had received a warning prior to the incident.<sup>85</sup>

On June 24, a suicide bomber detonated his explosives in Tayoune, a southern suburb of Beirut, killing one security officer and wounding 20 civilians. The explosion occurred just after midnight local time.<sup>86</sup> The main target of the attack was an army checkpoint but the majority of those wounded were watching a World Cup match nearby. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities suspected the ISIS.<sup>87</sup>

## Yemen

On June 13, five AQAP militants were killed when a suspected US drone strike targeted their vehicle, in the Mafraq al-Saeed area of Shabwah Province. Authorities said amongst those killed was AQAP militant named Musaad al-Habash.<sup>88</sup>

On June 26, a team of militants stormed Sayun Airport in southeastern Hadramawt Province, killing three soldiers, and then temporarily seized the control tower and other parts of the facility. The assault took place as a Yemen Airways plane landed. Security forces managed to retake control of the airport, kill six militants and free the hostages seized from the control tower. Four other militants were captured and the rest fled. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed AQAP.<sup>89</sup> Authorities said that five soldiers were killed in a simultaneous suicide bombing at a nearby military

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<sup>84</sup> Reuters, "Suicide bomber1 kills one, wounds 20 at Lebanese checkpoint", June 20, 2014.

<sup>85</sup> The Daily Star, "Suicide bomber kills police officer in east Lebanon", June 20, 2014.

<sup>86</sup> BBC, "Beirut suicide car bomb: Lebanon's capital shaken", June 24, 2014.

<sup>87</sup> Haaretz, "Beirut: Suicide bomber kills security officer, wounds 19", June 24, 2014.

<sup>88</sup> AP, "Yemen Security: U.S. Drone Strike Kills Qaida Leader", June 13, 2014.

<sup>89</sup> AFP, "Gunmen briefly seize Yemen airport in deadly assault", June 26, 2014.

headquarters. In addition, nine civilians were killed, including a woman and her two children, and eight others were wounded in a suicide attack by the militants at a date packing plant, en route to the airport. Two additional soldiers were killed during a simultaneous attack on a state-run telecom company.<sup>90</sup>

## North America

On June 3, Ahmed Abassi, a Tunisian man who was accused in 2013 of plotting to form a US-based terrorism cell, accepted a plea deal. Abassi was also accused of radicalizing a Canadian man who was charged with conspiring to derail a train that runs between New York City and Montreal. Abassi pleaded guilty to lesser charges of making false statements and possessing an identification document with intent to defraud the United States.<sup>91</sup>

On June 18, two men, Rahatul Ashikim Khan and Michael Todd Wolfe, were arrested in Texas and separately charged with terrorism-related offenses after federal agents said they planned to travel to Syria and Somalia to engage in violent jihad. They were charged with attempting "to provide material support to terrorists." Both men face up to 15 years in prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine if convicted. Rahatul Ashikim Khan, was accused of planning to join Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in Somalia.<sup>92</sup> Authorities said Khan, who was born in Bangladesh, became a US citizen in 2002 and is a full-time student at the University of Texas-Austin Michael Todd Wolfe from Houston, was accused of planning to join ISIS militants in Syria.<sup>93</sup>

## Asia

### Afghanistan

On June 6, a suicide bombing targeted a convoy of vehicles carrying Abdullah, one of the candidates in Afghanistan's presidential election.<sup>94</sup> Abdullah escaped unharmed but six people were killed and 22 others were injured. According to the Interior Ministry, the bombing took place shortly after noon,

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<sup>90</sup> Middle East Eye, "Militants temporarily seize airport in Yemen", June 27, 2014.

<sup>91</sup> Reuters, "Two men arrested in Texas on terrorism charges", June 18, 2014.

<sup>92</sup> CNN, "2 in Texas arrested in terror-related cases", June 19, 2014.

<sup>93</sup> ABC, "2 Texas Men Arrested on Terror Charges", June 19, 2014.

<sup>94</sup> AP, "Suicide Bomb Hits Convoy of an Afghan Candidate", June 6, 2014.

as Abdullah was traveling between campaign events at hotels in Kabul. Authorities said the first explosion was caused by a suicide bomber but they were still trying to establish whether the second explosion was caused by a bomb hidden on the road or by a magnetic explosive attached to a car. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed the Taliban.<sup>95</sup> On June 15, a roadside bomb killed 11 people in Afghanistan, including four election monitors. The Taliban cut off the fingers of 11 people to punish them for voting in the presidential runoff. The Taliban had warned people not to participate in elections to choose a successor to President Hamid Karzai. Sediq Azizi, Spokesman for the provincial governor in northern Samangan Province, said that a minibus hit an improvised explosive and the explosion killed six women, one child and four men in the provincial capital of Aybak. According to Azizi, four of the victims were employees of the country's election commission who were organizing the event. It was not immediately clear if they were the target of the explosion.<sup>96</sup>

## China

In June, Chinese authorities carried out a vast crackdown in Xinjiang following a series of deadly attacks blamed on Uigher militants. On June 4, 81 militants were sentenced on terrorism and other charges in the northwestern region of Xinjiang. Local television reported that the sentences - including nine death sentences - were issued in six different courts. They were broken up into 23 separate cases and also included charges of murder and arson.<sup>97</sup> On June 16, 13 suspected militants were executed in western Xinjiang Province for involvement in terrorist attacks, including a June 2013 attack that killed 24 people. The militants were charged with crimes including "participating in terrorist groups; murder; arson; theft; and illegal manufacture, storage and transportation of explosives". The report named three defendants who were convicted of attacking a police station, hotel, government building and other venues in Lukqun, Xinjiang Province, on June 26, 2013.<sup>98</sup> Following these cases, four militants, three men and a woman, were charged on June 20 in connection with a March 1, 2014 knife attack that killed 29 people and injured 140 others at a train

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<sup>95</sup> BBC, "Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah survives attack", June 6, 2014.

<sup>96</sup> AP, "Official: Roadside bomb kills 11 in Afghanistan", June 15, 2014.

<sup>97</sup> Reuters, "China sentences nine to death for terrorism in Xinjiang", June 5, 2014.

<sup>98</sup> BBC, "China executes 13 in Xinjiang for 'terrorist attacks', 16 June, 2014.

station in Kunming. Four other militants were killed during the attack.<sup>99</sup> The militants were charged with involvement in organizing, leading or taking part in the terrorist attack, as well as intentional homicide. No information was released to the public about a trial date.<sup>100</sup> Finally, on June 30, 113 people were sentenced to jail terms ranging from 10 years to life for terrorist activities and other crimes by a court in Xinjiang.<sup>101</sup> The sentences were handed down by courts in 11 counties and cities in the Kashgar region. Four suspects were sentenced to life in prison, while 109 others were given sentences for crimes ranging from organizing, leading and participating in a terrorist organization, inciting ethnic hatred and ethnic discrimination.<sup>102</sup>

## Malaysia

On June 13, three men, aged between 29 and 31, were charged with involvement in militant activities, including a senior leader with ties to the militant group, Abu Sayyaf, in the Philippines. The suspects were arrested during an anti-terror swoop in the town of Sandakan in Sabah state on Borneo Island. Police said the suspected senior leader had received armed training at camp run by Abu Sayyaf militants in the southern Philippines since April 22, 2014. The senior police official said the two other detainees were a navy staff member and another man who helped the militant leader to enter Malaysia. Bakri said the latest arrests were linked to an earlier case in April, when police arrested 11 people suspected to be involved in Islamic militant activities under the guise of humanitarian work.<sup>103</sup> On June 30, police in Malaysia arrested two suspected militants as part of a counter-terrorist operation to prevent Malaysia from becoming a center of terrorist recruiting and training. On June 25, the first suspect, 46, was arrested in the northern state of Perak for allegedly producing homemade rifles and supplying ammunition for training of "militant elements." Police also confiscated a homemade rifle and more than 400 bullets during the raid. The second suspect, 29, was arrested in the eastern state of Sabah for helping smuggle in militants from southern Philippines.

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<sup>99</sup> For further details of this incident, please see March 2014 ICT database report <http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1153/Summary-of-Terrorist-Incidents-and-CT-Operations-March-2014>

<sup>100</sup> Reuters, "China charges four in Kunming attack, sentences 113 on terror crimes", June 30, 2014.

<sup>101</sup> AFP, "China jails 113 in Xinjiang mass sentencing", June 29, 2014.

<sup>102</sup> New York Times, "China Sentences 113 to Prison in Xinjiang Region", June 30, 2014.

<sup>103</sup> BBC, "China executes 13 in Xinjiang for 'terrorist attacks'", June 16, 2014.

Police did not reveal the suspect's identities to the public.<sup>104</sup>

## **Pakistan**

On June 8, 10 militants armed with automatic weapons, a rocket launcher, suicide vests, and grenades, attacked the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi. Authorities said that 26 civilians were killed and 18 others were wounded in the attack. All ten attackers were killed.<sup>105</sup> The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) initially claimed responsibility for the attack. The attackers were foreigners of Uzbek origin who belonged to the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), an Al Qaeda-linked militant organization that works closely with TTP. The TTP later confirmed that the attack was a joint operation executed together with the IMU, who independently admitted to having supplied personnel for the attack.<sup>106</sup> On the same day, 23 people were killed and others injured in a gun and bomb attack on Shia pilgrims in Taftan, Balochistan Province. The gunmen targeted hotels where the pilgrims were staying after returning from Iran. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed the TTP.<sup>107</sup>

Following these incidents, the Pakistani military conducted a series of aerial strikes on militant hideouts in the tribal areas along the Afghan border. On June 10, at least 25 militants were killed, including foreign fighters. Two drone attacks on June 12 also killed Uzbek, Afghan and some local militants. On June 15, the Pakistani military intensified air strikes in North Waziristan and bombed eight foreign militant hideouts, killing at least 105 insurgents, a majority of whom were Uzbeks, including those linked to the airport attack. Some other foreign militants were also reported killed. According to military sources, a key Uzbek commander and mastermind of the attack, Abu Abdur Rehman Almani, was killed in the operation. On June 16, the Pakistani military launched air strikes in North Waziristan, killing an additional 27 militants, including Abu Abdur Rehman al-Maani, an Uzbek believed to have helped organize the Karachi Airport assault on June 8.<sup>108</sup> Six soldiers were also killed in the air strikes.

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<sup>104</sup> WSJ, "Malaysia Arrests Terror Suspects", June 30, 2014.

<sup>105</sup> AP, "Pakistan forces repel attack near Karachi airport", June 10, 2014.

<sup>106</sup> Guardian, "Pakistani Taliban claim Karachi attack and leave peace talks in crisis", June 10, 2014.

<sup>107</sup> BBC, "As it happened: Karachi airport attack Key Points", June 8, 2014.

<sup>108</sup> AP, "Pakistan jets renew strikes on tribal North Waziristan", June 16, 2014.

On June 24, suspected TTP gunmen opened fire on a passenger plane arriving at Peshawar International Airport, killing one female passenger and injuring two crew members.<sup>109</sup> Pakistan International Airlines flight PK756 had been carrying 178 passengers from Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. Authorities said the plane was hit by six bullets, one of which caused a direct hit to the plane's engine. Police cordoned off an area outside the airport after the attack and launched a search for those responsible. No group claimed responsibility for the incident.<sup>110</sup>

On June 29, authorities in Lahore seized an explosive-laden truck at a checkpoint in Shahdara and arrested the driver. Authorities said 40 bags of explosive material were recovered during a search of the vehicle. Following this incident, police arrested 12 militants entering Punjab from Attock city near Peshawar. Police claimed to have recovered suicide vests, bomb-making material, automatic weapons and huge quantity of explosives. The suspects were taken to an undisclosed location for questioning.<sup>111</sup>

## **Philippines**

On June 1, Philippine security forces arrested Mijaji Bairullah (aka Mahang) in the town of Indanan in Sulu Province.<sup>112</sup> Bairullah did not resist arrest. Authorities claimed that Bairullah is a bomb expert for the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). Bairullah was one of the militants who planted a powerful landmine that hit and caused a passing Humvee to overturn, killing two US soldiers and a Filipino Marine on September 29, 2009, in an isolated stretch of a coconut tree-lined dirt road in Indanan. Two other Filipino marines were wounded in the attack.<sup>113</sup>

On June 11, authorities arrested Abu Sayaff militant, Khair Mundos, near Manila International airport. The arrest was the culmination of a seven-year-long manhunt for him. He was on the US State Department's "most wanted" list, with a \$500,000 reward offered for information leading to his capture.<sup>114</sup> According to the US State Department, Mundos is a key Abu Sayyaf leader and financier who was captured in the southern Philippines in 2004, but escaped from jail three years later. While

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<sup>109</sup> New York Times, "Airlines Halt Flights to Pakistan City After Attack on Plane", June 25, 2014.

<sup>110</sup> BBC, "Pakistan plane fired on during Peshawar landing", June 24, 2014.

<sup>111</sup> Reuters, "Pakistan: Deadly Attack on Plane", June 24, 2014.

<sup>112</sup> Reuters, "Philippines arrests Muslim rebel over killing of U.S. troops", June 2, 2014.

<sup>113</sup> AP, "Philippine rebel arrested over landmine attack that killed two US marines", June 1, 2014.

<sup>114</sup> VOA, "Key Abu Sayyaf Leader Arrested in the Philippines", June 11, 2014.

in police custody, he acknowledged having arranged the transfer of funds from the Al-Qaeda terrorist network to the Abu Sayyaf to finance bombings and other terrorist attacks in the southern Philippines.<sup>115</sup>

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<sup>115</sup> WP, “Big-Name Arrest Still Leaves Philippines Battling Militant Group”, June 11, 2014.

## **ABOUT ICT INCIDENT AND ACTIVISTS DATABASE**

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