



ICT Incidents Database Periodical Report

November 2011

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

- On 4 November 2011, Viktor Bout was convicted of plotting to kill Americans and US officials, delivering anti-aircraft missiles and aiding the Revolutionary forces of Colombia (FARC).
- On 5 November 2011, two police officers and five alleged Taliban militants were charged with the assassination of Benazir Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Pakistan.
- On 5 November 2011, 63 people were killed and hundreds wounded by Boko Haram militants who carried out a series of shooting and bombing attacks in Borno and Yobe states, Nigeria.
- On 5 November 2011, Guillermo Leon Saenz alias Alfonso Cano, 63, leader of the Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC), was killed in a remote area of the south-western state of Cauca, Colombia.
- On 10 November 2011, Ahmad Wali Siddiqui was charged in Germany with being a member of both al-Qa'ida and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan.
- On 12 November 2011, four people were arrested in Qatar and a fifth was arrested in Bahrain, accused of planning to attack Bahrain's Interior Ministry, the Saudi embassy, and a causeway linking Bahrain with Saudi Arabia.
- On 12 November 2011, seven people were killed when a man identified as M. K. Kariyev carried out an armed assault against police in Taraz, Kazakhstan.
- On 12 November 2011, Turkish commandos stormed a high speed ferry to rescue 20 passengers and crew held hostage by a PKK militant near Izmit, 50 km west of Istanbul, Turkey.
- On 14 November 2011, Egyptian authorities arrested Mohammed Eid Muslih Hamad, accused of planning the 18 August 2011, cross border attack in southern Israel, in which eight Israelis were killed.
- On 15 November 2011, four men were arrested in Birmingham, UK on suspicions of fund-raising for terrorism and attending terrorist training camps in Pakistan.
- On 15 November 2011, Barry Walter Bujol Jr. was convicted in the US of attempting to provide material support to al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQIP).
- On 21 November 2011, Jose Pimentel, 27, was charged in New York, US with three terrorism-related counts and two other counts.
- On 24 November 2011, 25 people were killed and 70 injured as a result of a triple bomb attack targeting a marketplace in Basra.
- On 28 November 2011, three people were killed and 27 injured when a powerful bomb exploded at the Atilano Pension House, a small hotel in Zamboanga City, Philippines.
- On 29 November 2011, four Katyusha rockets were fired at northern Israel from Lebanon. The Sheikh Abdullah Azzam Brigades, a small militant group with links to al-Qa'ida, claimed responsibility for the attack.



EUROPE

United Kingdom

On 15 November 2011, four men were arrested in Birmingham accused of raising funds for terrorism and attending militant training camps in Pakistan. The men were identified as; Khobaib Hussain, Ishaq Hussain, and Shahid Kasam Khan, all aged 19, and Naweed Mahmood Ali, 24.¹ They were charged under section 5(1) of the Terrorism Act 2006, as part of a counter-terrorist police investigation known as Operation Pitsford.² Eight other people were arrested and charged in September 2011, as part of this investigation. Three were alleged to have been planning a suicide bombing campaign in the UK.³

Germany

On 10 November 2011, Ahmad Wali Siddiqui, initially identified only as Ahmad Wali S., was charged with being a member of both al-Qa'ida and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. He was accused of training with both groups in Pakistan/Afghanistan border region in 2009 and 2010. In July 2010, Siddiqui was captured by US troops in Afghanistan and provided details of alleged al-Qa'ida plots against European cities; however none of the attacks materialized.⁴

France

On 2 November 2011, a Molotov cocktail was thrown through a window of the offices of French satirical journal, *Charlie Hebdo*, in Paris. The offices were severely damaged and equipment destroyed. There were no casualties. The attack coincided with a special edition of the paper on the Arab Spring which featured "The Prophet Muhammad" as editor-in-chief. The attack occurred before the journal had gone to press. No group claimed responsibility for the attack and no immediate arrests were made, however police were searching for two suspicious men seen leaving the area around the time of the attack. The newspaper's website was also defaced with a message in English and Turkish cursing the magazine. French politicians condemned the attack.⁵

¹ BBC, "Four Birmingham man remanded on terrorism charges", 19 November 2011;

² Sky News, "Four Appear In Court On Terrorism Charges", 19 November 2011;

³ Telegraph, "Four men arrested over Birmingham 'suicide plot'", 15 November 2011;

⁴ AP, "German-Afghan Charged With Al Qaeda Membership", 10 November 2011;

⁵ Telegraph, "French satirical newspaper firebombed after prophet Mohammed announcement", 2 November 2011;



AFRICA

Nigeria

On 5 November 2011, 63 people were killed and hundreds wounded by Boko Haram militants who carried out a series of shooting and bombing attacks. The main targets of the attack were the headquarters of the Yobe State police, several government buildings, two banks and nine churches in Borno and Yobe states. The worst violence occurred in the city of Damaturu. Groups of armed masked men roamed the streets for about 90 minutes carrying out arson attacks and engaging in street battles with security forces. Government officials said the majority of victims were killed as a result of a double suicide car bombing at the anti-terrorist court building.⁶ Abul-Qaqa, a spokesman for Boko Haram, contacted Nigeria's *Daily Trust* newspaper claiming responsibility for the attack and threatening further attacks. Following the attacks, the US embassy issued an emergency warning to US citizens living in Nigeria, amid concerns that luxury hotels in Abuja may be the target of further bombings.⁷

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

On 24 November 2011, 25 people were killed and 70 injured as a result of a triple bomb attack targeting a marketplace in Basra. Shortly after evening prayers, a roadside bomb exploded in the main commercial area of the city. Several minutes later a bomb planted inside a motorized rickshaw exploded nearby. The majority of the casualties resulted from the third explosion that targeted the rescue workers and police, who had gathered at the scene.⁸ Amongst the dead were Iraqi army officers and the province's deputy police chief, Brig. Gen. Matar Dakhel.⁹

On 28 November 2011, 19 people were killed, including ten police officers and 22 injured when a suicide bomber detonated a car laden with explosives at the main gate of the prison in Taji. The attack occurred at 0800, as staff and security officers were arriving to work.

⁶ BBC, "Nigeria Boko Haram attack 'kills 63' in Damaturu", 5 November 2011;

⁷ Al-Jazeera, "Nigeria group threatens more deadly attacks", 18 November 2011;

⁸ BBC, "Bombs in Iraqi southern city of Basra kill 19", 24 November 2011;

⁹ WSJ, "Death Toll Raised in Basra Bombings", 25 November 2011;



Fearing a second explosion the security guards fired into the air to disperse the crowds. There was no immediate claim of responsibility but authorities suspected al-Qa'ida in Iraq.¹⁰

Israel including West Bank and Gaza Strip

On 6 November 2011, the Israel Security Agency cleared for publication the arrest of Zaid Abd al-Rahman, 20, for stabbing a Jewish teenager in Jerusalem's Ramot neighborhood on 22 October 2011.¹¹ Zaid, a Beit Iksa resident and student from Abu Dis University, confessed to the attack and admitted it was politically motivated.¹²

On 24 November 2011, two Palestinian militants were sentenced at the Jerusalem District Court to a total of three life terms for the murder of Kristine Luken, an American tourist who was fatally stabbed in the Jerusalem hills in December 2010. Kifah Ghanimat, the suspected leader of the cell, was given two life sentences and an additional sixty years in prison due to his role in the murder of Netta Blatt-Sorek in 2010. Ibrahim Ghanimat was given one life sentence and an additional sixteen years in prison. The cell was also suspected of carrying out 19 other security related incidents since 1997.¹³

On 28 November 2011, Amjad Awad, 19, was convicted and found guilty in the Samaria Military court of the murder of five members of the Fogel family in Itamar, West Bank on 11 March 2010. He was also found guilty of two weapons trafficking counts and conspiracy to commit murder.¹⁴ In October 2011, his cousin, Hakim Awad, was found guilty of five consecutive life sentences for his role in the attack. Israeli authorities concluded after an investigation into the attack, that the two cousins planned the attack alone and were not financed by any terror organisation, despite the fact that their family had links to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.¹⁵

On 29 November 2011, four Katyusha rockets were fired at northern Israel from Lebanon. One of the rockets hit a gas tank, triggering a large fire and damaging surrounding buildings. There were no casualties. The IDF responded with artillery directed at the source of the

¹⁰ AP, "Suicide car bomber kills 19 outside prison in Iraq", 28 November 2011;

¹¹ Haaretz, "Israel police arrest Arab student suspect in Jerusalem stabbing ", 6 November 2011;

¹² Jerusalem Post, "Police arrest suspect in stabbing of Jewish youth in J'lem", 6 November 2011;

¹³ Haaretz, "Jerusalem court hands life sentences to Palestinians who killed American tourist", 24 November 2011;

¹⁴ Jerusalem Post, "Second Fogel family killer convicted", 28 November 2011;

¹⁵ Haaretz, "IDF court convicts second Palestinian man for Fogel murders ", 28 November 2011;



attack. In response to the attack, UNIFIL forces conducted patrols along the village of Aita al-Shaab, where authorities believed the rockets were launched.¹⁶ The Sheikh Abdullah Azzam Brigades, a small militant group with links to al-Qa'ida claimed responsibility for the attack. Authorities said that the group who are based in hideouts in Palestinian refugee camps across southern Lebanon, does not have a large weapons cache and most of its members were trained on outdated arms left from the 1980s Lebanon civil war.¹⁷

On 29 November 2011, the Israeli Security Agency and Israeli police announced the arrest of a small Hamas cell that was organizing and funding social, religious, and educational Hamas activities in east Jerusalem.¹⁸ The activists raised approximately 2.5 million Israeli shekels to fund their activities. The indicted activists included:

- *Yakoub Abu Atzab*, 39, the alleged leader of the cell, was a resident of the Old City, Jerusalem. He was convicted in 2005 by an Israeli Military court for smuggling funds into the West Bank to finance Hamas activities ahead of the 2006 parliamentary elections;
- *Kafeh Sarhan*, 41, of Silwan, allegedly served as the cell's financial officer;
- *Ahmed Alian*, 35, of Beit Safafa, was charged with leading the Hamas' activity in the Jerusalem neighborhood;
- *Fouad Hamadia*, 42, of Wadi Joz, who was accused of serving as head of the religious committee in Jerusalem;
- *Ashraf Ashur*, 33, of Ras al-Amud, served as the alleged fundraiser working with foreign countries to finance Hamas' activity in Jerusalem.¹⁹

Turkey

On 11 November 2011, a high speed ferry was hijacked in the Sea of Marmara at approximately 1745 on route from Izmit to Golcuk by PKK militant Mensur Guzel.²⁰ Authorities claimed that Guzel was the leader of the youth wing of the Kurdistan Workers' Party in Kocaeli province²¹, however the PKK did not claim responsibility for the attack.²² After repeated calls for Guzel to surrender, Turkish marine commandos stormed the ferry at 05.35 on 12 November 2011, to rescue the 20 passengers and crew; there were no

¹⁶ Haaretz, "Four Katyusha rockets from Lebanon hit northern Israel, gas tank struck", 29 November 2011;

¹⁷ Haaretz, "Al-Qaida linked group claims responsibility for Katyusha fire against Israel", 29 November 2011;

¹⁸ Jerusalem Post, "Hamas 'council' uncovered in east Jerusalem", 29 November 2011;

¹⁹ Ynet, "Jerusalem men accused of raising millions for Hamas", 29 November 2011;

²⁰ BBC, "Turkish commandos end ferry hijack in Gulf of Izmit", 12 November 2011;

²¹ VOA, "Kurdish Rebel Killed After Hijacking Turkish", 12 November 2011;

²² AP, "Turkish forces shoot dead ferry hijacker", 12 November 2011;



casualties. Guzel had made no tangible political demands except that the incident not be broadcast to the media. He also asked for fuel, food and drink. Three other attackers were arrested.²³ Authorities said that 450 grams of plastic explosive were found on Guzel's body but it was unclear whether he had a gun.²⁴ The attack was significant because hijackings are an unusual modus operandi for PKK militants, who usually carry out attacks on security forces in the mainly Kurdish southeast of Turkey. The last hijacking carried out by the PKK was on Turkish Airlines Flight 487 en route from Adana to Istanbul on 29 October 1998.²⁵

Saudi Arabia

On 12 November 2011, four people were arrested in Qatar and a fifth arrested in Bahrain on suspicion of planning to attack Bahrain's Interior Ministry, the Saudi embassy, and a causeway linking Bahrain with Saudi Arabia.²⁶ Bahraini and Saudi media reported that the cell was linked to Iran. Authorities said the suspects had in their possession several documents and a computer containing security information about their intended targets; they were also carrying large sums of US dollars and Iranian rials when arrested. Under interrogation the men confessed to leaving Bahrain illegally and traveling to Iran where they intended to establish a group that would carry out the attacks.²⁷ Following the arrests, on 21 November 2011, Iran summoned Bahrain's charge d'affaires to reject the claims that the cell had links to Tehran's Revolutionary Guard.²⁸

Egypt

On 14 November 2011, Egyptian authorities arrested Mohammed Eid Muslih Hamad, alias El-Tihi, in El Arish, Sinai. He was accused of planning a series of cross-border attacks in southern Israel on 18 August 2011, in which eight Israelis were killed. Authorities believe that Hamad was the commander of an al-Qa'ida inspired group in the Sinai. Egyptian media reported that he was likely to be charged with detonating an explosive belt worn by one of the Eilat attackers. El-Tihi was also suspected of involvement in the repeated sabotaging of

²³ Reuters, "Turkish commandos shoot dead lone ferry hijacker", 12 November 2011;

²⁴ AP, "Turkish forces shoot dead ferry hijacker", 12 November 2011;

²⁵ Haaretz, "Suspected Kurdish rebels hijack ferry in Turkey", 11 November 2011;

²⁶ AP, "Iran summons Bahrain's top diplomat to protest alleged terror cell links", 21 November 2011;

²⁷ Ynet, "Bahrain: Iran-linked terror cell nabbed", 12 November 2011;

²⁸ Guardian, "Bahrain says terror suspects linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard", 14 November 2011;



the gas pipeline that runs between Egypt, Israel, and Jordan and with attacks on police stations in El Arish and Rafiah, in which several people were killed.²⁹

SOUTH AMERICA

Colombia

On 5 November 2011, Guillermo Leon Saenz alias Alfonso Cano, 63, leader of the Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC), was killed in a remote area of the south-western state of Cauca. Government forces bombed a FARC jungle camp in Cauca state, after searching the area they killed Cano and several other FARC members.³⁰ Seven computers, 39 thumb drives and large quantities of US dollars, euros and Colombian pesos, all belonging to Cano were seized.³¹ On 16 November 2011, FARC announced that Timoleon Jimenez, alias Timochenko, had replaced Cano as leader of the organization.³²

Central America

Cuba

On 9 November 2011, Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, 46, a Saudi militant accused of plotting the 2000 bombing of the American destroyer USS Cole, went on trial in a military court in Guantanamo Bay US naval base, nine years after he was arrested. The hearing attempted to clarify potential evidence on alleged acts of torture authorized by US personnel. Nashiri claimed that he gave false confessions so that the CIA would discontinue his torture. In addition, the CIA admitted to erasing videotapes on Nashiri's interrogation process which showed him naked and hooded.³³ Nashiri faced execution if he is convicted; he would be the first Guantanamo prisoner to be charged with war crimes that carry a potential death sentence since President Barack Obama took office. The trial was expected to highlight several unresolved legal questions about the rules of evidence in terrorism-related trials.³⁴

²⁹ Haaretz, "Egypt arrests suspect in terror attack near Eilat", 14 November 2011;

³⁰ BBC, "Top Farc rebel leader Alfonso Cano killed in Colombia", 5 November 2011;

³¹ Colombia Reports, "FARC collaborators helped kill Cano: Santos", 5 November 2011;

³² VOA, "Jimenez Replaces Cano as Colombian Rebel Leader", 16 November 2011;

³³ Reuters, "Alleged al Qaeda bomber faces US war court", 11 November 2011;

³⁴ Telegraph, "Accused Al-Qaeda Leader Is Arraigned in U.S.S. Cole Bombing", 9 November 2011;



NORTH AMERICA

USA

On 4 November 2011, international arms dealer Viktor Bout, 44, was convicted of conspiracy to kill Americans and US officials, deliver anti-aircraft missiles, and aid the Revolutionary forces of Colombia (FARC). He was accused of conspiring to acquire and export surface-to-air anti-aircraft missiles, giving him an additional sentence of 25 years in prison. Bout also faced a maximum of 15 years for conspiring to provide material support or resources in the form of weapons to a foreign terrorist organization. His sentencing was scheduled for 8 February 2011.³⁵

On 15 November 2011, Barry Walter Bujol Jr. was convicted of attempting to provide material support to al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQIP) and forced identity theft. He faced up to 20 years in prison.³⁶ Bujol was arrested on 30 May 2010, after he used a fake identity card to enter the port of Houston, where he boarded a ship he thought was bound for Algeria. Prosecutors claimed that Bujol had intended to travel from Algeria to Yemen to fight for AQAP. When authorities searched his apartment, they discovered a home-made video on his laptop computer that included images of Osama bin Laden and was dubbed with Bujol's voice addressing his wife saying he had left suddenly to pursue jihad. According to court documents, Bujol used at least 14 email addresses to hide his activities from authorities. Prosecutors also alleged Bujol exchanged emails with the Anwar al-Awlaki.³⁷

On 21 November 2011, Jose Pimentel, 27, was charged in New York with three terrorism-related counts and two other counts. Police said Pimentel was arrested in a Manhattan apartment while assembling a pipe bomb that he intended to use against US soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Police believe he was a lone wolf who had converted to Islam. Pimentel was allegedly inspired and radicalized by the late Anwar al-Awlaki via his sermons online. If convicted, Pimentel faced life in prison.³⁸ Police said he had been under surveillance since May 2009. Authorities claimed Pimentel was planning to target New York

³⁵ New York Times, "Viktor Bout", 2 November 2011;

³⁶ AP, "Texas Man Convicted of Trying to Help Al-Qaida", 15 November 2011;

³⁷ CNN, "Texas man who wanted to join al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula found guilty", 15 November 2011;

³⁸ BBC, "New York man arrested suspected of bomb plot", 21 November 2011;



police cars, a New Jersey police station and US post offices. Police said he used the online magazine *Inspire* published by AQIM to learn how to assemble the bombs.³⁹

On 22 November 2011, the US State Department announced that Ibrahim Suleiman Hamad Al-Hablain, an explosives expert, bomb maker and operative for a Lebanon-based radical group, had been blacklisted as a terrorist. He was wanted for extradition by the Saudi government for participating in extremist activities abroad. He was also subject to an Interpol Orange Notice issued on 10 February 2009 for terror-related activities. All of Al-Hablain's property on US soil was frozen and he has been barred from doing business with other US citizens.⁴⁰

ASIA

Philippines

On 28 November 2011, three people were killed and 27 injured when a powerful bomb exploded at the Atilano Pension House in Zamboanga City. The explosion occurred on the second floor of the hotel resulting in severe damage to the structure of the building and a large fire. Two guests of the hotel were instantly killed when the bomb exploded in the room next to where they were staying. The third victim was killed by falling debris from the building. The majority of the victims were at the hotel due to celebrate a local wedding.⁴¹ Authorities said the bomb was made up of 10 kilograms of TNT powder. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but police suspect the attack was part of a planned simultaneous bombings linked to Abu Sayyaff militants. Two other bombs were discovered nearby on Basilan Island and safely defused by authorities in Isabela city.⁴² Police detained a man and woman in connection with the attack; although they were not charged with the attack, their information led to the arrest on 30 November 2011 of wanted Abu Sayyaff militant Hussein Ahaddin, 38, alias Abu Tiihin. He was accused of being responsible for this explosion, as well as for five other attacks including the 2 October 2002 bombing attack at a karaoke bar in

³⁹ The Washington Post, "Bomb plot suspect's mom apologizes to NYers; questions arise about feds' lack of involvement", 22 November 2011;

⁴⁰ US Department of State, "Terrorist Designation of Ibrahim Suleiman Hamad Al-Hablain", 23 November 2011;

⁴¹ AP, "Powerful bomb blast kills 3, hurts 27 in southern Philippines hotel packed with wedding guests", 28 November 2011;

⁴² BBC, "Zamboanga wedding guests caught in Philippine blast", 28 November 2011;



Zamboanga city and the 9 October 2011 attack at a cockfighting arena. Police discovered him at a hide-out in in Zamboanga City.⁴³

Kazakhstan

On 12 November 2011, seven people were killed when a man identified as M. K. Kariyev carried out an armed assault against police in Taraz, Kazakhstan. The attacker killed two members of the Kazakh security service then raided a weapons store, killing a guard and a customer, before stealing two semiautomatic rifles and ammunition. The suspect went on to kill two police officers who were pursuing him. After taking their weapons, including an assault rifle, he went on to hijack a car, and attack the regional headquarters of the National Security Committee using a grenade launcher. Police surrounded him and as they attempted to disarm him, he detonated his explosives, killing himself and one policeman.⁴⁴ Kazakhstan's Deputy Prosecutor-General, Nurmukhanbet Isayev said the attacker was motivated by Jihadist beliefs. In addition to the attack it was reported that security services, acting on an anonymous tip, evacuated an entertainment complex shortly after the shooting for fear that a bomb was planted nearby.⁴⁵ Witnesses told Russian television that the suspect appeared to be an ethnic Kazakh, and that he was specifically targeting the police. The Jund al-Khilafah, a small militant group formed in the summer of 2011, claimed responsibility for the attack and threatened to launch further attacks in response to a new law that had been passed by the Kazakhstani government to limit religious extremism.⁴⁶

Pakistan

On 5 November 2011, two police officers and five alleged Taliban militants were charged with the assassination of Pakistani former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, on 27 December 2007.⁴⁷ An anti-terrorism court in Rawalpindi indicted the seven men in a closed hearing. The two police officers were indicted for failing to provide adequate security to Bhutto; one of the officers was the former Rawalpindi police chief. The five militants were charged with transporting the suicide bomber from the tribal belt in the northwest and providing him as safe house in Rawalpindi. All seven men denied the charges against them.⁴⁸ Pervez

⁴³ AP, Philippines arrests alleged al-Qaida-linked bomber", 30 November 2011;

⁴⁴ New York Times, "Fatal Rampage by a Gunman in Kazakhstan", 12 November 2011;

⁴⁵ Telegraph, "Kazakhstan prepares for growing Islamic militant threat - Telegraph", 13 November 2011;

⁴⁶ BBC, "Kazakhstan: Taraz city attack kills seven", 12 November 2011;

⁴⁷ AFP, "Seven indicted for murdering Bhutto", 5 November 2011;

⁴⁸ VOA, "7 Indicted in Bhutto Murder Case", 5 November 2011;



Musharraf, former Pakistani President at the time of the murder was also been implicated in the assassination. In February 2011, the anti-terrorism court issued an arrest warrant for him, due to his alleged failure to provide Bhutto with adequate security.⁴⁹

⁴⁹ BBC, "Bhutto murder: Pakistan police and Taliban charged", 5 November 2011;