



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

ICT Incidents and Activists Database

PERIODIC REVIEW

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

Highlights

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

- On November 1, Hakimullah Mehsud, leader of the Pakistani Taliban, was killed in a suspected US drone attack as he was leaving a meeting at a mosque in the Dande Darpa Khel village of North Waziristan, Pakistan. Five other Taliban militants were also killed and two others were wounded. On November 2, the Pakistani Taliban named Khan Sayed Sajna as its new leader.
- On November 16, 10 people were killed and 20 others injured in a suicide bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan. The attacker exploded approximately 100 meters from a large tent where Afghan tribal elders and civil leaders were due to meet for a national assembly, known as Loya Jirga. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.
- On November 18, Israeli authorities admitted that they had secretly detained Samar Halmi Abdel Latif al-Barq, an Al-Qaeda biological weapons expert, since his arrest in July 2010. Al-Barq was accused of planning attacks on Jews and Israelis in Jordan and had also planned to teach Palestinian terrorists how to manufacture poisons. Despite al-Barq's appeal to the Supreme Court to be released, the court denied his request.
- On November 19, a double suicide bombing that targeted the Iranian embassy in Beirut killed 23 people and injured 160 others. The Abdullah Azzam Brigades claimed responsibility for the attack.
- On November 20, 11 soldiers were killed and 27 injured when a suicide bomber drove an explosives-laden car into a convoy of military buses, which were carrying off-duty soldiers traveling between the border town of Rafah and el-Arish in the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda linked groups. Several days later, in a separate incident, Egyptian security forces killed Mohamed Hussein Muhareb, leader of Takfir wil-Hijra, a long-standing Al-Qaeda-linked group based in the Sinai

Peninsula. Authorities said that Mounir was personally sought in connection with killing of 25 police recruits in August 2013.

- On November 27, 15 armed men suspected of being members of the militant group, At-Takfir Wal-Hijra, were arrested in Moscow, Russia. The suspect's identities were not released to the public but police said that all of those detained were from Russia's southern provinces of Dagestan, Chechnya, Ingushetia and Kalmitiya, or from the neighboring countries of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Contents

Highlights	2
Europe	5
France	5
Russia.....	5
United Kingdom.....	6
Africa	6
Kenya.....	6
Mali.....	7
Nigeria	7
Somalia	8
Middle East	9
Bahrain	9
Egypt.....	9
Iraq	10
Israel and the West Bank	11
Lebanon.....	14
Syria.....	14
North America.....	15
United States.....	15
Asia	15
Afghanistan.....	15
Azerbaijan.....	16
China.....	17
Indonesia	17
Malaysia	17
Pakistan	18
Philippines	18

Europe

France

On November 15, four men, aged between 22 and 35, were arrested in the Paris suburb of Vitry-sur-Seine by the DCRI Internal Security Service. The arrests were the culmination of an investigation that had begun in mid-2012.¹ The men were suspected of involvement in a terrorist network that sent fighters to join Al-Qaeda linked militants in Syria. Authorities said that three of the men were born in France and one in Morocco.² The domestic intelligence service said that three of the men had fought alongside Al-Nusra Front militants in Syria, while the fourth man served as the network's organizer. All four men were charged with conspiring to commit "terrorist acts".³

Russia

On November 27, Russian authorities arrested 15 armed militants in Moscow. Russian security forces raided an apartment in eastern Moscow and detained 15 people who they suspected to be members of the militant group, At-Takfir Wal-Hijra,⁴ which was banned in Russia in 2010. Founded in the 1960s in Egypt by Palestinian Shoukri Mostafa, the organization was responsible for carrying out targeted assassinations, including the assassination of a former government minister in 1977. The suspects' identities were not released to the public but police said that all of those detained were from Russia's southern provinces of Dagestan, Chechnya, Ingushetia and Kalmitiya, or from the neighboring countries of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.⁵ Authorities seized extremist literature in the suspects' apartment. Authorities did not release information about the motives of the group and did not say whether they had been planning any attacks.⁶

¹ Reuters, "France Arrests Four Suspected of Sending Militants to Syria", November 15, 2013

² AFP, "Four suspected Syria Jihadists arrested in France", November 15, 2013

³ New York Times, "France: 4 Said to Recruit for Syrian War", November 15, 2013

⁴ VOA, "Russian Authorities Arrest 15 Suspected Islamist Radicals", November 27, 2013

⁵ NBC News, "Russia raids: Bombs, suicide belts seized, suspected Islamist extremists arrested", November 27, 2013

⁶ ABC News, "Reports: Russia Arrests 15 Suspected Terrorists in Moscow", November 27, 2013

United Kingdom

On November 5, a bomb containing 60 kilograms of explosives partially exploded inside a car in Belfast city center, Northern Ireland. Authorities said that a masked gang hijacked a car at 21:30, placed a bomb on board and ordered the driver to drive to a shopping center in central Belfast. It exploded as army bomb experts prepared to examine the car, which was left at the entrance to the Victoria Square Shopping Center parking lot. According to authorities, many paramilitaries had been arrested in the past after being stopped while driving bombs into city and town centers across Northern Ireland and so, by forcing a third party to drive the vehicle, the group eliminated that risk. Even if the vehicle had been stopped en route to its target, no member of the group would have been deemed responsible and the driver would not have been able to identify the masked men who forced him to become a bomb carrier. Experts said that this tactic not only reduces the risk of capture, but it also protects those responsible for making and planting the device from the risk of early detonation as it is being transported to its intended target.⁷

Africa

Kenya

On November 4, a Kenyan court charged four Somali men with terrorist offenses for assisting Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militants carry out the Westgate Mall attack in September 2013. Three suspects were identified as Mohamed Ahmed Abdi, Liban Abdullah Omar and Hussein Hassan. A fourth suspect was identified as Adan Mohamed Ibrahim, although he was listed as using other aliases. The four suspects were charged with the "commission of a terrorist act" under Kenya's anti-terrorism laws.⁸ Other charges ranged from providing support and shelter to the gunmen, to using false documents. The suspects all pleaded not guilty at the hearing.⁹

⁷ BBC, "60kg car bomb partially explodes in Belfast city centre", November 5, 2013

⁸ AFP, "Four linked to Westgate mall attack appear in Kenyan court", November 4, 2013.

⁹ VOA, "Kenya Charges 4 in Mall Attack", November 4, 2013

Mali

On November 2, Claude Verlon and Ghislaine Dupont, two French journalists working for the French radio station RFI, were abducted and murdered in Kidal after interviewing a local political leader.¹⁰ Authorities said that their bodies were discovered outside the town several hours after the abduction. Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) claimed responsibility for the murders,¹¹ which came days after France celebrated the release of four hostages from Niger on October 30, 2013.¹²

Nigeria

On November 4, 70 people were killed in three separate attacks in northeastern Nigeria, according to authorities.¹³ In the first attack, gunmen fired on a convoy of people returning from a wedding party in Borno State, killing 30 people, including the groom. The military, however, said that only five people had been killed. In Borno's Gulumba village, gunmen riding on motorbikes and in a pickup truck fatally shot 27 people and wounded 12 others. It was also reported that 13 people were killed in a similar attack in nearby T-Junction village. Insurgents also set houses ablaze and stole motorbikes, cars, livestock and USD\$22,100.¹⁴ No group claimed responsibility for the attacks but authorities blamed Boko Haram.¹⁵

¹⁰ BBC, "Two French journalists killed in Mali town of Kidal", November 2, 2013

¹¹ AFP, "Al-Qa'ida claims murders of French journalists in Mali", November 7, 2013

¹² Reuters, "French hostages in West Africa", November 2, 2013.

¹³ BBC, "Militants Kill Dozens, Destroys Homes in Nigeria", November 6, 2013.

¹⁴ Reuters, "Militants kill 70 in northeast Nigeria attacks: officials", November 4, 2013

¹⁵ Reuters, "Militants attack Nigeria wedding convoy, kill 30: government", November 4, 2013.

Somalia

On November 8, six people were killed, including four policemen, and 15 others injured when a bomb exploded next to Hotel Maka in Mogadishu.¹⁶ The hotel is located on Maka Mukaramah Road, which links the presidential palace to the airport, one of the most heavily guarded areas of Mogadishu. It is popular with members of parliament and other officials.¹⁷ One report stated that a senior Somali diplomat was among the dead. Witnesses reported two explosions; a small device planted in a laptop computer exploded inside the hotel's reception area and seconds later, a car bomb detonated. Four cars and two motorbikes were damaged in the attack.¹⁸ Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack.¹⁹

On November 19, 22 people were killed and 17 others wounded when militants attacked a police station in Beledweyne. Witnesses said that a Toyota pickup truck attempted to pass through the gate of a police station but when it was blocked by African Union forces, the attackers detonated the explosives inside the vehicle. After the explosion, witnesses said that armed militants entered the police station and engaged in a shootout with the police. Authorities said that, in total, 11 police officers, seven civilians and 10 militants were killed in the attack. Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack.²⁰

¹⁶ Al-Jazeera, "Deadly explosion rocks Mogadishu hotel", November 11, 2013

¹⁷ BBC, "Mogadishu blast: 'Suicide attack' in Somali capital", November 8, 2013.

¹⁸ Reuters, "Suspected car bomb near Somali hotel kills at least six", November 8, 2013

¹⁹ Reuters, "Somali Islamists take responsibility for Mogadishu hotel bombing", November 9, 2013

²⁰ VOA, "22 Killed in al-Shabab Attack on Somali Police", November 19, 2013

Middle East

Bahrain

On November 23, Bahrain's Interior Ministry announced that two Gulf Arab citizens had been arrested on suspicion of plotting "terror" attacks against the Island Kingdom. The two Gulf nationals had attempted to enter Bahrain with forged passports through the King Fahd Causeway, which connects Bahrain to [Saudi Arabia](#). Authorities said that the militants had a significant sum of money in their possession,²¹ and that they were former detainees of the Guantanamo Bay Detention Center. However, officials did not elaborate on the nature of the planned attacks or the identities of the two people arrested.²²

Egypt

On November 17, Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Mabrouk, a senior-ranking Homeland Security officer, was assassinated outside his home in Nasr City by unknown masked gunmen. Authorities said Mabrouk was shot seven times in the chest and head.²³ Authorities said Mabrouk was in charge of monitoring Islamist groups, including the Muslim Brotherhood.²⁴ He was also a witness in a high profile case, known as the Wadi Al-Natrun case, in which former President Mohamed Morsi was accused of spying for Hamas.²⁵ On November 20, Ansar Beit Al-Maqdis claimed responsibility for Mabrouk's assassination saying that it was in retaliation for the arrests of women protesting the military takeover.²⁶ On November 23, Minister of Interior Mohamed Ibrahim made a statement to the media in which he announced that a "jihadist cell" led by Mohamed Fathi al-Shazli, was responsible for Mabrouk's assassination. The statement also said they arrested, Ahmed Ezzat Mohamed Shaaban, one of the cell members after engaging in a five-hour gunfight, in which three policemen were injured. Police forces found six machine guns, nine hand grenades, an RPG, two time-bombs and 100 kilograms of TNT in Shaaban's possession..²⁷

²¹ Reuters, "Bahrain says arrests two 'terror' suspects", November 23, 2013

²² AP, "Bahrain: two former Guantanamo inmates arrested", November 24, 2013

²³ Egypt Independent, "Homeland Security officer gunned down in Nasr City", November 18, 2013

²⁴ AP, "Egypt: Gunmen kill senior security officer", November 17, 2013

²⁵ Daily News, "Police forces arrest alleged 'terrorist' for involvement in Mabrouk assassination", November 30, 2013.

²⁶ Daily News, "Ansar Beit Al-Maqdis claims responsibility for officer assassination", November 20, 2013

²⁷ Egypt Independent, "Two detained over murder of police officer", November 22, 2013.

On November 20, 11 soldiers were killed and 27 injured when two suicide car bombers drove a Hyundai car packed with explosives into a convoy of four military buses, which were carrying off-duty soldiers traveling on the road between the border town of Rafah and the coastal city of el-Arish in the Sinai Peninsula, on their way to Cairo..²⁸ No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda linked militants.²⁹ On November 26, Egyptian security forces killed Mohamed Hussein Muhareb (aka Abu Mounir) in the Sinai Peninsula, after receiving an intelligence tip off about his whereabouts. Mounir, 62, was the leader of Takfir wil-Hijra and was associated with Ansar Beit al-Maqdis. During the operation, three other militants were killed and four were arrested. After an initial exchange of gunfire, in which at least two soldiers were injured, Mounir tried to escape with his son, Mansour, in their car. However, security forces pursued them across the desert for approximately five kilometers before arriving at another village, al-Mehediya, where the two men were cornered and fatally shot. Authorities said that Mounir had been personally sought in connection with the August 2013 ambush on a bus taking police recruits on leave, in which 25 recruits were killed.³⁰

Iraq

On November 13, 22 people were killed in a series of attacks that targeted security personnel in Iraq.³¹ The worst attack occurred in Tikrit, where a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle at a police checkpoint, killing 10 people, including two policemen. In Baqouba, three coordinated explosions struck a group of Shi'ites observing the annual mourning period known as Ashura, killing eight people and wounding 10 others. Another bomb, targeting police officers near the former insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, killed four people. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda in Iraq.³²

On November 20, at least 60 people were killed and dozens more injured in a series of bombings and shootings. The majority of attacks occurred in Baghdad, where eight car bombs and two

²⁸ New York Times, "Egyptian Soldiers Killed in Sinai Attack", November 20, 2013

²⁹ AP, "Egypt suicide bomber kills 11 soldiers in northern Sinai", November 20, 2013.

³⁰ Telegraph, "Egypt army kills Sinai's most wanted jihadist", November 26, 2013

³¹ BBC, "Shia pilgrims and police killed in bomb attacks", November 13, 2013

³² VOA, "Bombs Targeting Shi'ites Kill 22 in Iraq", November 13, 2013

roadside bombs detonated in mostly Shi'ite areas.³³ The deadliest attack was in the central Sadriya district, where a car bomb was detonated at a crowded market. Bombs exploded at around the same time on busy streets in the Shaab, Tobchi, Karrada, Azamiya and Amil districts. Several hours later, three bombs exploded in Baghdad's western Amiriya district, killing seven people and wounding 18 others. The son of a police officer was also killed in Baghdad when a bomb attached to his car exploded. A suicide bomber detonated his explosive belt at a police checkpoint in Taji, killing four police officers and wounding eight others. Two people were also killed in the northern city of Mosul in roadside explosions.³⁴

On November 27, a series of shootings and bombings killed 37 people across Iraq. Officers found eight corpses dumped in farmland in the Arab Jabour district. Authorities said the slain men, all in their 30s, had their hands and legs tied and suffered gunshot wounds to their heads and chests. In other attacks, gunmen armed with silencer-fitted pistols broke into the house of a Sunni family in northern Baghdad and shot the family members. A bomb exploded in a commercial district of Baghdad's southern Dora neighborhood, killing two civilians and wounding five others. Three mortar rounds killed two people and wounded five others in Baghdad. Gunmen also killed a civilian and wounded three others when they opened fire on a crowd in the southeastern Bayaa neighborhood. A suicide car bomber detonated explosives in the town of Khanaqin, killing three people and wounding 12 others. In another attack, a suicide bomber set off his explosives-laden belt at the gate of a police station in Habbaniyah while a second suicide bomber entered the building and detonated his explosive belt, killing five police officers and wounding eight others. Militants also fired two mortar rounds on a police station outside the city of Ramadi, which was then attacked by gunmen and a suicide bomber on foot. Four officers were killed in the attack and 12 others were wounded, and police killed two of the gunmen. Authorities also said that two school teachers were killed in a drive-by shooting in the town of Hadra.³⁵ No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda in Iraq militants.³⁶

Israel and the West Bank

³³ BBC, "Iraq car bombing kills dozens north of Baghdad", November 21, 2013

³⁴ Reuters, "Car bomb in northern Iraq kills 25", November 21, 2013

³⁵ AFP, "Iraq attacks kill 24; corpses shot in head found", November 21, 2013

³⁶ BBC, "Iraq violence: Shootings and bombings leave 33 dead", November 27, 2013

On November 8, Palestinian militants threw a firebomb at a car driving near the West Bank settlement of Tekoa. The moving vehicle caught fire, and the mother and daughter who were in the car at the time of the attack were lightly wounded. The incident marked the third suspected terror-related event in 24 hours.³⁷ The incident occurred just hours after troops opened fire at a Palestinian who shot an improvised weapon at Israelis standing at a bus stop in Tapuach Junction in the West Bank. The IDF announced that the shooter had been killed at the scene. Police sappers searched the body for explosives. No Israelis were hurt in the incident.³⁸

On November 8, Israeli security forces closed two offices in East Jerusalem after receiving information that the offices served as a base for Hamas operations in Jerusalem. Israeli Security Agency (Shin Bet) said the offices belonged to Al-Quds Development and Amara al-Aqsa (Al-Aqsa Properties), two charities based in the northern Israeli cities of Umm al-Fahm and Nazareth.³⁹ Israeli authorities also said they investigated the Nazareth offices of Amara al-Aqsa. The Israeli Security Agency (Shin Bet) said the Al-Quds Development office was first closed in 2010 "after it emerged that they served as an executive arm" for Hamas in Jerusalem. It reopened in 2012 after the police closure order expired, at which point the Shin Bet began to re-evaluate the organization's activities.⁴⁰

On November 11, IDF Private Eden Atias was fatally stabbed at the Afula central bus station by an Arab assailant, identified as Hussein Jawadra, age 16.⁴¹ Israeli authorities said that Jawadra approached the sleeping soldier from behind, placed his hand on Atias's mouth to keep him from yelling for help and slit his throat. Witnesses said that Atias tried to fight his assailant but his injuries were too severe.⁴² He was treated at Haemek Medical Center but died of his wounds. Atias had enlisted in the army just two weeks prior to the attack. Passengers managed to apprehend Jawadra and turned him over to security guards. Jawadra was residing in Israel illegally.⁴³ On December 12, the military prosecution filed an indictment against Jawadra, claiming that he had planned to murder an IDF soldier since 2012. He was charged with six different counts of first

³⁷ Ynet, "String of West Bank incidents: Couple hurt by firebomb", November 9, 2013

³⁸ TOI, "Couple in West Bank hurt in firebomb attack", November 9, 2013

³⁹ AFP, "Israel closes alleged Hamas offices in Jerusalem", November 7, 2013

⁴⁰ Haaretz, "Security forces close two Jerusalem charities, linking them to Hamas", November 8, 2013.

⁴¹ Ynet, "Soldier killed in Afula stabbing attack", November 11, 2013

⁴² Israel Hayom, "Palestinian teen indicted for soldier's murder", December 13, 2013

⁴³ Ynet, "Soldier killed in Afula stabbing attack", November 11, 2013

degree murder. Authorities believe that his motivation was to ‘avenge’ family members jailed by Israel for terrorist activities. Jawadra's two cousins are both held in Israel. One of them was sentenced to three life sentences for the murder of two Israelis and for several counts of attempted murder. The other was jailed for 12 years for attempted murder. According to the indictment, Jawadra had entered Israel illegally two weeks earlier, carrying with him the knife that he used in the attack.⁴⁴

On November 18, Israeli authorities admitted that they had secretly detained Samar Halmi Abdel Latif al-Barq, a suspected Al-Qaeda biological weapons expert, since July 2010 when he was arrested as he crossed the Allenby Bridge from Jordan into Israel. Despite al-Barq’s appeal to the Supreme Court to be released, the court denied his request and Israeli military prosecutors requested that the Supreme Court extend his administrative detention by six months. Israeli military prosecutors said the lengthy detention was justified given the danger al-Barq poses to regional security.⁴⁵ Israeli authorities had made several attempts to deport him to other Arab countries but were unsuccessful. Al-Barq was born in 1974 and traveled to Pakistan in 1997 to learn microbiology. According to court documents, he underwent military training in 1998 and was recruited to Al-Qaeda by Ayman al-Zawahiri in 2001.⁴⁶ Al-Barq was allegedly involved in planning attacks on Jews and Israelis in Jordan and had also planned to teach Palestinian terrorists how to manufacture poisons. In 2003, Al-Barq was arrested by US authorities in Pakistan for terrorist activities and questioned for three months before being released to Jordan, where he was promptly imprisoned for five years. Following his release, he spent another two years in Jordan before attempting to enter Israel.⁴⁷

On November 25, the Jerusalem District Attorney's Office filed an indictment against Maged Juaba (Jouba), 33, for allegedly funding families of imprisoned Hamas terror operatives. He was charged with membership in a terrorist organization and raising funds for terrorist purposes.⁴⁸ According to the indictment, Jouba was recruited to Hamas in 2004 and operated out of [Gaza](#), using his Israeli

⁴⁴ Jerusalem post, “Thousands of mourners attend funeral of slain IDF soldier”, November 14, 2013

⁴⁵ Times of Israel, “Court denies al-Qaeda suspect’s request to go free”, November 19, 2013

⁴⁶ International Business Times, “Israel Detains Al Qaeda-Linked Biological Weapons Expert Without Trial For 3 Years; Claims He Poses Danger To Region And Because No Arab Country Is Willing To Accept Him”, November 18, 2013

⁴⁷ Reuters, “Israel secretly holding suspected Qaeda man over three years”, November 18, 2013

⁴⁸ Jpost, “ Court indicts east Jerusalem man for raising funds for Hamas”, November 25, 2013

citizenship to distribute compensation to security detainees serving time in Israeli prisons. The indictment identified Jouba's handler as Bassem Abu Sanina, a known Hamas militant who received a life sentence in 2000 for the stabbing of Haim Carmen in 1998. He was released in the Gilad [Shalit](#) prisoner deal and has been working to transfer tens of thousands of shekels to prisoners, using Juaba as his representative in Israel. Under Sanina's orders, Juaba transferred USD\$4,213 to the wife of Khaled Agarbiya, an Umm al-Fahm resident serving a five year sentence for a number of offenses, including aiding the enemy during wartime and transferring intelligence to the enemy. Jouba also transferred USD\$1,800 to the wife of Ayman Salhab, who is serving a seven-year sentence for security offences.⁴⁹

Lebanon

On November 19, a double suicide bombing targeted the Iranian embassy in Beirut, killing 23 people and injuring at least 160 others. Among the victims were five security guards and the cultural attaché, Ebrahim Ansari.⁵⁰ Security camera footage showed a man wearing an explosives belt approaching the outer wall of the embassy before detonating his explosives. Several seconds later, a car bomb parked two buildings away from the compound detonated. Six buildings in the surrounding area were damaged and the embassy gates were destroyed, but the explosion caused only minor damage to the embassy building itself.⁵¹ The Abdullah Azzam Brigades claimed responsibility for the bombings, according to a statement posted on the social media site, Twitter.⁵²

Syria

On November 6, a car bomb exploded at a checkpoint near the regional Air Force Intelligence headquarters in Suweida, killing eight security personnel and wounding 41 others. Militants then

⁴⁹ Ynet, " Murderer released in Shalit exchange in charge of detainee compensation", November 25, 2013

⁵⁰ Al-Jazeera "[Devastating blasts hit Iran embassy in Beirut](#)", November 19, 2013

⁵¹ BBC, "Lebanon blasts hit Iran's embassy in Beirut", November 19, 2013

⁵² Long War Journal, "Abdullah Azzam Brigades claims credit for attack on Iranian embassy", 19 November 2013

attempted to storm the building and clashes erupted, in which several militants were killed.⁵³ In a separate incident, an improvised device exploded near the offices of a railway company in Hejaz Square, Damascus, killing eight people and wounding 50 others. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda linked militants.⁵⁴

North America

United States

On November 5, a federal grand jury in Raleigh, North Carolina, charged Basit Javed Sheikh, 29, with attempting to provide material support and resources to a foreign terrorist organization in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2339B. He was arrested on November 2. He had allegedly told an FBI informant in early September 2013 that he was planning to join the Al-Nusra Front in Syria,⁵⁵ and that he had purchased a one-way ticket to Turkey, from where he then hoped to travel to Syria. According to the affidavit, Sheikh changed his mind at the last minute for fear of leaving his parents. If convicted, Sheikh could be sentenced to up to 15 years in prison and fined USD\$250,000.⁵⁶

Asia

Afghanistan

On November 14, three bombs exploded in rapid succession in southern Helmand Province, injuring

⁵³ Reuters, "Bombings in Damascus, southern Syrian city kill 16", November 6, 2013.

⁵⁴ BBC, "Syria conflict: Damascus and Suweida hit by deadly blast", November 6, 2013.

⁵⁵ FBI, "Individual Charged with Attempt to Provide Material Support to a Foreign Terrorist Organization", November 12, 2013

⁵⁶ AP, "North Carolina man busted after allegedly trying to join Al Qaeda-linked group in Syria", November 12, 2013.

five people. The explosions occurred near a bus station in the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah. There were relatively few casualties as the attack occurred after sunset when few people travel due to the risk of attacks by insurgents and criminal gangs. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.⁵⁷

On November 16, 10 people were killed and 20 others injured in a suicide bombing in Kabul. According to police, the attacker crashed a vehicle filled with explosives into an Afghan army vehicle after soldiers identified it as a threat and opened fire.⁵⁸ The bomber detonated the explosives at approximately 15:00 local time, at a distance of approximately 100 meters from a large tent where Afghan tribal elders and civil leaders were due to meet for a national assembly, known as Loya Jirga.⁵⁹ The Afghan Interior Ministry said that security forces had identified the attacker and pursued him shortly before the explosion. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.⁶⁰

On November 21, a suicide bomber exploded at a hotel restaurant in Kandahar, killing four people and injuring 20 others. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed the Taliban.⁶¹

Azerbaijan

On November 25, an Azerbaijan court sentenced three members of an Al-Qaeda linked cell to life in

⁵⁷ AP, "Official: 3 bombs explode in succession at bus station in southern Afghanistan, injuring 5", 14 November, 2013.

⁵⁸ BBC, "Afghanistan attack: Suicide bombing near Kabul compound", November 16, 2013.

⁵⁹ AFP, "Deadly warning? Blast hits near site of Kabul's key talks on US-Afghan security pact", November 16, 2013

⁶⁰ BBC, "Afghanistan attack: Suicide bombing near Kabul compound", November 16, 2013.

⁶¹ UPI, "Four dead in Kandahar hotel bomb blast", November 21, 2013

prison and 26 others to shorter jail terms. They were arrested in April 2012 and convicted of plotting attacks on President Ilham Aliyev and other targets, including police, hotels and government buildings. The cell was planning to attack the concert hall where Eurovision was being held. Watched by more than 100 million people worldwide, Eurovision is the biggest cultural event staged in Azerbaijan since its independence from the [Soviet Union](#) in 1991.⁶² Authorities said that the group's alleged leader, identified as Azeri citizen Vugar Padarov, was killed when he resisted arrest.⁶³

China

On November 6, a series of small explosions killed one person and injured eight others outside a provincial office of the ruling Communist Party in Shanxi province. According to authorities, the bombs were homemade devices that contained ball bearings to maximize their impact.⁶⁴ On November 8, authorities arrested a suspect in Shanxi province.⁶⁵ Police said they found evidence, including explosives, at his home. Authorities said the suspect was known to the authorities and had previously served a nine-year jail sentence for theft.⁶⁶

Indonesia

On November 21, a man identified only as YY, was arrested at a house in Cipinang, East Jakarta. Authorities believe that YY and five accomplices, who remained at large, were involved in an attack on two patrolling police officers in a commercial area of Bekasi on May 25, 2012.⁶⁷

Malaysia

⁶² AFP, "Azerbaijan jails 29 over Eurovision plot", November 25, 2013

⁶³ Reuters, "Azerbaijan jails 29 people for plotting Islamist attacks", 25 November 2013.

⁶⁴ Reuters, "Explosions kill 1, injure 8 in north China city: reports", November 6, 2013.

⁶⁵ BBC, "China Shanxi blast: Police arrest one suspect", November 8, 2013

⁶⁶ BBC, "Blasts at China regional Communist Party office kill one", November 6, 2013

⁶⁷ Jakarta Post, "Police arrest suspect in 2012 terror attack", November 27, 2013.

On November 15, a Taiwanese tourist was killed and his wife, Chang An Wei, 58, was kidnapped on Pom Island, in Sabah. The couple was holidaying at a secluded resort when gunmen attacked.⁶⁸ She was released on December 20, in a remote village outside Talipao Township on Jolo Island, Philippines. It was unclear if a ransom had been paid.⁶⁹ No group claimed responsibility for the incident but authorities suspect that Wei was handed over to Abu Sayyaf militants in Sulu, near Malaysia. The identities of the kidnappers were unknown.⁷⁰

Pakistan

On November 1, a suspected US drone attack killed Hakimullah Mehsud, leader of the Pakistani Taliban, as he was leaving a meeting at a mosque in the Dande Darpa Khel area of North Waziristan. According to reports, five other Taliban militants were also killed, including Mehsud's cousin, uncle and one of his guards, and two others were wounded in the attack. On November 2, the Pakistani Taliban named Khan Sayed Sajna as their new leader after a secret meeting of their ruling council.⁷¹ Authorities claimed that Sajna, 36, was involved in the attack on a naval base in Karachi in May 2011 and served as the masterminded behind the 2012 jailbreak in which the Taliban freed 400 inmates in the northwestern city of Bannu.⁷²

Philippines

On November 13, government forces foiled an ambush by approximately 20 rebels belonging to the New People's Army on a military and Red Cross convoy making its way to aid typhoon Yolanda victims in Samar and Leyte. According to authorities, two of the attackers were killed and one was injured, but there were no civilian or military casualties.⁷³

⁶⁸ AP, "Taiwanese tourist kidnapped in Malaysia in November released in southern Philippines", December 20, 2013

⁶⁹ Al-Jazeera, "Kidnapped Taiwanese found in Philippines", November 15, 2013.

⁷⁰ Straits Times, "Kidnapped Taiwanese tourist rescued by Philippines security forces", December 20, 2013

⁷¹ DAWN, "Pakistani Taliban meeting chooses Khan Said 'Sajna' as new chief", November 2, 2013.

⁷² Guardian, "Pakistan on high alert after Taliban leader killed by US drone strike", November 2, 2013.

⁷³ Manila Standard News, "Army repels attack on relief convoy", November 13, 2013

ABOUT THE ICT

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

ABOUT ICT INCIDENT AND ACTIVISTS DATABASE

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

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

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

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