



ICT Incidents Database Periodical Report

October 2011

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

Among others:

- On 3 October 2011, a mosque in Tuba-Zangariyye, Upper Galilee, Israel was set alight in a suspected arson “price tag” attack. The attack was strongly condemned by Israeli leaders.
- On 4 October 2011, a truck bomb exploded outside a compound that housed government buildings in Mogadishu, Somalia, killing 80 people and injuring 50 others.
- On 11 October 2011, Manssor Arbabsiar and Gholam Shakuri were charged in New York, USA with taking part in a plot allegedly linked to Iran to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to Washington.
- On 12 October 2011, 28 people were killed and 74 wounded in a coordinated bombing attack targeting police in Baghdad, Iraq.
- On 14 October 2011, Abu Tholut, 50, was sentenced to eight years in prison for assisting the construction of an al Qa’ida in Aceh training camp in Indonesia.
- On 15 October 2011, it was reported that Ibrahim al-Banna, the head of the media department of AQAP and the son of Anwar al-Awlaki, were killed in a suspected US drone attack in Shabwa province, Yemen.
- On 20 October 2011, ETA announced that it had terminated the use of arms and sought talks with Spain and France.
- On 20 October 2011, AQIM militant Tiyib Ould Sidi Ali was killed in an air strike by the Mauritanian army.
- On 23 October 2011, Jorge Neftali Umenza Velasco, a senior FARC leader was killed by Colombian troops in an explosion in a rural part of the Buenaventura port city in south-western Colombia.
- On 27 October 2011 Mevlid Jasarevic, opened fire using an automatic weapon at the US Embassy in Sarajevo, Bosnia.
- On 27 October 2011, 36 people were killed and 78 injured in a twin bombing attack in Baghdad, Iraq.
- Over 60 rockets and mortars were fired from the Gaza Strip at Israeli communities between 29 October 2011 until the 1 November 2011, causing one fatality, three injuries and 30 people needing treatment for shock.



EUROPE

United Kingdom

On 13 October 2011, Ahmed Faraz, a graduate from the University of Birmingham, went on trial accused of distributing extremist books and videos to encourage young Muslim to support Jihad. Faraz owned a bookshop and online business in Birmingham called Maktabah al-Ansar. In 2007 and 2010, police raided properties that were linked to the business and seized large quantities of material designed to encourage violence, terrorism and martyrdom, including videos of beheadings. Faraz allegedly supplied Jihadi literature to the ringleader of the 7 July 2005 London suicide bombings as well as literature to the foiled 2006 airline bomb plot. Faraz denied all 19 counts of distributing terrorist publications and a further 11 counts of possession of information useful for terrorism. His trial continues. ¹

Finland

On 11 October 2011, following the arrests of two people on 17 September 2011, two further suspects were arrested in Finland accused of funding and recruiting on behalf of al-Shaabab. Police added that the woman who was arrested on 17 September 2011 had been freed but was ordered not to leave the country. No further details were released to the public. ²

Spain

On 20 October 2011, ETA announced that it had terminated the use of arms and was seeking talks with Spain and France. The declaration, if followed through, would bring an end to ETA's campaign of violence, which has lasted more than 40 years and killed more than 800 people. ³ The announcement was made by three masked leaders of the group in a video on the website of the Basque Gara newspaper. ⁴

Bosnia

On 27 October 2011 Mevlid Jasarevic opened fire using an automatic weapon on the US Embassy in Sarajevo. A policeman guarding the embassy was wounded, along with the gunman, but the embassy said all of their employees were unhurt. ⁵ A 30 minute standoff took place before the gunman was shot in the leg by police. Police arrested the wounded man and after medical treatment, he was taken into custody. The motives behind the attack

¹ BBC, "Birmingham bookshop owner Ahmed Faraz faces terror charges", 13 October 2011;

² News24, "Finnish terror funding duo arrested", 11 October 2011;

³ BBC, "Basque group Eta says armed campaign is over", 20 October 2011;

⁴ AP, "Spain hails ETA end to Basque separatist violence", 21 October 2011;

⁵ CBS, "Embassy shooting in Bosnia called terror attack", 28 October 2011;



were unclear. Authorities said that Jasarevic admitted during an interrogation that he acted alone.⁶ He was a resident of Novi Pazar, Serbia had briefly been detained in 2010, for exposing “a large knife” during a visit by the US Ambassador to Serbia.⁷ Authorities said they believe that Jasarevic, who practices Wahhabi Islam, was dressed in traditional clothing, wearing a beard. Serbian Interior Minister Ivica Dacic confirmed his identity.⁸

Germany

On 10 October 2011, police in Germany foiled an arson attack on Berlin’s central train station. Security guards seized seven bottles filled with flammable liquid tied together and linked to a fuse. Railway employees alerted authorities after detecting the suspicious items at the north end of one of the station’s tunnels close to the train platforms.⁹ Police also said several hours prior to the attack, another suspected arson attack had damaged signals and cables on the major Hamburg to Berlin line. The two attacks were believed to be connected and politically motivated. A German left-wing group calling itself “Hekla Reception Committee - Initiative for more Eruptions in Society” claimed responsibility, saying the attack was to protest Germany’s roles in the Afghanistan war and Germany’s role as an arms exporter. Police were looking into the authenticity of the messages and investigating whether the group was responsible for both attacks.¹⁰

AFRICA

Kenya

On 18 October 2011, two British teenagers identified as Mohamed Mohamed Abdallah, of Somali descent, and Iqbal Shahzad, of Pakistani descent, both 18, were arrested close to the Somali border with Kenya by anti-terrorist police, accused of attempting to join al-Shabaab.¹¹ Police were tipped off by Abdallah’s father, who was concerned that his son had become radicalized, after he went missing the previous week from his home in Cardiff,

⁶ Reuters, “Bosnia U.S. embassy attacker says he acted alone-lawyer”, 30 October 2011

⁷ CNN, “Man fires shots at U.S. Embassy in Bosnia”, 28 October 2011;

⁸ CBS, “Embassy shooting in Bosnia called terror attack”, 28 October 2011;

⁹ Reuters, “Rail workers foil arson attack on Berlin station”, 10 October;

¹⁰ AP, “Police foil arson attack on Berlin train station”, 10 October 2011;

¹¹ Telegraph, “British teenagers arrested by anti-terrorist police after father alerts authorities”, 19 October 2011;



Wales.¹² The teenagers, who were arrested and deported from Kenya, were released by the Metropolitan Police without charge after being detained under the Terrorism Act.¹³

On 21 October 2011, Kenyan police arrested ten people, including two doctors and a Muslim cleric in Nairobi suspected of ties to al-Shabaab. Police did not reveal the details of the charges against them but said the arrests were part of an operation within Kenya to arrest anyone with connections to Somalia's al Shabaab group, following threats by al-Shabaab to bomb targets in Kenya.¹⁴

Somalia

On 4 October 2011, a truck containing drums of fuel exploded at approximately 10:45 outside a compound housing government buildings in Mogadishu, killing 80 people and injuring 50. Many of the victims were soldiers and students who had gathered to learn about scholarships to study abroad offered by the Turkish government. The Turkish Foreign Ministry confirmed that the students were queuing outside the Ministry of Higher Education when the explosion occurred.¹⁵ The government said no senior officials were hurt in the attack. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack, threatening further attacks. The attack was the most severe that al-Shabaab had carried out since its foundation in 2007.¹⁶

On 29 October 2011, two suicide bombers, disguised in military uniform, detonated their explosives injuring two soldiers near the entrance to an African Union base in Mogadishu. Two other armed attackers entered the compound resulting in a two-hour gunfight in which ten people were killed.¹⁷ Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack and said one of the bombers was Somali-American from Minnesota identified as Abdisalan Hussein Ali. His family confirmed his identity; however US officials were investigating the claims. Following the attack, al-Shabaab released a tape that it said was made by the bomber prior to the assault, featuring an American-accented voice using US slang to preach jihad. The group threatened further attacks on Canada.¹⁸ If Ali is confirmed to be the bomber, he would be the fourth Somali-American to launch a suicide attack in Somalia.¹⁹

¹²AP, "Kenya arrests 10, including a cleric and 2 doctors", 21 October 2011;

¹³Guardian, "Deported Britons released by police", 21 October 2011

¹⁴AP, "Kenya arrests 10, including a cleric and 2 doctors", 21 October 2011;

¹⁵BBC, "Huge Somalia suicide car bomb kills dozens in capital", 4 October 2011;

¹⁶Telegraph, "Massive al-Shabaab suicide bomb kills over 80 in Somali capital Mogadishu", 4 October 2011;

¹⁷AP, "Militants: Somali-American bombed AU base", 29 October 2011;

¹⁸National Post, "Al-Shabab suicide bomber urges attacks in Canada", 31 October 2011

¹⁹ABC, "Al Shabab: Suicide Bomber in Somalia Was American", 29 October 2011;



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Mauritania

On 20 October 2011, Tiyib Ould Sidi Ali was killed in an air strike by the Mauritanian army. He was amongst of cell of AQIM militants planning an attack in the Wagadou forest close to the border in Mali. Army officials said they destroyed two vehicles loaded with terrorists and explosives. Ali was a leader for AQIM and was wanted for his role in a failed bombing attempt in Mauritania on 2 February 2011, and an attack against the Israeli Embassy in Mauritania in 2008.²⁰

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

On 12 October 2011, 28 people were killed and 74 wounded in a coordinated bombing attack targeting police in Baghdad. The attack began as a suicide bomber drove an explosives-filled vehicle into a police station in the central Alwiya district of the city, killing 14 people, including eight police officers, and wounding 28. A second suicide bomber then detonated his car at a police building in northwestern Hurriya, killing eight people and wounding 27 others. Several police vehicles were damaged and a large crater formed in the road near the station. An army patrol was afterward targeted in the same area, resulting in the death of one civilian. Twelve people were injured, the majority of them soldiers. A second car bomb targeted a police patrol in southern Ilaam district, killing three people. Finally two police officers were killed and seven people wounded when a roadside bomb hit another police patrol in Washash district.²¹No group claimed responsibility, but authorities suspect al-Qa'ida in Iraq, due to the methods used to carry out the coordinated attack.²²

On 27 October 2011, 36 people were killed and 78 injured, as a result of a twin bombing attack in Baghdad.²³ The first explosion occurred at a music store in the mainly Shia district of Ur in northern Baghdad. A second bomb exploded as rescuers were evacuating the wounded. The explosions were timed 10 minutes apart, a familiar pattern intended to maximize casualties.²⁴ The death toll increased several hours after the attack, as several

²⁰AP, "Mauritanian official says the army has raided an al-Qaida affiliate position in Mali" 20 October 2011;

²¹Reuters, "Baghdad bombs leave 28 dead", 12 October 2011;

²²Washington Post, "Baghdad hit by lethal blasts; at least 22 dead", 12 October 2011;

²³BBC, "Iraq bomb blasts: Toll in Baghdad rises to 36", 28 October 2011;

²⁴McClatchy, "Twin explosions in Baghdad kill 36, wound 78", 28 October 2011;



people died as a result of their injuries. An army lieutenant colonel and eight children were amongst the casualties. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.²⁵

Yemen

On 15 October 2011, nine al-Qa'ida-linked militants, including Ibrahim al-Banna, the head of the media department of al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula and the teenage son of Anwar al-Awlaki, were killed in a suspected US drone attack in Shabwa province. Reports differed as to whether the operation was carried out by a US drone strike or by the Yemeni air force.²⁶ Yemen officials confirmed the deaths and described al-Banna as one of the most dangerous militants on their wanted list.²⁷ However, on 30 October 2011, al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula denied that al-Banna had been killed.²⁸

On 28 October 2011, Maj. Ali al-Haji, the head of counter-terrorism in the southern port city of Aden was killed when a car bomb exploded beneath his vehicle.²⁹ Two children standing near the car when it exploded were seriously injured. No group claimed responsibility for the attack. Police suspect AQAP militants.³⁰

Israel including West Bank and Gaza Strip

On 3 October 2011, a mosque in the village of Tuba-Zangariyye, Upper Galilee, was set alight in a suspected arson 'price tag' attack. Authorities believe the attackers carried out the attack at approximately 01.30. Many holy books were destroyed.³¹ The words "price tag", "revenge" and "Palmer" – the last name of the father and son killed in a terror attack in the West Bank on 25 September 2011 – were spray-painted on the walls of the mosque.³² The attack was condemned by the Israel government, President Shimon Peres, and the Northern District Police Commander, who described the incident as very serious.³³ Police detained three teenagers for questioning, however they were later released. One of the suspects was also suspected of being responsible for setting alight a mosque in the West Bank village of

²⁵ AP, "Death toll in Baghdad's twin bombings rises to 32", 28 October 2011;

²⁶ AP, "Al-Awlaki's Son Among Al Qaeda Militants Killed in Yemen Air Strike", 15 October 2011;

²⁷ Examiner, "Yemeni bombing of al-Qaeda stronghold kills al-Awlaki's son", 15 October 2011;

²⁸ AFP, "Yemen's Al-Qaeda denied death of its media chief", 30 October 2011;

²⁹ AP, "Car Bomb in Aden Kills Yemeni Counterterrorism Chief", 28 October 2011;

³⁰ CNN, "Car bomb kills head of Yemeni counterterrorism unit", 28 October 2011;

³¹ Haaretz, "Mosque set alight in suspected 'price tag' attack in Upper Galilee", 3 October 2011;

³² Ynet, "Price tag: Mosque torched in Upper Galilee", 3 October 2011;

³³ Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Israeli leaders strongly condemn mosque attack in Tuba-Zangariyye", 3 October 2011;



Fajar near Hebron in October 2010. The identities of the suspects were not released to the public.³⁴

On 11 October 2011, four Hamas militants were charged by the IDF of being responsible for carrying out a terror attack near the Jerusalem central bus station on 23 March 2011. The attack killed one person and injured 67 others. The cell had planned an additional suicide-bomb attack which was foiled due to their arrest.³⁵

On 18 October 2011, Gilad Shalit an Israeli soldier who had been held captive by Hamas since 2006, was returned to Israel as part of a prisoner exchange deal in which Israel agreed to release 1,027 Palestinian security prisoners; 280 of whom had been sentenced to life in prison for planning and perpetrating terror attacks against Israeli targets. The deal was signed in Egypt on 11 October 2011.³⁶

The five most prominent prisoners that were released were:

- *Abdullah Barghouti* who was sentenced to 67 consecutive life terms in jail, convicted of making the bombs used in the bombing at the Hebrew University in which five Americans and four Israelis were killed; a suicide bombing at a branch of the Sbarro pizzeria in Jerusalem in 2001 that killed 15 people, the suicide bombing at the Moment Café in Jerusalem that killed 11 people and a triple bombing on Jerusalem's Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall that killed 10 people.³⁷
- *Ahlam Tamimi* drove the suicide bomber to the Sbarro pizza restaurant in Jerusalem in 2001. Tamimi was serving 15 life sentences – one for each of those killed in the attack. Tamimi was jailed for 1584 years in 2001.³⁸
- *Yehia Sanwar* was involved in the kidnapping and murder of Nachshon Wachsman, an Israeli soldier and US citizen. He founded Hamas' security force in Gaza and served as chairman of the Hamas prisoners committee. He was serving four life sentences. His brother was among the planners of the Shalit abduction. Jihad Yaghmur, who was also involved Wachsman's murder, was also included in the swap.³⁹
- *Nasser Iteima* was responsible for the bombing of the Park hotel in Netanya on Passover eve in 2002 that killed 30 people and wounded 140.⁴⁰

³⁴Ynet, "Suspect arrested in Tuba Zangaria mosque arson", 6 October 2011;

³⁵Israel Defense Forces, "Four Palestinians Indicted in Terror Attack Near Jerusalem Central Bus Station", 11 October 2011

³⁶Ynet, "Free at last: What's Gilad Shalit's condition?", 18 October 2011;

³⁷Telegraph, "Gilad Shalit release: 5 most prominent Palestinian prisoners to be freed", 18 October 2011;

³⁸ibid;

³⁹ibid;

⁴⁰ibid;



- *Mohammed al-Sharatha* was responsible for the kidnapping and murder of two Israeli soldiers, Ilan Saa'don and Avi Sasbortas, in 1989. Sharatha was arrested in 1989 and sentenced to three life terms and a separate 30-year-term. Mahmoud Abdul Raouh al-Mabhohuh was also involved in the same operation. He was assassinated by Mossad operatives in a Dubai hotel in 2010.⁴¹As part of the exchange in December 2011, Israel will release 550 prisoners of its choice.⁴²

On 22 October 2011, Yehuda Ne'emad, 17, was stabbed at approximately 1500 by a Palestinian attacker in Ramot, Jerusalem. Ne'emad injuries were serious but his condition was stable and not life threatening. After stabbing Ne'emad, the attacker, armed with a knife, chased a girl, 12, and her brother, however they managed to escape unharmed. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.⁴³The authorities suspect that the attacker fled to the village of Kfarlksa, less than half a kilometer from Ramot. Officials believe the attacker exploited the fact that the separation fence, which divides Israeli and Palestinian territories, does not extend to Kfarlksa.⁴⁴

Over 60 rockets and mortars were fired from the Gaza Strip at Israeli communities from 29 October 2011 to 1 November 2011. Rockets were fired at the southern cities of Ashkelon Ashdod, Gan Yavne and the Eshkol Region. The most serious of the attacks occurred on 29 October 2011, when Moshe Ami, 56 was killed and three other people were injured, when shrapnel from rockets fired from the Gaza Strip hit his car in Ashkelon. Approximately 30 people were treated for shock. Several buildings including a school were damaged and a second rocket fired at Ashkelon hit a home and caused a large fire. The IAF responded by targeting six terror activity sites in the Gaza Strip. Three rocket-launching sites and one terror tunnel were targeted in the northern Gaza Strip and in the southern Gaza Strip two terror activity sites were targeted. Islamic Jihad and the Al-Aqsa Brigade terror gangs claimed responsibility for the attacks against southern Israel. Following the rocket attacks, the IDF targeted an Islamic Jihad Cell as they were launching more rockets aimed at Israel, killing five militants and injuring 11 in southern Gaza.⁴⁵

⁴¹Ibid;

⁴²Jerusalem Post, " Hamas-affiliated website releases reported prisoner list", 13 October 2011;

⁴³Jerusalem Post, "Security forces to continue search for stabbing suspect", 23 October 2011;

⁴⁴Ynet, "Stabbing attack in Jerusalem; youth hurt", 22 October 2011;

⁴⁵AP, "Israeli airstrike kill 5 Gaza militants", 29 October 2011;



Saudi Arabia

On 30 October 2011 Prince Khaled bin Talal, a member of Saudi Arabia's royal family increased to \$1 million a reward offered by a Saudi cleric to anyone who captured an Israeli soldier to swap for Palestinian prisoners. Prince Khaled said he made the offer in response to what he said were Israeli threats against Qarani's life. He did not provide any further details.⁴⁶ A previous offer had been made by Sheik Awadh al-Qarani, a Saudi cleric who promised \$100,000 for capturing an Israeli soldier. The Saudi offers were a response the release of Israeli soldier Gilad Schalit on 18 October 2011.⁴⁷

On 29 October 2011, Heila al-Qusayyer, 45, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for aiding al-Qa'ida cells and helping militants enter Iraq by providing them with false identification. She was also banned from leaving the country for 15 years after completing her sentence. Authorities claimed she provided cell members \$266,000 and communications equipment.⁴⁸ At her family's request, the trial, which began on 31 July 2011, was held in private and without media presence. Authorities said she was the first woman in the country to be tried for involvement in violence by al-Qa'ida.⁴⁹ Authorities believe the woman became radicalized while married to her first husband, Abdulkareem al-Humaid. They divorced and he was detained in prison. Her second husband was killed in a shoot-out with Saudi police in Riyadh in 2004. There were reports that she had intended to marry deputy leader of al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula, Saeed al-Shehri. At the time of her arrest she was said to be the leader of a cell of at least 60 people and was an active recruiter of women and girls. The local media reported that when she was arrested she was with a man, in contravention of local law. She was said to have had two pistols in her possession. She denied the charge, claiming she had been held captive by her previous husbands and forced to carry out the recruitment.⁵⁰

SOUTH AMERICA

Colombia

On 23 October 2011, Jorge Neftali Umenza Velasco, a senior FARC leader, along with four other alleged members were killed by Colombian troops in an explosion in a rural part of the

⁴⁶ Reuters, "Saudi prince backs cleric's bounty offer for IDF soldier", 28 October 2011;

⁴⁷ AP, "Saudi royal offers bounty to catch Israeli soldier", 30 October 2011;

⁴⁸ Telegraph, "'First Lady of al-Qaeda' jailed for 15 years", 30 October 2011;

⁴⁹ AP, "Saudi woman sentenced to 15 years for Qaida links", 29 October 2011;

⁵⁰ Telegraph, "'First Lady of al-Qaeda' jailed for 15 years", 30 October 2011;



Buenaventura port city in south-western Colombia.⁵¹ Velasco was a FARC member for approximately 40 years and in 2002 was responsible for the kidnapping of 12 regional lawmakers from Valle del Cauca province. He was allegedly involved in the killings of 18 marines, carrying out several car bombs and serving as a link with Mexican drug cartels. Velasco was the subject of arrest warrants for “terrorism, aggravated homicide, rebellion and kidnapping” and an Interpol Red Notice. Authorities had offered a \$900,000 reward for information leading to his capture.⁵²

NORTH AMERICA

USA

On 11 October 2011, US authorities claimed to have foiled a plot by agents linked to Iran to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to Washington using explosives. US officials claimed that the plot was conceived in Iran by the Quds force, part of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps. Iran’s official Islamic Republic News Agency called the charges a “propaganda campaign” by the US government against Tehran. Two men, identified as Manssor Arbabsiar and Gholam Shakuri, were charged in New York with taking part in the plot. They faced charges that included conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction, conspiracy to commit an act of terrorism transcending national borders and conspiracy to murder a foreign official.⁵³ Arbabsiar was arrested on 29 September 2011 at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. Shakuri, who remains at large, allegedly is a senior officer in Iran’s Quds Force, a special unit of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) believed to promote military and terrorist activities abroad.⁵⁴

On 11 October 2011, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab pleaded guilty to eight charges, including conspiring to commit terrorism.⁵⁵ Abdulmutallab, 25, was charged with trying to attack a Detroit-bound jetliner carrying more than 300 people on 25 December 2009. The plot was foiled when passengers and crew members wrestled with and overcame the suspect. Abdulmutallab made a statement in court in English, in which he said he was guilty under US law but not under Islamic law. He said his motivation for the attack was in retaliation for the

⁵¹ Euroasia review, “Colombia: FARC leader And 4 Alleged Terrorists Killed During Army Attack”, 23 October 2011;

⁵² Latin American Herald Tribune, “Colombian Rebel Commander Killed in Military Operation”, 24 October 2011;

⁵³ BBC, “Iran agents ‘planned US terror attacks’”, 11 October 2011;

⁵⁴ Stratfor, “Reflections on the Iranian Assassination Plot”, 20 October 2011;

⁵⁵ BBC, “‘Underwear bomber’ Abdulmutallab on trial in Detroit”, 11 October 2011;



murder of civilians in Iraq, Israel, Afghanistan, Somalia and elsewhere by the United States.⁵⁶ He is due to be sentenced on 12 January 2012⁵⁷

On 20 October 2011, two women of Somali descent from Minnesota, identified as Amina Farah Ali and Hawo Mohamed Hassan, were found guilty on multiple charges over accusations of raising more than \$8,600 for al-Shabaab militants between September 2008 to July 2009. Ali was convicted of 12 counts of providing material support to al-Shabaab and faced up to 15 years in prison on each conviction. Hassan was convicted on charges of making false statements to investigators and faced up to 15 years in prison on the conspiracy conviction and up to eight years in prison on each of the false statement convictions. No sentencing was set. Both suspects denied the charges, saying the funds were intended for charity.⁵⁸ The women were among 20 people charged as part of federal investigations in Minnesota into recruiting and financing for al-Shabaab.⁵⁹

On 20 October 2011, US authorities charged two men with conspiring with Colleen LaRose, also known as “Jihad Jane” to recruit people online for terror plots in Europe and South Asia. The US Justice Department identified the men as Ali Charaf Damache, 46, and Mohammad Hassan Khalid, 18. They were accused of recruiting men online to carry out jihad in South Asia and Europe and recruited women who had passports that would enable them to travel to and around Europe in support of their plots. As part of the plot, Damache married Jamie Paulin-Ramirez, the day she arrived in Ireland in 2009. He was charged with conspiracy to aid terrorists and attempted identity theft to facilitate international terrorism. LaRose pleaded guilty to providing support for terrorism in February 2011 and Jamie Paulin-Ramirez pleaded guilty in March 2011.⁶⁰

ASIA

Indonesia

On 8 October 2011, Heru Komarudin, 31, was arrested at a market in central Jakarta accused of plotting a suicide bombing in April 2011 at a mosque in a police compound in the West Java town of Cirebon. Following his arrest, two other men were detained in Jakarta suspected of having links to Komarudin and taking part in planning another attack on 25

⁵⁶ USA Today, “Underwear bomber surprises with sudden guilty plea”, 12 October 2011;

⁵⁷ *ibid*;

⁵⁸ Reuters, “Minnesota women convicted of helping fund Somali group”, 20 October 2011;

⁵⁹ AP, “2 Minnesota Women Convicted of Funneling Money to Terror Group in Somalia”, 20 October 2011;

⁶⁰ AFP, “US charges two with recruiting for terror plots”, 21 October 2011;



September 2011. The identities of these men were not revealed to the public. Two suspects wanted in connection with the Cirebon attack are still at large.⁶¹

On 14 October 2011, Abu Tholut, 50, was sentenced to eight years in prison for assisting the construction of a training camp for al-Qa'ida in Aceh. Tholut was found guilty of terrorism after being appointed by Abu Bakar Ba'asyir to set up the camp. He was also found to own a number of illegal firearms that he obtained from Abdullah Sonata and gave to Dulmatin.⁶² His sentence was less than the 12 years demanded by the prosecutor.⁶³

Afghanistan

On 26 October 2011, 12 people were killed and 33 wounded when a fuel tanker transporting several tons of fuel bound for NATO forces at Bagram air base exploded in Dosarake, several kilometers from the Bagram air base. Initially, a magnetized bomb created a large hole in the tanker causing fuel to leak. Approximately 50-60 people attempted to collect the fuel, but a second explosion occurred causing a large fire.⁶⁴ Authorities suspected that the air base was the intended target and that the bomb detonated prematurely. The majority of those injured suffered burns over 70 to 80 percent of their bodies. Witnesses claimed that a second explosion was caused when the driver attempted to start the engine of the truck, but this set alight the exhaust that ignited the fuel. The driver escaped and police did not say whether he acted on their orders to start the truck or on his own accord.⁶⁵ No group claimed responsibility for the attack, although the Taliban are likely to be involved.⁶⁶

Kazakhstan

Two bombs exploded in Atyrau on 31 October 2011 at approximately 0900, lightly injuring an 18 month old baby. The attacker was killed and later identified as Baurzhan Kanatovich; police suspect he was a suicide bomber. Authorities said the first bomb was hidden in a rubbish bin and exploded near the local government headquarters. A second bomb then exploded a short time later outside the general prosecutor's office.⁶⁷ The Kazhak Prosecutor-General's office said they had arrested three men, who confessed to the attacks⁶⁸. As part of

⁶¹ New York Times, "3 in Indonesia Charged with Plotting Suicide Attacks", 8 October 2011;

⁶² Jakarta Post, "Terrorism defendant Abu Tholut gets 8 years in prison", 13 October 2011;

⁶³ Antara News, "Abu Tholut sentenced to eight years for terrorism", 13 October 2011;

⁶⁴ BBC, "Afghan fuel tanker 'magnetised bomb' kills 12", 26 October 2011;

⁶⁵ New York Times, "Bomb Leads to Fatal Fire on Tanker Near Kabul", 28 October 2011;

⁶⁶ BBC, "Afghan fuel tanker 'magnetised bomb' kills 12", 26 October 2011;

⁶⁷ Reuters, "Islamist group says responsible for Kazakh blasts", 1 November 2011;

⁶⁸ EurAsiaNet.Org, "Kazakhstan: Suicide Bomb Suspected in Oil City Explosions";



the police investigation into the attack, police searched Baurzhan Kanatovich's apartment and discovered a homemade bomb, bomb-making materials and instructions⁶⁹. Militant group Jund al-Khilafah, claimed responsibility for the attack, but said that the bomb exploded prematurely as the attacker was carrying it and he was not a suicide attacker.⁷⁰ The group issued a video dated 21 October 2011, saying that the attack was a protest against a new law that was passed to restrict religious freedom. The group threatened further violence unless the government decision is reversed.⁷¹

Philippines

On 9 October 2011, two people were killed and eleven people wounded when two homemade bombs exploded at a cockfighting arena and then minutes later at a small hotel in Zamboanga City. The attack occurred as people were celebrating an annual Roman Catholic festival, which authorities suspect may have influenced the timing of the attack.⁷² The first of the bombs exploded at 12:25 at the cockfighting pit, killing two people and injuring five. A second bomb detonated in a hotel room five minutes later, injuring six people. Authorities said that Abu Sayaf commander Purujilindama had checked into the second-floor room of the hotel where the bomb was detonated and was therefore the main suspect. Witnesses said they saw two Abu Sayaf militants in the cockpit arena minutes before the attack, and one witness, who was a former military agent, identified the perpetrator as Abu Sayaf militant Moad Ajijul, alias Abu Moadz.⁷³ Authorities believe the bombs were homemade devices made from ammonium nitrate filled with nails and detonated by a cell phone.⁷⁴

On 18 October 2011, 19 soldiers were killed, 12 injured and 10 others went missing, after they were ambushed by a combined group of approximately 100 Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and Abu Sayyaf militants. The attack began at dawn on the southern island of Basilan.⁷⁵

⁶⁹ Jamestown Foundation, "Is Kazakhstan Threatened By Islamic Terrorists?", 11 November 2011;

⁷⁰ Reuters, "Islamist group says responsible for Kazakh blasts", 1 November 2011;

⁷¹ EurAsiaNet.Org, "Kazakhstan: Suicide Bomb Suspected in Oil City Explosions";

⁷² AP, "Twin bomb blasts in Zamboanga City injure 11", 9 October 2011;

⁷³ ABS-CBN News, "Abu Sayyaf leader tagged in Zambo blasts", 17 October 2011;

⁷⁴ Jamestown Foundation, "Islamist Militants of the Philippines Restructure to Intensify the Anti-Government Jihad", 4 November 2011;

⁷⁵ Ibid.



On 30 October 2011, a Filipino military air-strike targeted a mountain top base of Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiah militants in Indanan, in the southern province of Sulu. Officials said that three militants were killed in the fighting in Karawan in Indanan town and that troops seized weapons and the bodies of the militants. The offensive was part of a government attempt to capture senior Abu Sayyaf and JI militants, including Zulkifli bin Hir, alias Marwan, who had a \$5-million reward for his capture and is one of the most wanted terrorists in Southeast Asia.⁷⁶ Reports differed as to the identity of the militants killed. Some claimed that the strike killed Abu Sayyaf leader Umbra Jumdale, three Abu Sayyaf sub-leaders, and possibly Marwan himself, although this was not officially confirmed.⁷⁷ Brig. Gen. Romeo Tanalgo, commander of the Sulu Island Command and the Joint Task Force Sulu confirmed that five Abu Sayyaf members had been killed in the strike. He said that the military had recovered the bodies of Abu Sayyaf leaders Ben Wagas, Apo Mike and Abu Abad. He confirmed that the main target of the strike was Marwan but said although it was likely that he was dead, they had not recovered his body, only that of his aide. His status therefore remained unclear.⁷⁸

⁷⁶ AP via Jakarta Globe, "Filipino Offensive Kills 5 Militants; Leaders Flee", 31 October 2011;

⁷⁷ Jamestown Foundation, "Islamist Militants of the Philippines-Restructure to Intensify the Anti-Government Jihad", 4 November 2011;

⁷⁸ Philippine Star, "JI leader Marwan killed in air strike?", 1 November 2011.