



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



International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT)

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Highlights

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

- A team of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen gunmen attacked the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi, Kenya, killing 68 people and wounding 200 others. The attackers held hostages and engaged in gun battles with Kenyan security forces. Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack.
- Ten people were injured when a bomb exploded in Cairo, Egypt, targeting the convoy of Egypt's interim Interior Minister Mohamed Ibrahim. Egyptian officials said Ibrahim escaped unhurt. Ansar Bayt Al-Maqdis, a militant group based in the Sinai Peninsula, claimed responsibility for the attack.
- A coordinated suicide and car bomb attack on security services headquarters killed six people and wounded 36 others in Irbil, Iraq. This was the first time a suicide attack had occurred in the city since 2007.
- Three attacks targeted Peshawar, Pakistan. In the first attack, twin suicide bombers killed 81 people and injured 120 others, many of them children, outside the All Saints Church in the old quarter of the city. Jundallah claimed responsibility for the attack. In the second incident, a bomb exploded in a bus carrying government employees, killing 19 people and wounding 46 others. The attack took place as the bus was traveling through the outskirts of Peshawar. In the third attack, a car bomb exploded on a crowded street in Peshawar's oldest bazaar, killing 40 people and wounding 90 others. No group claimed responsibility for the second or third attacks.
- Two suspected Ansar Al-Sharia militants were killed and two others, Mohammed al-Awadi and Mohamed Aouadiare, both senior leaders of the group, were arrested on the outskirts of Tunis, Tunisia.
- A Hamas plot to bomb the Mamilla open air shopping mall in Jerusalem, Israel during the Jewish High Holidays was foiled by Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet). Ahmad Rishak, 23, and Ismail Abu Mfalfal, 27, were charged with conspiracy to aid the enemy during wartime and the attempted manufacture of a weapon. Hamdi Romana, 22, was also arrested for accused of recruiting the two and masterminding the plot.
- Nedal Amar, 42, a Palestinian West Bank resident lured Israeli Air Force Sergeant Tomer Hazan, 20, to a deserted spot near Qalqiliya, West Bank, and murdering him using a blunt weapon. He then hid the body in a well. The suspect, who was detained by police, admitted committing the murder, reportedly to secure the release of his brother, who had been imprisoned in Israel for his role in a 2003 suicide bombing.

- Lawal Babafemi, 33, a suspected Nigerian terrorist, pleaded not guilty to charges in a US court that he was paid nearly \$9,000 between January 2010 and February 2011 to recruit militants and improve training campaigns for Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

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Europe

France

On 30 September, eight militants were convicted of criminal conspiracy in a Paris court for their efforts to join international jihadist movements. The militants' "ringleader", identified as Indian national Mohammad Niaz Abdul Raseed, was convicted of financing terrorism and sentenced to eight years in prison. He was arrested at Charles de Gaulle Airport near Paris in 2011, on suspicion of running terrorist recruitment cells in France.¹ Raseed has been under detention since his arrest. Nearly all of the evidence produced in the court was culled through Internet surveillance, conducted by French authorities,² who claimed that Raseed's exchanges over the Internet, including on Facebook, had led to his arrest.³ The other militants, who were recruited by Raseed, were sentenced to between 18 months and five years. Two of them, Charaf-Din Aberouz and Zohab Ifzal, reportedly received terrorist training in Pakistan, while the others were planning but had yet to.⁴ Aberouz and Ifzal, both French nationals, were arrested in Lahore in 2010, where they were held for four months before being deported to France. Authorities said their arrest led to the arrest of Tehrik-i-Taliban militant Tahir Shehzad, which in turn led to the arrest of Umar Patek in Abbottabad, Pakistan.⁵

Russia

On 16 September, three police officers were killed and six others were injured when a suicide attacker detonated a powerful bomb outside a police station in Sernovodsk, Chechnya. Authorities said the bomb, which contained 60 kilos TNT, created a crater measuring one meter deep and three meters wide. Authorities believe the bomber was sent by a gang led by Beslan Makhauri.⁶ According to a regional Interior Ministry official, the attacker attempted to drive at high speed into a police station, but was brought to a halt when a guard raised ground barriers, at which point the bomber detonated his explosives.⁷ In a related incident several hours later, police in Ingush Republic detained a man armed with an assault rifle and wearing a suicide vest made from an anti-personnel mine. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.⁸

¹ Hindustan Times, "Indian trainee jihadi faces trial in France", 12 September 2013.

² Hindustan Times, "Paris terror court sentences Indian jihadi to 8 years in jail", 1 October 2013.

³ Hindustan Times, "Indian trainee jihadi faces trial in France", 12 September 2013.

⁴ AP, "Paris court convicts 8 in terrorism case", 30 September 2013.

⁵ Rediff.com, "Lone wolf Indian jihadi planned terror strikes in France", 1 October 2013.

⁶ Voice of Russia, "Three police killed by Chechnya car bomb", 16 September 2013.

⁷ AFP, "Suicide bomber kills three in Russia's Chechnya", 17 September 2013.

⁸ RTN, "3 police dead, 6 wounded in suicide bombing, attempted attacks in Russia's south", 16 September 2013.

On 23 September, two police officers were killed and 20 others were injured when a suicide car bomber detonated a bomb his explosives near the door to the passport department at police headquarters in Khuchni, Dagestan.⁹ Authorities said the bomb contained 50kg of TNT.¹⁰ According to Russia's Investigative Committee, nine police vehicles were damaged in the attack, for which no group took responsibility.¹¹

United Kingdom

On 16 September, brothers Mohommod Hassin Nawaz, 29, and Hamza Nawaz, 22, were arrested when they arrived at the port of Dover from Calais, France, when Kent police¹² discovered five rounds of rifle ammunition, a balaclava, heavy-duty clothing, six mobile phones, and a Sim card inside a copy of the Qur'an during a routine search of their car.¹³ On 22 September, the men were arraigned in Westminster Magistrates court for conspiring to attend terrorist training and for possessing rifle ammunition.¹⁴ Mohommod Hassin Nawaz was also accused of possessing information useful to terrorists, including four copies of the English-language Al-Qaeda magazine *Inspire*.¹⁵ It was alleged that the brothers drove from their home in East London to Calais, and subsequently flew from Lyon to Turkey. From there, it was claimed, they travelled to Syria. The suspects face a court hearing at the Old Bailey on 21 October 2013.¹⁶

Africa

Ceuta

On 16 September, Fugitive Yassin Ahmed Laarbi was arrested and charged with heading a terrorist recruitment network that sent militants, some of them minors, from Ceuta and Morocco to Syria, where they are to carry out attacks on behalf of Al-Qaeda-linked militants.¹⁷ On 21 June 2013, eight of Laarbi's suspected colleagues were detained in Ceuta, but Laarbi himself managed to escape arrest.¹⁸ Laarbi and his colleagues apparently had ties to the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria, and to the Islamic State of Iraq, Al-Qaeda's branch in Iraq. Spanish authorities also believe that the men,

⁹ Reuters, "Suicide bomber in Russia's North Caucasus kills two, injures 20", 23 September 2013.

¹⁰ AFP, "Two killed in suicide attack in Russia's Caucasus", 23 September 2013.

¹¹ Ria Novosti, "2 Police Killed, 16 People Injured by Suicide Bomb in Russia's Dagestan" 23 September 2013.

¹² Dover Express, "Port of Dover terror update: Brothers in court today", 23 September 2013.

¹³ BBC, "Two in court on Syria terrorism camp charge", 22 September 2013.

¹⁴ Guardian, "Nawaz brothers in court accused of travelling to Syria terrorist camp", 23 September 2013.

¹⁵ Sky News, "Terrorism Charges After Two Stopped At Dover", 22 September 2013.

¹⁶ Guardian, "Nawaz brothers in court accused of travelling to Syria terrorist camp", 23 September 2013.

¹⁷ Reuters, "Spain arrests Ceuta man accused of sending fighters to Syria", 16 September 2013.

¹⁸ AP, "Spain arrests suspected terror recruitment chief", 16 September 2013.

who allegedly trained and financed militants at bases in Ceuta and in neighboring Morocco, were planning attacks in Spain. According to the Spanish Interior Ministry, some of Laarbi's recruits had taken part in suicide bombings in Syria.¹⁹

Kenya

On 21 September, 68 people were killed and 200 were others injured when a team of four armed militants stormed the upscale Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi. The multi-storey mall, which was part-owned by an Israeli businessman, housed restaurants, cafes, banks, a large supermarket and a cinema and was popular with expatriates and wealthy Kenyans.²⁰ The Kenyan government had reportedly received intelligence warnings, including from Israel, prior to the attack.²¹ At least 18 foreigners were among the dead, six of them Britons and the remainder citizens of France, Canada, The Netherlands, Australia, Peru, India, Ghana, South Africa and China.²² Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen took responsibility for the attack, and claimed that it was in retaliation for Kenyan military operations in Somalia.²³ Kenyan authorities identified the four militants as Abu Baara al-Sudani, Omar Nabhan, Khattab al-Kene, and Umayr, and stated that all four were killed in the attack.²⁴

The attack began at midday on 21 September, when two squads of gunmen stormed the mall on different floors, opening fire and throwing hand grenades. The attackers shot anyone who tried to escape, including woman and children. According to witnesses, the attackers allowed Muslims to leave but stated that non-Muslims would be targeted. To distinguish the Muslims from the non-Muslims, the attackers reportedly asked people to name the mother of the Prophet Muhammad and to recite the shahadah [the Muslim creed].²⁵ Witnesses reported that hostages were held in the mall's cinema and casino. Approximately one hour into the attack, security forces entered the mall and engaged the militants in a gun battle. At around 15:00, Kenya Defense Forces (KDF) troops entered the mall to confront the militants. Gunfire and explosions continued overnight. On 22 September at 18:45, two Kenyan military helicopters landed on the roof of the mall in an apparent attempt to take control of it from the militants. A large explosion was observed, and security forces launched a renewed assault. The mall sustained major

¹⁹ Wall Street Journal, "Suspected Recruiter of Jihadists Arrested in Spain", 16 September 2013.

²⁰ BBC

²¹ AFP, "Report: Israel warned Kenya of Nairobi attack", 28 September 2013.

²² AP, "Kenyan mall attack killed dozens from around the world", 24 September 2013

²³ The Nation, "Al-Shabaab claims responsibility for Westgate Mall attack", 21 September 2013

²⁴ BBC, "Nairobi siege: How the attack happened", 18 October 2013. BBC, "Nairobi attack: Kenya forces comb Westgate site", 24 September 2013.

²⁵ Independent, "Kenya shopping mall attack latest: Military takes control of shopping centre and says all hostages freed", 24 September 2013.

damage, including when one floor collapsed and when fire broke out in part of the building. By 30 September, authorities said they had arrested 12 people in connection with the attack. Interior Minister Joseph Ole Lenku said during a press conference, that three people who were arrested earlier were freed due to lack of evidence. He also said authorities had identified a car used by the gunmen and found it contained a stash of weapons.²⁶

Mali

On 16 September, AQIM released a new video showing seven kidnapped Westerners, four of them Frenchmen who at the time of their abduction had been working for the French nuclear concern Areva, and for Sogea-Sotem, a subsidiary of the Vinci Construction Group in Arlit, Niger. The video marked three years since the kidnapping.²⁷ The seven hostages, who had grown beards and were wearing traditional Tuareg costumes, appeared to be in good health. They called on their respective governments to negotiate for their release, lest they be executed.²⁸

On 28 September, four suicide bombers detonated their explosive belts at an army barracks in northern Mali, killing two people and wounding six others.²⁹ On 30 September, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) took responsibility for the attack, which came less than a week after AQIM had appointed Algerian national Said Abou Moughatil to replace slain commander of the Tariq Ibn Ziyad Battalion, Abdelhamid Abou Zeid. Abou Zeid is credited with having expanded AQIM's operations to Tunisia and Niger, and for kidnapping activities across the region.³⁰

Nigeria

On 29 September, at 01:00, alleged Boko Haram gunmen attacked a college in rural Gujba, Yobe State, killing 50 students and setting the college alight.³¹ The students were shot dead as they slept in their dormitory at the College of Agriculture.³² Apparently the militants drove into the college in two double-cabin all-terrain vehicles and on motorcycles, some dressed in Nigerian military camouflage uniforms. The attack was well-planned, and the attackers knew the layout of the college. They attacked the four

²⁶ AFP, "Kenya makes 12th arrest for Nairobi mall attack", 30 September 2013.

²⁷ AFP, "AQIM releases video of foreign hostages", 16 September 2013.

²⁸ Reuters, "Islamists in Sahara issue video of foreign hostages", 16 September 2013.

²⁹ AFP, "Suicide bombers kill Malian civilians in upsurge in violence", 28 September 2013.

³⁰ Magharebia, "AQIM claims Mali suicide attack", 1 October 2013.

³¹ AP, "Islamic terrorists kill at least 40 students in attack on Nigerian college", 29 September 2013

³² BBC, "Nigeria attack: Students shot dead as they slept", 29 September 2013.

male dormitories but avoided the one dormitory for women.³³ No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but authorities blamed Boko Haram.³⁴

Somalia

On 7 September, two coordinated bombs exploded at The Village, a popular restaurant in Mogadishu, killing 30 people and injuring 50 others.³⁵ According to authorities, a car bomb exploded in the parking lot outside The Village, a restaurant frequented by journalists and civil servants. Minutes later, a second bomb detonated on the other side of the restaurant.³⁶ The restaurant and its owner and chef, Ahmed Jama, were recently profiled in *The New Yorker* magazine.³⁷ Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen tweeted its responsibility for the attack via Twitter.³⁸

Tunisia

On 9 September, two suspected Ansar Al-Sharia militants were killed and two others, Mohammed al-Awadi and Mohamed Aouadiare, both senior leaders of the group, were arrested on the outskirts of Tunis.³⁹ The killings and arrests were part of a larger-scale anti-terrorism operation in a northern suburb of Tunis.⁴⁰ According to authorities, the militants were involved in the transfer of weapons from Libya to Tunisia,⁴¹ and al-Awadi and Aouadiare were involved in the assassination of opposition legislators Chokri Belaid and Mohamed Brahmi. Of the two militants killed, only one – Adel Saidi – was identified.⁴²

³³ AP, "Islamic terrorists kill at least 40 students in attack on Nigerian college", 29 September 2013

³⁴ Globe and Mail, "Boko Haram blamed after attack on Nigerian college leaves as many as 50 dead", 29 September 2013.

³⁵ All Africa.com, "Somalia: Al-Shabaab Claims Responsibility for Mogadishu Restaurant Attack That Kills 30", 8 September 2013.

³⁶ AP, "15 killed in Mogadishu restaurant bombing", 7 September 2013

³⁷ Xan Rice, "Letter from Somalia: Now Serving", *The New Yorker*, 30 September 2013, http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2013/09/30/130930fa_fact_rice

³⁸ BBC, "Somalia's Al-Shabab says it bombed Mogadishu eatery", 7 September 2013

³⁹ BBC, "Tunisia arrests suspected Ansar al-Sharia militants", 9 September 2013

⁴⁰ Magharebia, "Tunisia cracks down on terrorists", 10 September 2013

⁴¹ AFP, "Two jihadists killed, two held in Tunis sweep: ministry", 9 September 2013.

⁴² Al-Jazeera, "Tunisia 'fighters killed' in security sweep ", 9 September 2013.

Middle East

Egypt

On 1 September, the Egyptian military reported foiling an attack on a container ship, which was meant to disrupt shipping in the Suez Canal⁴³ – a key global shipping route. Neither the ship nor its cargo were damaged.⁴⁴

On 3 September, 15 militants were killed by rocket fire as army helicopters attacked militant strongholds in the Sinai Peninsula. According to witnesses, four Apache helicopters took part in the operation, firing approximately 15 missiles, primarily on three houses in Al-Muqataa and Touma.⁴⁵ Authorities said the strikes also targeted a weapons depot.⁴⁶

On 5 September, 10 people were injured when a booby-trapped car swerved into the convoy of Egypt's interim Interior Minister Mohamed Ibrahim in Cairo. According to Egyptian officials, Ibrahim escaped unhurt.⁴⁷ Security officials added that the police had killed two attackers who had been trying to assassinate the interior minister, without giving further details.⁴⁸ Ansar Bayt Al-Maqdis, a militant group based in the Sinai Peninsula, took responsibility for the attack.⁴⁹ The group had previously only carried out attacks in the Sinai or against Israel. According to authorities, this attack in central Cairo was Egypt's first suicide bombing.⁵⁰

On 7 September, the Egyptian army mounted a large-scale operation against militants near Sheikh Zuweid in the northern Sinai Peninsula, killing or wounding 31 militants and detaining an additional 15 militants.⁵¹ According to eyewitnesses, that tanks and troops, supported by Apache helicopters, struck the militants in towns along the border with the Gaza Strip border. The operation was the largest of its kind in recent years in the Sinai.⁵²

⁴³ BBC, "Egypt attack on Suez Canal ship 'foiled', 1 September 2013.

⁴⁴ Al-Jazeera, "Ship attack foiled in Suez Canal", 1 September 2013.

⁴⁵ AFP, "Egypt air strikes in Sinai kill 8 militants: Security", 3 September 2013.

⁴⁶ Voice of Russia, "Egypt air strikes in Sinai kill 8 militants – security", 3 September 2013

⁴⁷ BBC, "Egypt's Minister Mohammed Ibrahim survives bomb attack", 5 September 2013.

⁴⁸ Reuters, "Egypt minister warns of terrorism wave after assassination attempt", 5 September 2013.

⁴⁹ New York Times, "Suicide bombers killed at least six soldiers in two separate attacks", 11 September 2013.

⁵⁰ AP, "Egypt terror group from Sinai claims suicide attack on Interior Minister", 9 September 2013.

⁵¹ Jerusalem post, "At least 31 killed, injured as Egypt launches operation against Sinai militants", 7 September 2013.

⁵² BBC, "Egypt army launches offensive against Sinai militants", 7 September 2013.

On 11 September, nine soldiers were killed and 17 people (10 of them soldiers) were injured in a double suicide bomb attack outside military intelligence headquarters in Rafah and at a nearby checkpoint. According to authorities, the first suicide bomber drove a car at high speed into the two-storey military intelligence headquarters in the Imam Ali area of Rafah. The explosion also damaged nearby buildings. Shortly afterwards, another suicide car bomber targeted an armored personnel carrier deployed at an army checkpoint not far from the intelligence headquarters. The remains of both suicide bombers were recovered.⁵³ It was also reported that militants fired rocket-propelled grenades.⁵⁴ Ansar Bayt Al-Maqdis) and Jund Al-Islam⁵⁵ claimed responsibility for the attack.⁵⁶

On 20 September, the Egyptian Ministry of Interior announced that security forces had arrested 68 militants and seized 11 hand grenades, five stun grenades and a large number of bullets in Kerdasa and Nahiya villages the previous day.⁵⁷ The security operation was carried out by 200 Special Forces personnel and 40 Central Security Forces (riot police) personnel, as well as soldiers. According to witnesses, the security forces were targeting the homes of several local Muslim Brotherhood leaders.⁵⁸

On 30 September, unidentified gunmen killed three Egyptian policemen and one soldier and wounded a 14-year-old girl at the post office in El-Arish, in the northern Sinai Peninsula. The gunmen also killed a civilian in the nearby town of Sheikh Zuwaid.⁵⁹ In addition, two roadside bombs that were meant to target army vehicles exploded on the main road to El-Arish; there were no casualties. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks.⁶⁰

Iraq

On 3 September, series of coordinated explosions in 11 neighborhoods of Baghdad killed 67 people and wounded 100 others.⁶¹ The worst attack occurred when two car bombs exploded near restaurants and shops in Baghdad's northeastern suburb of Husseinayah,

⁵³ AP, "Suicide bombs hit Egypt military in Sinai, kill 9 soldiers", 11 September 2013.

⁵⁴ BBC, "Suicide bomb attacks in Egypt's Sinai kill six", 11 September 2013.

⁵⁵ Long War Journal, "Jund al Islam claims credit for Sinai suicide car bomb attacks", 12 September 2013.

⁵⁶ Long War Journal, "Ansar Jerusalem claims credit for Sinai attacks, challenges army claims", 11 September 2013.

⁵⁷ AFP, "Egypt forces hunt down militants in Islamist bastion", 20 September 2013.

⁵⁸ Anadolu Agency (AA), "Egyptian troops storm Kerdasa, arrest 68 suspects", 20 September 2013.

⁵⁹ Reuters, "Gunmen kill three Egyptian policemen, one soldier in Sinai", 30 September 2013.

⁶⁰ AP, "Two police and soldier gunned down in separate Sinai attacks", 30 September 2013.

⁶¹ AFP, "Dozens killed in wave of Baghdad car bombings", 3 September 2013.

killing nine people and wounding 32 others. A row of restaurants was also targeted in the eastern Shi'ite neighborhood of Talibiyah, killing seven people and wounding 28 others. A car bomb also exploded in Sadr City, killing three people and wounding eight others. Car bombs also exploded near a police station in the western neighborhood of Sadiyah, killing six people and wounding 15. An additional explosion targeted a central square in the commercial district of Karradah, killing six people and wounding 14 others. Car bombs also exploded in the religiously-mixed western neighborhood of Shurta, killing five people and wounding 12 others; in the southeastern Shi'ite neighborhood of Zafaraniyah, killing four people and wounding 11 others; in the southern Shi'ite neighborhood of Abu Dashir, killing two people and wounding nine others; in the majority-Shi'ite area of New Baghdad, killing six people and wounding 17 others; and in the largely Sunni Dora neighborhood, killing two people and wounding five others. Authorities also reported that a car bomb had exploded near an outdoor market in the Shi'ite village of Maamil, east of Baghdad, killing three people and wounding 41 others.⁶² The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) claimed responsibility for the attack.⁶³

On 15 September, a suicide attacker killed 36 people and wounded 48 others when he detonated his explosive vest at a funeral for a member of the Shabak, an ethnic minority, in Baashiqqa, on the outskirts of Mosul in northern Iraq. The Shabak are Muslims, 65% of them Shi'ite and 35% of them Sunni.⁶⁴ Shi'ite Shabak are a majority in Baashiqqa.⁶⁵ No group took responsibility for the attack, but authorities suspected Al-Qaeda in Iraq.⁶⁶

On 21 September, 60 people were killed and 120 were injured at a funeral in the Baghdad neighborhood of Sadr City⁶⁷ when a mourners' tent was targeted by two explosions, one of them a suicide car bomber. When police, ambulances and firefighters massed at the scene, a third bomb exploded.⁶⁸ No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda in Iraq.⁶⁹

On 29 September, a coordinated suicide and car bomb attack on the headquarters of the security services in Irbil (also spelled Erbil and Arbil) killed six people and wounded 36

⁶² AP, "Wave of bombings, attacks in Iraq kill at least 67", 3 September 2013.

⁶³ Reuters, "Al Qaeda affiliate claims responsibility for Baghdad bombing", 9 September 2013.

⁶⁴ BBC, "Suicide bomber attacks funeral", 15 September 2013.

⁶⁵ CNN, "Iraq suicide blast kills 36 at funeral in ethnic minority Shabak town", 15 September 2013.

⁶⁶ AP, "Funeral bombing, other attacks kill 25 in Iraq", 15 September 2013.

⁶⁷ Al-Jazeera, "Baghdad bombings target Shia funeral", 21 September 2013.

⁶⁸ BBC, "More than 60 killed in Iraq funeral bombing", 21 September 2013.

⁶⁹ Reuters, "At least 92 dead in day of carnage", 21 September 2013.

others.⁷⁰ According to authorities, the first explosion was caused by a suicide car bomber; then, as rescue workers arrived at the scene, an explosives-rigged ambulance detonated. This was the first attack since 2007 to target Irbil.⁷¹ Authorities said the attackers wore military uniforms. A statement published on the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Web site related that, according to witnesses, five would-be suicide bombers had been killed before they could detonate themselves. Other official reports suggested that four militants had been killed.⁷² The Islamic State of Iraq took responsibility for the attack.⁷³ Several hours later, 31 people were killed and 50 were wounded when two suicide bombers detonated their explosives in a Shi'ite mosque south of Baghdad during a funeral for three members of a family who had been killed by militants who had detonated explosives near their house several days earlier. Yet another explosion occurred at nightfall when a car bomb exploded at a vegetable market in Sadr City, killing five people and wounding 12 others.⁷⁴

On 30 September, a series of 13 coordinated car bombs exploded in several predominantly Shi'ite Muslim neighborhoods of Baghdad, killing 47 people and wounding 155 others.⁷⁵ The worst single attack took place in Sadr City, where a man parked a white car packed with explosives near a site where day laborers had gathered. The vehicle exploded soon afterwards, killing at least seven people, including two soldiers.⁷⁶ According to police officials, 11 bombs exploded in busy areas of Baghdad and its suburbs, including three bombings in the predominantly Shi'ite suburb of Al-Shaab.⁷⁷ No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda in Iraq.⁷⁸

Israel and the West Bank

On 1 September, Israeli authorities said they had foiled a plot by Hamas militants to bomb the Mamilla open air shopping mall in Jerusalem during the Jewish High Holidays, and had arrested three Hamas militants.⁷⁹ Authorities charged Ahmad Rishak, 23, from Shuafat, and Ismail Abu Mfalfal, 27, from Abu Dis, with conspiracy to aid the enemy during wartime and with the attempted manufacture of a weapon. According to Israel's Internal Security Agency, the Shin Bet, the mastermind behind the plot was Hamdi

⁷⁰ BBC, "Iraq: Rare violence targets Kurdish city of Irbil", 29 September 2013.

⁷¹ Reuters, "Rare bomb attack in Iraqi Kurdish capital kills six", 29 September 2013.

⁷² BBC, "Iraq: Rare violence targets Kurdish city of Irbil", 29 September 2013.

⁷³ Reuters, "Al Qaeda affiliate claims rare bomb attack in Iraqi Kurdistan", 7 October 2013.

⁷⁴ New York Times, "Once-Calm Area of Iraq Is Shaken by Bombings", 29 September 2013.

⁷⁵ BBC, "Baghdad hit by wave of deadly car bombs", 30 September 2013.

⁷⁶ Reuters, "Car bombs kill 54 in Baghdad", 30 September 2013.

⁷⁷ CNN, "Car bombings highlight rising concern about security in Iraq", 30 September 2013.

⁷⁸ BBC, "Baghdad hit by wave of deadly car bombs", 30 September 2013.

⁷⁹ Long War Journal, "Hamas terror plot targeting Jerusalem mall foiled", 1 September 2013.

Romana, 22, a resident of Ramallah.⁸⁰ Apparently Rishak and Mfalfal were recruited in March 2013; Romana first recruited Rishak who, acting on Romana's orders, then recruited Mfalfal, who allegedly assisted with several aspects of the plot, including procuring some 40 iron ball bearings, which were to be added to the explosive device to increase the number of casualties. Romana recruited the two men because, as residents of East Jerusalem, they had Israeli ID cards; he also wished to take advantage of their being employed as maintenance workers at the open-air Mamilla mall. Following multiple meetings in July 2013, the men were told to wrap an explosive device in wrapping paper to make it look like a gift and plant it in a restaurant, store, or trash can during one of the autumn Jewish holidays, when the mall would be packed with shoppers.⁸¹ The Shin Bet also reported uncovering an explosives lab in Romana's home, as well instruction manuals on how to make a bomb. During interrogation, Romana confessed to being in contact with three other West Bank militants, who had provided him with bomb-making equipment. All three men confessed to the charges against them. The Shin bet added that, during questioning, Romana admitted that his initial plan had included harming IDF soldiers by booby trapping homes in Ramallah; manufacturing and firing rockets at Israeli communities near Ramallah; and attempts to obtain handguns to fire at IDF soldiers at the Hezma roadblock, northeast of Jerusalem.

On 11 September, three East Jerusalem residents, identified as Yakav Abu Asav, Qafah Sarhan and Ahmad Aliyan, were charged with establishing Hamas social infrastructure in Jerusalem and using monies raised for charity to fund Hamas's terrorist activity. In a recent plea bargain, a fourth defendant, Ashraf A'ashur, was convicted of financing terrorism after transferring funds to Hamas. Judge Amnon Cohen stated that supposed charitable activities were a key component of Hamas's da'wa [missionary] system in the West Bank. Both the indictment and the plea bargain indicated that the suspects headed Hamas's advisory council in Jerusalem, where they worked to boost Hamas's popularity among the Israeli capital's Muslim population by promoting diverse education, welfare and religious activities and services.⁸² Apparently Abu Asab ran the Hamas office in Jerusalem, and Sarhan and Alian assisted him. In addition, Sarhan, who was in charge of fundraising for Hamas, worked with local merchants to transfer money from Jordan to Jerusalem to fund Hamas activities. Sarhan was consequently also convicted of money laundering for terrorist causes. The court ruled that although some of the funds

⁸⁰ Ynet, "Terrorist plot against Jerusalem mall foiled by security forces", 1 September 2013.

⁸¹ Jerusalem Post, "Shin Bet foils Hamas bomb attack planned for Jerusalem mall", 1 September 2013.

⁸² Ynet, "Jerusalem court convicts Hamas 'charity' workers", 11 September 2013.

distributed by the Hamas office were indeed allocated to charitable and welfare organizations, the main purpose of their distribution was to spread Hamas's ideology.⁸³

On 21 September, Nedal Amar, 42, a Palestinian resident of the West Bank, lured Israel Air Force Sergeant Tomer Hazan, 20, to the a deserted spot near Qalqilyah, in the West Bank, where he murdered him with a blunt weapon and then hid his body in a well.⁸⁴ The suspect, who was detained by police, admitted that he had persuaded Hazan, with whom he worked at a restaurant in Bat Yam, to share a taxi with him to the West Bank. Amar was allegedly motivated by a desire to "ransom" Hazan's body in exchange for the release of his brother, who was imprisoned in Israel for his role in a 2003 suicide bombing.⁸⁵ On the evening of 20 September, the Shin Bet was reportedly informed by Hazan's family that he had failed to contact them since that morning. The Shin Bet and the Israel police set up a special operations center in the wake of the missing persons report, and began to search for the soldier. Information gathered by the special operations center led security forces to Amar's home in Beit Amin, where they arrested him and one of his brothers. During questioning, Amar confessed to the murder.⁸⁶

On 22 September, IDF Staff Sergeant Gal Kobi was shot in the neck by a Palestinian sniper near a checkpoint adjacent to the Cave of Patriarchs in Hebron, in the West Bank. He was evacuated to Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem, but was pronounced dead soon after arrival. Upon his death, Kobi was promoted to Staff-Sergeant Major. The shooting occurred during violent rioting by Palestinians, who targeted Jews who had gathered to celebrate a Jewish festival at the site, which is holy to both Muslims and Jews.⁸⁷ According to unconfirmed reports, the Fatah's Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade took responsibility for the attack. The IDF subsequently carried out raids in Hebron, making two arrests and seizing two rifles.⁸⁸ A senior IDF officer ruled out any connection between the shooting and the murder of Sergeant Tomer Hazan the previous day.⁸⁹

⁸³ Times of Israel, "East Jerusalem residents convicted for leading Hamas activity", 11 September 2013.

⁸⁴ Times of Israel, "IDF soldier Tomer Hazan, 20, kidnapped and killed in West Bank", 21 September 2013.

⁸⁵ Jerusalem post, "IDF soldier murdered by Palestinian in West Bank", 21 September 2013.

⁸⁶ New York Times, "Israeli Soldier Is Lured to West Bank and Killed", 21 September 2013.

⁸⁷ Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "St.-Sgt. Maj. Gal (Gabriel) Kobi - Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs", 22 September 2013.

⁸⁸ Israel Hayom, "IDF hunts for Palestinian sniper who killed soldier in Hebron", 23 September 2013.

⁸⁹ Ynet, "IDF soldier shot in Hebron dies", 22 September 2013.

Lebanon

On 3 September, Lebanese authorities indicted Lebanese citizens Yusef al-Fleiti and Mohamed Abdul Moula al-Atrash and an unnamed Palestinian, who remained at large, for firing rockets from southern Lebanon into Israel on 22 August 2013.⁹⁰ The Lebanese military also reported capturing two people who had confessed to having transported rockets from the eastern Bekaa Valley to Tyre in southern Lebanon. The Abdullah Azzam Brigades took responsibility for firing the salvo of four rockets, which caused damage but no casualties.⁹¹

Syria

On 17 September, a car bomb exploded at a roadblock manned by Islamist brigades at the Syrian-side entrance of the rebel-held Bab Al-Hawa crossing,⁹² killing seven people and wounding 20 others. No group took responsibility for the attack.⁹³

On 19 September, a roadside bomb killed 19 people and wounded four others who were travelling on a bus near the village of Jabburin, on the road linking Homs to Alawite villages.⁹⁴ No group took responsibility for the attack.⁹⁵

On 27 September, a car bomb exploded near the Al-Sahel mosque in Rankous, a town north of Damascus, killing at least 30 people.⁹⁶ The mosque sustained serious damage. No group took responsibility for the attack.⁹⁷

Yemen

On 20 September, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) killed 56 soldiers and policemen in a coordinated attack against military installations in southern Yemen.⁹⁸ Military officials cited a total of four attacks, one of which – against a key gas export terminal – was thwarted.⁹⁹ Two car bombs exploded at a military camp in Al-Nashama,

⁹⁰ AFP, "Lebanon charges 3 for rocket fire against Israel", 3 September 2013.

⁹¹ Naharanet, "Three Charged with Firing Rockets from South against Israel", 2 September 2013.

⁹² Reuters, "Car bomb explodes at Syria-Turkey crossing: activists", 17 September 2013.

⁹³ The Guardian, "Syria crisis: deadly bomb blast hits Turkish border crossing", 17 September 2013.

⁹⁴ AFP, "NGO: 9 civilians killed as bomb blasts bus in Syria's Homs", 19 September 2013.

⁹⁵ The Hindu, "19 killed as bomb hits bus in Syria", 19 September 2013.

⁹⁶ Al-Jazeera, "Many dead in car-bomb blast near Damascus ", 27 September 2013.

⁹⁷ AP, "Car bomb kills 30 in town north of Syrian capital", 27 September 2013.

⁹⁸ Long War Journal, "AQAP video details suicide assaults against Yemeni bases in Shabwa", 17 October 2013.

⁹⁹ Independent, "Al-Qa'ida militants kill 38 Yemeni troops in co-ordinated attacks", 20 September 2013.

killing 30 soldiers: One car bomb exploded among a group of soldiers as the driver sought to enter the camp, and the other car bomb was already inside the camp when it exploded. In a separate attack, 10 police were killed by gunmen in Mayfaa.¹⁰⁰ AQAP released a video taking responsibility for attacks on three Yemeni military bases in Shabwa Governorate. The video showed computer-generated maps of the operations, as well as footage of the attacks themselves.¹⁰¹

On 30 September, approximately 30 suspected AQAP militants seized army headquarters in the Yemeni port city of Mukalla. Officials said the militants drove up to the main gate of army headquarters in stolen military trucks, firing at security guards and setting off explosives. Several soldiers managed to escape but others were taken hostage, and three soldiers were killed, as were two attackers. Yemen Army reinforcements that were deployed to the headquarters cordoned off the surrounding area.¹⁰² The commander of the army's second military region, General Muhsen Hasan, was in the building at the time of the attack, and is thought to have been captured.¹⁰³ Within several hours, Yemeni special forces had retaken the army base and freed the hostages.¹⁰⁴

North America

United States

On 18 September, the US government added Said Ahmad Sungkar and Afif Abdul Majid to the list of specially-designated global terrorists for their involvement in the groups Jemaah Islamiyah and Jemaah Anshorut Tauhid. Sungkar was designated of fundraising for both groups, and Majid was designated for recruiting and training militants in Indonesia. Majid also allegedly provided cash, weapons, and ammunition to support Al-Qaeda's training camp in Aceh.¹⁰⁵

On 27 September, Lawal Babafemi, 33, a suspected Nigerian terrorist, pleaded not guilty to charges that he had been paid nearly \$9,000 between January 2010 and February 2011 to recruit militants and improve training campaigns for Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP.)¹⁰⁶ Babafemi was also accused of training with AQAP militants and

¹⁰⁰ Reuters, "Suspected al-Qaida members attack Yemeni army, kill dozens", 20 September 2013.

¹⁰¹ Long War Journal, "AQAP video details suicide assaults against Yemeni bases in Shabwa", 17 October 2013.

¹⁰² BBC, "Suspected al-Qaeda militants storm Yemeni army base", 30 September 2013.

¹⁰³ AFP, "'Qaeda' gunmen seize army HQ in Yemen port city", 30 September 2013.

¹⁰⁴ Reuters, "Suspected al-Qaeda militants storm Yemeni army base", 30 September 2013", 30 September 2013.

¹⁰⁵ Long War Journal, "US adds 2 Indonesian jihadists to terrorism list", 18 September 2013.

¹⁰⁶ New York Daily News, "Terrorist mouthpiece indicted in Brooklyn court for supporting Al Qaeda under guidance from Anwar al-Awlaki", 27 September 2013.

using his English-language skills to help publish the Al-Qaeda magazine *Inspire*. According to the FBI, the late Anwar al-Awlaki had personally directed that \$9,000 be paid to Babafemi, to promote his recruitment efforts.¹⁰⁷ Investigators claimed that Babafemi was connected to Al-Qaeda operatives beginning in 2010 and until his arrest for crimes in Nigeria in 2011. He was subsequently turned over to FBI agents to be prosecuted for his alleged terrorist activity.¹⁰⁸

On 30 September, Sabirhan Hasanoff, 37, was sentenced to 18 years in prison for funneling money and equipment to Al-Qaeda and for casing the New York Stock Exchange as a potential target of attack.¹⁰⁹ According to a court indictment, Hasanoff had met with two men in 2008 to discuss aiding Al-Qaeda; one of the men had allegedly paid Hasanoff \$50,000 to transfer money to Al-Qaeda and perform other tasks. The US government claimed that Hasanoff and his co-defendant had used code words in Internet chats during 2009 concerning Al-Qaeda operatives: In their coded language, "safari" meant "jihad", and saying that a friend had been "hospitalized" meant that he was in prison.¹¹⁰ Prosecutors said that Hasanoff became radicalized in 2003 while he was living in Brooklyn as a naturalized US citizen. He is also an Australian citizen. Hasanoff pleaded guilty in 2012 to supporting Al-Qaeda and to conspiracy. He was ordered to forfeit \$70,000. Formerly a successful accountant, Hasanoff admitted to supporting Al-Qaeda with money and supplies. He was working as the chief financial officer for a large company based in Dubai when he was arrested there in 2010 and brought to the United States to face charges. He expressed regret for his actions.¹¹¹

South America

Venezuela

On 20 September, ETA militant Asier Guridi Zaloña was arrested in Venezuela for being in possession of fake identification documents.¹¹² He had been a fugitive since 2001 and was wanted by both Spain and France. Authorities said that Zaloña had begun his ETA activities in 1987, when he participated in attacks on property in the northern Spanish town of Oñate.¹¹³ Zaloña was arrested in December 1992 and detained until 1997. In

¹⁰⁷ NBC, "Nigerian Terror Suspect Flown to New York for Trial, Accused of Recruiting, Training for Al-Qaida", 27 September 2013.

¹⁰⁸ Vanguard, "Babafemi, 33 appears in U.S. court for providing support to Al Qaeda", 28 September 2013.

¹⁰⁹ FBI, "Brooklyn Man Sentenced In Manhattan Federal Court To 18 Years In Prison For Providing Material Support To al-Qaeda", 30 September 2013.

¹¹⁰ AP, "Sabirhan Hasanoff, NYC Accountant, Sentenced For Aiding Al Qaeda", 30 September 2013.

¹¹¹ New York Times, "Man Who Aided Al Qaeda Gets 18-Year Prison Sentence", 30 September 2013.

¹¹² El Universal, "Spain requests an ETA member imprisoned in Venezuela", 1 November 2013.

¹¹³ Fox News, "ETA fugitive arrested in Venezuela", 20 September 2013

January 2003, two members of ETA's logistics unit who were arrested in Estialescq, France were in possession of several photographs of Zaloña, which were apparently being used in making fake IDs. Four years later, a court in Paris sentenced Zaloña in absentia to two years in prison. In November 2009, the Paris Court of Appeals handed down a European arrest warrant for criminal association in the planning of a terrorist act, which was added to the complaints against Zaloña issued by the Spanish courts.¹¹⁴

Asia

Afghanistan

On 13 September, Taliban suicide car bombers and militants armed with guns attacked the US consulate in Herat. The attack began at approximately 06:00 when militants in an SUV and a van detonated their explosives, while other militants, who were on foot, simultaneously fired at the Afghan security forces guarding the consulate. The militants launched rocket propelled grenades, extensively damaging the compound's front gate.¹¹⁵ However, the militants failed to enter the compound or harm any Americans. According to authorities, an interpreter and three Afghan security personnel were killed and 17 others were injured in the attack. Seven militants, including the drivers of the two explosives-laden vehicles, died in the attack.¹¹⁶ Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi took responsibility for the assault.¹¹⁷

India

On 20 September, police in Mumbai launched a manhunt for Afzal Usmani, a suspected member of the Indian Mujahideen, who had escaped from court. Usmani was accused of involvement in bomb attacks in Ahmedabad on 26 July 2008 and in Surat on 27 July 2008. Police said Usmani disappeared after being taken to court for a hearing with other suspects in the case.¹¹⁸ On 28 October 2013, police reportedly re-arrested Usmani outside a railway station in Uttar Pradesh, where he was preparing to cross into Nepal.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁴ Latino Daily News, "ETA Fugitive Arrested in Venezuela", 20 September 2013

¹¹⁵ BBC, "Herat attack: Afghanistan Taliban target US consulate", 13 September 2013.

¹¹⁶ AP, "Afghanistan Car Bomb Hits Near U.S. Consulate", 13 September 2013..

¹¹⁷ Reuters, "At least three killed as insurgents attack U.S. consulate in Afghan west", 13 September 2013.

¹¹⁸ BBC, "India hunt as terror suspect Afzal Usmani flees Mumbai court", 20 September 2013.

¹¹⁹ Indian Express, "IM suspect Afzal Usmani re-arrested by ATS, had shaved his beard to hide identity", 28 October 2013.

Pakistan

On 22 September, a twin suicide bomb attack killed 81 people and injured 120 others, many of them children, outside the All Saints Church in the old quarter of Peshawar.¹²⁰ Up to 600 people had been attending the church and were leaving to receive the food being distributed free on the church lawn when two bombs exploded.¹²¹ According to local police, the attackers first fired on the church's two guards, killing one and injuring the other, before detonating their explosive vests – apparently, within 30 seconds of each other. General Shafqat Malik of the Bomb Disposal Squad said that six kilograms of explosives were used in the bombers' suicide vests.¹²² The Sunni militant group Jundullah took responsibility for the attack, saying it was targeting Christians to avenge the deaths of Muslims killed in US drone strikes.¹²³

On 27 September, a bomb exploded in the back of a bus carrying government employees through the outskirts of Peshawar, in northern Pakistan, killing 19 people and wounding 46 others. The employees had been traveling back to their home city of Charsadda at the end of the work week.¹²⁴ Sahibzada Mohammad Anis, commissioner for Peshawar, said that an IED had been planted at the back of the bus. Police said they "seized an IED container from the scene along with parts of a remote-control device, and the evidence has led experts to conclude that up to 15 kilograms of explosive material was used".¹²⁵ No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but authorities blamed the Taliban.¹²⁶

On 29 September, a car bomb exploded on a crowded street in Peshawar's oldest bazaar, killing 40 people and wounding 90 others.¹²⁷ Authorities said the bomb exploded near a mosque and police station, damaging the mosque and nearby shops. According to authorities, the bomb had been planted in a parked car, and was detonated by remote control. No group took responsibility for the attack.¹²⁸

¹²⁰ CNN, "Suicide bombers kill 81 at church in Peshawar, Pakistan", 23 September 2013.

¹²¹ New York Times, "Scores Are Killed by Suicide Bomb Attack at Historic Church in Pakistan", 22 September 2013.

¹²² DAWN, "Twin church blasts claim 80 lives in Peshawar", 23 September 2013.

¹²³ AP, "Pakistan hit by third bomb attack in a week, killing at least 40 in Peshawar", 29 September 2013.

¹²⁴ AP, "Bomb kills 19 on government bus in north Pakistan", 27 September 2013.

¹²⁵ VOA, "Pakistan Bus Bombing Kills 19", 27 September 2013

¹²⁶ Washington Post, "Bus bombing in Pakistan kills 18", 27 September 2013.

¹²⁷ Independent, "Pakistan car bomb blast: Attack on Peshawar's oldest market kills 37", 29 September 2013.

¹²⁸ AP, "Pakistan hit by third bomb attack in a week, killing at least 40 in Peshawar", 29 September 2013.

Philippines

On 8 September, a navy patrol boat intercepted a large motorboat and eight other, smaller vessels carrying armed men near the coastal village of Rio Hondo. An exchange of gunfire followed, which resulted in the deaths of six people and the injury of 24 others.¹²⁹ On 9 September, approximately 400 armed Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) rebels came ashore at Zamboanga City by boat, where they took over 20 people hostage.¹³⁰ Haber Malik, a lieutenant of the MNLF, reportedly led the attack. According to authorities, government forces clashed with the armed rebels at approximately 04:30; six people, including a policeman, a navy serviceman and four civilians, were killed during the clashes.¹³¹ A total of 29 hostages were freed on 15 September; one later died of injuries sustained during the incident. The Philippine government declared an end of military operations in Zamboanga City on 28 September. Haber Malik remains at large.¹³²

Thailand

On 21 September, five people were killed and 37 were wounded when a car bomb exploded at about 12:40 in a packed market in Sai Buri district, in southern Thailand. According to witnesses, the attack began when five insurgents opened fire at the Kamolphon gold shop; when police rushed to the scene, the car bomb exploded. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.¹³³

¹²⁹ Philippine Star, "Zamboanga City shut down as MNLF men attack its villages", 8 September 2013.

¹³⁰ CNN, "Muslim rebels hold 20 hostages in Zamboanga City, Philippines", 9 September 2013.

¹³¹ CNN, "Muslim rebels hold 20 hostages in Zamboanga City, Philippines", 9 September 2013.

¹³² Inquirer, "29 hostages have been freed by MNLF since Sept. 9", 15 September 2013.

¹³³ AFP, "Five killed by Pattani car bomb", 21 September 2013.