



ICT Incidents Database Periodical Report

August 2011

The following is a summary and analysis of terrorist attacks and counter-terrorism operations that occurred during the month of August 2011, researched and recorded by the ICT database team. Among others:

- On 2 August 2011, Memtieli Tiliwaldi, 29, and Turson Hasan, 34, were fatally shot by police in Kashgar, China after being suspected of carrying out a terror attack on 31 July 2011.
- On 6 August 2011, a rocket propelled grenade was fired at a US Boeing CH-47 Chinook military helicopter in the Tangi Valley of Wardak Province, Afghanistan by Taliban militants. All 38 people on board, the majority of whom were from the US special Operations Command unit, were killed.
- On 14 August 2011, 22 people were killed and 37 were injured when a group of Taliban militants stormed the provincial governor's compound in Parwan, Pakistan.
- On 15 August 2011, a series of coordinated bomb attacks in 13 cities across Iraq, killed 74 and injured 250 people.
- On 17 August 2011, Abdellatif Aoulad Chiba, 37, a suspected member of AQIM was arrested in Cadiz, Spain accused of administering a Jihadi website and for plotting to poison tourists' water supplies in tourist campsites throughout Spain.
- On 18 August 2011, eight people were killed and 31 injured, in a series of terror attacks committed against civilians and IDF soldiers in Israel's southern region. An escalation in violence followed with over 160 rockets being fired into Israel, some Grad missiles.
- On 18 August 2011, Mohammad Younis, 45, pleaded guilty to unwittingly providing \$7,000 to Faisal Shahzad, the perpetrator of the failed Times Square attack on 1 May 2010.
- On 19 August 2011, 43 people were killed and 117 injured, when a teenage suicide bomber attacked a mosque in the village of Ghondi, Pakistan.
- On 22 August 2011, Atiyah Abd al-Rahman, al Qa'ida's second-in-command, was killed in North Waristan, Pakistan. US officials confirmed his death but did not confirm how he died.



- On 27 August 2011, Boko Haram militants claimed responsibility for a suicide car bombing attack close to the United Nations headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria that killed 21 people and injured 73. This was the first time they attacked an international target.
- On 28 August 2011, 28 people were killed and 30 injured, when a suicide bomber set off his explosives at the Umm al-Qura mosque, the largest Sunni mosque in Baghdad, Iraq.
- On 29 August 2011, Muhammad Sa'afan, 21, attacked and wounded seven Israelis outside a nightclub in Tel Aviv, Israel.

EUROPE

United Kingdom

On 5 August 2011, Mohammed Sajid Khan, 32, and Shasta Khan, 37, were charged with engaging in the preparation of acts of terrorism between 10 August 2010 and 24 July 2011 in Manchester. The authorities did not say however, whether they were linked to any organization.¹ The charges were a result of an investigation carried out by the North West Counter Terrorism Unit. Mohammed and Shasta Khan appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court where they confirmed their personal details.² They were also accused of three counts of possessing a record of information which was likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism.³

On 23 August 2011, authorities increased security at Belmarsh prison, London after a plot by al-Qa'ida prisoners to kidnap senior prison staff was foiled. The prison is a high-security men's prison that houses many terrorist suspects, including Abu Hamza and the failed London bombers, in pretrial detention.⁴

¹ Telegraph, "Couple charged with planning act of terrorism" 5 August 2011;

² BBC, "Terror charge court appearance for Oldham couple", 5 August 2011;

³ Guardian, "Manchester couple charged with terror offences appear in court", 5 August 2011;

⁴ UPI, "London jail gets tip about al-Qaida attack", 23 August 2011;



Spain

On 17 August 2011, Abdellatif Aoulad Chiba, 37, a Moroccan citizen, and suspected member of al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), was arrested in Cadiz, accused of administering a website aimed at spreading jihadist propaganda. Spanish authorities did not name the website but said that it offered training for new members and had links to statements and media products from the leaders of Islamic terror groups. Spanish authorities were alerted to Chiba, with the assistance of international authorities, after it became evident that there was an increase in the number of people connecting to jihad Internet forums.⁵ Chiba was suspected of attempting to carry out a plot to poison tourists' water supplies in Spain, to avenge the death of Osama bin Laden on 1 May 2011. Authorities said that Chiba had obtained manuals on poisons, toxins and explosives on jihadist websites and had planned to target tourist camp sites. The Spanish Interior ministry also said that Chiba had been expelled from Jordan prior to his arrest, for suspected terror-related activities, however did not clarify what the activities were.⁶

Germany

On 9 August 2011, German prosecutors charged Hussam S., 25, a stateless man of Palestinian background, with supporting terrorism and recruiting members for extremist Muslim groups, including al-Qa'ida. Authorities claim that he published seven videos online that illustrated beheadings and terror attacks by several organisations from September 2007 to December 2009. He was also accused of posting 78 online messages that aimed at recruiting new members for al-Qa'ida and other terrorist organisations. The prosecutor's office said he was arrested on 4 July 2010, in Montabaur and was due to go on trial at a court in Koblenz.⁷

Russia

On 2 August 2011, a parcel bomb exploded at a nursery school in Komsomolsk-on-Amur, at 07:15 injuring a five year old girl. Preliminary reports suggested the bomb, disguised as a gift, exploded in the child's hands and caused severe burns to her eyes. A man, 28, who was a resident of Komsomolsk was detained in connection with the attack.⁸ During questioning, he

⁵ AP, "Spanish police arrest Moroccan on terror charges", 17 August 2011;

⁶ AFP, "Qaeda suspect 'plotted to poison water,' says Spanish judge", 20 August 2011;

⁷ AP, "Terror suspect charged in Germany", 9 August 2011;

⁸ Xinhua, "Blast injures 5-year-old girl in kindergarten in Russia's Far East", 2 August 2011;



admitted to making the bomb but he did not reveal his motives.⁹ Police said the device was a handmade bomb made up of seven grams of TNT. The bomb was filled with pieces of metal wires and nails.¹⁰ Police said the bomb only partially exploded.¹¹

AFRICA

Nigeria

On 27 August 2011, 21 people were killed and 73 injured in a suicide car bombing close to the United Nations headquarters in Abuja, in the diplomatic zone of the center of the city. The building was the headquarters for about 400 UN employees but it was not clear how many were inside the building at the time of the attack. It is located at the end of a long driveway, so the attacker was able to accelerate fully before crashing through two security barriers before detonating the explosives. An unarmed United Nations guard was killed as he attempted to prevent the car from crashing into the building.¹² Eyewitnesses described hearing a loud noise and then the reception area of the building, which was severely damaged, was filled with dark smoke. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon strongly condemned the attack. Militant group Boko Haram contacted several radio stations to claim responsibility for the attack and threatened further attacks. It was the first time that the group had chosen an international target, although the majority of casualties were Nigerian citizens.¹³

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

On 15 August 2011, a series of coordinated bomb attacks in 13 cities across Iraq, killed 74 and injured 250 people. Authorities believe the motivations behind the attacks were to undermine the planned US troop withdrawal from Iraq. No group claimed responsibility but authorities suspect the al-Qa'ida affiliated Islamic State of Iraq. The majority of the victims were Shia security personnel.¹⁴ The explosions were synchronized to detonate during the

⁹ RIA NOVOSTI, "Russian admits to making bomb that injured 5-year-old girl in Far East", 2 August 2011;

¹⁰ Xinhua, "Blast injures 5-year-old girl in kindergarten in Russia's Far East", 2 August 2011;

¹¹ BBC, "Russia nursery bomb blast injures five-year-old girl", 2 August 2011;

¹² New York Times, "Islamic Group Says It Was Behind Fatal Nigeria Attack", 28 August 2011;

¹³ Independent, "At least 16 killed by bomb attack on UN's Nigeria base", 27 August 2011;

¹⁴ Guardian, "Iraq bomb blasts across 13 cities leave dozens dead", 15 August 2011;



morning and included parked car bombs, roadside bombs, suicide bombing and a bomb that was attached to street lights.¹⁵

The most casualties occurred in the city of Kut where 35 people were killed and 64 injured, when a bomb hidden in a freezer, exploded at an outdoor market. Then as rescuers arrived at the scene, a parked car bomb exploded. Around the same time, a suicide car bomber crashed his vehicle into a checkpoint outside a police building just outside the city of Najaf, killing six people and wounding 32. In Karbala, a parked car bomb exploded on the outskirts of the city killing three policemen. In Baghdad, seven bombs were detonated killing 11 people including five soldiers. One of the devices was a parked car bomb that exploded near a convoy carrying officials from the Ministry of Higher Education, wounding eight. In Tikrit, two militants dressed in military uniforms drove into a government compound, where they attacked the building and killed three policemen. Security officials said they had worn police uniforms to enter the compound in a failed attempt to free al-Qa'ida prisoners.¹⁶ Two people were killed when a parked car bomb targeting a police patrol exploded in Iskandariyah and in Mosul one person was killed when a bomb strapped to a light pole exploded. In Taji one person was killed when a parked car bomb exploded near an Iraqi military patrol and in Balad 16 people were wounded in a roadside bombing attack near a fuel truck. A motorcycle bomb exploded in Kikuk killing one person.¹⁷ In Kanaan, gunmen using silenced weapons wounded Ali al-Karkhi, a local government-backed Sahwa militia leader, and one of his guards. In Hindiya four people were killed and 41 injured when a car bomb exploded near a police station. In Al-Wajehiya a parked car bomb near a government building killed one person and wounded 13 others.¹⁸

On the 20 August 2011, al-Qa'ida in Iraq released a statement on a militant website where they threatened they would carry out "100 attacks" across Iraq as a revenge for the death of Osama bin Laden but did not explicitly claim responsibility for the 15 August 2011 attacks. The statement said the attacks would include raids, suicide bombs, roadside bombs, silenced guns and snipers, in all cities, rural areas and provinces throughout Iraq.¹⁹

¹⁵ AP, "Iraq Erupts: Bombings in a Dozen Cities Kill at Least 60 on Monday", 15 August 2011;

¹⁶ BBC, "Iraqi cities hit by deadly wave of violence", 15 August 2011;

¹⁷ Canadian Press, "Bomb blasts rip through Iraq from north to south, killing 63 people; al-Qaida blamed", 15 August 2011;

¹⁸ Reuters, "FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq", 15 August 2011;

¹⁹ AP, "Al-Qaida in Iraq: 100 attacks to avenge bin Laden", 20 August 2011;



On 28 August 2011, 28 people were killed and 30 injured, when a suicide bomber set off his explosives at the Umm al-Qura mosque, the largest Sunni mosque in Baghdad at approximately 2140.²⁰ The attack took place during a special service during the holy Muslim month of Ramadan and Khalid al-Fahdawi an Iraqi member of parliament was among the dead in the strike. The mosque is the main headquarters of the Sunni Endowment, which is responsible for maintaining Sunni Muslim religious sites across Baghdad.²¹ No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack however authorities suspected al-Qa'ida.²²

Lebanon

On 11 August 2011, Ihsan Dia and Hassan Nassar were killed when a bomb exploded in a car park in Beirut. Lebanese television reported that the men were handling the explosives inside their vehicle and the bomb exploded prematurely.²³ A third man was seriously wounded and appeared to have been lying on the ground when the bomb exploded. Officials said it was unclear if he was placing the bomb under the car or trying to dispose of it. Police officials said they were unclear of the target but believe it was likely to have been the son of Lebanese judge Albert Serhan, whose car was in the car park at the time of the explosion.²⁴

Israel including West Bank and Gaza Strip

On 8 August 2011, a Palestinian man was arrested in Hebron by Israeli border police, after he attempted to attack them with a knife. Police said that during an initial investigation the man admitted that he aimed to attack the soldiers.²⁵

On 18 August 2011, eight people were killed and 31 injured, in a series of attacks committed against civilians and IDF soldiers in southern Israel. Israeli authorities said that the terrorists infiltrated Israel via Egypt, but originated from the Gaza Strip and belonged to the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC); an independent terrorist organization in the Gaza Strip linked to Hamas.

²⁰ AP, "Baghdad mosque bombing kills at least 29", 28 August 2011;

²¹ BBC, "Baghdad mosque attack: Suicide bomber kills at least 28", 28 August 2011;

²² AP, "Baghdad mosque bombing kills at least 29", 28 August 2011;

²³ BBC, "Lebanese bomb blast 'kills two'", 11 August 2011;

²⁴ AAP, "Two killed in Beirut blast - police", 11 August 2011;

²⁵ Jerusalem Post, "Hebron: Border Police stop Palestinian stabbing attack", 8 August 2011;



Hamas denied responsibility for the attack but praised the perpetrators of the attack. The IDF said they estimated there were 15 to 20 terrorists who carried out the attack; some were killed but some escaped. Egyptian security forces claimed they killed two terrorists; the IDF and special police forces claimed eight terrorists were killed.²⁶ IDF officials said they believe the aim of the attack was to kidnap a soldier, as this was indicated by the weaponry found on the bodies of the terrorists that included handcuffs, grenades, explosives, a commando knife, Kalashnikov rifles and cartridges.²⁷

The attack began at 1200 when three men opened fire on Israeli Egged bus Number 392 traveling on Highway 12 towards Eilat. The terrorists, wearing military vests, were armed with assault rifles, roadside bombs and suicide bomb belts. At least 10 passengers were wounded. At 1220, one of the attackers opened fire on another Egged bus however there were no passengers present. The terrorist detonated his explosives belt alongside the bus, killing himself and the bus driver. A rocket-propelled grenade was then fired at an IAF helicopter, by another militant, however the target was missed and there were no casualties. At 12:25 another terrorist targeted a civilian vehicle killing all four passengers. The terrorist then opened fire on another civilian vehicle, killing a female driver. IDF soldiers arrived on the scene and killed one of the terrorists. A second IDF jeep arrived but was fired upon by the other terrorist, killing one IDF soldier. Between 12:30-13:00 soldiers and members of the police's elite YAMAM Counterterrorism Unit, located the remaining terrorist, where after a short gun battle, managed to kill the terrorist. Between 13:30-14:30 two other terrorists opened fire from Egyptian territory on IDF troops at the border, however the soldiers killed the gunmen. The Egyptian military reported to the IDF that their soldiers had killed two additional terrorists in Sinai. At 1500 Israel Defense Minister, Ehud Barak, made a statement that said the attackers had originated from the Gaza Strip and infiltrated Israel via Egypt.²⁸

At 1830 the IAF carried out an airstrike on a building in Rafah which served as a Popular Resistance Committees command site where prominent members of the organization were gathered. Kamal al-Nairab, commander of the PRC's central Gaza Strip faction, and two

²⁶ Haaretz, "Hamas: We didn't carry out southern Israel attacks, but we praise them", 18 August 2011;

²⁷ Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "8 killed, over 30 wounded in terror attacks in southern Israel", 18 August 2011;

²⁸ Jerusalem Post, "Timeline of the attacks on the Sinai border", 18 August 2011;



other prominent terrorists were killed in the attack, as well as two militants from the PRC's military wing.²⁹

As a result of this incident, violence escalated in the region and more than 160 rockets were fired from the Gaza strip into Israeli cities and villages, about 120 of which fell in Israeli territory. Long range rockets were fired into cities including Beersheba, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Ofakim and Yavne. Dozens of mortar shells targeted Israel including one that contained phosphorus. The IDF retaliated by attacking terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip. In addition to rocket fire, dozens of mortar shell hits were identified in Israeli territory.³⁰

On 19 August 2011, 10 people were injured when a Grad rocket hit a Men's seminary in Ashdod, Israel. Another Grad rocket landed near a synagogue but failed to explode. Worshippers were attending prayers at the time of the attack but there were no casualties.³¹

On 20 August 2011, two Grad rockets were fired from Gaza and landed in Beersheba, killing one Israeli civilian and critically wounding four others. Three other people were lightly wounded and a house was seriously damaged in the attack.³² The Popular Resistance Committees claimed responsibility for the attack.³³

On 25 August 2011, an indictment was filed against Hamza Mahmood Yusuf Usman, 28, a Jordanian national accused of cooperating with Hamas in order to attack Israeli targets. According to the charges, Usman and his counterparts devised a plan to kidnap an Israeli diplomat in Amman, Jordan and attack the Israeli embassy there. They were also accused of planning to launch rockets from Jordan towards Israel. Usman, who arrested in the West Bank in July 2011, was charged for being in contact with a foreign agent, being a member of an illegal organization, taking part in illegal military training, conspiring and other firearm offenses. He had allegedly established a military cell to help carry out their plans.³⁴

On 29 August 2011, Muhammad Sa'afan, 21, a Palestinian man from Nablus, West Bank, wounded seven Israelis, one critically, outside the Haoman 17 nightclub on Abarbanel Street,

²⁹ Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Israel under fire - August 2011", 25 August 2011;

³⁰ Ibid;

³¹ Ynet, "Hamas man planned to kidnap Israeli diplomat", 25 August 2011;

³² Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Israel under fire - August 2011", 25 August 2011;

³³ Haaretz, "Grad rocket directly strikes home in Be'er Sheva; one dead, four seriously wounded", 20 August 2011

³⁴ Ynet, "Hamas man planned to kidnap Israeli diplomat", 25 August 2011



Tel Aviv. The club was filled with more than 1,000 teenagers and police believe they were the intended target of the attack. Police believe Sa'afan, who had entered Israel illegally, stole a taxi in south Tel Aviv and then forced the driver Nahmaz Azi, using a knife, to leave the car. After a brief struggle in which Azi was wounded, Sa'afan drove the vehicle to the club, where a Border Police roadblock prevented him from reaching his intended victims. He then ran over two policemen and stabbed six policemen and club staff; one policeman was seriously wounded.³⁵ Witnesses said before he went on the shooting spree he shouted "Allahu akbar" in Arabic. Sa'afan was arrested and was taken to hospital as he was injured in the attack.³⁶ During questioning by the police Sa'afan confessed to the attack.³⁷

Turkey

On 17 August 2011, nine soldiers were killed and 14 injured, after their vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb or mine in Cukurca. The Turkish government responded with air strikes on a several PKK targets in northern Iraq.³⁸

NORTH AMERICA

USA

On 18 August 2011, Mohammad Younis, 45, a Pakistani citizen, pleaded guilty in a US federal court in New York to running an illegal money-transfer business. He admitted that he had unwittingly provided \$7,000 to a man, who was identified as Faisal Shahzad, the perpetrator of the failed Times Square bombing on 1 May 2010. Younis, who was arrested in September 2010, claimed that he did not know the person he gave the money to and was unaware of what it was to be used for. Prosecutors did not charge Younis with participating in or having any knowledge of Shahzad's planned attack. Federal prosecutors said in the indictment that Younis had met with Shahzad on 10 April 2010 and took part in an informal "hawala" money transaction; providing the individual with money sent by people in Pakistan. The "hawala" arrangement is common practice in Islamic societies. Younis said he transferred \$5,000 to one individual and \$7,000 to a second individual; this was to Faisal Shazed. Federal prosecutors did not say who the recipient of the \$5,000 payment was.³⁹ Younis faced

³⁵ Jerusalem Post a, "Nablus man who attacked TA club named as Muhammad Sa'afan", 29 August 2011;

³⁶ UPI, "8 injured in Tel Aviv terror attack", 29 August 2011;

³⁷ Jerusalem Post, "Nablus terrorist's custody extended by 10 days", 30 August 2011;

³⁸ BBC, "Kurdish rebel attack kills Turkish soldiers", 17 August 2011;

³⁹ Reuters, "Pakistani man tied to Times Square bomber pleads guilty", 18 August 2011;



sentencing on 30 November 2011 and is likely to be deported after sentencing. His recommended sentence was for up to six months in prison.⁴⁰

ASIA

Indonesia

On 11 August 2011, Umar Patek, the main suspect in the 2002 Bali bombing attack, was extradited from Pakistan to Indonesia. He was transported to a detention center where he faced charges.⁴¹ Security experts believe that Patek provided information about the links between terror cells in Pakistan, Indonesia and the Philippines. He was arrested in Abbottabad, Pakistan on 25 January 2011 and had a \$1 million bounty on his head. Patek was reported to have been injured during the shootout with the security forces that resulted in his arrest. Officials said Patek was unable to be charged under the anti-terrorism law because the laws were passed after the Bali bombing. He was still expected to be charged with murder, which carries the death penalty.⁴² Patek admitted he had a major role in the 2002 Bali bombings and that he was the bomb-maker in a series of Christmas Eve attacks on churches in 2000.⁴³

China

On 2 August 2011, Memtieli Tiliwaldi, 29, and Turson Hasan, 34, were fatally shot by police in Kashgar, after being suspected of carrying out a terror attack on 31 July 2011. Police had issued a reward of 100,000 yuan (£9,400) for information leading to their arrest. Authorities believe they had received firearms and explosives training at terrorist camps in Pakistan run by the separatist East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM).⁴⁴

Afghanistan

On 6 August 2011, a rocket propelled grenade was fired at a US Boeing CH-47 Chinook military helicopter killing all 38 people on board, including 30 American special operations personnel, seven Afghan commandos, and one Afghan interpreter. A spokesman for the Taliban, Zabiullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the incident and said eight militants had

⁴⁰ AP, "Man Admits Giving \$7,000 to Failed Times Sq. Bomber", 18 August 2011;

⁴¹ AFP, "Pakistan hands over key Bali suspect to Indonesia", 11 August 2011;

⁴² BBC, "Bali bombing suspect Umar Patek extradited to Indonesia", 11 August 2011;

⁴³ AAP, "Accused Bali bomb-maker 'admits role'", 11 August 2011;

⁴⁴ BBC, "China police kill two suspects in Xinjiang violence", 2 August 2011;



been killed.⁴⁵ Authorities said that the helicopter was hit at approximately 0100 as it was carrying out a night-raid in the Tangi Valley of Wardak Province. There were conflicting accounts as to whether the SEAL team had restrained the attackers and were departing, or whether they were hit as they attempted to land. One official said they had accomplished their mission, but another said the helicopter was hit as it approached.⁴⁶ Authorities said that the incident caused the greatest single loss suffered by the US special Operations Command unit in its 24-year history.⁴⁷

On 14 August 2011, 22 people were killed and 37 were injured when a group of Taliban militants stormed the provincial governor's compound Parwan. The attack began at 1100 when a car bomb outside the front gate of the compound exploded in the market town of Charikar. This caused a large hole in the wall, allowing five militants wearing suicide vests and carrying automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenades, to storm the compound.⁴⁸ The militants attacked as the governor, Abdul Basir Salangi, hosted a security meeting reportedly attended by several Nato advisers; none of whom were hurt. Three of the militants were killed. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.⁴⁹

India

On 12 August 2011, security agencies in India, issued a security alert to all airports in India and kept 12 major airports on high alert, due to intelligence they received about impending terror attacks. Security was increased in and outside airport terminal buildings. Officials did not specify which groups were involved.⁵⁰

Pakistan

On 10 August 2011, 21 suspected Taliban militants were killed in a US drone attack in North Waziristan. The drone targeted a house 3km east of Miranshah, the main town of the region, known to be a breeding ground for Taliban and al-Qa'ida militants.⁵¹ The dead militants

⁴⁵AKI, "Afghanistan: Downed US helicopter 'lured into Taliban trap'", 8 August 2011;

⁴⁶AP, "SEALs on rescue mission killed in Afghan crash", 8 August 2011;

⁴⁷BBC, "US special forces Afghan helicopter downed 'by Taliban'", 6 August 2011;

⁴⁸AP, "Suicide bombers attack Afghan governor; 22 dead", 14 August 2011;

⁴⁹Telegraph, "22 killed in suicide bomb attack on Hamid Karzai ally home", 14 August 2011;

⁵⁰DNA, "12 major airports on high alert after terror threats", 12 August 2011;

⁵¹Guardian, "US drone strike kills 21 suspected militants in Pakistan", 10 August 2011;



included Taliban militants, some Arabs and an Uzbek national with links to the Haqqani network.⁵²

On 19 August 2011, 43 people were killed and 117 injured, when a teenage suicide bomber detonated 8-10 kilograms of explosives in the main prayer hall at a mosque in the village of Ghondi in Khyber Agency. The roof of the mosque caved in, causing many people to be trapped within the rubble.⁵³ Officials said that several elders of the Maddo Khel tribe were in the mosque and may have been the intended target; the majority of the casualties were members of the tribe.⁵⁴ No group responsibility for the attack but officials blamed the Pakistani Taliban.⁵⁵

On 27 August 2011 authorities announced that Atiyah Abd al-Rahman, al Qa'ida's second-in-command, was killed on 22 August 2011, in North Waristan. His death occurred on the same day that a CIA drone attack targeted a vehicle and tribal leader's guesthouse killing five people in the town of Nork in North Waristan, suggesting al-Rahman was the target.⁵⁶ US officials confirmed his death but did not confirm how he died. US officials described al-Rahman's death as a "significant blow" to the al-Qa'ida leadership because Ayman al-Zawahiri relied on him to help guide and run the organization, especially post bin Laden's death on 1 May 2011.⁵⁷ Electronic files recovered at Bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad showed that al-Rahman and Bin Laden were in frequent communication and that Rahman acted as a liaison between Bin Laden and other senior Qa'ida leaders.⁵⁸ Al-Rahman was on a list of five militants that US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton handed over to Pakistani officials three weeks after Osama bin Laden was killed.⁵⁹

On 30 August 2011, a suspected suicide bomber riding on a motorcycle on the Abu Al Hassan Asfahani road in Karachi prematurely detonated his explosives, killing himself and his companion. Police were unsure of the intended target and no group claimed responsibility for the attack.⁶⁰ Authorities believed one of the men was a suicide bomber and the other

⁵² BBC, "US drone attack kills 21 'militants' in Pakistan", 10 August 2011;

⁵³ BBC, "Pakistan attack: Dozens die in Khyber mosque blast", 19 August 2011;

⁵⁴ USA Today, "Suicide bomber kills at least 48 at Pakistan mosque", 19 August 2011;

⁵⁵ CNN, "Dozens killed in attack at Pakistani mosque", 19 August 2011;

⁵⁶ Washington Post, "Al-Qaeda's No. 2 leader is killed in Pakistan, U.S. officials say", 28 August 2011;

⁵⁷ AP, "Al Qaeda's No. 2 killed in Pakistan", 27 August 2011;

⁵⁸ New York times, "C.I.A. Drone Is Said to Kill Al Qaeda's No. 2", 27 August 2011;

⁵⁹ ABC, "Al Qaeda No. 2 Atiyah Abd al-Rahman Killed in Pakistan", 22 August 2011;

⁶⁰ AP, "Pakistan: Bomber, companion die in premature blast", 30 August 2011;



was driving him to the intended target. Police said that 3 to 4 kilograms of explosives were used in the bomb. Four people were arrested in connection with the attack.⁶¹

⁶¹ Ummat, "Blast kills 2 suspects in premature Karachi bombing", 30 August 2011.