



The following is a summary and analysis of the terrorist attacks and counter-terrorism operations that occurred during the month of January 2013, researched and recorded by the ICT database team. Important events this month included the following:

- On 3 January, 28 Shia Muslim pilgrims were killed and 50 others injured in a bombing in Musayyib, Iraq.
- On 10 January, a series of bombings in Quetta, Pakistan killed approximately 100 people and injured many others. The United Baloch Army claimed responsibility for one of the bombings but the other attacks were unclaimed.
- On 11 January, French forces launched air strikes on the southern fringe of the Sahara desert, in an attempt to prevent Al-Qaeda-linked militants move towards Mali's capital, Bamako.
- On 15 January, ten people were convicted of having ties to Al-Qaeda in Ethiopia, in the first trial of its kind in the country.
- On 15 January, two explosions occurred at the University of Aleppo, Syria killing 83 people and wounding 160 others.
- On 16 January, Al-Qaeda-linked militants took approximately 800 people hostage at the Tigantourine gas facility near In Amanas, Algeria. This led to a four-day siege by Algerian security forces which resulted in the death of 37 hostages and 29 militants. An unknown group, *Signed-in-Blood Battalion* under the command of Mokhtar Belmokhtar claimed responsibility for the attack.
- On 16 January, Jack Teitel, an Israeli-American citizen, was convicted in Jerusalem, Israel of murdering two Palestinians and two attempted murders.
- On 16 January, six Taliban suicide bombers attacked the compound of Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security, killing one commando and wounding 33 civilians in Kabul, Afghanistan.
- On 16 January, 26 people were killed and 180 injured when a suicide bomber detonated explosives outside the headquarters of the Kurdistan Democratic Party in Kirkuk, Iraq.
- On 17 January, Tahawwur Rana was sentenced in Chicago, Illinois to 14 years in prison for supporting a terrorist plot in Denmark and providing material support to Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT).
- On 20 January, Mahmoud Abu Kuyder, 25, and Samech Abu Kuyder, 21, were detained on suspicion of preparing a series of terrorist attacks in Israel.
- On 21 January, Emrah Erdogan, 24, was indicted by a court in Berlin, Germany on suspicion of being a member of Al-Qaeda and Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedeen.
- On 21 January, Henry Okah, leader of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) was convicted in South Africa of 13 charges of terrorism.
- On 24 January, David Coleman Headley, 52, was convicted and sentenced to 35 years in prison in Chicago, Illinois for his role in the 2008 Mumbai attacks in India.
- On 24 January, Wassim el Abd Fadel, 31, was investigated in Paraguay for allegedly committing crimes, including narco-terrorism, to finance Hizballah.



EUROPE

France

On 30 January, two people were arrested in Toulouse in connection with the March 2012 attacks that occurred in the city and surrounding areas. Interior Minister Manuel Valls said the arrests supported the fact that they believe Mohammed Merah, the perpetrator of the attacks, was not a lone wolf. Immediately after Merah's death, authorities arrested his older brother, Abdelkader Merah, who was accused of participation in the preparation of the terrorist attacks, and is still under arrest. A judge most recently questioned him on 3 January 2013. In early December 2012, a man, 38, who converted to Islam and who knew Merah was arrested but later released due to lack of evidence.¹

Germany

On 21 January, Emrah Erdogan, 24, was indicted by a court in Berlin on suspicion of being a member of Al-Qaeda and Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedeen. Erdogan was also suspected of two cases of manslaughter, incitement to robbery, and plotting a terror attack in Germany in 2010. Authorities claimed that in May 2010 he travelled from Germany to the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region, where he allegedly joined an Al-Qaeda training camp. He was also accused of travelling to Somalia in 2011 to join Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedeen. He allegedly took part in attacks that led to the deaths of several Ethiopian troops allied with the Somali government.² Erdogan was arrested in Tanzania in June 2012 and deported to Germany.³

On 25 January, Yusuf Ocak, 27, from Luebeck, Germany and Maqsood Lodin, 23, an Austrian were convicted of membership in Al-Qaeda. Ocak was sentenced to nine years in prison for being a founding member of the German Taliban Mujaheddin. Lodin was sentenced to six years nine months for membership in Al-Qaeda. Authorities said the men met in July 2010 in Pakistan's Waristan region. In 2011, they allegedly returned to Europe, where they had been assigned by Al-Qaeda operatives to collect money to fund terror and recruit new members for the organization in Europe. Authorities also said that Ocak posted a threat

¹ BBC, "French police arrest two in Toulouse killings probe", 30 January 2013.

² AP, "German prosecutors indict suspected terrorist linked to al-Qaida, Somalia's al-Shabab", 21 January 2013.

³ BBC, "Tanzania arrests man over recent Nairobi attack", 14 June 2012.



video on the internet in 2009. Ocak was arrested in Vienna and Lodin in Berlin in 2011. Both defendants made statements during the trial and both were able to appeal.⁴

United Kingdom

On 4 January, Abid Naseer, 26, was extradited from the UK to the US where he was wanted in connection with alleged terrorism offenses that included providing material support to Al-Qaeda and conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction. US authorities claimed Naseer was involved in an Al-Qaeda plot to bomb the subway system in New York City in 2009. Naseer was arrested in northern England in July 2010 by British police officers acting on a provisional extradition arrest warrant issued at the request of the US government.⁵ Two other men, Najibullah Zazi and Zarein Ahmedzay pleaded guilty to planning the attacks and a third man, Adis Medunjanin, was sentenced to life in prison after his conviction in 2012 for taking part in the plot.⁶ On 7 January, Naseer who is a Pakistani national briefly appeared in court in Brooklyn, New York where he pleaded not guilty to the charges against him. The judge ordered Naseer to be held in detention without bail. His next court appearance is scheduled for 7 March 2013.⁷ If convicted he could face life in prison.⁸

On 10 January, three British men aged 18, 31, and 21, were arrested at separate addresses in east London by counter-terrorism officers investigating the kidnapping of a British photographer in Syria. A fourth man, 33, who police said was a Portuguese national was arrested as he attempted to board a flight to Syria from Gatwick airport. Police said the arrests were made as part of an investigation into travel to Syria in support of alleged terrorist activity. The men were being held in custody at a south London police station where they faced questioning by officers from the Metropolitan Police's counter terrorism command.⁹ Two men arrested last year have already appeared in court over the alleged plot. Shajul Islam, 26, a trainee NHS doctor, was arrested at Heathrow airport in October 2012. In November 2012, Jubayer Chowdhury, 24, was arrested at Heathrow airport after arriving on a flight from Bahrain. Both men are awaiting trial.¹⁰

⁴ AP, "2 convicted of al-Qaeda membership in Germany", 25 January 2013.

⁵ CNN, "Britain extradites terror suspect to United States", 4 January 2013.

⁶ Reuters, "Extradited al Qaeda suspect pleads not guilty in U.S. court", 7 January 2013.

⁷ Reuters, "Extradited al Qaeda suspect pleads not guilty in U.S. court", 7 January 2013.

⁸ CNN, "Britain extradites terror suspect to United States", 4 January 2013.

⁹ Sky News, "Anti-Terror Arrests: Police Question Four Men", 10 January 2013.

¹⁰ Independent, "Four men arrested over Syria terror fears", 10 January 2013.



AFRICA

Algeria

On 16 January, approximately 40 Al-Qaeda-linked terrorists, travelling in three vehicles, attacked a bus transporting workers to the Tigantourine gas facility near In Amanas in the Sahara desert and took them hostage.¹¹ The militants then proceeded to attack the gas facility site and took approximately 800 people hostage. According to the Algerian Interior Ministry, a British national and an Algerian were killed in the initial stage of the attack and six others wounded.¹² The attack led to a four-day siege by Algerian security forces who said that in the course the military operation to re-take facility and free the hostages, 69 people died, including 39 hostages and 29 militants. Three of the militants were arrested.¹³ Authorities said that Algerian forces attacked the compound on 17 January after the militants try to move their hostages. Five vehicles were destroyed in an air strike and an unknown number of hostages were killed. On 18 January, Algerian forces surrounded the gas plant where the remaining hostages were being held. On 19 January, Algerian forces launched a final assault after reports that the hostage-takers were killing their captives.¹⁴ According to witnesses, the gunmen specifically targeted foreign workers and let the Algerians leave. Witnesses said the militants were dressed in military uniforms armed with Kalashnikov weapons and grenade and included a team of explosives experts. Witnesses said some of the militants strapped Semtex bombs around the necks and waists of some hostages. Some survivors said foreigners were shot as they ran to escape.¹⁵

Algerian prime minister, Abdelmalek Sellal said 37 foreign nationals from eight countries, including the Colombia, France, Japan, Philippines, Malaysia, Norway, USA, UK, and one Algerian were killed in the siege, and five Norwegians, three Britons, and a British resident were missing.¹⁶ However, totals released by individual nations come to a figure of 40 dead or missing from nine nations, excluding Algeria.¹⁷

¹¹ CNN, "Islamists take foreign hostages in attack on Algerian oil field", 18 January 2013.

¹² Haaretz, "Islamists take foreign hostages in Algeria, demand end to French intervention in Mali", 17 January 2013.

¹³ BBC, "Q&A: Hostage crisis in Algeria", 21 January 2013.

¹⁴ CNN, "Bloody Algeria hostage crisis ends after 'final' assault, officials say", 19 January 2013.

¹⁵ New York Times, "Hiding, Praying, Tied to Bombs: Captives Detail Algerian Ordeal", 19 January 2013.

¹⁶ Reuters, "Algeria Siege Led By Canadian Named Chedad, Algerian Government Says", 21 January 2013.

¹⁷ Guardian, "UK to shift focus of terrorism fight to al-Qaida offshoots in north Africa", 21 January 2013.



Authorities believe that the militants were under the command of Mokhtar Belmokhtar, 40, who was identified as the mastermind behind the attacks. Belmokhtar was born in eastern Algeria and as a teenager travelled to Afghanistan at the end of the war against the Soviets in the early 1990s. Authorities believe he received training at Al-Qaeda camps and in 1993 returned to Algeria where he joined the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), fighting in the Algerian Civil War. He claimed to have acted as a key intermediary with Al-Qaeda and headed the Shahada Katibat (Martyrs Battalion) in the Sahara where he lost his left eye while handling explosives. As the GIA began to fall apart, he joined a new splinter group, the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), and based himself in Mali. Belmokhtar established an elaborate smuggling network from his base in the Sahara and used the funds to buy weapons for the GSPC and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). In 2003 he was involved in the kidnapping of 32 French, German, Austrian, and Swiss tourists in the Sahara. His unit moved to Mauritania, where it was responsible for the 2007 killing of four French tourists leading to the diversion of the Dakar rally, and the kidnapping of UN diplomats Robert Fowler and Louis Guay in 2008. Belmokhtar's relationship with Abu Musab Abdel Wadoud, the leader of AQIM deteriorated leading Belmokhtar to leave AQIM and form a group known as the Signed-in-Blood Battalion (also known as the Masked Men Brigade and the Khaled Abu al-Abbas Brigade).¹⁸ Mauritanian news agency, Al Akhbar, said the attackers released a statement demanding the end to the French military strikes in Mali (See Section below: Africa-Mali) and they accused the world of neglecting the people of Syria. In the message, Belmokhtar claimed responsibility for the attack and said the operation was carried out by 40 Islamist fighters, including several Westerners.¹⁹ Although the group claimed responsibility for the attack, Belmokhtar claimed it was in the name of Al-Qaeda²⁰. The Algerian authorities refused to negotiate with the group.²¹

Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal said a Canadian gunman, identified only as "Chedad," had coordinated the operation.²² A second Canadian gunman was also believed to be amongst the militant cell that included men from Egypt, Mali, Niger, Mauritania, and Tunisia, as well as three Algerians. Authorities said the militants had in their possession fake passports and

¹⁸ BBC, "Profile: Mokhtar Belmokhtar", 18 January 2013.

¹⁹ Telegraph, "Algeria hostage crisis: Mokhtar Belmokhtar claims responsibility", 20 January 2013.

²⁰ Reuters, "Jihadist claims Algeria attack for al Qaeda in video: site", 20 January 2013.

²¹ Telegraph, "Algeria hostage crisis: How the climactic firefight unfolded", 19 January 2013.

²² BBC, "Viewpoint: Canada no stranger to al-Qaeda", 24 January 2013.



documents.²³ Authorities believe Abdul Rahman Al-Nigeri, also known as Abu Dujana, a field commander from Niger who is known to be a close associate of Belmokhtar was suspected of leading the militants from either Libya or Niger over the border to Algeria and then to the outskirts of the plant, when the assault began.²⁴ He threatened to kill more hostages if authorities intervened.²⁵ In an audio recording, aired by Mauritian news agency ANI, he said he would “blow up” hostages if the military got too close.²⁶ He is believed to have been killed during the military operation.²⁷ It was reported in the local media that Abu al-Bara’a al-Jaza’iri was also thought to have led some of the militants. He was thought to have been killed on 19 January at the gas field’s residential complex, which has been retaken by the Algerian army.²⁸ It was also reported Algerian, Amine Benchenab, who was known to security forces was part of the team of militants was believed to have been killed during the attack.²⁹

Ethiopia

On 15 January, 10 people were convicted of having links to Al-Qaeda by a court in Ethiopia. This was the first trial in Ethiopia for Al-Qaeda suspects. The sentences ranged from three years to 20 years, and several of the militants also received large fines.³⁰ All the suspects pleaded not guilty, except for Hassan Jarso, a Kenyan citizen who pleaded guilty when first charged in May 2012. He was sentenced to 17 years in prison.³¹ Jarso told the court that he joined Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedeen in 2009 when he went to Somalia. In 2011, he fought with the militants against the African Union peacekeeping forces in Mogadishu. He said he was sent to Ethiopia to serve as Al-Qaeda's contact person in the country. Two of his alleged accomplices were sentenced to 12 and 13 years. Prosecutors said the cell was in the planning stages of an attack and had received supplies to attack political and economic targets in Ethiopia. An Ethiopian man, who was charged with recruiting members to the cell

²³ AP, “Feds investigate Canadian connection in Algeria attack”, 22 January 2013.

²⁴ Telegraph, “Algeria hostage crisis: How the climactic firefight unfolded”, 19 January 2013.

²⁵ AFP, “Siege leader warned Algerian army he’d kill hostages”, 20 January 2013.

²⁶ ABC news, “Algerian siege leader threatened to blow up hostages”, 21 January 2013.

²⁷ BBC, “Q&A: Hostage crisis in Algeria”, 21 January 2013.

²⁸ Al-Arabyia, “Kidnappers said were after ‘crusaders’ not Algerians: freed hostage”, 19 January 2013.

²⁹ BBC, “Q&A: Hostage crisis in Algeria”, 21 January 2013.

³⁰ AFP, “Ethiopia Sentences 10 for al-Qaida Links” 15 January 2013.

³¹ The Nation, “Kenyan among 10 convicted in Ethiopia over Qaeda links”, 15 January 2013.



and preaching extremism in mosques, was sentenced to 3 years and 3 months in prison. Six of the cell members were sentenced in absentia to between 14 and 20 years in prison.³²

Mali

On 11 January, French forces, at the request of the government of Mali, launched air strikes on the southern fringe of the Sahara, in an attempt to prevent Al-Qaeda-linked militants move towards Mali's capital, Bamako.³³ Islamists seized northern Mali in the wake of a coup in March 2012 which ousted the democratically-elected President Amadou Toumani Toure.³⁴ Thierry Burkhard, spokesman for the French army said the airstrikes targeted logistics bases and training camps in Kidal and the Tessalit region. Thirty warplanes including jet fighters, reconnaissance aircrafts were used in the operation.³⁵ French officials released few operational details.³⁶

Nigeria

On 19 January, the convoy of Alhaji Ado Bayero the Emir of Kano, was attacked in Kano; he escaped unhurt. The Emir of Kano is one of the two most senior Islamic traditional leaders in Nigeria, the other being the Sultan of Sokoto. Witnesses said men on motorbikes and in a car opened fire on the emir's convoy as he was returning from a ceremony near the Murtala Mohammed Mosque.³⁷ Three of the emir's palace guards and a local government official were killed.³⁸ No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Boko Haram.³⁹

On 22 January, suspected Boko Haram militants killed 23 people in separate attacks in north-eastern Nigeria. Witnesses say gunmen apparently targeted hunters selling bush meat in Damboa, killing 18 people. Another five people were killed the following day when a group of men playing draughts was attacked in Kano. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks but authorities blamed Boko Haram militants.⁴⁰

³² AP, "Ethiopia jails 10 terrorists for plotting attacks" 15 January 2013.

³³ Telegraph, "France launches air strike on al-Qaeda in Mali", 11 January 2013.

³⁴ Time, "The Crisis in Mali: Will French Air Strikes Stop the Islamists?", 13 January 2013.

³⁵ Xinhua, "France confirms "important air strikes" in northern Mali", 3 February 2013.

³⁶ BBC, "Mali and France 'push back Islamists", 13 January 2013.

³⁷ BBC, "Nigeria: Gunmen attack Kano emir's convoy", 19 January 2013

³⁸ Reuters, "Gunmen shoot at Nigeria Islamic leader's convoy in Kano", 19 January 2013.

³⁹ AllAfrica, "Nigeria: Gunmen Attack Emir of Kano", 20 January 2013.

⁴⁰ BBC, "Boko Haram militants suspected of deadly attacks in Nigeria", 22 January 2013.



Somalia

On 11 January, the French military attempted a rescue operation in Bulo Marer to free Denis Alex, a French intelligence officer held in Somalia by the group since 2009, from his captors. The operation failed. The French government said more than a dozen militants were killed, along with four civilians and a French commando. US president Barack Obama said that US forces assisted in the operation.⁴¹ Following the raid, the militants released a statement via Twitter on 17 January saying that Alex was executed at 07:30 in Bulo Marer. The militants had sentenced Alex to death after a failed attempt to free him by French commandos. French officials said after the raid that Alex was mostly likely killed during the raid.⁴²

On 29 January, six people were killed, when a suicide bomber detonated his explosives amongst a group of security officials outside the Somali Prime Minister's office in Mogadishu.⁴³ Authorities said the attacker convinced security staff that he was a defecting Al-Shabab Al-Mujahdeen militant and was allowed through the presidential compound's first line of security before he was properly challenged. When a search found his bomb vest, he detonated the explosives.⁴⁴ Palace officials said Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was abroad at the time and Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon Saaid, whose house was near the site of the explosion, was not injured.⁴⁵ Authorities identified the suicide bomber as Ali Abdi Hared.⁴⁶ Al-Shabab Al-Mujahdeen claimed responsibility for the attack.⁴⁷

South Africa

On 21 January, Henry Okah, leader of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) was convicted of 13 charges of terrorism.⁴⁸ Okah was found guilty of masterminding attacks including twin car bombings that killed 12 people in Abuja on 1 October 2010 and

⁴¹ AP, "Denis Alex Dead: Somali Al-Shabab Militants Say They Killed French Hostage", 17 January 2013.

⁴² UPI, "Al-Shabaab says French agent executed", 18 January 2013.

⁴³ Reuters, "Suicide blast kills two near Somali president's palace", 29 January 2013.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Telegraph, "Al-Shabaab suicide bomber dies in attack on Somalia presidency", 29 January 2013.

⁴⁶ Telegraph, "Somalia: Six dead in suicide attack outside PM's office", 29 January 2013.

⁴⁷ VOA, "Al-Shabab Claims Responsibility for Mogadishu Bombing", 29 January 2013.

⁴⁸ AP, "South Africa: Nigerian terror suspect accused of 2010 Nigeria bombings guilty on 13 counts", 21 January 2013.



two explosions in March 2010 in the southern Nigerian city of Warri. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) claimed responsibility for the attacks.⁴⁹

Tunisia

On 17 January, Tunisian authorities arrested a group of suspected militants in Medenin. Authorities seized a large arms cache including Kalashnikov rifles and rocket-propelled grenades. Security forces were on heightened alert because of hostage incident in In Amanas, Algeria.⁵⁰ (See above)

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

On 3 January, a bomb killed 28 Shia Muslim pilgrims⁵¹ and injured 50 others in Musayyib. Authorities said that many children were amongst the casualties. Police said that bomb exploded in a car park at approximately 1700 as pilgrims were changing buses coming from Karbala on their way to other destinations throughout the country.⁵² Many cars were set alight as a result of the explosion. The pilgrims had been observing the festival of Arbaeen. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda in Iraq.⁵³

On 13 January, Finance Minister Rafa al-Essawi escaped an assassination attempt when a roadside bomb exploded near his convoy west of Baghdad as he left a meeting. His car was not hit but two of his guards were wounded.⁵⁴ Following this attack, a suicide bomber disguised as a construction worker killed Ayfan Saadun al-Essawi, 37, an Iraqi MP and six other people on 15 January. Essawi was inspecting a road that was being paved south of Fallujah when the attacker, who was dressed as a construction worker, approached him and detonated his explosive vest. No group claimed responsibility for either attacks but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda in Iraq.⁵⁵

⁴⁹ Vanguard, "S/Africa court convicts Henry Okah of 13 acts of 'terrorism'", 21 January 2013.

⁵⁰ Reuters, "Tunisia arrests 'terrorist' group and seizes weapons", 17 January 2013.

⁵¹ New York Times, "32 Pilgrims Are Killed by Bombings in Central Iraq", 3 January 2013.

⁵² AP, "Car bomb in Iraq kills 20 Shiite pilgrims", 3 January 2013.

⁵³ BBC, "Car bomb kills Shia pilgrims south of Baghdad Iraq", 3 January 2013.

⁵⁴ Reuters, "Iraq finance minister escapes bomb attack on his convoy", 14 January 2013.

⁵⁵ AFP, "Suicide attack kills Iraqi MP, six others", 16 January 2013.



On 16 January, a suicide bomber killed 26 people and injured 180 others when he detonated a truck loaded with explosives next to the headquarters of the Kurdistan Democratic Party in Kirkuk. The KDP is led by Massoud Barzani, the president of Iraq's largely autonomous Kurdish region.⁵⁶ A similar attack against another Kurdish office in Tuz Khormato killed five people and wounded 37 others.⁵⁷ Authorities also said that roadside bombings and shootings in Baghdad, Tikrit, and Baiji killed seven policemen and soldiers. No group claimed responsibility for either attacks but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda in Iraq.⁵⁸

On 23 January, a series of attacks occurred in Baghdad and Northern Iraq. A parked car bomb exploded in a crowded market in Baghdad, killing seven people and wounding 24 others.⁵⁹ In Mahmudiya, a town 30 km south of Baghdad, a car bomb exploded near an army checkpoint killing five people, including two soldiers and wounded 14 others.⁶⁰ In a separate attack, a suicide bomber detonated his explosives during a funeral service at the Sayid al-Shuhada mosque in Tuz Khurmatu, killing 42 people and injuring 75 others. Authorities said the funeral was being held for a relative of a local politician who was shot dead the previous day. Among those hurt were officials and tribal leaders, including Ali Hashem Oghlu, the deputy chief of the Iraqi Turkman Front and a provincial councillor in Salaheddin.⁶¹

Israel and the West Bank

On 2 January, the Judea Military Court charged Ahmed Moussa, 26, with masterminding a bus bombing in central Tel Aviv on 21 November 2012. The attack coincided with discussions to declare a ceasefire in Operation Pillar of Defence.⁶² According to the indictment, Moussa was the leader of the terrorist cell that orchestrated the attack and is a resident of Beit Lakiya, West Bank. Authorities claimed the cell is linked to Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. The indictment against Moussa listed several offenses, including an attempt to intentionally cause death, conspiracy to cause intentional death, dealings in weapons and explosions, and building explosives.⁶³ Moussa allegedly purchased the weapons to use in the attack and recruited two other Palestinians to carry out the crime with him. The three were also

⁵⁶ AP, "Bombs in Iraq kill 22, mostly Shiite pilgrims", 17 January 2013.

⁵⁷ AFP, "Wave of Iraq attacks kills 42", 16 January 2013.

⁵⁸ Reuters, "Bombers kill more than 35 across Iraq", 16 January 2013.

⁵⁹ AAP, "Spate of Iraq attacks kill 26", 23 January 2013

⁶⁰ Reuters, "Two blasts, suicide attack kill 17 in Baghdad", 23 January 2013

⁶¹ AFP, "Iraq suicide bomb at Shiite mosque kills 42", 23 January 2013.

⁶² Jerusalem Post, "Tel Aviv bus bomb mastermind indicted", 2 January 2013.

⁶³ Examiner, "Israeli military court indicts terror suspect in bus bombing case", 3 January 2012.



suspected of scouring various areas with the intention of carrying out further attacks. Moussa was suspected of preparing the explosives used against the bus and of deploying a fellow cell member to plant the bomb and to notify him when it was time to detonate them remotely by mobile phone. Mohammed Mafarja, 18, was suspected of planting the explosives on the bus and was indicted on 19 December 2012 for his alleged role in the attack. A Shin Bet and Israel Police investigation found that Moussa's cell had planned to carry out further terrorist attacks, including drive-by shootings in various locations in the West Bank, near the settlements of Shilo and Kiryat Arba. Authorities believe two other Palestinian men identified as Fuad Atzi, 27, and Mohammed Damra, 25, also belonged to the terrorist cell but have not yet been indicted for the attack. Israeli authorities said the cell members intended to purchase an apartment in Ramallah to use as a hideaway following the attack, but were arrested before they could do so.⁶⁴

On 13 January, six men from Beit Fajar, West Bank were indicted in a Military court for carrying out a shooting attack in Gush Etzion in November 2012 and planning further attacks. The suspects were charged with attempting first degree murder and membership in a banned organization.⁶⁵ Israeli authorities said some of the suspects were members of Fatah. The militants were identified as: Alaa Muhammad Shukri Takatka, 23, Amad Ayad Omer Takatka, 20, and Osama Muhammad Abed al-Rahman Takatka, 21, Nadal Ravhi Taleb Takatka, 34, Muhammad Ziad Muhammed Takatka, 22, and Muhammad Yosef Ahmad Takatka, 21. During the shooting, Alaa Muhammad Shukri Takatka allegedly opened fire on a bus leaving the Jewish settlement of Migdal Oz as well as at buildings in the area and IDF soldiers stationed nearby. There were no casualties in the attack. The suspects were arrested shortly after the shooting attempt, in a joint operation involving the Shin Bet, the IDF and police from the Judea and Samaria sub-district.⁶⁶

On 16 January, the Jerusalem District Court convicted Jack Teitel of murdering two Palestinians and two attempted murders. Teitel, who is an Israeli-American citizen, had said during his trial that an "angel" had controlled him but the court ruled he was not insane and was fully responsible for his actions. He faced a maximum life sentence. The indictment included 10 of the original 14 charges against him, after the prosecution agreed to remove charges relating to attempted attacks that the authorities had foiled and general language

⁶⁴ Haaretz, "Israeli military court indicts alleged mastermind behind Tel Aviv bus bombing", 2 January 2012.

⁶⁵ Times of Israel, "Shin Bet arrests Fatah terror cell in West Bank", 28 January 2013.

⁶⁶ Jerusalem Post, "Cell indicted for alleged failed attack in W. Bank", 28 January 2013.



about Teitel's hatred for those who disagreed with or were different from him being the motivator for his crimes.⁶⁷ In 1997, Teital was convicted in the murder of two Palestinians and two attempted murders, assault with intent, illegal manufacturing and possession of firearms, and incitement of violence and terrorism between the years 1997 and 2008.⁶⁸ In March 2008, Teital was found guilty of assembling a parcel bomb that seriously injured Ami Ortiz, the son of a messianic Jew in Ariel, West Bank. He admitted to planting the bomb at the time of his arrest, calling the Ortiz family "missionaries trying to capture weak Jews."⁶⁹ In 2009, Teital was arrested and admitted to assembling a pipe bomb near the home of Hebrew University Professor Ze'ev Sternhell.⁷⁰

On 20 January, Israeli Security Services (Shin Bet) announced that two Bedouin-Israeli brothers Mahmoud Abu Kuyder, 25, and Samech Abu Kuyder, 21, from the Negev were arrested on suspicion of preparing a series of terrorist attacks in Israel.⁷¹ During questioning the suspects confessed to the terror plots. They admitted holding contacts with terrorist handlers in Gaza and abroad, preparing explosives and trying to build rockets. They also confessed to creating pipe bombs based on instructions downloaded from the internet and carrying out tests of explosives in open areas. Amongst their planned targets was the Beersheba central bus station⁷² and Israeli police officers during future demolitions of illegal Bedouin homes in the Negev. Two Jewish Israeli citizens, including an IDF soldier, were also arrested on suspicion of providing the suspects with weapons stolen from the IDF in exchange for narcotics.⁷³

Syria

On 15 January, two explosions occurred at the University of Aleppo on the first day of student exams, killing 83 people and wounding 160 others. There were conflicting reports in the media about the cause of the explosions with some reporting that it was a bomb and other reports saying it was caused by airstrikes. It was reported that the explosion occurred in an area between the university dormitories and the architecture department. No group

⁶⁷ Ynet, "Jewish terrorist' Jack Teitel convicted", 16 January 2013.

⁶⁸ Haaretz, "Court convicts Jewish terrorist Tytell of murdering two Palestinians", 16 January 2013.

⁶⁹ Jerusalem Post, "Court convicts 'Jewish Terrorist' of murder", 17 January 2013.

⁷⁰ CBN, "American-born 'Jewish Terrorist' Convicted of Murder", 18 January 2013.

⁷¹ Xinhua, "2 Israeli Bedouins arrested for planning militant attacks", 21 January 2013.

⁷² Ynet, "2 Bedouins confess to plotting terror attacks", 20 January 2013.

⁷³ Jpost, "Beduin nabbed for planning terror attacks in Israel", 20 January 2013.



claimed responsibility for the attack.⁷⁴ The bomb completely destroyed the building and authorities said students who were taking exams were the target of the attack. Authorities said that as well as students, the university campus housed some 30,000 people who have fled parts of the city due to the civil war. Some of those displaced people were among the casualties.⁷⁵

NORTH AMERICA

USA

On 17 January, Tahawwur Rana, 52, was sentenced to 14 years in prison in Chicago, Illinois followed by five years of supervised release, for conspiracy to provide material support to a terrorist plot in Denmark and providing material support to Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT); the terrorist organization that was responsible for the November 2008 attacks in Mumbai, India. Rana was convicted of the charges on 9 June 2011, following a three-week trial in US District Court in Chicago. However, he was acquitted of conspiracy to provide material support to the 2008 Mumbai attacks.⁷⁶ Rana was one of two defendants to be convicted, among a total of eight defendants who have been indicted, in this case since late 2009. Co-defendant David Coleman Headley, 52, pleaded guilty in March 2010 to 12 terrorism charges.⁷⁷ On 24 January he was convicted in Chicago, Illinois for his part in the 2008 Mumbai attacks and was sentenced to 35 years in prison. Headley had faced up to the maximum sentence of life in prison, however he received a lighter sentence due to his cooperation with US federal authorities by providing testimony against the those who plotted to attack the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten. Headley testified that in late 2008, he had a meeting with another LeT member in Karachi, Pakistan, and was instructed to conduct surveillance of the Jyllands-Posten newspaper offices in Copenhagen and Aarhus. Headley was the key witness in the trial of Tahawwur Rana. Both Rana and Headley confessed to plotting to attack the offices of Jyllands-Posten and behead staffers in retaliation for a cartoon of the Prophet Muhammad⁷⁸ that the newspaper published on 30 September 2005.⁷⁹ Evidence in Rana's

⁷⁴ Reuters, "Explosions kill 83 at Syrian university as exams begin", 15 January 2013.

⁷⁵ BBC, "Syria crisis: Dozens killed by Aleppo university blasts", 15 January 2013.

⁷⁶ First Post, "Why Tahawwur Rana escaped the 26/11 Mumbai attack charges", 18 January 2013.

⁷⁷ FBI, "Tahawwur Rana Sentenced to 14 Years in Prison for Supporting Pakistani Terror Group and Terror Plot in Denmark", 17 January 2013.

⁷⁸ Chicago Tribune, "Mumbai attack: Chicago man gets 35 years in terror plot", 24 January 2013.

⁷⁹ BBC, "What the Muhammad cartoons portray", 2 January 2010.



trial supported that Rana knew that LeT was a terrorist organization and that David Headley had attended LeT training camps operated in Pakistan.⁸⁰ Headley testified that he attended the training camps on five separate occasions between 2002 and 2005. Headley admitted in late 2005, he was given instructions to conduct surveillance, which he did five times leading up to the 2008 Mumbai that killed approximately 195 people and wounded approximately 300 others. In exchange for Headley's cooperation with authorities in Rana's trial prosecutors agreed not to seek the death penalty or extradite Headley to Pakistan, India, or Denmark.⁸¹ However, RK Singh, India's federal Home Secretary, said that India would appeal for Headley's extradition.⁸²

On 31 January, a federal jury found Mohamed Osman Mohamud, 21, a Somali-American man, guilty of attempting to detonate a bomb during a Thanksgiving holiday tree-lighting ceremony in Portland, Oregon on 26 November 2010. He was convicted on one charge of attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction.⁸³ Mohamud was arrested after he attempted to use his phone to detonate a false car bomb at the ceremony supplied to him by undercover FBI agents posing as Islamist militants.⁸⁴ Authorities said there were no casualties in the attack and the public was never placed in any danger. Mohamud is due to be sentenced on 14 May 2013 and faces life in prison.⁸⁵

SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil

On 18 January, Joseba Gotzon Visan González, alias 'Potxolín', a suspected member of Basque Homeland and Freedom (ETA), was arrested outside his home in Rio de Janeiro. The arrest was issued by Spain's National Court using a European arrest warrant.⁸⁶ The Spanish Interior Ministry said the suspect had evaded arrest since 1991 following the dismantling of the 'Biscay' Unit of ETA. González had allegedly been living in Brazil for several years under false documents provided by the terrorist group ETA. Authorities claimed that in January

⁸⁰ AP, "India ends Mumbai rampage after 60 hours, 195 dead", 29 November 2008.

⁸¹ New York Times, "Headley: India for US Mumbai attacker's extradition", 24 January 2013.

⁸² BBC, "David Planner of Mumbai Attacks Is Given a 35-Year Sentence", 25 January 2013.

⁸³ US Department of State, "Oregon Resident Convicted in Plot to Bomb Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony", 31 January 2013.

⁸⁴ BBC, "Mohamed Osman Mohamud guilty in Christmas tree bomb plo", 1 February 2013

⁸⁵ Reuters, "Somali-American man guilty in Oregon Christmas bomb plot", 31 January 2013.

⁸⁶ AFP, "ETA Fugitive Arrested in Brazil", 22 January 2013.



1988, González, together with other members of ETA, fixed a car bomb to the vehicle of the National Police Force officer Manuel Muñoz Domínguez, who was seriously injured in the attack. He was also suspected of attempting to kill National Police Force officer José María Diéguez García in a similar car bombing several days after the attack on Dominguez in Bilbao. Authorities also suspect he was involved in a failed grenade against the National Police Headquarters in Basauri in April 1988.⁸⁷

Paraguay

In late December 2012, Nélica Raquel Cardozo Taboada, 21, a Paraguayan citizen, who had 1.1 kilograms of cocaine hidden in her stomach was arrested at Charles de Gaulle International Airport in Paris while in transit to Warsaw, Poland.⁸⁸ During questioning she told authorities that she was being used as a drug mule by Wassim el Abd Fadel, 31, a Lebanese man with Paraguayan citizenship, and his wife, who had allegedly promised her work as a maid in Warsaw, Poland, if she transported the cocaine for them. As part of their investigation, authorities in France and Paraguay checked Wassim el Abd Fadel's finances, leading to his arrest several days later. Nancy Noemí Duarte de Fadel, Fadal's wife was also detained and faced human-trafficking charges.⁸⁹ On 24 January, it was reported that Fadel, who was being held in the Tacumbu prison in Asunciun on human-trafficking, money-laundering and narco-trafficking charges, was also being investigated for using money generated from these crimes to finance Hizballah. Interpol believe that Fadel transferred the money he made from narco-trafficking and the pirating of CDs and DVDs in Ciudad del Este and Brazil into bank accounts in Turkey and Syria, owned by Hizballah operatives. Fadel allegedly deposited between US\$50,000 to US\$200,000 into these accounts and the money was being used to fund Hizballah training camps. Fadel owns a mansion in his hometown of Touline, Lebanon. The residence is located just meters away from the residence where Hezbollah militant Ghaleb Awali lived before he was killed in 2004 by a Sunni group known as the Soldiers of Damascus.⁹⁰ Authorities suspect that Wassim Fadel reorganized the Moussa Ali Hamdan group that had previously dominated Hizballah operations in Ciudad del

⁸⁷ Latin American Herald Tribune, "Suspected ETA Member Arrested in Brazil", 18 January 2013.

⁸⁸ Cutting Edge News, "Paraguay and Hezbollah", 26 January 2013.

⁸⁹ Infosurhoy.com, "Paraguay: Alleged Hezbollah financier", 24 January 2013.

⁹⁰ Cutting Edge News, "Paraguay and Hezbollah", 26 January 2013.



Este, after Hamdan's arrest in Paraguay in June 2010. He was extradited to the United States where he faced 31 charges of terrorist financing.⁹¹

ASIA

Afghanistan

On 16 January, a team of six suicide bombers attacked a heavily-fortified compound of Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security (NDS), killing at least one commando and wounding 33 civilians in Kabul.⁹² One militant detonated a huge car bomb at the gate of the compound, then five men wearing suicide vests and armed with assault rifles and grenades jumped out of a nearby minivan and attempted to storm the compound. However, security forces fatally shot each of the militants before they detonated their explosives. The attackers' second vehicle was also rigged with explosives which police defused just minutes before a timer mechanism would have caused a second large blast. Authorities said the explosives were gel-based, a kind not seen before in Kabul. Witnesses said the attackers, who were approximately 17-18 years old, were armed with AK-47s and were wearing *shalwar kameez*, a traditional dress worn by both women and men.⁹³ The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.⁹⁴

On 26 January, ten police officers, including the local counter-terrorism chief and the head of traffic police, were killed in a suicide bombing in Kunduz.⁹⁵ Authorities said that at approximately 1700, a man driving a motorbike detonated a large bomb at a busy roundabout near a group of police officers.⁹⁶ Fourteen civilians and five police officers were wounded in the attack. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but police blamed Taliban militants.⁹⁷

Pakistan

On 1 January, four people were killed and 50 others injured when a motorcycle bomb exploded close to headquarters of the Mutthaida Qaumi Movement Party, which had just

⁹¹ InfoSurhoy.com, "Moussa Ali Hamdan, a suspected Hezbollah financier, arrested in Paraguay", 17 June 2010.

⁹² BBC, "Suicide bomb attack on Afghan security offices in Kabul", 16 January 2013.

⁹³ Guardian, "Suicide bombers strike at heart of Afghan capital", 16 January 2013.

⁹⁴ AP, "1 killed in suicide attack on Afghan spy agency", 16 January 2013.

⁹⁵ Al-Jazeera, "Afghan suicide bomber kills anti-terror chief", 26 January 2012.

⁹⁶ Reuters, "Ten Afghan police officers killed in suicide bombing", 26 January 2013.

⁹⁷ AP, "Suicide bomber kills police in Afghanistan", 26 January 2013.



finished holding a massive political rally.⁹⁸ Authorities said that the bomb was remotely detonated and contained ball bearings. Damage was caused to buildings and nearby shops. Three buses and five vehicles were destroyed. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.⁹⁹

On 3 January, Mullah Nazir and five other militants were killed in a suspected US drone missile attack in South Waziristan. Nazir was the leader of one of four major militant factions in Pakistan and was accused of sending fighters to Afghanistan in support of the Taliban. Authorities said that Nazir survived several attempts to kill him, including a suicide bomb attack blamed on rival militants in November 2012.¹⁰⁰ It was reported that Bahawal Khan was nominated as the new chief of the group.¹⁰¹

On 10 January, a bomb exploded at a marketplace in Quetta, killing 12 people and injuring 47 others. The United Baloch Army claimed responsibility for the attack. Several hours later, a twin bombing at a snooker hall in the city killed 81 people and injured more than 120. Many of the casualties occurred as a result of the second bomb that exploded ten minutes later and targeted rescue workers who arrived at the scene.¹⁰² Authorities said that the death toll increased to 91 people, as some people died of their injuries.¹⁰³ Police said they believed the first explosion was carried out by a suicide bomber on foot, and the second explosion was caused by a car bombing. Amongst the casualties were at least two members of a media team and four workers from a private rescue organization, the Edhi Foundation. At least five policemen also died.¹⁰⁴ It was also reported that 22 people were killed and 60 others injured in an explosion at in the Swat Valley. Initially authorities believed the explosion was a result of a gas leak or sabotage; however doctors said that many of their patients had been injured by ball bearings, often used to maximise the effect of a bomb. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.¹⁰⁵

98 PTI, "4 killed, 50 injured as bomb goes off near Mutthaida Qaumi Movement headquarters in Pakistan", 2 January 2013.

99 Reuters, "4 killed, 50 injured as bomb goes off near MQM rally", 1 January 2013.

100 BBC, "Pakistan militant Mullah Nazir killed 'in drone attack'", 3 January 2013.

101 France 24, "US drones kill insurgent leader Mullah Nazir, but at what cost?", 3 January 2013.

102 New York Times, "Blasts in Pakistan Kill Scores and Stir Fears on Elections", 10 January 2013.

103 BBC, "Pakistan blasts: Scores killed at Quetta snooker hall", 10 January 2013.

104 Daily Times, "Death rains on Pakistan", 11 January 2013.

105 New York Times, "Blasts in Pakistan Kill Scores and Stir Fears on Elections", 10 January 2013.



Philippines

On 6 January, authorities in Kidapawan said they foiled a potential bombing attack targeting local police, after receiving an intelligence tip. A bomb wrapped in used clothing that contained 60mm mortar rounds wired to a battery and a cell phone was planted near the gate of the main police station in the city. Authorities said that the station is located close to the city jail, which had previously come under attack from jihadist militants attempting to free their detained comrades. Bomb disposal experts safely defused the device. There were no casualties and no group claimed responsibility.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁶ AP, "Philippine police foil bombing in restive south", 6 January 2013.