



Summary of Terrorist Incidents and Counter-Terrorist Operations Worldwide October 2013



International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT)

Additional ICT resources are available on ICT's website: www.ict.org.il

Highlights

The following is a summary and analysis of the terrorist attacks and counter-terrorism operations that occurred during October 2013, as researched and recorded by the ICT Database Team. Among the most important events occurring this October:

- On 5 October, a team of US Navy Seals carried out a strike targeting Abdikadir Mohamed Abdikadir, a senior Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen commander, at his seaside villa in the southern town of Baraawe, Somalia. In a separate but coordinated incident, US forces launched a raid in Tripoli, Libya, and apprehended Abu Anas al-Libi, a suspected Al-Qaeda operative. He was wanted for his role in the 1998 US Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania. He faced trial in the United States where he pleaded not guilty to the charges against him.
- On 7 October, IDF soldiers discovered the opening of a tunnel built by Gazan terrorists near Israeli civilian communities. Israeli authorities said that the tunnel was approximately 18 meters deep and 1.7 kilometers wide. Hamas claimed responsibility for the construction of the tunnel. This was the third such tunnel discovered along the Gaza-Israel security fence in 2013.
- On 15 October, Russian authorities foiled a suspected plot by Islamist militants to bomb the Maradykovsky chemical weapons storage and disposal facility in the Kirov region, approximately 1,000 kilometers northeast of Moscow. Two suspects, aged 19 and 21, were arrested.
- On 21 October, Naida Asiyalova, a female suicide bomber detonated her explosives on a bus in Volgograd, killing six people and injuring 37 others. Asiyalova was the wife of Dmitry Sokolov, a militant from the republic of Dagestan, who authorities claimed was the mastermind behind the attack and who was later killed in a firefight with security forces.
- On 27 October, a coordinated series of ten car bombs exploded in mainly Shi'ite Muslim areas in and around Baghdad, killing approximately 60 people and injuring 100 others. The bombs were placed in parked cars and detonated over a 30-minute period, targeting markets and bus stations.

- On 28 October, two civilians were killed and 38 others were injured in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, when a jeep crashed into a bridge in front of the Forbidden City. Authorities arrested five people in connection with the attack.

Table of Contents

Europe.....	1
Belgium.....	1
France.....	1
Russia.....	1
United Kingdom.....	2
Africa.....	3
Kenya.....	3
Libya.....	3
Nigeria.....	4
Somalia.....	4
Tunisia.....	5
Middle East.....	6
Egypt.....	6
Iraq.....	7
Israel and the West Bank.....	9
Syria.....	10
North America.....	10
United States.....	10
Asia.....	12
Afghanistan.....	12
China.....	12
Indonesia.....	13
Myanmar.....	13
Pakistan.....	14
Thailand.....	15

Europe

Belgium

On 9 October, Natividad Jauregui Espina, a suspected member of ETA, was arrested in Gent at 18:30 by Belgium police, in collaboration with Spanish authorities.¹ She was wanted in connection with the killing of six security officers in the early 1980s and had evaded arrest since 1979.² The police released a statement claiming that Jauregui was a member of ETA's Vizcaya cell and that she had taken part in the killing of four police officers and two army officers in 1981.³ She had two European arrest warrants from the Spanish National High Court pending against her. One of them was issued by Central Criminal Investigation Court Number 1 relating to a murder offence, and the second was issued by Central Criminal Investigation Court Number 5 relating to a terrorism offence.⁴

France

On 1 October, French authorities arrested a woman, 21, in Paris, with suspected ties to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). She was charged with committing acts of terrorism.⁵ The woman was allegedly arrested around 06:30 at her apartment in the Belleville district of Paris. Her arrest was part of an investigation by anti-terrorism officers into a case of "criminal association in connection with a terrorist enterprise". The woman allegedly sent e-mails to AQAP suggesting targets of attack but she did not receive a response.⁶

Russia

On 15 October, Russian authorities foiled a suspected plot by Islamist militants to bomb the Maradykovsky chemical weapons storage and disposal facility in the Kirov region, approximately 1,000 kilometers northeast of Moscow.⁷ Two suspects, aged 19 and 21, were arrested. Authorities claimed that the suspects were planning to build a bomb. Authorities found bomb components and "literature with extremist content" in an abandoned house in the area where the suspects were living.⁸

¹ LaMoncloa, "Alleged member of ETA, Natividad Jáuregui Espina, arrested in Belgium", 8 October 2013.

² AP, "Spain: Belgian police arrest armed Basque group suspect wanted for role in 6 killings", 9 October 2013.

³ AP, "Spain: Belgian police arrest Basque group suspect", 9 October 2013.

⁴ Xinhua, "Spanish police arrest man with links to ETA in Pamplona", 14 October 2013.

⁵ AFP, "France arrests Paris woman for alleged al-Qaeda links", 1 October 2013.

⁶ Voice Of Russia, "France arrests Paris woman for alleged Al Qaeda links", 1 October 2013.

⁷ Reuters, "Russia says foils plot to attack chemical arms facility", 15 October 2013.

⁸ AP, "Russia: attack on chemical weapons facility foiled", 15 October 2013.

On 21 October, Naida Asiyalova, a female suicide bomber, detonated her explosive belt on a bus in Volgograd, killing six people and injuring 37 others.⁹ Authorities said that Asiyalova had purchased a bus ticket from Dagestan to Moscow, where she had intended to carry out the attack, but that she had disembarked in Volgograd and boarded a local bus full of students. It remains unclear why she took a detour into Volgograd. Several surviving passengers said Asiyalova wore a green head scarf in the Muslim hijab style.¹⁰ Authorities said the bomb contained 500-600 grams of TNT explosives. Authorities determined that Asiyalova was the wife of Dmitry Sokolov, a wanted militant from the southern Russian Republic of Dagestan. They said that the couple had met in Moscow, where she recruited him to radical Islam, and then they had joined rebel groups in Dagestan. No group claimed responsibility for the incident. Later, Sokolov admitted to planning the attack and, on 16 November, he was killed, along with four other militants, including Murad Kasumov, during a firefight with Russian security forces in Makhachkala, after refusing to surrender to authorities.¹¹ According to the National Anti-Terrorism Committee, Kasumov, was the leader of an armed gang since the start of this year and had ordered the Volgograd attack. He was also allegedly involved in other terrorist attacks in Dagestan.¹²

United Kingdom

On 13 October, four British men were arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 and charged with the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism.¹³ According to authorities, armed police officers were deployed in the pre-planned, intelligence-led operation because they feared that the suspects had access to weapons and were plotting to use firearms in the UK. Police raided six residential addresses in London, as well as two vehicles. Authorities said the men had been under surveillance by police and MI5 for some time but did not elaborate.¹⁴ On 19 October, two of the suspects were released due to lack of evidence. The other two suspects remained in custody.¹⁵

⁹ Russia Today, "Terrorist blast kills 6, injures over 30 in Volgograd, central Russia", 21 October 2013.

¹⁰ BBC, "Russia bus bomb: Volgograd blast kills six", 21 October 2013.

¹¹ RT, "Russian security forces kill self-confessed militant organizer of Volgograd suicide bombing", 16 November 2013.

¹² Ria Novosti, "Militant Suspected of Ordering Volgograd Bombing Killed", 16 November 2013.

¹³ Telegraph, "Police foil planned terrorist attack on the UK after arresting four men in London", 13 October 2013.

¹⁴ BBC, "Terror raid: London suspects questioned", 4 October 2013.

¹⁵ BBC, "London terror arrests: Two suspects released", 19 October 2013.

On 28 October, five people were arrested and charged with alleged terrorism offences and conspiracy to murder. Four men, aged 26, 30, 34 and 39, and a woman aged 27, were arrested in an operation led by police in Scotland, in coordination with the Police Service of Northern Ireland and security services. They were charged under Section 5 of the Terrorism Act, which covers the preparation of terrorist acts, and alleged conspiracy to murder.¹⁶ On 30 October, a sixth person was arrested in Scotland under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000.¹⁷

On 31 October, four people were arrested on suspicion of "failing to disclose information which might be of assistance in securing the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of a person involved in an act of terrorism". Two men, aged 21 and 31, and a woman, 25, were arrested by counter-terrorism officers at two residential addresses in east London. Another man, 25, was arrested at a residential address in Lancashire. His identity was not revealed to the public.¹⁸

Africa

Kenya

On 11 October, Swaleh Abdallah Said was arrested in Mombasa and led authorities to a house where they seized explosives, a grenade, two mobile phones and passports. He was charged with plotting to commit terrorist acts in Mombasa. Said denied all the charges against him. Authorities claimed that he was linked to the 21 September 2013 Westgate Mall attack. Police also arrested high school student, Said Nassir Haddir, 19, in connection with the Westgate mall attack.¹⁹ On 30 October, five additional suspects were arrested in connection with the same attack. As many as 11 other suspects had been taken into custody by Kenyan authorities shortly after the attack.²⁰

Libya

On 5 October, US forces launched a raid in Tripoli and apprehended Abu Anas al-Libi, a suspected Al-Qaeda operative, as he returned home from prayer in the early morning hours. Initially after his capture, he was held on the US Navy ship San Antonio in the Mediterranean, where he was questioned by counter-terrorism experts. After a week, he was transferred to New York to await trial on terrorism charges. He had been under

¹⁶ MailOnline, "Five people charged with alleged terrorism offences after series of arrests across Scotland and Northern Ireland", 28 October 2013.

¹⁷ BBC, "Sixth person arrested in Scotland during terrorism probe", 30 October 2013.

¹⁸ AP, "Anti-terrorist police make arrests in London and Lancashire", 31 October 2013.

¹⁹ Reuters, "Kenya charges man with terrorist plot, links him to mall attack", 11 October 2013.

²⁰ CNN, "Five more held in deadly Westgate mall attack in Kenya", 30 October 2013.

federal indictment in New York for over a decade.²¹ Authorities said al-Libi was wanted for his role in the 1998 US Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania. He faced trial in the United States.²² On 15 October and later on 23 October, he appeared in court in New York, where he was represented by a lawyer paid for by the Libyan government. He pleaded not guilty to the charges against him.²³ In a separate but coordinated incident, a team of US Navy Seals carried out a strike targeting a senior Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen commander in Baraawe, Somalia.²⁴ (See Somalia section below.)

On 18 October, masked gunmen assassinated Col. Ahmed al-Barghathi, head of the military police's investigative division, in Benghazi. He was shot several times as he left his house for Friday prayers. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.²⁵

Nigeria

On 20 October, militants wearing army uniforms killed 19 people at a checkpoint near the Nigerian border with Cameroon. The gunmen, armed with Kalashnikovs, blocked a highway near the town of Logumani. They shot and hacked to death 19 motorists and burned three trucks.²⁶ The gunmen had attempted to attack the border town of Gamboru Ngala near Logumani but were stopped by soldiers.²⁷ No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Boko Haram.²⁸

Somalia

On 5 October, a team of US Navy Seals carried out a strike targeting the seaside villa belonging to Al-Shabab al-Mujahideen militant, Abdikadir Mohamed Abdikadir, also known as Ikrimah, in Baraawe. Abdikadir was suspected of orchestrating a series of grenade attacks and shootings that killed Kenyan civilians and security personnel. Navy SEALs approached the coast during the night, killing several militants and escaping without any casualties of their own. However, they failed to seize Abdikadir or the intelligence that he was thought to have possessed. An Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen spokesman said one of their members had been killed while another report said as many

²² Reuters, "US captures al-Qaida leader in Libya wanted for '98 US embassy bombings", 6 October 2013.

²² Reuters, "US captures al-Qaida leader in Libya wanted for '98 US embassy bombings", 6 October 2013.

²³ BBC, "Libya terror suspect Abu Anas al-Liby in New York court", 23 October 2013.

²⁴ CNN, "U.S. target in Somalia: An inside story on an Al-Shabaab commander", 7 October 2013.

²⁵ BBC, "Benghazi gunmen kill Libya commander Ahmed al-Barghathi", 18 October 2013.

²⁶ BBC, "Boko Haram' gunmen kill 19 motorists in Nigeria", 20 October 2013.

²⁷ AFP, "Residents: Boko Haram Islamists kill 19 in Nigeria's northeast", 20 October 2013.

²⁸ BBC, "Boko Haram' gunmen kill 19 motorists in Nigeria", 20 October 2013.

as seven militants had been killed.²⁹ American officials said the operation faced obstacles when Navy SEALs discovered many more civilians than they had expected, making the mission too dangerous.³⁰ The Pentagon alleged that Abdulkadir was a close associate of Fazul Abdullah Mohammed, who had been on the FBI's most wanted list for planning the 1998 US embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, and to have taken over his position on behalf of Al-Qaeda in east Africa following Abdullah's death in 2011. The Pentagon statement also linked him to Saleh Naben, and alleged that both men had played a part in the 1998 embassy bombings and the 2002 attacks on a hotel and airline in Mombassa.³¹ The raid took place as US forces launched a raid in Tripoli, apprehending Abu Anas al-Libi, a wanted Al-Qaeda militant. (See Libya section above.)

On 19 October, 15 people were killed and 33 others injured in a suicide attack on a restaurant popular with the military, in Beledweyne.³² Authorities said that seven government soldiers were among the victims and that senior Somali military commanders were seriously wounded in the attack.³³ Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack.³⁴

On 29 October, a US military strike killed three members of Al-Shabab al-Mujahideen, including Ibrahim Ali, the intended target and an explosives expert renowned for his skill in building homemade bombs and suicide vests. The strike destroyed the vehicle that the militants were travelling in between the towns of Jilib and Barawe, which is considered a major base of the group.³⁵ Four witnesses at the scene said that the fighters killed were Somali men.³⁶ The other two militants were named as Abdikarim Kibi-Kibi and Warsame Baalle, deputy commanders of two units controlling large areas of southern Somalia.³⁷

Tunisia

On 19 October, nine suspected militants were killed by security forces and three other suspects were arrested in the Mount Taouyer area, about 70 kilometers west of Tunis. They were suspected of carrying out an attack on a police patrol that killed two

²⁹ CNN, "U.S. target in Somalia: An inside story on an Al-Shabaab commander", 7 October 2013.

³⁰ New York Times, "Imperfect Intelligence' Said to Hinder U.S. Raid on Militant in Somalia", 8 October 2013.

³¹ Guardian, "Kenyan militant commander named as target of US Somali raid", 5 October 2013.

³² Reuters, "Suicide bomber kills 16 in Somali cafe attack aimed at foreign troops", 19 October 2013.

³³ CNN, "Suicide bomber strikes in Somalia", 19 October 2013.

³⁴ AFP, "Suicide blast in central Somalia kills 15", 19 October 2013.

³⁵ BBC, "Somalia's al-Shabab commanders 'killed' in strike", 29 October 2013.

³⁶ AAP, "US drone strike kills key al Shabab militant in Somalia", 29 October 2013.

³⁷ Telegraph, "US drone strike in Somalia killed al-Shabaab 'chief bomb-maker'", 29 October 2013.

policemen on 17 October 2013. Authorities also said two tons of materials used to make explosives were also seized during the operation. Interior Ministry spokesman, Mohamed Ali Aroui, said the militants belonged to the Salafi-jihadist Ansar Al-Sharia group. The group had been declared a terrorist organization by the government and the Interior Ministry spokesman.³⁸

On 30 October, a suicide bomber detonated his explosive belt close to the Riadh Palm Hotel in Sousse. Witnesses said the bomber was spotted and chased away from the hotel, blowing himself up on an empty beach near the hotel.³⁹ The Interior Minister said the suicide bomber was the only person killed in the attack and there were no other reported casualties.⁴⁰ Half an hour later, authorities foiled an attack by a second suicide bomber at the tomb of former President Habib Bourguiba in the southern city of Monastir. He was arrested by police. No group claimed responsibility for either attack.⁴¹ Tunisian Special Forces later arrested five Ansar Al-Sharia militants suspected of involvement in the attacks.⁴²

Middle East

Egypt

On 7 October, nine Egyptian soldiers and police officers were killed in two attacks. In the first incident, a car bomb killed three police officers in southern Sinai, hours after masked gunmen shot dead six soldiers in a patrol car outside the Ismailiya. In the second incident, rockets hit a government-run satellite station in Cairo. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks.⁴³

On 21 October, gunmen riding a motorcycle fired on Egyptian wedding guests outside a Coptic Christian church in Cairo killing four people, including two children, and injuring 12 others.⁴⁴ Witnesses said the unidentified attackers fired indiscriminately as people left the church. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.⁴⁵

³⁸ BBC, "Security forces kill nine 'Islamists'", 19 October 2013.

³⁹ BBC, "Suicide blast in Tunisian resort of Sousse", 30 October 2013.

⁴⁰ Sky News, "Tunisia: Suicide Bomber Strikes At Beach Resort", 30 October 2013.

⁴¹ Reuters, "Suicide bomber attacks Tunisian resort town" 30 October 2013.

⁴² AFP, "Tunisia arrests 5 suspects after failed suicide attacks", 30 October 2013.

⁴³ BBC, "Egyptian soldiers killed in Ismailiya and Sinai attacks", 7 October 2013.

⁴⁴ Reuters, "Gunmen fired shots as people left the church" 21 October 2013.

⁴⁵ BBC, "Egypt gunmen open fire on Coptic Christian wedding in Cairo", 21 October 2013.

Iraq

On 6 October, 30 people were killed in a series of attacks that targeted police, schools and pilgrims. In the first incident, a suicide bomber detonated a truck filled with explosives on the playground of an elementary school in the village of Qabak, killing 13 children and the headmaster, and injuring 80 others.⁴⁶ Shortly after the attack, a second suicide bomber detonated a car at the village's police station near Mosul, killing three officers and wounding 15 others. In the afternoon, a third suicide bomber attacked a group of Shiite pilgrims in Baghdad, killing 14 and wounding 34. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda in Iraq.⁴⁷

On 13 October, 16 bombs exploded throughout Iraq, killing 25 people and wounding 123 others.⁴⁸ The worst single attack killed five people and injured 27 others at a market and parking lot in Hilla city.⁴⁹ In Kut, four car bombs exploded separately, one of them near a primary school and another close to a restaurant, killing at least two people and wounding 31 others. Four teenagers were killed when a roadside bomb exploded near a soccer field, where boys aged 14 to 16 were playing football, in Madaen. In Baghdad, a series of bombs exploded in busy streets in predominantly Sunni districts, killing eight people. Two car bombs exploded simultaneously near a car repair workshop in the city of Samawa, killing two people. In Samarra, three suicide bombers clashed with policemen before detonating their vests, killing themselves and four others.⁵⁰ In Suwayrah, two parked car bombs exploded at a commercial area, killing five people and wounding 14 others. Car bombs were also detonated in Basra and Diwaniyah, as well as other cities.⁵¹ On 20 October, a series of suicide bomb attacks in and around Baghdad killed 50 people and injured dozens more. In one of the incidents, a suicide bomber detonated an explosive belt inside a café, popular with young people in Baghdad's Shi'ite-majority area of Al-Amil, killing at 38 people and injuring 39 others. A police colonel said the first bomb exploded near the street side cafe, after which the second suicide bomber targeted rescue workers and people gathering at the scene.⁵² In a separate, seemingly coordinated series of strikes, suicide bombers, and cars bombs in Iraq's western province of Anbar, 12 people were killed and 27 others were wounded. Witnesses reported that five suicide bombers had attacked government buildings, killing two

⁴⁶ AP, "Iraq suicide blasts kill 33, many of them children", 6 October 2013.

⁴⁷ NYTimes, "Bombing at Elementary School Playground in Iraq Kills 13 Children", 6 October 2013.

⁴⁸ Reuters, "Bombs blasts across Iraq kill 25 people", 13 October 2013.

⁴⁹ UPI, "13 car bombs detonated in Iraq; one in market kills five, wounds 27", 13 October 2013.

⁵⁰ Reuters, "Car bomb explodes in Iraqi city of Samarra, killing 14", 12 October 2013.

⁵¹ AP, "Officials: Attacks across Iraq kill at least 42", 13 October 2013.

⁵² RT, "Deadly Sunday: Over 50 killed in bombings across Iraq", 20 October 2013.

policemen and three officials, while others had targeted an army checkpoint at the town's entrance, killing two policemen and wounding four others, including two soldiers. The local administrative headquarters, where officials were meeting, was also attacked, killing the deputy chief, among others.⁵³ Police said that two bombers on foot, and another driving a vehicle rigged with explosives, had attacked the police headquarters in the town of Rawa. In a separate incident, a suicide bomber killed six people in the city of Samarra. The bomber targeted the house of a senior policeman. Authorities said members of his family were killed in the attack but the target himself was away at the time of the attack.⁵⁴ Following the attacks, all entrances of the city were blocked and an indefinite curfew was imposed. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda in Iraq.⁵⁵

On 27 October, a coordinated series of ten car bombs exploded in mainly Shi'ite Muslim areas in and around Baghdad, killing approximately 60 people and injuring 100 others. The bombs were placed in parked cars and detonated over a 30-minute period, targeting markets and bus stations.⁵⁶ In the worst of the attacks, two car bombs exploded moments apart near a market in the town of Nahrawan, south of Baghdad, killing seven people and injuring 15 others. In Baladiyat, a car bomb killed three people. Authorities also reported that in the Sunni town of Tarmiya, an explosion killed four people and wounded 11 at an outdoor market. Other areas targeted were Bayaa, Mashtal, Hurriyah, Dura and Saba al-Bur.⁵⁷ Finally, in a separate incident, a suicide bomber detonated his explosive belt near troops as they were lining up at a bank in Mosul, killing 14 people and injuring 30 others. There were no immediate claims of responsibility for any of the attacks but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda in Iraq.⁵⁸

On 29 October, three separate bombings killed 21 people and injured 46 others. In the worst attack, two suicide bombers killed at least 11 soldiers during an overnight attack, and another suicide bomber drove his car into a checkpoint, near the northern city of Mosul.⁵⁹ In a separate attack, a suicide bomber attempted to drive his explosives-laden truck into a police station in the village of al-Mowla, near Mosul, but guards fired at the truck, forcing the driver to detonate the bomb. The explosion killed seven people, including three policemen, and wounded 21 others. It also destroyed at least 10

⁵³ Guardian, "Iraq: dozens killed as suicide car bomb hits Baghdad café", 21 October 2013.

⁵⁴ Reuters, "Baghdad cafe bombing kills at least 38", 20 October 2013.

⁵⁵ BBC, "Iraq violence: Five suicide bombers in deadly attack", 20 October 2013.

⁵⁶ BBC, "Iraq car bombs cause Baghdad carnage", 27 October 2013.

⁵⁷ AP, "Iraq bombings kill dozens in Baghdad, Mosul and Tarmiya", 27 October 2013.

⁵⁸ Guardian, "Iraq: dozens killed as suicide car bomb hits Baghdad café", 27 October 2013.

⁵⁹ IBN, "Bomb attack in Iraq claims 21 lives, 46 injured", 30 October 2013.

houses.⁶⁰ It was also reported that a roadside bomb had exploded near a police captain's car in Tikrit, north of Baghdad, wounding him and killing a civilian. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda in Iraq.⁶¹

Israel and the West Bank

On 5 October, an Israeli girl, 9, was wounded outside her home in Psagot, West Bank, when a Palestinian militant attacked her as she was playing in the yard of her house. She was hit by a bullet to the upper body.⁶² Authorities said the attacker infiltrated the settlement. She told rescue personnel that she saw a Palestinian man enter her yard, approach the balcony where she was playing, and shoot her.⁶³ On 8 October, two Palestinian relatives from the West Bank city of El-Bireh were arrested by the IDF in connection with the incident. Security services suspect that one of the men planned and executed the attack, while the other assisted.⁶⁴

On 7 October, IDF soldiers discovered the opening of a tunnel built by militants in Gaza near Israeli civilian communities. Israeli authorities said the tunnel was approximately 18 meters deep and 1.7 kilometers wide. The tunnel was built with approximately 500 tons of cement and concrete, and took approximately 12 months to construct.⁶⁵ This was the third such tunnel discovered along the Gaza-Israel security fence in 2013. Israeli authorities said that smuggling tunnels have been used by militants in the past to execute attacks against civilians and military personnel. Hamas and other terror organizations in the Gaza Strip invest millions of dollars and resources in order to operate a thriving network of illegal tunnels leading into Israel. Sufficient evidence suggests that terrorists methodically abuse construction materials transferred into the Gaza Strip by Israel as humanitarian aid in order to build such tunnels.⁶⁶ On 21 October, Hamas claimed responsibility for the tunnel, which Hamas spokesman Abu Obaida referred to as the "Khan Younis tunnel." He added that its main purpose was to force Israel to release Palestinian prisoners, as it did two years ago in the prisoner exchange deal for Gilad Shalit, in which 1,027 Palestinians were released from Israeli prisons.⁶⁷

⁶⁰ BBC, "Iraq violence: Fresh wave of bombings kills 20", 30 October 2013.

⁶¹ CNN, "Suicide bombings claim more lives in Iraq". 30 October 2013.

⁶² Jerusalem Post, "Nine-year-old Israeli girl injured in Psagot terror attack", 5 October 2013.

⁶³ Jerusalem Post, "Netanyahu: Palestinian incitement responsible for Psagot incident ", 6 October 2013.

⁶⁴ Jerusalem Post, "IDF arrests two Palestinian men suspected in Psagot attack" 8 October 2013.

⁶⁵ Times of Israel, "IDF blames Hamas for 'terror tunnel' from Gaza to Israel", 13 October 2013.

⁶⁶ IDF blog, "Gaza Terror Tunnel Opening Uncovered on Israeli Side of the Security Fence", 13 October 2013.

⁶⁷ Reuters, "Hamas claims responsibility for tunnel under Gaza-Israel border", 21 October 2013.

On 28 October, Palestinian militants in Gaza fired two rockets toward southern Israel at dawn. Israeli authorities said one of the rockets was intercepted by the "Iron Dome" air defense system, while the other landed in an open area. There were no reports of injuries or damage.⁶⁸ In response to the rocket fire, Israeli aircraft attacked two rocket launchers in northern Gaza and identified direct hits.⁶⁹

Syria

On 20 October, a suicide bomber driving a truck containing 1.5 tons of explosives killed at least 30 people and wounded dozens more in Hama.⁷⁰ The explosion caused a nearby petrol tanker to set alight, increasing the damage and the number of casualties.⁷¹ The Al-Nusra Front to Protect the Levant claimed respectability for attack.⁷²

On 25 October, at least 40 people, including children, were killed by a car bomb that exploded outside a mosque in the town of Suq Wadi Barada, just before the end of Friday prayers.⁷³ Authorities said that a second car bomb had been planted but was discovered and defused before it exploded. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities suspected the A-Nusra Front to Protect the Levant militants.⁷⁴ It was also reported on 25 October that Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, leader of the Al-Nusra Front for the Levant, was killed in Latakia but the group denied the claims.⁷⁵

North America

United States

On 3 October, Nizar Trabelsi, 43, a Tunisian Al-Qaeda militant, was extradited to the United States, where he faced charges in federal court in the District of Columbia stemming from a conspiracy to carry out a suicide bomb attack against Americans in Europe. He was also charged with attempting to use weapons of mass destruction and conspiring to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization. He was initially arrested in Belgium on 13 September 2001, two days after the 9/11 attacks on America, and had been held in custody in Belgium for the past 12 years.⁷⁶ US authorities said that Trabelsi was being held in Washington D.C. since his arrival in the country. Trabelsi was

⁶⁸ Ynet, "IDF strikes in Gaza after rockets fired at south Israel", 28 October 2013.

⁶⁹ Haaretz, "IAF attacks Gaza targets in response to rocket fire on south Israel", 28 October 2013.

⁷⁰ CNN, "37 killed in Syrian car bombing as fighting rages nearby", 21 October 2013.

⁷¹ BBC, "Syria conflict: Hama truck bomb 'kills at least 30'", 20 October 2013.

⁷² Reuters, "Suicide bomber kills 31 in Syria's Hama: state media", 20 October 2013.

⁷³ BBC, "Syrian mosque car bomb 'kills 40' in Suq Wadi Barada", 25 October 2013.

⁷⁴ AFP, "Car bomb at Syria mosque killed 40, including children: NGO", 26 October 2013.

⁷⁵ BBC, "Syrian rebels cast doubt on leader's 'death'", 25 October 2013.

⁷⁶ AP, "Tunisian man extradited to US in suicide bomb plot", 3 October 2013

indicted by a grand jury in Washington D.C. in 2006, and the indictment was only made public on this date. According to the indictment, Trabelsi was residing in Germany in 2000, when he met with other conspirators and made preparations to travel to Afghanistan to train for jihad. The federal indictment claimed that Trabelsi personally met Osama Bin Laden in the spring of 2001, when he agreed to volunteer for a suicide bomb attack against US interests.⁷⁷ Preparations unfolded over the next several months. Trabelsi allegedly obtained chemicals in Europe and carried out a reconnaissance mission on a military facility used by the US government and Air Force. According to the indictment, at bin Laden's instruction, Trabelsi met with Mohammed Atef and other Al-Qaeda militants with whom he was to form a cell to carry out the suicide attack. In June 2001, Trabelsi traveled to Pakistan, where he was given money from an Al-Qaeda associate to use in carrying out his mission.⁷⁸ If convicted of the charges against him, Trabelsi faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.⁷⁹

On 10 October, two men were arrested for allegedly attempting to send supplies to Taliban-linked operatives in Afghanistan, dating back to 2011. The suspects were identified as Humayoun Ghoulam Nabi, 27, a Pakistani national living in Queens, NY, and Ismail Alsarabbi, 32, a Kuwaiti residing in Brooklyn, NY.⁸⁰ Authorities said one of the suspects had been recorded telling an NYPD informant that he wanted to help kill US soldiers in Afghanistan because he hated the United States and "wanted to take a stand." He also voiced admiration for Osama bin Laden.⁸¹ According to authorities, the two men were allegedly planning to start a non-profit organization to raise money to buy boots, jackets and other equipment for terrorist organizations operating overseas. Lawyers for both defendants claimed that their clients were victims of entrapment. The Queens County District Attorney charged both men with two counts of providing material support to terrorists and one count of conspiracy. State terrorism charges are rare, since most terrorism cases are handled by federal prosecutors.⁸²

On 18 October, authorities arrested Marcos Alonso Zea (also known as Ali Zea), 25, at his home in Brentwood, NY. He was charged in federal court with conspiracy to commit murder in a foreign country, attempting to support terrorists and Al-Qaeda in the

⁷⁷ FBI, "Alleged al Qaeda Member Extradited to U.S. to Face Charges in Terrorism Conspiracy", 3 October 2013.

⁷⁸ CNN, "Alleged al Qaeda member extradited to U.S.", 3 October 2013.

⁷⁹ BBC, "Tunisian Nizar Trabelsi extradited to US on terror charges", 4 October 2013.

⁸⁰ ABC, "2 arrested in Queens on terror charges", 10 October 2013.

⁸¹ NBC, "Queens Men Accused of Supporting Terror Groups in Afghanistan", 10 October 2013.

⁸² MSN, "New York man charged with aiding Taliban wanted U.S. soldiers 'cut to pieces'", 10 October 2013.

Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and obstruction of justice.⁸³ The case involved a co-conspirator, identified as Justin Kaliebe, also a US citizen. In February 2013, Kaliebe pleaded guilty to attempting to provide support to terrorists and he will be sentenced in December, according to Justice Department's statement. If convicted of the charges against him, Kaliebe faces up to 30 years in prison.⁸⁴

Asia

Afghanistan

On 15 October, a bomb killed Arsallah Jamala, 47, Governor of eastern Logar Province, as he delivered a speech at the main mosque in the provincial capital of Puli Alam to mark the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha. The attack also wounded 15 people, five of them critically. Jamala was President Karzai's campaign manager during the 2009 presidential elections. He also served as Governor of Khost Province until he was appointed to his current post in Logar in April 2013. No group has claimed responsibility, but authorities blamed the Taliban.⁸⁵

On 27 October, a roadside bomb exploded in Ghazni Province killed 18 people and seriously wounded two others. Police said the victims were women and children traveling in a minibus to a wedding. The bus was completely destroyed.⁸⁶ No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities suspected Taliban militants. However, the Taliban denied any involvement.⁸⁷

China

On 28 October, two tourists were killed and 38 other people were injured in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, when a jeep crashed into a bridge in front of the Forbidden City. Authorities suspected that the car bombing was perpetrated by Uighur separatists. All three attackers in the car were killed.⁸⁸ Police said the vehicle contained a container for petrol, two knives and what they described as a flag with extremist religious slogans on it. The car's license plate number was registered in Xinjiang Province and the three people in the car were from the Muslim Uighur minority in the western region of Xinjiang. Police reportedly found more knives and another flag at a location in Beijing. It

⁸³ AP, "Marcos Alonso Zea Arrested In NY After Trying To Join Al Qaeda Group, According To Authorities", 18 October 2013.

⁸⁴ CNN, "New York man arrested for trying to join Al Qaeda in Yemen", 18 October 2013.

⁸⁵ AP, "Bomb kills governor in east Afghanistan", 15 October 2013.

⁸⁶ BBC, "Roadside bomb kills 18 wedding guests in Afghanistan", 27 October 2013.

⁸⁷ Reuters, "Bomb kills 18 people on way to wedding in eastern Afghanistan", 27 October 2013.

⁸⁸ AFP, "Five killed in China Tiananmen Square car crash", 28 October 2013.

was also reported that a police notice was being circulated among hotels in Beijing, asking for information about eight other suspects.⁸⁹ Authorities arrested five people in connection with the attack.⁹⁰ On 24 November 2013, the East Turkestan Islamic Movement claimed responsibility for the attack and threatened similar attacks in the future.⁹¹

Indonesia

On 17 October, Indonesia's elite anti-terrorism squad shot and killed one suspected militant and arrested two others in a raid in South Sulawesi Province. Police said they seized two guns, ammunition and approximately two kilograms of fertilizer in the raid. No further details were made public.⁹²

Myanmar

On 9-16 October, a series of 10 small explosions, or attempted bombings, killed two people and injured four others, including an American woman who was wounded by an explosion at the Traders Hotel in Yangon. Authorities detained eight suspects, including Saw Myint Lwin, who was allegedly linked to the Traders Hotel incident. Authorities said that a man identified as "Nato" promised Saw Myint Lwin a gold mine permit if he succeeded in planting bombs at luxury hotels and restaurants. He was given USD \$500 and a bag of explosives. The Traders Hotel is owned by Malaysian billionaire Robert Kuok's Shangri-La Asia.⁹³ Authorities said bombs were reported in Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing and Tuangoo.⁹⁴ Police said four suspects were arrested in connection with the bombs in Yangon, Mandalay and Sagaing but that the man believed to be responsible for the bomb in Tuangoo, 55 kilometers outside the capital city of Naypyitaw, was still at large. That bombing killed two people. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks but police believe the motive was to deter foreign investment in Myanmar.⁹⁵

⁸⁹ BBC, "Tiananmen crash: China police detain suspects", 30 October 2013.

⁹⁰ Independent, "China arrests five suspected 'Islamist militants' over Tiananmen Square jeep attack, 30 October 2013.

⁹¹ Guardian, "Islamist group claims responsibility for attack on China's Tiananmen Square", 25 November 2013.

⁹² AP, "Indonesian police kill suspected militant, arrest 2 in anti-terror raid", 17 October 2013.

⁹³ AFP via Radio Free Asia, "Bombings Intended to Deter Foreign Investment in Myanmar: Police", 18 October 2013.

⁹⁴ Reuters, " More bombs explode in Myanmar; police arrest four suspects", 17 October 2013.

⁹⁵ AP, "Burma hotel bombing: arrested man 'involved in planting second device'", 16 October 2013.

Pakistan

On 3 October, a suicide bomber targeted the compound of Mullah Nabi Hanfi, an influential anti-Taliban commander in Hangu district, northwest Pakistan, killing 17 people and wounding 22 others.⁹⁶ The attacker opened fire on security guards around the compound before detonating his vehicle. Hanfi had been supporting government forces fighting against the Taliban. It wasn't immediately clear whether Hanfi had been hurt in the attack or how many of his fighters were among those killed. Pakistani Taliban spokesman Shaidulalh Shaid claimed responsibility for the attack.⁹⁷

On 7 October, two people were killed and 20 others were injured when a bomb exploded next to a van carrying security officials who were deployed to protect workers administering polio vaccinations.⁹⁸ The explosion occurred near a hospital in the Budh Bher suburb of Peshawar. Pakistan is one of only three countries where polio remains endemic, due in part to militant resistance to mass polio vaccination campaigns. Militants have attacked and killed health workers and banned immunization teams from some areas, forcing hundreds of thousands of children to miss vaccinations.⁹⁹ Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan claimed responsibility for the attack.¹⁰⁰

On 10 October, a series of bombs killed seven people and injured 60 others in Pakistan's four main cities. In the worst attack, a bomb attached to a motorcycle exploded outside a police station in Quetta, killing six people, including a child, and injuring 35 others. Authorities said six kilograms of explosives were used in the attack. Nearby buildings were damaged by the explosion. One person was killed when a timed device planted at a food market in Lahore exploded. Three suspected militants were killed when explosive materials they were carrying on motorcycles exploded near a religious congregation in Karachi. Three security personnel, including a police officer, were injured in an explosion in Peshawar. In the evening, 12 soldiers were injured when a security forces vehicle was targeted by a remote-controlled bomb in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Province. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.¹⁰¹

⁹⁶ AP, "Pakistan suicide bomb attack on militant chief kills 15 people", 3 October 2013

⁹⁷ CNN, "Pakistani Taliban attack on enemy commander's compound kills 17", 3 October 2013.

⁹⁸ Guardian, "Pakistan: bomb kills anti-polio officials", 7 October 2013.

⁹⁹ BBC, "Pakistan deadly bomb targets Peshawar polio campaign", 7 October 2013

¹⁰⁰ CSM, "Pakistan bomb blast: why health workers keep getting attacked", 7 October 2013.

¹⁰¹ PTI, "Bomb blasts rock four Pakistani cities, 10 dead including 3 terrorists", 10 October 2013.

On 16 October, a suicide bomber stormed the house of a provincial law minister in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the northernmost province of Pakistan, killing 11 people and injuring 30 others.¹⁰² According to security officials, the incident took place when a suicide bomber detonated his explosive-laden jacket near the minister when he was receiving Eid-al Adha greetings from people at his house in the northwestern district of Dera Ismael Khan. Ansar Al-Mujahideen, a jihadist group affiliated with the Taliban in Pakistan, claimed responsibility for the attack and said they killed the minister in retaliation for the deaths of their men who were killed during a jailbreak in the city in July 2013.¹⁰³

Thailand

On 9 October, militants in southern Thailand carried out a series of coordinated bomb, arson and gun attacks, killing seven people and injuring 22 others. The government said the attacks took place in Narathiwat, Yala, Pattani and Sonkhla, and were intended to mark the founding anniversaries of the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN) and Pattani United Liberation Organization (PULO). Authorities said more than 40 attacks were reported across 17 districts belonging to these four provinces.¹⁰⁴ Some of the bombs were planted next to ATM machines in order to damage the local economy, while others were planted at roadsides in order to target military patrols. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks but Muslim rebels fighting for independence from Buddhist-majority Thailand have been responsible for similar bombings in the past. Authorities said the attacks were possibly in retaliation for the recent killing of a key militant by authorities.¹⁰⁵

On 19 October, eight soldiers and five journalists were injured in two consecutive bomb attacks in southern Thailand. Police Col. Jiradet Phrasawang said the first bomb exploded in Narathiwat Province, injuring six soldiers on foot patrol. The second bomb exploded an hour later approximately 100 meters from the first explosion, as a bomb squad and journalists arrived at the scene.¹⁰⁶ Five journalists were injured in the attack.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰² Reuters, "Suicide bomber kills Pakistani provincial law minister, seven others", 16 October 2013.

¹⁰³ Xinhua, "81 killed, 243 injured in 33 bomb attacks across Pakistan in Oct.", 2 November 2013.

¹⁰⁴ Bangkok Post, "New wave of violence leaves three dead", 9 October 2013.

¹⁰⁵ Voice of Russia, "Bombs kill seven in southern Thailand", 9 October 2013.

¹⁰⁶ Fox News, "8 soldiers, 5 journalists injured in twin bombings in Thailand's insurgency-plagued south", 19 October 2013.

¹⁰⁷ Bangkok post, "Narathiwat bomb wounds 13", 19 October 2013.