



ICT Incidents Database Periodical Report

June 2012

The following is a summary and analysis of the terrorist attacks and counter-terrorism operations that occurred during the month of June 2012, researched and recorded by the ICT database team. Important events this month included the following:

- On 3 June 2012, 26 people were killed and 190 wounded when a suicide bomber detonated a car filled with explosives outside the Shia Endowment in central Baghdad, Iraq.
- On 4 June 2012, four men were convicted of a plot to stage an armed attack on the staff of the *Jyllands-Posten* newspaper in Copenhagen, Denmark on 29 December 2010. They were sentenced to 12 years in prison.
- On 7 June 2012, the US State Department's Rewards for Justice Program authorized rewards for information about seven key leaders of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.
- On 14 June 2012, German police carried out a series of countrywide raids that targeted ultraconservative Islamic organizations. They also banned the Salafist organisation Millatu Ibrahim.
- On 19 June 2012, Iranian nationals Ahmad Abolfathi Mohammed and Sayed Mansour Mousavi were arrested in Nairobi, Kenya. After leading security officials to a stockpile of 15 kilograms of RDX explosives that they had hidden at a Mombasa golf club, they were charged on 25 June with illegal possession of explosives.
- On 20 June 2012, Al-Qaeda militant Naamen Meziche – previously reported as having been killed in a US drone strike in 2010 – was arrested in Quetta, Pakistan.
- On 21 June 2012, Hisyam bin Alizein (aka Umar Patek), 45, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for his role in the 2002 Bali bombings.
- On 21 June 2012, Abubakar Shekau, Abubakar Adam Kamar, and Khalid al-Barnawi, three Boko Haram leaders were designated as terrorists by the US state department. All assets belonging to the men in the US were frozen and contact with US citizens banned.
- On 25 June 2012, Shri P. Chidambaram, the Home Minister of the Government of India, announced that LeT militant Zabiuddin Sayed Zabiuddin Ansari (aka Abu Jundal), 30, had been arrested by Saudi authorities and transferred to Indian security forces at the Delhi airport on 21 June. Jundal was accused of issuing instructions by telephone to the 10 gunmen who conducted the Mumbai 2008 attacks in India.
- On 28 June 2012, two men were arrested at separate residences in East London, UK, who were suspected of plotting an attack at the London 2012 Olympic Games' canoeing venue.
- On 29 June, French police arrested a 35-year-old Tunisian man in Toulon. The suspect's identity was not revealed to the public, but police said he had been charged with financing and plotting terrorist acts and using encrypted messages to foster communication among Al-Qaeda, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Fatah Al-Islam, the Islamic State of Iraq, Tawhid Al-Jihad, and Jaish Al-Islam.



EUROPE

Denmark

On 4 June, four residents of Sweden from North Africa and the Middle East – Mounir Ben Mohamed Dhahri, 46, Munir Awad, 30, Omar Abdalla Aboelazm, 30, and Sabhi Ben Mohamed Zalouti, 37 – were sentenced to 12 years in prison after having been convicted of plotting to violently attack the staff of the Danish daily, *Jyllands-Posten* on 29 December 2012.. All four men denied the charges against them.¹ In 2005, *Jyllands-Posten* had published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, which offended many Muslims and led to demonstrations and rioting in numerous Muslim countries.² The men were arrested on 29 December 2010, several hours before they could carry out their plot. At the time of their arrest, they were in possession of a mechanized pistol with a silencer, a revolver, 108 bullets, 200 plastic handcuff strips and \$20,000.³ Police said Dhahri, who was suspected of having attended a training camp for terrorists in the tribal regions of Pakistan from 2008-2010, was the alleged mastermind of the plot. Surveillance recordings played during the trial showed the four men discussing martyrdom, the *Jyllands-Posten*, and the proposed attack, which was intended to mimic the 2008 attack in Mumbai, India.⁴

France

On 26 June, in a joint operation of French and Spanish police, ETA militants Ugaitz Errazquin Telleria, 27, and Jose Javier Osés Carrasco, 32, were arrested in Albi, near Toulouse.⁵ Both men, who were allegedly in France to recruit new members to the militant organization,⁶ were armed at the time of their arrest.⁷ Telleria was suspected of being part of an ETA unit responsible for car bombings, explosions and shooting assassinations, including a 2008 car bombing at the University of Navarra that wounded 28 people. He was also suspected of involvement in the 2008 assassinations of Socialist councilor Isaias Carrasco and businessman Inaki Uribe. Jose Javier Osés Carrasco had fled Spain in late 2010 while on

¹ BBC, "Four guilty in Danish plot over Muhammad cartoons", 4 June 2012.

² Ibid.

³ AFP, "Four found guilty of Danish newspaper attack plot", 4 June 2012.

⁴ AP, "Danish court finds 4 guilty of terrorism", 4 June 2012.

⁵ AFP, "French police detain suspected ETA car bomber", 26 June 2012.

⁶ Euronews, "Two suspected ETA terrorists arrested in France", 26 June 2012.

⁷ Euronews, "Two suspected ETA terrorists arrested in France", 26 June 2012.



provisional release from prison, where he had been incarcerated for acts of street violence in the Navarra region.⁸

On 29 June, following 12 months of investigation and surveillance, French police arrested a Tunisian man, 35, in Toulon. The suspect's identity was not revealed to the public, but police said he had been living in France since 2003.⁹ The man was charged with plotting terrorist acts and financing a terrorist enterprise.¹⁰ Prosecutors said he was responsible for overseeing secure Internet communications; fundraising; recruiting and transporting aspiring jihadists to indoctrination and military training; and providing information about bomb building and potential targets. According to French authorities, he facilitated encrypted communication among groups such as Al-Qaeda, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Fatah Al-Islam, the Islamic State of Iraq, Tawhid Al-Jihad, and Jaish Al-Islam.¹¹ French authorities also said he played a "central role" in collecting funds that these terrorist groups used to buy weapons. However, they did not elaborate on how much money was involved.¹²

Germany

On 14 June, nearly 1,000 German police carried out a series of raids nationwide on homes, meeting halls and mosques in a crackdown on ultraconservative Islamic organizations, chiefly Millatu Ibrahim. Members of that and other radical Salafist groups were targeted in Bavaria, Berlin and North Rhine-Westphalia.¹³ Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich said that he had banned the Salafist Millatu Ibrahim, which had been calling on Muslims to oppose Germany's "constitutional order" and preaching that Germany should be ruled by Islamic law [shari'a].¹⁴ The authorities were alerted to the activities of Millatu Ibrahim when an explosive vest was found during a search of a residence in Berlin in May 2012.¹⁵ German authorities believe the group, apparently based in Solingen, is led by Mohamed Mahmoud (aka Abu Usama Al-Gharib), an Austrian who had lived in Germany since 2011 but left the country for Egypt in 2012. Previously, Al-Gharib had served four years in an Austrian prison

⁸ AFP, "French police detain suspected ETA car bomber", 26 June 2012.

⁹ AFP, "Tunisian webmaster held in Paris on Qaeda recruiting charges", 4 July 2012.

¹⁰ Time, "Exclusive: French Officials Detail 'Big Coup' Bust of Key Al-Qaeda Enabler", 4 July 2012.

¹¹ AP, "France arrests man over 'al-Qaeda links'", 3 July 2012.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ AP, "Germany bans ultraconservative Islamic organization amid raids across the country", 14 June 2012.

¹⁴ AP, "Germany: Islamist Group Banned", 14 June 2012.

¹⁵ Telegraph, "British suspected Islamic terrorist arrested in Germany", 14 June 2012.



after his 2007 conviction for establishing and promoting a terrorist organization. He left Germany on his own volition, after a German court ruled that the authorities could expel him.¹⁶ German authorities believe that some 4,000 Salafists are active in Germany, and that Salafist groups have close ties to global jihadists, particularly in Afghanistan.¹⁷ Among those whose homes were raided was that of Ibrahim Abou Nagie in Cologne; police suspect Abu Nagie of recruiting supporters and distributing free Qur'ans.¹⁸

Germany's intelligence and security agencies reported intensifying their monitoring of Salafist groups after clashes between them and the small, far-right Pro NRW Party in Bonn and Solingen in May 2012. Following the clashes, a video surfaced online by Yassin Chouka (aka Abu Ibrahim Al-Almani), who is linked to the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. In the video, Al-Almani urges Salafists to kill members of Pro NRW and the German media, but to do so at their home or workplace rather than in public, to avoid arrest.¹⁹ German authorities hope their increased surveillance will reveal the evidence needed to ban additional Salafist groups.²⁰

Russia

On 20 June, Russian police safely destroyed the 400 kilograms of explosives they had found in a hideout in the Russian Republic of Ingushetia.²¹ Authorities said they believe the hideout was constructed in 2005 or 2006 by militants affiliated with Chechen terrorist Shamil Basaev, who was killed during a counter-terrorist operation in 2006. Basaev had claimed responsibility for dozens of terrorist attacks in Russia between 1995 and 2005, including the siege of the Dubrovka Theater in which some 900 people were taken hostage and 130 of them killed.²²

United Kingdom

On 20 June, the trial of Mohammed Sajid Khan, 33, and his wife, Shasta, 38, began in Manchester Crown Court. The couple are accused of planning to attack Manchester's Jewish community, the UK's second-largest (after London), with some 50,000 Jewish residents.

¹⁶ Der Spiegel, "Salafist Organisation Banned in Germany", 14 June 2012.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ BBC, "German police in major crackdown on Salafist Muslims", 14 June 2012.

¹⁹ AP, "Germany bans ultraconservative Islamic organization amid raids across the country", 14 June 2012.

²⁰ Der Spiegel, "Salafist Organisation Banned in Germany", 14 June 2012.

²¹ RIA Novosti, "Huge Bomb Cache Destroyed in Ingushetia", 20 June 2012.

²² RT, "Massive explosives hideout discovered in North Caucasus", 20 June 2012.



Specifically, they are charged with preparing acts of terrorism for nearly a year, from 10 August 2010 to 24 July 2011. Police were initially called to the couple's home, on 5 August 2011, following a domestic dispute, which allegedly erupted when Shasta Khan's parents accused Mohammed Sajid of being a homegrown terrorist and corrupting their daughter. They were arrested when police became suspicious of their activities.²³

At an earlier hearing, Mohammed Sajid Khan pleaded guilty to preparing to engage in acts of terrorism and to three counts of possessing information useful for preparing or committing an act of terrorism; Shasta Khan denied any involvement and pleaded not guilty.²⁴ Prosecutors alleged that the Khans had purchased substances and equipment from supermarkets, which could be used to assemble the improvised explosive device that they had planned to use against a Jewish target – what the trial judge called [planning] “jihad at home”.²⁵ The couple had allegedly been radicalized in 2010-2011 by Al-Qaeda's Internet propaganda, such as *Inspire* magazine, which regularly prints instructions for bomb assembly. Police said the couple had carried out "multiple reconnaissance" trips to the Jewish community, but had yet to choose a specific target.²⁶

On 28 June, two men were arrested at separate residences in East London, on suspicion of plotting to attack the London 2012 Olympic Games' canoeing venue.²⁷ The arrests were based on a tip-off that the men had been seen behaving suspiciously near the canoeing site in Waltham Abbey, Hertfordshire, on 25 June. The men were detained at a central London police station under the Terrorism Act 2000, on suspicion of the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism. As part of the investigation, police also searched additional residences in East London. Mizanur Rahman, 29, an acquaintance of one of the suspects, identified both men: as Jamal Ud-Din, 18, and “Zakariya”, 32.²⁸ In 2011, Jamal Ud-Din allegedly appeared in a YouTube video titled "The Test of Allah by Jamal ud Deen". He expressed hatred for democracy and non-Muslims, admiration for jailed Egyptian preacher

²³ Jerusalem Post, “Couple built homemade bombs to attack UK Jews”, 22 June 2012.

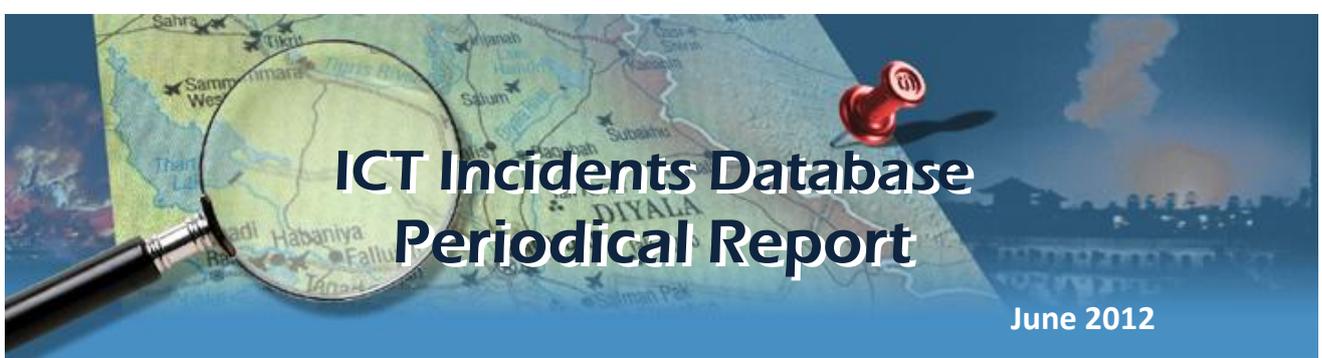
²⁴ Telegraph, “Couple charged with planning act of terrorism”, 5 August 2011.

²⁵ Guardian, “Muslim pair accused of planning jihad bomb attack on Jews in Britain”, 20 June 2012.

²⁶ Telegraph, “Muslim pair accused of planning jihad bomb attack on Jews in Britain”, 20 June 2012.

²⁷ Guardian, “Police arrest two on suspicion of Olympics-related terrorism”, 28 June 2012.

²⁸ International Business Tribune, “London Olympics 2012: Two Muslim Converts Arrested on Suspicion of Terrorist Plot Against Waltham Abbey Canoeing Venue”, 29 June 2012.



Abu Hamza, and anger at the cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad published by the Danish daily, *Jyllands-Posten*.²⁹

On 29 June, Antonio Troitino Arranz, 55, and Ignatio Lerin Sanchez, 39, were arrested in a pre-dawn raid by Metropolitan Police in Hounslow, London.³⁰ British police said the two men, arrested under Section five of the Extradition Act, were charged with being members of ETA.³¹ The suspects appeared at an extradition hearing in Westminster Magistrate's Court, and were remanded in custody until 20 July 2012.³² Police said Arranz had belonged to the terrorist cell that plotted a car bomb attack on a Spanish civil guard patrol in 1986. He was arrested in 1987 and sentenced to prison in more than 2,700 years in prison in 1989, but Spanish penal law at the time limited the maximum jail term to 30 years, and Troitino was released in April 2011 after serving 24 years based in part on good behavior. The decisions to release him caused public outrage, and within days the National Court revoked his release and ordered his re-arrest. However, he had already gone into hiding.³³ Lerin has been wanted since 2007 on suspicion of belonging to an armed group and possessing explosives.³⁴

AFRICA

Kenya

On 19 June, Iranian nationals Ahmad Abolfathi Mohammed and Sayed Mansour Mousavi were arrested in Nairobi. They led security officials to a stockpile of 15 kilograms of RDX explosives hidden at a Mombasa golf club. On 25 June, the men were charged with illegal possession of explosives. Kenyan police believe the suspects, purportedly members of the elite Al-Quds division of Iran's Revolutionary Guards,³⁵ had imported the explosives to Kenya via Iraq. Although both men denied the charges, Kenyan authorities claimed that they had been in the advanced stages of planning a terrorist attack. According to Israeli sources, it is likely that the suspects were involved in a series of Iranian plots to target Israeli diplomats in February 2012.³⁶ The suspects allegedly monitored their intended targets in Nairobi, but had

²⁹ AP, "2 Terror Suspects Arrested in London", 28 June 2012.

³⁰ CNN, "Spanish ETA terror suspects arrested in London", 29 June 2012.

³¹ BBC, "Two Eta suspects remanded by UK court", 29 June 2012.

³² Guardian, "Eta members arrested in London", 29 June 2012.

³³ BBC, "Two Eta suspects remanded by UK court", 29 June 2012.

³⁴ CNN, "Spanish ETA terror suspects arrested in London", 29 June 2012.

³⁵ Telegraph, "Telegraph, "Iranians 'were targeting British High Commission in Kenya", 3 July 2012.

³⁶ AFP, "Israel accuses Iran of plotting attacks in Kenya", 2 July 2012.



not taken photographs for fear of arousing suspicion. Authorities believe the men had planned to detonate as many as 30 different bombs at British, US, Israeli and Saudi Arabian targets such as tourist facilities, synagogues and prominent commercial and government buildings.³⁷

On 29 June, four aid workers were kidnapped near the Dadaab refugee camp, close to the border with Somalia. Authorities said gunmen shot at a two-vehicle convoy, one of which was later found abandoned approximately 30km from the camp.³⁸ Kenyan police and military personnel launched a manhunt for the attackers. Authorities suspect the captives and their abductors continued on foot, but it was unclear whether they remained in Kenya or had escaped into neighbouring Somalia.³⁹ The aid workers, employed by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), were nationals of Norway, Canada, Pakistan and the Philippines. The NRC secretary-general, Elisabeth Rasmusson, was also in the convoy, but managed to escape unharmed. One of the Kenyan drivers was killed in the attack and the other was wounded, as was an NRC contractor. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but authorities suspect Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen. However, the group's military operations spokesman, Sheikh Abdisias Abu Musab, has refuted any involvement in the incident.⁴⁰

Nigeria

On 3 June, 15 people were killed and 42 injured in an attack that targeted Christian worshippers at a Church compound in the northern Nigerian city of Bauchi.⁴¹ Witnesses said that a suicide car bomber attempted to plough through a fence outside the church, but that the car had exploded on impact, killing people both inside and outside the church.⁴² On 4 June, Boko Haram claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement in Hausa released to the media and signed by the group's spokesman, Abu Qaqa.⁴³

³⁷ AP, "Kenya official: Iranian agents planned attack against Israeli, U.S. targets", 2 July 2012.

³⁸ BBC, "Aid workers kidnapped from Kenya's Dadaab camp near Somalia", 29 June 2012.

³⁹ Reuters, "Gunmen kidnap aid workers from Kenya camp, driver killed", 29 June 2012.

⁴⁰ Reuters, "Gunmen kidnap aid workers from Kenya camp, driver killed", 29 June 2012.

⁴¹ BBC, "Deadly blast hits Nigeria church", 3 June 2012

⁴² BBC, "Deadly blast hits Nigeria church", 3 June 2012.

⁴³ Vanguard, "Nigeria: Bauchi Church Bombings - Boko Haram Claims Responsibility", 4 June 2012.



On 17 June, 21 people were killed and 131 wounded* when three churches were targeted by Boko Haram militants in northern Nigeria.⁴⁴ In the first attack, five militants approached the Evangelical GoodNews Church in Zaria and threw home-made bombs through its open doors. Four children, who were playing outside the church, were killed. Several minutes later, a suicide bomber in a blue Honda drove the vehicle through the gates of Christ the King Catholic Cathedral and detonated his explosives, killing two people. Less than an hour later, a third explosion was reported at a church in Kaduna. Two other explosions targeted churches in southern Nigeria. Following these attacks, rioting broke out in Kaduna and angry youths took to the streets seeking to attack Muslims. Police imposed a 24-hour curfew.⁴⁵ In an email to local media, Boko Haram took responsibility for the attacks, claiming they were revenge for alleged previous Christian "atrocities" against Muslims.⁴⁶

**NB: It should be noted that the number of casualties reported in the media varied by source. Local media such as AllAfrica.com reported that as many as 74 people were killed, while the Associated Press reported 21 casualties, the BBC reported 36 casualties, CNN reported 50 casualties, and Reuters reported 92 casualties – including those killed in the subsequent reprisal riots.*

On 21 June, Boko Haram leader Habibu Bama was arrested and wounded in Damaturu. Subsequently, the Nigerian State Security Service announced that Bama had died of his gunshot wounds while in custody, in the early hours of 22 June.⁴⁷ Bama had been wanted by the State Security Service since the bombing of Saint Theresa Catholic Church in Madalla on 25 December 2011.⁴⁸ Authorities also believe that Bama, at one time a private in the Nigerian Army, was responsible for the coordinated bombings in Mogadishu Barracks Market in Abuja on 31 December 2010; a suicide bombing at Police Headquarters in Abuja on 16 June 2011; and a suicide bombing at UN headquarters in Abuja on 26 August 2011.⁴⁹ Nigerian authorities said that Bama had used the following aliases: Habib Bama, Shuaibu Bama and Habib Mamman.⁵⁰ The circumstances surrounding Bama's arrest and ultimate death were unclear. According to one report in the local press, officers from the Army's Joint Task Force stormed Bama's base in Damaturu, engaging Bama and his aides in the gun battle

⁴⁴ AP, "21 Killed in Attacks on Churches in Nigeria", 17 June 2012.

⁴⁵ The Telegraph, "Series of bombings hit Nigerian churches", 18 June 2012.

⁴⁶ BBC, "Nigeria's Boko Haram 'bombed Kaduna churches'", 18 June 2012.

⁴⁷ Telegraph, "Nigeria arrests Christmas bombing suspect", 22 June 2012.

⁴⁸ AP, "Key Boko Haram Terrorist Killed in Nigeria", 24 June 2012.

⁴⁹ Jamestown Foundation, "The mysterious death in custody of Boko Haram leader Habib Bama", 5 July 2012.

⁵⁰ Ibid.



in which he was fatally wounded.⁵¹ However, another report claimed that his arrest was unplanned, and resulted from his having been recognized at a local market by a former Army colleague on patrol with his unit. According to this report, Bama attempted to grab one of the soldier's weapons, but was shot in the leg and then overpowered by other soldiers. There were also reports that Bama had been attempting to leave Damaturu, arousing the suspicion of security forces, who engaged him in the battle in which he was wounded. As noted, the authorities reported that he died of his wounds while in police custody,⁵² purportedly because he was denied medical care. Also according to Nigerian authorities, the decision to deny Bama medical care was made due to the anticipated difficulty of convicting suspected Boko Haram militants, against whom witnesses are reluctant to testify.⁵³

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

On 3 June, 26 people were killed and 190 wounded in central Baghdad when a suicide bomber detonated a car filled with explosives outside the Shia Endowment,⁵⁴ a government-run body that manages religious and cultural sites. The explosives-rigged car was parked in a lot near the three-storey building, causing severe damage to it and to nearby cars.⁵⁵ Authorities believe the attack was motivated by a dispute over the Al-Askari shrine, one of the most revered sites in Shia Islam. Several days prior to the attack, the Shia Endowment had received threats as a result of this dispute; however, no group has claimed responsibility for the attack. The authorities blame Al-Qaeda in Iraq.⁵⁶

On 18 June, a suicide bomber killed 22 people and wounded 50 others at a gathering of Shi'ite mourners in Baqubah. The casualties included an army first lieutenant, four police officers, and seven other security personnel.⁵⁷ Police said the suicide bomber had detonated his explosive belt in a tent crammed with 150 people, some of them senior politicians and

⁵¹ PM News, "Arrested Boko Haram Leader, Habib Bama Dead", 22 June 2012.

⁵² The Nation, "JTF captures Boko Haram leader Bama in gun battle", 22 June 2012.

⁵³ Sahara reporters, "Boko Haram Cell Leader, Habib Bama, Dies From Gunshot Wounds", 22 June 2012.

⁵⁴ AP, "Suicide car bomb kills 23 in central Baghdad", 4 June 2012;

⁵⁵ Reuters, "Baghdad suicide bomber kills dozens in attack on Shia office", 4 June 2012.

⁵⁶ BBC, "Deadly car bomb attack rocks Baghdad", 4 June 2012.

⁵⁷ AFP, "Anti-Shiite suicide bombing kills 22 in Iraq", 19 June 2012.



security officials, who had come to mourn a tribal chief. No group took responsibility for the attack, but the authorities suspected Al-Qaeda in Iraq.⁵⁸

On 22 June, two bombs exploded in an open-air market on the outskirts of Baghdad, killing 14 people and injuring 106 others.⁵⁹ The explosions, which occurred several minutes apart, targeted the Husseiniya market, which is located in a Shi'ite enclave. The second explosion aimed to kill and maim the security forces and rescue workers who had come to aid the victims of the first explosion.⁶⁰ No group took responsibility for the attack, but the authorities suspected Al-Qaeda in Iraq⁶¹.

On 28 June, 33 people were killed and 50 injured in a series of coordinated car bombings, roadside bombings, and shootings across Iraq.⁶² In Diwaniyah, 25 people were killed and 40 wounded when an explosives-laden vegetable truck was detonated in a crowded market. In Baghdad, a bomb concealed in a parked car exploded at a marketplace, killing eight people and injuring 30 others. Six people were killed and 51 wounded in another, similar car bombing in Baqubah.⁶³ A roadside bomb in southern Baghdad targeted a police patrol, killing one and injured six others.⁶⁴ Militants also targeted a government building in Taji, killing four and injuring 20. Finally, in Fallujah, a suicide bomber killed two people and wounded seven others.⁶⁵

Israel, West Bank and Gaza Strip

On 1 June, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Staff Sergeant Netanel Moshiashvili, 21, was killed by a Palestinian gunman, Ahmad Nassir, who infiltrated Israel from the Gaza Strip at about 05:00, according to the IDF. A nearby Army reconnaissance unit detected the militant and alerted the Golani Brigade's 12th Battalion, which arrived at the scene and engaged the terrorist, killing him.⁶⁶ Nassir had in his possession an AK-47, munitions, hand grenades and

⁵⁸ BBC, "Iraq suicide blast kills 15 at Shia funeral in Baquba", 18 June 2012.

⁵⁹ AP, "Baghdad market bombs kill 14, wound more than 100", 22 June 2012.

⁶⁰ Reuters, "Baghdad bombs kill at least 13", 22 June 2012.

⁶¹ BBC, "Bomb blasts kill 13 at Baghdad market", 22 June 2012.

⁶² AP, "Iraq bombs, market attacks leave 33 dead", 28 June 2012.

⁶³ BBC, "Deadly Baghdad car bombs kill and injure dozens", 28 June 2012.

⁶⁴ AP, "Bombings, shootings around Iraq kill 22", 28 June 2012.

⁶⁵ Reuters, "Iraq bomb attacks kill 21, wound scores", 28 June 2012.

⁶⁶ IDF, "Staff Sgt. Netanel Moshiashvili Killed in Exchange of Fire with Terrorist", 1 June 2012.



explosives, which the IDF said were intended to be used in a terrorist attack in one of the communities adjacent to the border. IDF authorities also suspect that Nassir intended to abduct an IDF soldier. Also according to the IDF, Nassir had ties to Islamic Jihad, which initially took responsibility for the attack, but then later retracted its statement. The IDF blamed Hamas.⁶⁷ Several hours after the attack, Israel responded with a missile strike against the southern Gaza Strip, killing one militant and wounding two others. Militants fired back rockets, which did not cause any damage.⁶⁸

On 13 June, Kabari Gabriosus, 22, an Eritrean national living in Tel Aviv, was arrested on suspicion of raising money among the Eritrean migrant community in Israel for a terrorist group, possibly one based in the Sinai Peninsula.⁶⁹ Gabriosus was charged with conspiracy to commit a crime, terrorist affiliation, funding a terrorist group, and money laundering.⁷⁰ Two other suspects were also arrested: one was identified as a resident of Ramla, and the other as a resident of Beit Zurif in the West Bank.⁷¹ Police reported becoming suspicious of Gabriosus during their surveillance of several terrorist suspects in central Israel.⁷²

On 18 June, Said Fashafshe, an Israeli-Arab construction worker from Haifa, was killed by militants. Fashafshe had been part of the team that was erecting a security fence along Israel's border with the Sinai Peninsula.⁷³ According to Israeli authorities, preliminary investigation has revealed that three terrorists infiltrated the border between the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula, placed an explosive device on the Philadelphi Strip near Be'er Milka, and waited for Israeli vehicles to arrive. Several minutes later, the device exploded when a vehicle passed, and the gunmen opened fire. They also fired an RPG rocket, which missed its target. As a result of the shooting, one of vehicles rolled down a hill, wounding Fashafshe, who died of his wounds shortly afterwards. Two of the assailants were killed in an ensuing battle with IDF soldiers. The IDF said they believed a third militant had escaped back into

⁶⁷ Ynet, "IDF strikes Gaza terror hibs", 3 June 2012

⁶⁸ Jerusalem Post, "IDF soldier, terrorist killed near Gaza", 1 June 2012.

⁶⁹ Jerusalem Post, "Eritrean, two others arrested for terror financing", 14 June 2012;

⁷⁰ Ynet, "Eritrean suspected of aiding terror group", 14 June 2012

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Jerusalem Post, "Eritrean, 2 others arrested for funding terror", 14 June 2012.

⁷³ New York Times, "Militants Attack Israelis Across Egyptian Border, Renewing Concerns on Sinai", 18 June 2012.



Egypt. IDF forces seized a Kalashnikov assault rifle, grenades, helmets, bullet-proof vests and camouflage clothing.⁷⁴ No group claimed responsibility for the attack.⁷⁵

On 20 June, 65 rockets were fired at Israel's western Negev communities by militants in the Gaza Strip. There were no reported casualties. In response, the Israeli Air Force (IAF) made two bombing raids against terrorist cells in the northern Gaza Strip. The first strike targeted a terrorist cell on the Israel-Egypt border, killing one militant linked to Islamic Jihad and injuring a second militant, and the second strike targeted two terrorist hubs.⁷⁶ The escalation in rocket fire had begun on 18 June, when more than 100 rockets were fired by Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip at southern Israel. One of the Palestinian rockets hit a hen-house in the Hof Ashkelon Regional council; two others hit in the territory of the Sha'ar Hanegev Regional Council; and two others landed on the outskirts of Ashkelon.⁷⁷ In IDF retaliation, two militants were killed, whom the Palestinian Ma'an News Agency identified as Muhammad Shabat and Ismael Abu Ouda. Both were members of Islamic Jihad's Al-Quds Brigades.⁷⁸

On 27 June, senior Hamas commander Ibrahim Hamed, 47, was found guilty by the Ofer Military Court for the deaths of 46 Israelis in terrorist attacks during the Second (Al-Aqsa) Intifada.⁷⁹ Hamed was also convicted of four counts of accessory to murder and four counts of attempted murder.⁸⁰ However, Hamed was found innocent of the charge of attempting to blow up a Tel Aviv night club. Hamed denied the accusations against him but refused to testify in court, saying he did not recognize the authority of an Israeli court.⁸¹

Turkey

On 15 June, Turkey's daily *Hurriyet* reported that Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH) director Bulent Yildirim was being investigated by Turkish authorities for allegedly transferring funds to Al-Qaeda through the IHH,⁸² an Islamic charity founded in the mid-

⁷⁴ Haaretz, "Haifa man named as victim of terrorist attack on Egypt border", 18 June 2012.

⁷⁵ Jerusalem Post, "Militants Attack Israelis Across Egyptian Border, Renewing Concerns on Sinai", 18 June 2012.

⁷⁶ Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Rocket Fire From Gaza On Israel in the Past Few Days", 21 June 2012.

⁷⁷ Ynet, "IDF chief: We'll meet any threat, any time", 20 June 2012.

⁷⁸ Jerusalem Post, "IAF kills 2 Islamic Jihad operatives in Gaza strike", 18 June 2012.

⁷⁹ Ynet, "Hamas terrorist convicted of killing 46 Israeli", 27 June 2012.

⁸⁰ Haaretz, "Top Hamas commander found guilty of killing 46 Israelis", 27 June 2012.

⁸¹ Jerusalem Post, "Court convicts Hamas W. Bank head of 46 murders", 27 June 2012.

⁸² Hurriyet, "Head of conservative NGO under probe for financing al-Qaeda", 15 June 2012.



1990s, originally to provide aid to Bosnia's Muslims. Since then, it has been involved in charity operations in a number of Muslim and Middle Eastern countries, and in aid missions to the Palestinian territories (the IHH largely funded the 2010 Gaza-bound flotilla).⁸³ Israeli authorities suspect the charity is affiliated with Hamas and the Union of the Good, an Islamic umbrella group affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood.⁸⁴ Turkish prosecutors claim to have evidence that the IHH had attempted to make the financial transactions without using the official numbering and identification needed for wire transfers.

USA

On 7 June, the US State Department's Rewards for Justice Program authorized rewards for information about seven key leaders of the Somali militant group Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen. This was the first time the US had offered money in exchange for information about specific members of the group.⁸⁵ Established in 1984, the Rewards for Justice Program has paid some \$100 million to more than 70 people for information about terrorists. The seven individuals named are key leaders of the organization:

- A reward of up to \$7 million was authorized for information leading to Ahmed Abdi Aw-Mohamed, the founder of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen and its operational commander in Somalia. Reportedly, he also was trained and fought in Afghanistan.
- A reward of up to \$5 million each was offered for information leading to Ibrahim Haji Jama, Fuad Mohamed Khalaf, Bashir Mohamed Mahamoud, and Mukhtar Robow. Khalaf, a dual Somali and Swedish national, has raised funds for Al-Shabab and abetted attacks in Somalia. Mahamoud, believed to have been born between 1979 and 1982, is the group's military commander, and also coordinates Al-Qaeda's operations in Somalia. Robow, born in 1969, has served as the group's spokesperson and spiritual leader.
- A reward of \$3 million each was offered for information leading to Zakariya Ismail Ahmed Hersi and Abdullahi Yare. Hersi acts as Al-Shabab's head of intelligence, and Yare heads its media operations. He is also deputy to Aw-Mohamed.⁸⁶

On 8 June, Raja Lahrasib Khan, 58, a Pakistani-born taxi driver, was sentenced to 90 months in prison in Chicago for financing Harakat Ul-Jihad-I-Islami (HuJI) [The Islamic Jihad Movement].⁸⁷ US District Court Judge James Zagel also sentenced Khan to a lifetime of

⁸³ Ynet, "Report: IHH financially linked to al-Qaeda", 15 June 2012.

⁸⁴ Jerusalem Post, "Turkey investigating IHH head for funding al-Qaida", 15 June 2012.

⁸⁵ BBC, "Al-Shabab: US puts bounty on Somali militants", 7 June 2012.

⁸⁶ US Department of State, "Rewards for Justice al-Shabaab Leaders Reward Offers", 7 June 2012.

⁸⁷ ABC News, "Fare for taxi-driving terrorist sympathizer: 90 months", 8 June 2012.



supervision after his release.⁸⁸ On 6 February 2012, Khan pleaded guilty to one count of attempting to provide material support to terrorism and made a plea agreement with prosecutors, which included a five- to eight-year sentencing recommendation.⁸⁹ Khan admitted that he had met with Ilyas Kashmiri, the leader of HuJI in Kashmir in 2008. Khan said he gave Kashmiri approximately \$250 to fund attacks by HuJI in India; however, he was also aware that Kashmiri was working with Al-Qaeda. In 2009, Khan allegedly sent the equivalent of \$930 from Chicago to an individual in Pakistan via Western Union,⁹⁰ with instructions to give \$300 of it to Kashmiri. In 2010, Khan met with an undercover FBI agent posing as someone also interested in sending money to Kashmiri; this led to Khan's arrest, on 26 March 2012. Khan was recorded telling the agent that he was going to ask Kashmiri to teach him how to plot an attack on a sports stadium, whose location he did not specify. The FBI suspected Khan of recruiting operatives in the US to carry out this plot.⁹¹

On 14 June, Mohamed Ibrahim Ahmed, 38, an Eritrean national, pleaded guilty in a US court to one count of conspiracy to provide material support to Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen and one count of conspiracy to receive military-type training from a terrorist group.⁹² Authorities said Ahmed, who resides in Sweden, travelled to Somalia in 2009 to learn bomb-making and detonation. He was arrested in Nigeria in November 2009 and transferred to US custody in March 2010. He also allegedly channelled US\$3,769 to Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.⁹³ Ahmed faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison if convicted. His sentencing is scheduled for November 2012.⁹⁴

On 18 June, Wesam El-Hanafi, 37, pleaded guilty in a federal court in Manhattan, New York to providing material support to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and to conspiring to provide material support to Al-Qaeda. El-Hanafi was accused of purchasing seven digital Casio watches through Amazon.com, with the intention of sending them to militants in Yemen to be used as bomb triggers.⁹⁵ El-Hanafi was arrested in April 2010, along with Brooklyn resident Sabirhan Hasanoff, 36, a dual US and Australian citizen who pleaded guilty

⁸⁸ Reuters, "Chicago cabbie sentenced to prison for aiding al Qaeda", 7 June 2012.

⁸⁹ ABC News, "Fare for taxi-driving terrorist sympathizer: 90 months", 8 June 2012

⁹⁰ CBS, "North Side Cabbie Pleads Guilty To Trying To Aid Al Qaeda", 6 February 2012.

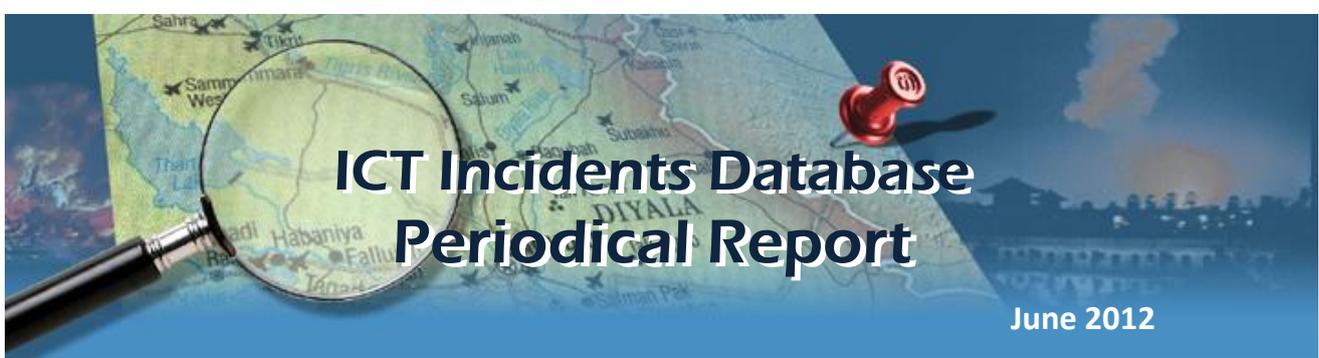
⁹¹ AFP, "US taxi driver pleads guilty to aiding Al-Qaeda", 7 February 2012.

⁹² BBC, "Eritrean pleads guilty to aiding Somalia's al-Shabab", 14 June 2012.

⁹³ Bloomberg, "Al Shabaab Associate Admits To Supporting Terrorist Group", 14 June 2012.

⁹⁴ Reuters, "Suspected militant pleads guilty to aiding Somalia's al Shabaab", 14 June 2012.

⁹⁵ Guardian, "New York man pleads guilty to aiding al-Qaida in terror plot", 18 June 2012.



on 4 June to similar crimes. El-Hanafi had been placed on a US "no-fly list" several months prior to his arrest. In February 2010, he contacted US authorities in the United Arab Emirates, where he had been working, to find out why he was barred from flying, and was arrested soon after. Authorities also said El-Hanafi had traveled to Yemen in February 2008 to meet Al-Qaeda leaders. Both men faced a maximum of 20 years in prison if convicted.⁹⁶

On 21 June, three Boko Haram militants were deemed terrorists by the US State Department, allowing their assets in the US to be frozen and prohibiting them from contact with US citizens. The militants were identified as Abubakar Shekau, Abubakar Adam Kamar, and Khalid Al-Barnawi. This was the first time the US State Department had blacklisted individual members of Boko Haram. US officials said their decision to list individuals rather than apply the more general "Foreign Terrorist Organization" label to the group reflected a desire not to elevate the organization's profile.⁹⁷ Under Shekau's leadership, Boko Haram has carried out numerous attacks in northern Nigeria and killed more than 1,000 people.⁹⁸

On 22 June, Amine El-Khalifi, 29, an illegal immigrant from Morocco,⁹⁹ pleaded guilty for attempting to carry out a suicide attack on the US Capitol Building in February 2012. The attack was foiled by FBI agents.¹⁰⁰ El-Khalifi will face sentencing on 14 September 2012, and if convicted is likely to be sentenced to 25-30 years in prison.¹⁰¹

ASIA

Afghanistan

On 6 June, a double suicide bombing killed 23 people and injured 50 others in a parking lot for dozens of trucks that supply the NATO-run Kandahar Air Base, and where a makeshift bazaar was being held.¹⁰² The first explosion occurred when a suicide bomber on a motorcycle detonated his explosives in the parking lot. Several minutes later, as people

⁹⁶ AP, "Wesam El-Hanafi, New Yorker Accused Of Aiding Al-Qaeda, Pleads Guilty To Terror Charges", 18 June 2012.

⁹⁷ Reuters, "US adds first Boko Haram members to 'terrorist' list", 22 June 2012.

⁹⁸ US Department of State, "Terrorist Designations of Boko Haram Commander Abubakar Shekau, Khalid al-Barnawi and Abubakar Adam Kamar", 21 June 2012.

⁹⁹ FBI, "Virginia Man Pleads Guilty in Plot to Carry Out Suicide Bomb Attack on U.S. Capitol", 22 June 2012.

¹⁰⁰ US Department of State, "Virginia Man Pleads Guilty in Plot to Carry out Suicide Bomb Attack on U.S. Capitol", 22 June 2012.

¹⁰¹ ABC News, "Amine El Khalifi pleads guilty in Capitol bomb plot", 22 June 2012.

¹⁰² RTE News, "23 dead, 50 wounded in Afghanistan bomb attacks", 7 June 2012.



gathered at the site of the explosion, a second suicide bomber walked into the crowd and detonated his explosive vest.¹⁰³ Prior to this attack, the Taliban had threatened to kill truckers working for NATO, which relies on civilian vehicles to supply its bases across Afghanistan. Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi claimed responsibility for the attack.¹⁰⁴

On 21 June, a team of heavily-armed Taliban insurgents attacked the Spozhmai Hotel, a resort on Lake Qargha near Kabul, killing 21 people.¹⁰⁵ The attack began close to midnight, when gunmen armed with weapons and wearing suicide vests attacked the hotel, where several hundred people were at the time. Afghan Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said that the Taliban had taken approximately 50 people hostage during the assault and used them as human shields. A standoff between the militants and ANA and ISAF troops, with air support, resulted in a 12-hour siege; all of the attackers were killed.¹⁰⁶ At least one of the attackers detonated his explosive vest. Many guests swam to safety in the lake and hid there until the assault ended.¹⁰⁷ The Taliban took responsibility for the attack. Abdulqahar Balkhi, whom the Taliban say is a member of their communications wing, tweeted via Twitter that the hotel had been targeted because it is frequented by foreigners and people who advocate parties and prostitution, which are forbidden by Islam.¹⁰⁸

India

On 25 June, Shri P. Chidambaram, the Home Minister of the Government of India, announced to the media that Saudi security forces, with the help of Indian and US intelligence, had arrested Zabiuddin Sayed Zabiuddin Ansari (aka Abu Jundal), 30, and transferred him to Indian security forces at the Delhi airport on 21 June.¹⁰⁹ Abu Jundal is suspected of being a member of Lashkar-e-Taiba, which was accused of coordinating the 2008 attack in Mumbai.¹¹⁰ Indian authorities said Zabiuddin was based in Pakistan at the time of the attack, but allegedly issued instructions by telephone to the 10 gunmen who conducted it.¹¹¹ Abu Jundal allegedly taught the terrorists Hindi, and was also responsible for

¹⁰³ Reuters, "Kandahar suicide bombs kill tens of Afghan civilians", 6 June 2012.

¹⁰⁴ RTE News, "23 dead, 50 wounded in Afghanistan bomb attacks", 7 June 2012.

¹⁰⁵ New York Times, "Taliban Attack Lakeside Resort Hotel Near Kabul, Taking Families Hostage", 21 June 2012.

¹⁰⁶ Reuters, "Kabul Hotel Siege: Taliban Attack At Spozhmai Hotel Ends, Afghan Police Say", 22 June 2012.

¹⁰⁷ AP, "Taliban insurgents kill 18 in attack at Afghan resort", 22 June 2012.

¹⁰⁸ New York Times, "Taliban Attack Lakeside Resort Hotel Near Kabul, Taking Families Hostage", 21 June 2012.

¹⁰⁹ US Department of State, "Terrorist Designations of Boko Haram Commander Abubakar Shekau, Khalid al-Barnawi and Abubakar Adam Kamar", 21 June 2012.

¹¹⁰ Reuters, "US adds first Boko Haram members to 'terrorist' list", 22 June 2012.

¹¹¹ BBC, "Boko Haram leaders are designated as terrorists by US", 21 June 2012.



coordinating planning between Lashkar-e-Taiba's commander and Mumbai attack suspect Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi.¹¹² He was also wanted in connection with an arms haul in Aurangabad, the 2006 Mumbai train attacks, and a plot to assassinate Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi.¹¹³

Indonesia

On 21 June, Hisyam bin Alizein (aka Umar Patek), 45, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for his role in the 2002 Bali bombings. The double suicide attack had targeted a nightclub and a bar on 12 October, killing 202 people.¹¹⁴ Patek's trial, which was held in Jakarta in front of a five-judge panel, lasted four months, and was the last in the trials of perpetrators of the Bali attack.¹¹⁵ Patek was found guilty on all six charges against him, including premeditated murder, illegal firearm possession, and concealing information about other terrorist acts. He was also convicted of assembling the explosives used in a series of church bombings on 24 December 2000. The charges carried a maximum penalty of death by firing squad, but Patek received a lighter sentence for showing remorse during his testimony.¹¹⁶ US Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Frank Pellegrino testified earlier in the trial that Patek was well known among militants in South East Asia as an expert bomb-maker. Patek denied he was an expert, but did admit that he had mixed the chemicals that comprised the bombs. He also said he had been against the attack and was not involved in its planning or execution.¹¹⁷

Authorities said Patek had left Bali just before the 2002 attack, and spent nine years evading arrest, traveling in the Philippines and Pakistan. He allegedly trained Abu Sayyaf militants while he was hiding in the Philippines. Prior to his arrest, Patek was the most-wanted terrorism suspect in Indonesia, and the US had placed a \$1 million bounty on his head. He was ultimately arrested on 25 January 2011 in Abbotabad. US agents said they had evidence that Patek planned to kill US troops, and suggested that he had gone to Abbottabad to meet Osama Bin Laden. Patek repeatedly denied these claims.¹¹⁸

¹¹² Jamestown, "Saudi Arabia, US and India cooperate to capture Mumbai "26/11" attacker Abu Jundal", 1 July 2012.

¹¹³ South Asia Portal on Terrorism weekly reports, "Pakistan generals plotted 26/11 along with JuD chief Hafiz Mohammad Saeed, reveals Abu Jundal", 23 July 2012.

¹¹⁴ Reuters, "Court jails the last of the Bali bombers", 22 June 2012.

¹¹⁵ AP, "Umar Patek, Bali Bomber", 21, Sentenced To 20-Year Term", 21 June 2012.

¹¹⁶ BBC, "Bali bomb-maker Umar Patek jailed for 20 years", 21 June 2012.

¹¹⁷ AFP Reuters, "Court jails the last of the Bali bombers", 22 June 2012.

¹¹⁸ Al-Jazeera, "Bali bombmaker sentenced to 20 years in jail", 21 June 2012.



Pakistan

On 7 June, a bomb killed 15 people and injured 40 others in Quetta. The 6kg bomb was attached to a bicycle parked next to a madrassa [religious school], where students and parents had gathered for a graduation ceremony.¹¹⁹ Initially there were eight casualties, but on 8 June the death toll increased to 15 when seven people succumbed to their injuries. The casualties were five students and 10 others – teachers, employees and relatives of the students, three of them children.¹²⁰ The bomb was triggered by a remote-controlled device.¹²¹ No group claimed responsibility for the attack.¹²²

On 8 June, 19 people were killed and 42 others injured when a bus carrying government employees and other civilians exploded as it was travelling from Peshawar to the nearby town of Charsadda.¹²³ Pakistani authorities said the bomb contained eight kilograms of explosives and was detonated remotely. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.¹²⁴

On 16 June, a car bomb exploded at a crowded bazaar in the Pakistani town of Landi Kotal in the Khyber tribal region, killing 26 people and wounding 57 others. Local authorities said the explosion appeared to be aimed at members of the pro-government Zakha Khel tribe, who oppose a local warlord. Authorities said the car bomb contained 5kg of explosives.¹²⁵ No group claimed responsibility for the blast, but authorities suspected the Pakistani Taliban.¹²⁶

On 20 June, Pakistani officials announced that they had arrested Naamen Meziche, a French national of Algerian origin linked to Al-Qaeda, in Quetta. The officials did not specify the time or exact location of the arrest, but did say that Meziche was the suspected ringleader of the Hamburg Cell involved in the 9/11 attacks,¹²⁷ and had close ties to Mohammed Atta, who piloted American Airlines Flight 11 into the World Trade Center. Meziche himself was not believed to have had any operational role in the attacks.¹²⁸ Meziche had been questioned by the German authorities in 2003 for having received a phone call a week prior to the 9/11

¹¹⁹ Reuters, "Bombing kills 14 in Pakistan's Quetta – police", 7 June 2012.

¹²⁰ AFP, "Pakistan Madrassa bomb toll rises to 15", 8 June 2012.

¹²¹ Pakistan Today, "16 killed in bomb attack on Quetta madrassa", 7 June 2012.

¹²² AFP, "Pakistan Madrassa bomb toll rises to 15", 8 June 2012.

¹²³ AP, "Bomb targeting government bus in Pakistan kills 19", 8 June 2012.

¹²⁴ LA Times, "Bus explosion kills 19 in northwest Pakistan", 8 June 2012.

¹²⁵ IHT, "26 killed, 57 injured in blast at Landi Kotal market", 16 June 2012.

¹²⁶ AP, "Car bomb kills 20 in Pakistan bazaar", 16 June 2012.

¹²⁷ AP, "Pakistan Nabs Frenchman Accused of 9/11 Links", 20 June 2012.

¹²⁸ Reuters, "Important" al Qaeda leader captured in Pakistan: officials", 20 June 2012.



attack from its coordinator, Ramzi Binalshibh. However, the case was suspended and Meziche was not indicted at the time, due to lack of evidence.

Meziche had also worked closely with Al-Qaeda militant Younis Al-Mauritani, who was arrested by Pakistani authorities in September 2011. Al-Mauritani was responsible for Al-Qaeda's international operations. Meziche was also suspected of recruiting new militants to the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan.¹²⁹ Previously the media had reported that Naamen Meziche had been killed in a US airstrike in Pakistan in 2010.¹³⁰

¹²⁹ Reuters, "Important" al Qaeda leader captured in Pakistan: officials", 20 June 2012.

¹³⁰ International Business Network, "Is Al-Qaeda Operative Naamen Meziche Arrested in Pakistan Same Man Said to have Died in 2010?", 20 June 2012.