



ICT
International Institute
for Counter-Terrorism
With the Support of Keren Daniel

ICT Incident and Activists Database

PERIODIC REVIEW

Summary of Terrorist Incidents and Counter-Terrorist Operations Worldwide April 2015

Highlights

- On April 3, Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militants killed approximately 147 students and injured 80 others at the University College campus in Garissa, Kenya. Security forces arrested one militant at the scene of the attack, and four others detonated their explosives to avoid arrest. It was also reported that an additional three suspects were arrested in connection with the attack the following day.
- On April 14, a suspected US airstrike in Yemen killed senior AQAP leader Ibrahim al-Rubaish. He was considered AQAP's theological adviser and ideologue whose writings and sermons were distributed in AQAP publications. AQAP released a statement on Twitter to confirm that al-Rubaish and several other unnamed militants were killed in the strike. US authorities made no comment.
- On April 15, Shalom Yohai Sherki was killed and Shira Klein was seriously injured, when a Palestinian attacker launched a vehicular attack as the pair were waiting for a bus, in Jerusalem, Israel. On April 16, Khaled Koutineh, 37, from Anata village in the west bank, was arrested and during questioning, he admitted that was politically motivated to carry out the attack.
- On April 18, 33 people were killed and 100 others injured when a suicide bomber on a motorcycle detonated in front of the Kabul Bank, located in Jalalabad. The IS claimed responsibility for the attack, in what authorities said was the first time the organization had claimed a suicide attack in Afghanistan.
- On 18 April, as part of a joint counter-terrorist operation with British authorities, five teenagers were arrested in Melbourne, Australia and one other in the UK, accused of plotting an attack at an Anzac memorial event to be held on April 25. The suspects were accused of plotting an attack to target police officers and beheading them. The suspects also had links with the Al-Furqan Islamic Information Centre, where police say preachers are known to radicalize members.
- On April 21, Younis al-Mauratani, an Al-Qaeda senior militant was sentenced to prison for 20 years in Nouakchott, Mauritania. According to authorities, Al-Mauratani was convicted of plotting Al-Qaeda attacks in the US, Europe and Australia targeting commercial centres.
- On April 24, the Italian police arrested nine men with ties to the Tehrik-i-Taliban (TTP), from Afghanistan and Pakistan, who were allegedly involved in a militant cell based in Italy and Pakistan. The suspects were allegedly planning to carry out an attack against the Vatican in 2010 but the plot never came to fruition.

- On April 26, it was reported that IS leader Abu Al-Baghdadi, who was reportedly paralysed in a US-led airstrike in Western Iraq, handed over the operational

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Europe

France

On April 22, Sid Ahmed Ghlam, 24, was arrested by French police in connection with plotting an attack targeting several churches in Villejuif, near Paris.¹ Authorities were alerted by paramedics who had received a call from Ghlam claiming that he had shot himself in the leg. Firearms and bulletproof vests were found in his car. Authorities also seized detailed maps of police stations in the city, suggesting that he was in the operational stages of the plot.² Authorities said that Ghlam was known to authorities for posting messages on social media supporting jihadist activities in Syria. He also allegedly recently travelled to Turkey and since his return to France, he was placed under police surveillance. During questioning, he was linked to the murder of a French woman, Aurelie Chatelain who was recently killed in Villejuif. Police discovered her corpse after locals reported smoke coming from the inside of the car, which they said originated in a laptop that overheated. According to the French authorities, Ghlam's DNA was found in the car.³ On April 26, it was reported that several suspects with suspected ties to Ghlam were arrested. The suspects were not named but authorities said the DNA, of all three suspects were found during searches of Ghlam's apartment.⁴

Germany

On April 30, a man and woman, whose identity was not made public, were arrested, during an overnight counter-terrorist operation in Oberursel, near Frankfurt. The couple were suspected of planning to carry out a terror attack during a sporting event in the city that authorities said mimicked the style of the 2013 Boston Bombing⁵ attacks in America. The Eschborn-Frankfurt City

¹ WSJ, "French Police Uncover Suspected Church-Attack Plot", April 22, 2015

² Guardian, "French police foil 'imminent' terror attack in Paris", April 22, 2015

³ BBC, "France police arrest man 'planning to attack churches'", April 22, 2015

⁴ Guardian, "France: three held during investigation into alleged plot to attack church", April 26, 2015

⁵ See ICT database report April 2013

loop bike race is an annual event but was cancelled due to the terrorist threat.⁶ Authorities did not specify the exact details of the plot but they said they seized a pipe bomb, weapons including a gun, explosives and ammunition, during a search of the suspect's residence. German police alleged that the pair, who were German nationals of Turkish decent, had travelled recently to Spain, and had met with Sharia4Spain members. Authorities charged that the suspects had been in contact with both AQIM militants and an IS militant, originally from Frankfurt who had left Germany in 2014 to join IS in Syria. Authorities said they believe he was killed but did not identify him/her.⁷

Italy

On April 24, the Italian police arrested nine men, from Afghanistan and Pakistan, who were allegedly involved in a militant cell based in Italy and Pakistan. The suspects were allegedly planning to carry out an attack against the Vatican in 2010 but the plot never came to fruition. According to authorities, they were part of a group with links to Tehrik-i-Taliban (TTP) and had previously carried out attacks against civilian targets in Pakistan in 2009. According to the police, the network financed itself through the smuggling of migrants to Italy and then used the money to fund other cell members who were based in Pakistan.⁸ Amongst the suspects arrested, were two alleged bodyguards of the late Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. The suspects were indicted on charges of terrorist financing and terrorist recruitment⁹ Italian authorities did not name all the individuals who were arrested but Police Chief of Cagliari, Mauro Mura, said that the cell was based in Cagliari although arrests were made nationwide.¹⁰

Spain

On 1 April, authorities in Barcelona arrested a woman of Moroccan origin living in Catalonia, for allegedly planning of sending her twin teenage sons, 16 to Syria to join the IS. It was reported that

⁶ DW, "Frankfurt on high alert over suspected bike race terror plot", May 1, 2015

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Wall Street Journal, 'Italy Arrests Nine in Alleged Terrorist Group', April 24 2015

⁹ AP, "Italy arrests 18 terror suspects", April 24, 2015

¹⁰ Reuters, "Suspected Al-Qaeda militants arrested in Italy for Vatican plot", April 24, 2015

she had another son who joined the IS in Syria but he was killed in fighting.¹¹ Authorities alleged that the two teenagers had been in contact with IS recruiters and had made plans to travel to Syria via Turkey but were prevented from doing so by the authorities. According to the Spanish Interior Ministry, the teenagers left school in Spain, instead choosing to study Islamic law in Morocco and according to the Interior Ministry's statement had become "immersed in a process of radicalization."¹²

Romania

On April 4, authorities dismantled a IS linked cell and seven suspected militants appeared in a court in Bucharest in separate hearings. The men were charged with recruiting Romanian nationals to join the IS and al-Qaeda linked groups in the Middle East. Authorities said all seven suspects were foreign nationals, including one from Tunisia, who allegedly admitted to authorities that he wanted to become a 'Martyr for the IS'. The identities of the suspects were not made public. One of the suspects was a Romanian student, who had recently posted messages on social media sites showing his affiliation and support with militant groups. According to Romanian authorities the militants were expelled from Romania, although it was unclear whether they were deported to their home countries.¹³

Russia

On April 20, authorities said that as a result of a special counter-terrorist operation that lasted 24 hours in Buynaksk, Dagestan, security forces killed Aliaskhab Kebekov, a senior Chechan militant. Two other militants were also killed, although they were not named. Authorities surrounded the militants' hideout and as a result of intense fighting, killed the militants and destroyed the house.¹⁴ Russian authorities claimed that Kebekov was the mastermind of the 2013 Volgograd suicide

¹¹ The local, "11 arrested 'planning Catalonia attack'", April 8, 2015

¹² AFP, "Spain detains Moroccan mother who wanted to send twins to fight in Syria", April 1, 2015

¹³ <http://www.romaniajournal.ro/tunisian-declared-undesirable-10-years-in-romania-sri-open-supporter-of-a-terrorist-group/>

¹⁴ Al-Jazeera, "Russian special forces kill North Caucasus rebel leader", April 22, 2015

bombings that killed 34 people. He was also allegedly involved in financing the Caucasus militants and in 2012, was declared wanted by Russian authorities.¹⁵

On April 22, a woman from Chechnya was arrested in Nalchick as she was about to leave to Moscow international airport to Syria via Turkey. Authorities charged she was intending to join the IS. The woman was identified as Petimat Oisayeva. She allegedly was planning to join her fiancé who had joined the IS recently and was fighting in Syria.¹⁶

United Kingdom

On April 1, British police arrested Yahya Rashid, 19, at Luton Airport. Rashid arrived in the UK from Istanbul and was suspected of planning a terrorist attack. He was charged by the Met. Police, under the Terrorism Act 2006, with: “the intention of committing act of terrorism, engaging in preparing acts of terrorism and assisting others to commit acts of terrorism”. Authorities said the majority of the activities took place in late 2014 to early 2015. No additional details were made public by British authorities.¹⁷

On April 2, Greater Manchester police arrested two teenagers, who were allegedly involved in an IS related plot in Australia. Initially police did not make details of the plot public but on April 20, authorities said one of the suspects, a teenage boy, 14, from Blackburn¹⁸ who was not identified, had been in contact with a jihadist in Australia and police were concerned the pair were planning an imminent attack on police officers involved in an Anzac memorial event that was scheduled to be held in Melbourne on April 25. According to police who intercepted the online activities, the teenager communicated with the Australian militant, his plans to attack police using knives.¹⁹ British police alerted Australian authorities, which led to the arrest of five other people in connection with

¹⁵ See ICT database report December 2013

¹⁶ Moscow Times, “Chechen Woman Arrested on Way to Syria”, April 22, 2015

¹⁷ IBT, “London man Yahya Rashid charged with terror offences after arrest at Luton airport”, April 1, 2015

¹⁸ BBC, “Blackburn boy, 14, charged over Australia terrorism 'plot'”, April 23, 2015

¹⁹ Mailonline, “Arrest of 14-year-old in Blackburn for terror offences 'led detectives to Australian plot to hack policemen to death'”, April 2, 2015

the plot. (For a detailed summary of those arrests see the Australia section).²⁰ According to British authorities, the British boy was the youngest person to be arrested to date, for terrorism related crimes.²¹ He was charged with incitement and encouraging others to carry out an attack with the intent to kill and also to behead police in Australia. He was not named for legal reasons.²²

On April 4, six people, five men and a woman, were arrested at Dover port accused of having ties to IS militants in Syria. The suspects were detained and questioned by West Midlands' police who said the arrests were part of an ongoing investigation into Islamic extremism.²³

Africa

Cameroon

On April 17, 16 people were killed in Dia village which is located in north Cameroon by suspected Boko Haram militants who burned homes and stole the villagers' livestock. Cameroon security forces killed a number of militants but reports varied to the exact number. Authorities said that hundreds of militants who carried out the attack but the majority escaped.²⁴ No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Boko Haram.²⁵

Kenya

On April 3, Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militants killed approximately 147 students and injured 80 others at the University College campus in Garissa. Witnesses said that the "attackers targeted Christian students and were armed with suicide vests, explosives and weapons".²⁶ Some students were also taken hostage but were later released by soldiers.²⁷ The attack began when the attackers

²⁰ Guardian, "British boy charged over alleged Anzac Day terror plot in Australia", April 2, 2015

²¹ BBC Ibid.

²² Guardian, "British boy charged over alleged Anzac Day terror plot in Australia", April 24, 2015

²³ BBC, "Six terror arrests at Dover port", April 4, 2015

²⁴ Enca, "Boko Haram kills 12 people in northern Cameroon", April 17, 2015

²⁵ CNN, "Boko Haram kills 16 in Cameroon, military says", April 18, 2015

²⁶ CNN, "Kenya attack victims: Vigil mourns 147 slain by terrorists in Garissa", April 10, 2015

²⁷ Fox News, "Nearly 150 dead in Al-Shabaab school attack, Kenyan officials say", April 18, 2015

shot two security guards and then fired at the students. Witnesses said the attackers then selected the Christian students and shot them at point blank range. Authorities said some 500 students escaped. Security forces arrested one militant at the scene of the attack, and four others detonated their explosives to avoid arrest. It was also reported that an additional three suspects were arrested in connection with the attack the following day.²⁸ Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack.²⁹ Following the attack, the President of Kenya, named a known Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militant, Mohamed Kuno, to be the suspected mastermind of the attack. They placed a \$217,000 bounty on his head.³⁰ Kenyan police said that one of the gunmen was the son of a Kenyan MP, who had reported his son missing. The attacker, named Abdirahim Abdullahi, was purportedly a former law student at the university but following graduation in 2013, he became radicalized and was thought to have joined the Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen group based in neighboring Somalia. It was there that he allegedly received terrorist training.³¹ Following the incident, on April 6, the Kenyan military carried out counter-terrorist air strikes targeting Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen targets in the Gedo region of Somalia. Kenyan authorities said they destroyed two Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen camps in the strike. It was also reported however, that several civilians were killed and some livestock destroyed in the strike.³²

Libya

On April 5, four civilians were killed and 20 others injure when a suicide bomber targeted a security checkpoint in Es Dada, close to Misrata. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.³³

²⁸ Independent, “Kenya Garissa University attack: Al-Shabaab gunman Abdirahim Abdullahi identified as son of Kenyan government official”, April 2, 2015

²⁹ USA Today, “Terror attack over, 147 dead at Kenya university”, April 3, 2015

³⁰ BBC, “Kenya attack: 147 dead in Garissa University assault”, April 3, 2015

³¹ Independent, “Kenya Garissa University attack: Al-Shabaab gunman Abdirahim Abdullahi identified as son of Kenyan government official”, April 3, 2015

³² BBC, “Kenya bombs Somalia al-Shabab bases after Garissa attack”, April 6, 2015

³³ Reuters, “Suicide bomber kills four near Libya's Misrata, air strikes hit Tripoli outskirts”, April 5, 2015

On April 13, two security guards at the South Korea embassy in Tripoli were killed and another guard was injured by gunmen who shot at them, as they were passing by the Embassy in a car. Embassy officials said three workers and two diplomats who were inside the embassy at the time of the attack were unhurt. They said it was unclear whether the guards were the actual target of the attack or the security forces.³⁴ Several hours later, a bomb that was hidden in a bag exploded outside the Moroccan embassy in located in the same Tripoli neighborhood, causing no casualties but minor damage to the surrounding area.³⁵ On April 19, the IS claimed responsibility for carrying out the bombings.³⁶ Due to the security situation in Libya, the majority of embassies, including the Moroccan embassy, are currently inactive, therefore the casualty toll in these attacks were relatively low.³⁷

On April 19, the IS reportedly posted a video online that showed the beheading of 31 Ethiopian Christians in Libya. The exact location was not stated. The video was not verified by authorities but it mimicked a previous incident in March 2015, which showed IS militants targeting and beheading Christians on a beach in Libya.³⁸ In the video, the IS militants are seen destroying Christian churches, graves and icons. A masked militant then features, armed with a knife, stating that all Christians must convert and pay a special Islamic tax.³⁹

On April 21, a bomb exploded by the exterior wall of the Spanish Embassy in Tripoli. Damage was sustained to the building and cars parked nearby but there were no casualties. The embassy, like other embassies in the city, was closed since the summer of 2014, due to the security situation in Libya and all the Spanish staff left. No group claimed responsibility but authorities suspected IS linked militants.⁴⁰

³⁴ Al-Jazeera, "Guards die in attack on S Korean embassy in Libya", April 13, 2015

³⁵ Al-Jazeera, " Moroccan embassy bombed in Tripoli", April 13, 2015

³⁶ AFP, "ISIL attacks Moroccan, South Korean embassies in Libya", April 19,2015

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ AP, "Video: Islamic State kills Ethiopian Christians in Libya", April 22, 2015

³⁹ <http://www.timesofisrael.com/islamic-state-releases-video-of-killing-of-christians-in-libya/>

⁴⁰ IBT, "Libya: Isis bomb explodes at Spanish embassy in Tripoli", April 21, 2015

Mali

On April 3, a bomb prematurely exploded at a house near Bamako, killing Amadou Togo, and injuring four others, who were not named. The property was seriously damaged. Authorities said the dead man was guarding the property and police charged that those injured had been experimenting with constructing explosive devices which detonated prematurely. Police said the owner of the house, whose identity was not made public, was arrested at the scene of the incident. He was known to authorities for previous criminal activities. Police said that during questioning, he admitted that the suspects were using his home as a bomb making factory. Following the explosion, as part of the police investigation, authorities discovered detonators and additional explosives, although it was not made public the exact types of explosives, or when they searched the property.⁴¹

On April 6, French Special Forces carried out a counter-terrorist operation and rescued Sjaak Rijke, a Dutch man who was kidnapped whilst visiting Timbuktu as a tourist in November 2011 on AQAP militants.⁴² Authorities said two other tourists who were kidnapped with Rijke remained in captivity.⁴³

On April 15, three people were killed, and 16 others injured, including nine UN peacekeepers when a suicide car bomber targeted a UN base in Ansongo town.⁴⁴ In a statement, the Al Murabitoon group claimed responsibility for this attack (and other similar recent attacks in Mali). An Al Murabitoon spokesman claimed that the suicide bomber was a militant named Ibrahim al Ansari, who was specifically instructed to target the UN camp and Niger forces because, according to the statement, “Niger president Mahamadou Issoufou had participated in the Paris march in support of Charlie Hebdo.”⁴⁵

Mauritania

⁴¹ AFP, “Security guard killed in bombing in Mali capital”, April 13, 2015

⁴² BBC, “Dutch hostage Sjaak Rijke freed in Mali”, April 6, 2015

⁴³ Reuters, “French commandos free Dutch hostage from al Qaeda in Mali”, April 6, 2015

⁴⁴ New York Times, “Mali: Suicide Bomber Attacks U.N. Base”, April 15, 2015

⁴⁵ Reuters, “Islamist group claims attack on U.N. peacekeepers in Mali”, April 18, 2015

On April 21, Younis al-Mauratani, an Al-Qaeda senior militant was sentenced to prison for 20 years in Nouakchott. According to authorities, Al-Mauratani was convicted of “masterminding an-Al-Qaeda plot intended to target commercial and economic interests including pipelines and dams, in the US, Europe and Australia”. In 2011, he was arrested in Quetta, with two other senior militants, during a joint US and Pakistani counter-terrorist operation. In 2013, he was extradited to Mauritania.⁴⁶

Morocco

On April 16, the Moroccan Interior Ministry announced they had foiled an IS cell in Salwane and arrested six suspected IS members on April 13. During the suspects interrogation, authorities said they admitted to planning to kidnap security forces and carry out beheadings, similar to previous IS decapitation incidents. The suspects were allegedly planning to steal the soldiers’ weapons and use them to carry out large scale attacks. Authorities claimed that the cell had received weapons and bomb making training in a forest on the outskirts of Salwane.⁴⁷

Nigeria

On April 2, seven people were killed and 15 others injured when an IED detonated outside the Bauchi Motor Park in Gombe.⁴⁸ Witnesses said a suspicious woman lingering around a bus that was about to depart for Jos, suddenly dropped her handbag and disappeared. Seconds later the bag, which contained the IED exploded. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Boko Haram.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ AFP, “Al Qaeda leader Younis al-Mauritani jailed for 20 years in Mauritania over 'plan to attack Australia'”, April 21, 2015

⁴⁷ IANS, “ Domestic intelligence foils terror plot in Morocco”, April 13, 2015

⁴⁸ Premium Times, “Bomb attack at Gombe motor park kills 7”, April 3, 2015

⁴⁹ CNN, “Explosion outside Gombe, Nigeria, bus station kills 5”, April 2, 2015

On April 6, 24 civilians were killed and many seriously wounded (the exact figure was not reported) when Boko Haram militants, who were disguised as preachers, opened fire on worshippers at a mosque in Kwajafa in Borno state.⁵⁰ Witnesses approximately 20 militants armed with automatic rifles, carried out the attack. The attackers also allegedly threw IEDs and grenades into the mosque. The attack targeted Muslims, which was unusual for Boko Haram, as in recent months they mainly targeted Christians.⁵¹

On April 29, the Nigerian military raided four Boko Haram terrorist camps in the Sambisa forest. The military said they rescued “200 girls and 93 women” who had been kidnapped by the militants.⁵² In recent years, Boko Haram have carried out mass kidnappings of young woman and girls, including in April 2014, a group of girls from Chibok⁵³. However, authorities said the girls rescued in this group were not the Chibok girls.⁵⁴

Somalia

On April 14, nine civilians and three soldiers were killed when Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militants attacked a government ministry compound in Mogadishu. The education ministry offices are located there and were thought to be the target.⁵⁵ The attack began, when a suicide car bomber detonated at the security wall of the complex, allowing a group of six other militants to enter the compound. They then engaged in a firefight with the security forces. The head of the security force team stationed there was amongst the casualties. All the attackers were killed.⁵⁶ Al-Shabab Al-

⁵⁰ Reuters, “Boko Haram disguised as preachers kill at least 24 in Nigeria”, April 6, 2015

⁵¹ Breitbart, “BOKO HARAM JIHADISTS DISGUISED AS PREACHERS BOMB VILLAGE MOSQUE, KILLING DOZENS”, April 7, 2015

⁵² CNN, “Girls rescued from Boko Haram camp not from Chibok, Nigerian military says”, April 29, 2015

⁵³ See April 2014 ICT database report

⁵⁴ Cnn ibid.

⁵⁵ Guardian, “Al-Shabaab militants kill 10 in attack on Somali education ministry”, April 14, 2015

⁵⁶ New York Times, “Shabab Carry Out Deadly Attack on Ministry Building in Somalia”, April 14, 2015

Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the incident.⁵⁷

On April 20, a suicide bomber targeted a UN vehicle in Garowe, killing six people, including four UN workers. Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, who identified himself in a statement as the military operation spokesman for Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, said the group had staged the attack.⁵⁸

On April 21, a car bomb exploded in a restaurant that was popular with government ministers and officials in central Mogadishu. Authorities said the explosion killed 10 people, including a child, aged 10 and wounded many others. It is believed that government officials who frequent the restaurant were the target of the attack but none were hurt or killed in the attack. The explosion damaged cars and surrounding buildings.⁵⁹ The attack was claimed by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militants, who carried out similar previous attacks in the area.⁶⁰

Middle East

Bahrain

On April 28, authorities in Bahrain said they had arrested 28 people, whom they did not identify, but claimed that they were planning terrorist attacks. Very few details were made public and the location, target and modus operandi of the plot was not disclosed.⁶¹

Egypt

It should be noted that as part of a speech in May 2015 about the security situation in Egypt during April 2015, President Al-Sisi said that Egyptian security forces arrested 600 militants in the Sinai Peninsula region. However, few details were made public including the identities of the suspects, the exact location of the counter-terrorist raids that were carried out or the groups that the militants belonged to.⁶²

⁵⁷ BBC.Ibid.

⁵⁸ Reuters, "Somali militants kill six in bomb attack on U.N. vehicle", March 14, 2015

⁵⁹ Reuters, "Somali militants kill at least 10 in car bomb attack on restaurant", April 21, 2015

⁶⁰ CNN, "Restaurant car bomb kills at least 10 in Mogadishu, Somalia", April 21, 2015

⁶¹ Reuters, "Bahrain says arrests 28 planning attacks in villages", April 2015

⁶² Daily News Egypt "600 terrorists arrested in April: Al-Sisi", May 13, 2015

On April 2, a team of Sinai Province militants, who are linked to the IS, were suspected killing 17 people, the majority soldiers in the Sinai Peninsula in several attacks.⁶³ Authorities said in the first attack, militants targeted a military checkpoint, killing 15 soldiers and wounding 19 others. Following this, militants carried out attacks in nearby towns killing three civilians and wounding 13 others.⁶⁴

On April 5, the Afnad Misr group claimed responsibility for killing a policeman and injuring several civilians, in an IED attack at a checkpoint on a bridge in Cairo.⁶⁵ Authorities said several hours after the attack that the leader of Afnad Misr, Hamam Mohamed Attia, was killed in a retaliatory counter-terrorist operation in greater Cairo.⁶⁶

On April 12, IS militants targeted Egyptian security forces in two separate attacks in the Sinai Peninsula. In the first incident, six soldiers were killed, including two senior officers and two injured, when a bomb targeted a military vehicle in Shiekh Zuweid town. Following this incident, a second attack took place several hours later in which a suicide car bomber killed eight people and injured 45 others when he targeted the police station in al-Arish.⁶⁷ The IS claimed the attacks via a statement on Twitter.⁶⁸

On April 15, two soldiers were killed and six injured, when an IED exploded targeting a group of military cadets who were waiting for a bus in Kafr al-Sheikh in the Nile Valley. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.⁶⁹

Iraq

During April 2015, there were reports in the international media that and by Iraqi authorities that IS leader, Abu Al-Baghdadi was seriously injured and as a result paralyzed, in a US-led Coalition air

⁶³ BBC, "Egypt: Sinai peninsula attack kills 17", April 2, 2015

⁶⁴ AP, "Militants strike Egypt's Sinai, kill 15 troops, 3 civilians", April 2, 2015

⁶⁵ BBC, "Cairo bomb blast kills Egypt policeman", April 5, 2015

⁶⁶ Reuters, "Egyptian militant group leader killed by security forces", April 5, 2015

⁶⁷ BBC, "Egypt's Sinai Peninsula hit by deadly bomb attacks", April 12, 2015

⁶⁸ Reuters, "Two bomb attacks in Egypt's Sinai kill 13, wound dozens", April 12, 2015

⁶⁹ Al-Jazeera, "Military cadets killed in Egypt explosion", April 15, 2015

strike in late March 2015. However, this was not confirmed by US authorities.⁷⁰ On April 26, it was reported that Al-Baghdadi handed over the operational running of the IS to his second in command, a militant known as Abu Alaa al-Afri.⁷¹ Also during April 2015, according to the US ministry of Defense, “359 US-led Coalition airstrikes conducted against IS targets in Iraq.” During those airstrikes, “115 fighting positions, 75 vehicles, eight checkpoints, 11 staging areas, 61 bulldozers/excavators, two anti-aircraft artillery system, 68 IS-held buildings, 16 artillery pieces/mortar system, 12 IED facilities and production system, two bridges, one bunker, three headquarters/command and control facilities and one crossing points” were targeted and destroyed.⁷² In a significant incident, on April 2, the Iraqi prime minister announced that Tikrit was taken over by Government Forces assisted by US-Led Coalition airstrikes.⁷³ Following the success in Tikrit, the Iraqi government said it would assist the Kurds to liberate the northern province of Ninveh from the IS.⁷⁴

On April 10, 10 IS militants were killed by Peshmerga fighters who repelled an IS ambush in the village of Tel Asward. The militants were armed with mortar bombs.⁷⁵ Also on April 10, IS militants attacked Ramadi, killing 10 soldiers and wounding several others including Gen. Qassim al-Muhammadi who was the head of the Iraqi military operation in Anbar province. The IS used car bombs and mortars to target various locations of the city.⁷⁶

On April 11, authorities said IS suicide bombers and suicide car bombers took control of Albu Faraj area in Anbar province. Police also said that the militants attacked a bridge that linked Ramadi to

⁷⁰ Independent, “Isis leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi 'seriously wounded in an airstrike' in western Iraq and is no longer in 'day-to-day' control of group”, April 21, 2015 and Ynet, “Abu Alaa al-Afri said to replace al-Baghdadi as Islamic State leader”, April 26, 2015

⁷¹ BBC, “Islamic State deputy leader 'killed in Iraq air strike', May 13, 2015

⁷² <http://www.defense.gov/>

⁷³ New York Times, “Iraq Forces, Pushing ISIS Out of Tikrit, Give Few Thanks for U.S. Airstrikes”, April 2, 2015

⁷⁴ Reuters, “Iraq PM says will cooperate with Kurds to liberate Nineveh”, April 6, 2015

⁷⁵ E-kurd, “Iraqi Kurdistan News in brief”, April 10, 2015

⁷⁶ CNN, “ISIS takes parts of Ramadi, kills 10, wounds Iraqi general”, April 10, 2015

Albu Faraj across the Euphrates River. The militants also raided the homes of police and soldiers, killing 15 people.⁷⁷ Also on April 11, IS suicide bombers attacked the perimeter of the Baji oil refinery in Salahaddin province. Other IS militants, who according to authorities, were located at the south, east, and the west fences of the site, attacked the security forces, engaging in a firefight that lasted several days.⁷⁸ According to the Iraqi military by April 18 the Iraqi security forces repelled the militants.⁷⁹ However, it was reported that on April 26, IS militants who were armed with mortars and machine guns attacked the site again. In this attempt, they attacked the northern part of the site but were prevented from infiltrating by the security forces.⁸⁰

On April 18, 27 civilians were killed when a car bomb exploded in the Habibiya neighborhood, which is mainly Shia, in Baghdad. There was no claim of responsibility.⁸¹ Following this, a car bomb exploded close to the US consulate in Erbil, killing three people and injuring others.⁸² The IS claimed responsibility for the attack. No US citizens were amongst the victims.⁸³ Authorities said on April 28, Kurdish-Iraqi authorities arrested a cell of suspected IS militants that were allegedly involved in the incident.⁸⁴

On April 25, an attack was launched by jihadist militants on the Iraq-Jordan border. Three suicide car bombers, who were reportedly nationals from France, Belgium and Senegal, killed four Iraqi security guards at a checkpoint. The IS claimed responsibility for the attack.⁸⁵

On April 26, suspected IS militants detonated a car bomb at a checkpoint in al-Nukhaib, killing seven soldiers. Following this, several other militants fired at the remaining soldiers stationed at the checkpoint, but after a firefight the militants were repelled. Additionally, in a separate incident, a

⁷⁷ Reuters, "Islamic State attacks Iraqi provincial capital", April 11, 2015

⁷⁸ LWJ, "Islamic State assaults Baiji oil refinery", April 13, 2015

⁷⁹ Albawaba, "Iraqi Security Forces enter Baiji Refinery", April 18, 2015

⁸⁰ Iraq Situation Report

⁸¹ "Car-bomb attacks kill dozens in two Iraqi cities", April 18, 2015

⁸² Reuters, "Car bomb kills three outside U.S. consulate in Iraq's Kurdish capital", April 18, 2015

⁸³ CNN, "ISIS claims blast near U.S. Consulate in Erbil, Iraq", April 18, 2015

⁸⁴ AP, "Iraqi Kurds arrest alleged IS cell behind US mission attack", April 28, 2015

⁸⁵ Al-Arabiya, "ISIS claims Iraqi-Jordanian border crossing attack", April 25, 2015

car bomb killed six civilians and 17 others were injured in Central Baghdad near the Khilani Square.⁸⁶ Also bombings in Amil, Hussainiya and Bayaa neighborhoods of Baghdad, killed six other civilians. It was also reported that three people were killed and seven injured in a car bombing attack south of Baghdad.⁸⁷

On April 27, several explosions occurred in Baghdad. In the morning, seven people were killed and 16 injured, when a car bomb exploded in the Baaya area of Baghdad targeting civilians gathering near a real estate office. During the evening, a car bomb killed 10 people and injured 25 others in Baghdad's Mansour neighborhoods. Damage to cars and buildings was also reported in the area of the explosion. Police said approximately an hour after this incident, a second car bomb killed three civilians and wounded 12 people in the Amil area of Baghdad. No group claimed responsibility.⁸⁸

Israel and the West Bank

According to the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) 82 terrorist incidents were recorded in the West Bank and 38 incidents took place in Jerusalem during April 2015. There was also a rocket attack launched into Israel from the Gaza strip, following a significantly quiet period.⁸⁹ ICT database team reviewed the most significant of these cases that included:

On April 15, Shalom Yohai Sherki was killed and Shira Klein was seriously injured, when a Palestinian attacker launched a vehicular attack as the pair were waiting for a bus, near French Hill neighborhood of Jerusalem.⁹⁰ On April 16, Khaled Koutineh, 37, from Anata village in the west bank, was arrested and during questioning, he admitted that was politically motivated to carry out the attack.⁹¹

On April 23, a rocket was launched by militants in the Gaza strip into southern Israel. There were no reported casualties or damage, but the attack occurred as Israeli civilians were ending

⁸⁶ Iraq Situation Report

⁸⁷ AP, "Car bombings in Iraq's capital kill at least 20 civilians", April 27, 2015

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ <http://www.shabak.gov.il/english/Pages/homepage.aspx>

⁹⁰ Haaretz, "Israeli man dies after possible Jerusalem car ramming attack", April 16, 2015

⁹¹ Jpost, "Arab man arrested for alleged Jerusalem vehicular terrorist attack", April 16, 2015

Independence Day celebrations and it was the first time in 2015 that a rocket has been fired into Israel from Gaza strip. There was no claim of responsibility for the attack.⁹²

On April 25, four Israeli border policemen were injured when a Palestinian attacker drove his car into the sidewalk where the officers were standing, near the Mt. of Olives in Jerusalem. The officers shot at the vehicle but the attacker escaped. A manhunt followed.⁹³ Israeli security forces arrested Fadi Selah, 31 the following morning, charging him with carrying out the attack. He was a resident of east Jerusalem's Shuafat refugee camp. He allegedly shouted Allah Akbar (God is Great) as he carried out the attack.⁹⁴ Also a border policeman was stabbed near Hebron, close to the Tomb of the Patriarchs.⁹⁵ Israeli authorities identified the attacker as Mohammed Salaymeh. He was shot as he charged towards IDF soldiers, armed with a butcher's knife. He was hospitalized but later died of his wounds.⁹⁶

During April 2015, there was also significant counter-terrorist efforts by Israel authorities including: On April 14, the IDF announced that an attack intended to target IDF soldiers in Abu Dis, during the Jewish festival of Purim, was thwarted in March 2015 but due to a gag order was only publicized in April. The Judea Military court charged the suspects. It was alleged that the militants bought a car that they were intending to use in the attack, they had carried out weapons training and had carried out surveillance on the area. At the time of arrest, Israeli authorities seized an AK47 rifle and live ammunition.⁹⁷ According to the Shin Bet and the IDF, the alleged mastermind and leader of the cell was a man identified as Ma'an Sa'ar, who had spent time in Israeli prisons for criminal incidents. The attack, which was in the final planning stage, was initially planned to target Jerusalem, but the militants changed the location to the Abu Dis checkpoint, believing it was an

⁹² Ynet, "Rocket hits southern Israel as Independence Day ends", April 25, 2015

⁹³ Ynet, "Four police officers wounded in Jerusalem terror attack", April 25, 2015

⁹⁴ I24 news, "Jerusalem: Suspect arrested following vehicular attack", April 25, 2015

⁹⁵ Ynet, "Terrorist stabs Israeli soldier near Cave of Patriarchs", April 25, 2015

⁹⁶ Haaretz, "Palestinian shot dead after stabbing Border Police officer in Hebron, army says", April 25, 2015

⁹⁷ Haaretz, " Hamas cell planned terrorist attack on Purim, Shin Bet says", April 14, 2015

easier target.⁹⁸

On April 25, a Border Police officer at a checkpoint near Hebron moderately wounded by a Palestinian man who stabbed him in the head, neck and chest. An IDF soldier stationed at the checkpoint, shot the attacker, who later died of injuries sustained.⁹⁹ The attacker was identified as Mohammed Salaymeh.¹⁰⁰

On April 26, four militants who attempted to infiltrate Israel from its northern border with Syria were killed by IDF forces, as they tried to plant an IED along the border.¹⁰¹ The incident took place near Mt. Dov along the Golan Heights. An IDF patrol was alerted to the suspicious activity and alerted IAF warplanes for assistance. They launched an airstrike killing the militants.¹⁰²

On April 28, Israeli authorities arrested six Hamas militants, who were allegedly responsible for carrying out a pipe bombing attack and mortar attacks, targeting Israelis in the West Bank Jewish settlement of Halamish and the Elisha pre-military academy in the West Bank. The attacks took place in early 2015.¹⁰³ Authorities identified the militants as: Mahmad Arhim Naif Satuf, 22, Basel Khaled a-Rauf Rimawi, 20, Wasim Eilan Osama Halabi, 19, Mahmoud Amil Ghasem Rimawi, 19, Mahmad Namer Mohammed Dar Satuf, 23, and Mahmad Fahr Nashaat Dar Taah, 20. The suspects all lived in the Beit Rima village.¹⁰⁴

Lebanon

On April 10, Internal Security Forces (ISF) members intercepted two suspicious vehicles leading to a

⁹⁸ IDF, " Hamas Terror Cell in Judea & Samaria Apprehended in Joint Operation", April 14, 2015

⁹⁹ Times of Israel, "Palestinian stabs Israeli soldier in Hebron, is shot dead", April 25, 2015

¹⁰⁰ Haaretz, "Palestinian shot dead after stabbing Border Police officer in Hebron, army says", April 25, 2015

¹⁰¹ Mfa- <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/InternatlOrgs/Issues/Pages/Letter-to-UN-regarding-attack-in-Golan-28-Apr-2015.aspx>

¹⁰² Ynet, "IDF kills four terrorists trying to infiltrate Israel from north", April 26, 2015

¹⁰³ Jpost, "Security forces arrest terror cell behind series of firebombings in West Bank", April 28, 2015

¹⁰⁴ Israel Hayom, "Shin Bet exposes terrorist cell in Judea and Samaria", April 28, 2015

gun battle that killed Osama Mansour and his accomplice Ahmad Nazer. Two ISF members were wounded. The militants were known to authorities wanted for taking part in violent clashes against the military in Tripoli in 2014.¹⁰⁵ Authorities also suspected the militants had ties to militants in Syria. Shortly after, the ISF arrested several other militants, also involved in violent activities targeting the military including Sheikh Khaled Hoblos, a notorious cleric active in Bhanin near Tripoli.¹⁰⁶

On April 17, the Lebanese military said it conducted a counter-terrorist raid in Tripoli, following an intelligence tip.¹⁰⁷ This led them to uncover a warehouse containing a massive arms cache, which included weapons, and 25kg explosives, 50 bombs and ammunition. Four suspects were arrested. No further details were made public.¹⁰⁸

Syria

According to the US Department of Defense, during April 2015, “138 airstrikes were conducted in Syria against IS targets. During those airstrikes, two checkpoints, one staging area, 1 military garrison, 185 fighting positions, 50 vehicles, one bunker, two motorcycles, two mortar position, four IS-held buildings, one excavator, one anti-aircraft artillery and one boat were struck/destroyed”.¹⁰⁹

Significant incidents included:

On April 1, US-Led Coalition strikes targeted three separate IS fighting positions and two IS tactical units near Kobani, although the exact location was not reported. Additional airstrikes targeted successfully IS positions near Kobani and AL-Hasakah on April 2.¹¹⁰ Further strikes in this region took place on April 3. On April 5, US led Coalition forces targeted an IS tunnel system and eight IS fighting

¹⁰⁵ Al-Arabiya, “Security source: Leba.non forces kill ‘militants,’ arrest cleric”, April 10, 2015

¹⁰⁶ Daily Star, “Militant killed in nLebanon shootout, cleric arrested”, April 10, 2015

¹⁰⁷ IBT, “Lebanese Soldiers Seize Arms Cache In Tripoli, Lebanon”, April 17, 2015

¹⁰⁸ Daily Star, “Army arrests 4 in raid on east Lebanon bomb factory”, April 25, 2015

¹⁰⁹ Ministry of Defense *ibid.*

¹¹⁰ <http://www.centcom.mil/en/news/articles/military-airstrikes-continue-against-isil-in-syria-and-iraq>

positions near al-Hasakah. Airstrikes also occurred near Ar-Raqqah and Kobani.¹¹¹

On April 8, an IS stronghold in Raqqa was targeted by US-led Coalition air strikes, specifically by Canadian CF-18 Hornets that bombed the IS targets. This was the first time that Canadian jets were involved in the US-Led Coalition.¹¹²

On April 11, an US-led Coalition airstrike in Maddi killed eight civilians and wounded many more although the exact number was not reported.¹¹³

On April 30,¹¹⁴ 50 civilians, including seven children, were killed in a suspected US-led Coalition air strike.¹¹⁵ US officials confirmed the airstrike took place and that it was targeting IS strongholds but denied the claims that civilians were killed.¹¹⁶ US officials said that the casualties from the air strike were IS linked militants not civilians.¹¹⁷

Also during April 2015, significant incidents included:

On April 2, IS militants took control of sections of the Yarmuk refugee camp in Damascus.¹¹⁸ On April 5, IS released a video showing their victory in the Yarmuk camp. According to authorities some 20,000 refugees are at the camp.¹¹⁹

On April 27, a Jabat Al-Nusra suicide bomber attacked a military compound, detonating a truck filled with explosives that allowed other IS militants to take control and capture the base in Idlib province. Authorities said that the militants also seized large amounts of military equipment and

¹¹¹<http://www.centcom.mil/en/news/articles/april-6-military-airstrikes-continue-against-isil-in-syria-and-iraq>

¹¹² CNN, “Canadian warplanes carry out first airstrike against ISIS in Syria”, April 9, 2015

¹¹³ Guardian, ‘Syrian civilians killed in Aleppo as rebels and state forces launch fresh attacks’, April 11, 2015

¹¹⁴ <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=128700>

¹¹⁵ Independent, “US-led air strikes 'kill 52 civilians including seven children' while targeting Isis in Syria”, May 2, 2015

¹¹⁶ McClatchy, “Another Syrian group charges that U.S. airstrikes killed civilians”, May 6, 2015

¹¹⁷ IBT, “US Military Says Coalition Airstrikes Killed ISIS Fighters, Not Syrian Civilians”, May 4, 2015

¹¹⁸ AFP, “IS retakes parts of Damascus refugee camp: monitor”, April 2, 2015

Acc¹¹⁹ BBC, “Syria fighting: IS video claims to show Yarmouk capture”, April 5, 2015

weapons from the base.¹²⁰

On April 30, 25 IS militants were reportedly killed and 20 others wounded, when their explosives detonated prematurely outside an explosives warehouse in Deir Ezzor.¹²¹

Saudi Arabia

It was reported on April 28, that Saudi authorities arrested approximately 80 suspected IS militants, who were charged with plotting terrorist attacks against Western targets in Saudi Arabia, including the US embassy in Riyadh.¹²² According to Saudi Interior Ministry, the majority of arrests were made in March 2015, but only made public in April.¹²³

Turkey

On April 1, a female member of the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party (RPLP), armed with, a rifle, grenades and a handgun was fatally shot by police officers as she attempted to attack them at a police station in central Istanbul. A second gunman was also injured by police during the incident and subsequently arrested.¹²⁴ It should be noted that this attack followed a hostage and gun attack that killed a famous prosecutor in Istanbul on March 31, 2015.¹²⁵ The RPLP party claimed responsibility for this incident as well. In response to the increase in violence, Turkish authorities carried out counter-terrorist raids in Istanbul and arrested 24 suspected RPLP members. Police seized weapons, computers and documents.¹²⁶ Following this incident, on April 17, Turkish authorities said they foiled a plot by suspected RPLP militants who were intending to carry out

¹²⁰ Reuters, "Islamist rebels capture army base in Syria's Idlib province", April 27,2015

¹²¹ BBC, "Syria conflict: Islamic State arms dump 'blows up'", April 30, 2015 and AFP, "Blast, fierce clashes rock Syrian regime Aleppo base", April 30, 2015

¹²² Ynet, "Saudi Arabia thwarts ISIS attack on US embassy", April 28, 2015

¹²³ Ibid.

¹²⁴ BBC, "Gun attack on Istanbul police HQ in spate of violence", April 1, 2015

¹²⁵ For further details about this incident see: RT, "Terror in Turkey: What lies behind it?", April 2, 2015

¹²⁶ Afp, "Turkey police raid militants after leftist attacks", April 2, 2015

targeted assassinations of prominent businessmen and attack police stations in Istanbul. No further details were made public.¹²⁷

Yemen

In early April, the Houthis rebels took control of Aden, an important trade city connecting Europe to Asia despite Saudi led air strikes that targeted the Houthis advances. Clashes were reported between

The Houthi rebels and the local militia.¹²⁸ On April 1, the airstrikes targeted Houthi controlled bases Hodeida. A missile hit a warehouse of a factory, killing 35 civilians. Authorities claimed the factory was being used by the Houthis to store weapons.¹²⁹ AQAP militants capitalized the security situation and on April 2 attacked a prison in Mukalla and freed over 270 inmates.¹³⁰ Authorities said a third of those freed had links to AQAP.¹³¹ Yemen officials said amongst those freed was a senior AQAP leader called Khaled Batarfi.¹³² The militants then proceeded to attack the cities branch of the Yemen Central Bank and violent clashes continued.¹³³

On April 7, two soldiers, including an officer were killed by suspected AQAP militants at a military post near, Manwakh, located about 440 km northeast of Saana.¹³⁴

On April 14, a suspected US airstrike killed senior AQAP leader Ibrahim al-Rubaish. He was considered AQAP's theological adviser and ideologue whose writings and sermons were distributed in AQAP publications.¹³⁵ AQAP released a statement on Twitter to confirm that al-Rubaish and several other unnamed militants were killed in the strike. US authorities made no comment.¹³⁶

¹²⁷ RT. *ibid.*,

¹²⁸ BBC, "Yemen crisis: Rebels push into central Aden", April 8, 2015

¹²⁹ AP, "35 dead in Yemen after airstrikes hit factory vicinity", April 1, 2015

¹³⁰ BBC, "Yemen crisis: Fighting intensifies in Aden", April 2, 2015

¹³¹ Telegraph, "Al-Qaeda frees 300 prisoners in Yemen jail break", April 2, 2015

¹³² *ibid.* CNN

¹³³ AP *ibid.*

¹³⁴ RT, "Al-Qaeda militants attack Yemen-Saudi Arabia border post - reports", April 7, 2015

¹³⁵ CNN, "AQAP leader -- an ex-Gitmo detainee -- killed in Yemen, terror group says", April 14, 2015

¹³⁶ Ynet, "Al-Qaeda in Yemen's top cleric killed in US strike", April 14, 2015

Authorities said al-Rubaish is a senior figure in AQAP, having joined the group after being released from Guantanamo Bay in 2010.¹³⁷

On April 17, two Al-Qaeda linked militants were killed in suspected US air strike carried out overnight in Habban. The strike targeted the militant's vehicle. One of the casualties was identified by authorities as Khaled Atef, who was related to the Al-Qaeda leader of Shabwa province.¹³⁸

On April 20, two people were injured when a bomb exploded at the Indonesian embassy in Saana. The victims were staff members. Slight damage was caused to the building.¹³⁹ No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities suspected AQAP militants.¹⁴⁰

On April 22, seven suspected Al-Qaeda linked militants were killed in a suspected US drone attack in Mukalla. No further details were reported.¹⁴¹

North America

United States

On April 3, US authorities arrested and charged Keonna Thomas, from Philadelphia for supporting the IS and trying to join the group.¹⁴² The court indictment charged that she used the alias Fatayat Al Khilafah and "Young Lioness", posting messages on Twitter that supporting the IS and was also in communication via social media with an IS militant in Syria, who was unnamed. According to authorities, she had volunteered to be part of a martyrdom operation and intended to travel to Syria via Turkey. She had already bought an airplane ticket on March 26, prior to her arrest.¹⁴³

¹³⁷ For a full profile see: Independent, "Ibrahim Sulayman Muhammad al-Rubaish: Religious leader of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula killed in Yemen drone strike", April 14, 2015

¹³⁸ AFP, "Two Qaeda suspects killed in Yemen drone attack", April 17, 2015

¹³⁹ SMH, "Explainer: What is happening in Yemen?", April 14, 2015

¹⁴⁰ Channel News Asia, "2 injured in bomb attack on Indonesian Embassy in Yemen: Report", April 20, 2015

¹⁴¹ AFP, "Seven al-Qaeda suspects killed in Yemen drone strike", April 22, 2015

¹⁴² Guardian, "Philadelphia woman arrested for attempting to join Isis", April 3, 2015

¹⁴³ The United States Department of Justice, 'Philadelphia Woman Arrested for Attempting to Provide Material Support to ISIL', April 3 2015

On April 8, the trial of Tzokhar Tsaenaev came to an end, when the jury found him guilty on all 30 charges, including using mass weapons of destruction. The Boston bombing attack killed three people and injured 264 people in April 2013.¹⁴⁴ He is due to be sentenced in June 2015, where he faces the death penalty.¹⁴⁵

On April 10, John. T. Booker Jr., alias Mohammed Abdullah Hassan, 20, was arrested by FBI agents in Topeka, Kansas. He was accused of plotting a suicide car bombing attack on behalf of the IS at the Fort. Riley military base in Kansas.¹⁴⁶ According to the court indictment, he was charged with “attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction, attempting to damage property by using an explosive and providing material support to a Foreign Organization.”¹⁴⁷ A second man, who was identified as Alexander E Blair, 28, was also arrested and accused of having knowledge of the plot, financially aiding Booker and for supporting his views on Jihad.¹⁴⁸

On April 20, Marcos Alonso Zea, 26 was sentenced to 25 years in prison for his role in a plot to aid AQAP.¹⁴⁹ In 2013, he was arrested as he attempted to travel from the US to Yemen via London, UK. British authorities found him suspicious and deported him to the US where he was arrested and accused of conspiring with AQAP militants. In September 2014, he pleaded guilty in providing material support to AQAP. Zea was accused of providing financial support and advice to co-conspirator Justin Kaliebe on how to evade police surveillance. Kaliebe faced sentencing in May 2015, after pleading guilty in a separate hearing.¹⁵⁰

Asia

Afghanistan

On April 2, a suicide bomber detonated his explosives near a group of protesters in Khost in eastern

¹⁴⁴ For more details see April 2013 ICT database report.

¹⁴⁵ CNN, “Tsarnaev guilty of all 30 counts in Boston bombing”, April 9, 2015

¹⁴⁶ Reuters, “Kansas man arrested in bomb plot in support of Islamic State: U.S”, April 10, 2015

¹⁴⁷ USA today, “Feds charge Kansas man with Fort Riley bomb plot”, April 10, 2010

¹⁴⁸ New York Times, “2 Kansas Men Charged in Suicide Attack Plot at Fort Riley”, April 10, 2015

¹⁴⁹ UPI, “N.Y. man sentenced to 25 years for plotting to help al-Qaida”, April 21, 2015

¹⁵⁰ CBS, “Long Island Man Who Plotted To Help Al Qaeda Sentenced To 25 Years”, April 20, 2015

Afghanistan. Authorities said 17 people were killed and over 40 injured.¹⁵¹ No group claimed responsibility but authorities suspected the Taliban.¹⁵²

On April 10, Taliban militants killed 15 people in two separate attacks in eastern Afghanistan. In the first attack, a suicide car bomber detonated outside the Jalalabad airport targeting a group of foreign soldiers, killing three civilians who were nearby. The soldiers were slightly injured. In a second attack, an IED killed 12 civilians as they were travelling to a wedding south of Kabul in Ghazni province.¹⁵³

On April 13, Taliban militants attacked a group of Afghan soldiers killing 18, some of whom were reportedly beheaded.¹⁵⁴ The military said 12 soldiers are missing. The militants also seized checkpoints in the area, engaging in firefights with the soldiers. A Taliban spokesman, Naweed Frotan claimed responsibility for the incident and said that approximately 200 militants stormed the base in Jurm, killing the soldiers.¹⁵⁵

On April 18, 33 people were killed and 100 others injured when a suicide bomber on a motorcycle detonated in front of the Kabul Bank, located in Jalalabad. The attack targeted many civilians including government staff who were at the bank to collect their salaries.¹⁵⁶ The IS claimed responsibility for the attack, in what authorities said was the first time the organization had claimed a suicide attack in Afghanistan.¹⁵⁷ An online statement by IS spokesman Shahidullah Shahid, named the bomber Abu Muhammed Khurasani Shahid.¹⁵⁸

¹⁵¹ CNN, "Suicide bomber hits group of protesters in Afghanistan, killing 17", April 2, 2015.

¹⁵² BBC, "Afghanistan suicide bomb blast kills 16 in Khost", April 2, 2015

¹⁵³ Reuters, "Suicide bombs, roadside blast kill 15 Afghan civilians", April 10, 2015

¹⁵⁴ AP, "Taliban attack kills 18 Afghan soldiers; some beheaded", April 13, 2015

¹⁵⁵ BBC, "Taliban fighters kill 18 Afghan soldiers, beheading eight", April 13, 2015

¹⁵⁶ BBC, "Afghanistan suicide bomb in Jalalabad leaves many dead", April 18, 2015

¹⁵⁷ CNN, "ISIS militant bomber on motorbike kills 33 at bank in Afghanistan", April 19, 2015

¹⁵⁸ Telegraph, "Islamic State claim responsibility for Jalalabad bomb in first Afghanistan attack", April 19, 2015

China

On April 17, two suspected militants were killed by Chinese security Forces after a violent clash near the town of Dongxiang by the border with Vietnam. Authorities initially attempted to arrest the suspects but after trying to flee, they were killed by the security forces. It was unclear which group the suspects belonged to and if they were planning a larger scale attack.¹⁵⁹

Malaysia

On April 6, authorities arrested 17 militants in Kuala Lumpur. Authorities said the militants had recently returned to Malaysia from Syria, where they believe, the suspects received weapons training with the IS.¹⁶⁰ Very few details were made public, including which group the suspects had ties to and the identity of the arrested.¹⁶¹

On April 26, Malaysian police arrested 12 suspected IS militants who were planning attacks in the Klang valley.¹⁶² Authorities said they seized a massive cache of weapons that included 20 kg of ammonium nitrate and 20 kg of potassium nitrate.¹⁶³

Pakistan

On April 10, Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, the mastermind of the 2008 Mumbai attacks in India was released from prison on bail. However, he still faced trial together with six other militants due to their alleged involvement in the attack.¹⁶⁴

On April 11, 20 construction workers who were sleeping at their building site in Turbat Gogdan in

¹⁵⁹ AP, “China kills 2 alleged terror suspects near Vietnam border”, April 17, 2015

¹⁶⁰ BBC, “Malaysia arrests 17 terror suspects”, April 6, 2015

¹⁶¹ AP, “Malaysia arrests 17 for alleged terrorist attack plot in Kuala Lumpur”, April 6, 2015

¹⁶² Reuters, “Malaysia foils attacks in capital by suspected militants”, April 26, 2015

¹⁶³ IBT, “Malaysia: Police arrest suspected Isis militants, seize explosives on ASEAN summit eve”, April 26, 2015

¹⁶⁴ BBC, “Mumbai attack suspect Lakhvi released on bail in Pakistan”, April 10, 2015

Baluchstan were killed and three others were injured by militants who shot them. The attackers escaped on motorcycles. No group claimed responsibility.¹⁶⁵

Thailand

On April 25, eight people were wounded when two bombs were remotely detonated simultaneously in Yala Province in Thailand on Highway 410 in Tambon Aiyaweng in Betong. Authorities said, the perpetrators were allegedly hiding on the roadside, 30 km apart, waiting for a vehicle to pass by, when they remotely detonated the bombs.¹⁶⁶

Oceania

Australia

On 18 April, as part of a joint counter-terrorist operation with British authorities, five teenagers were arrested in Melbourne accused of plotting an attack at an Anzac memorial event to be held on April 25 (see UK section above for the British arrest in this case).¹⁶⁷ The suspects were accused of plotting an attack to target police officers and beheading them.¹⁶⁸ One of those arrested was named Sevdet Besim, 18 who was charged with planning the attack. The second suspect was not identified but police said he was 18 and from Hampton Park suburb of Melbourne. The third suspect, also 18, was identified was from the Narre Warren neighborhood of Melbourne, he was not identified.¹⁶⁹ He faced charges of Weapons offenses. Finally two others, aged 18 and 19 were also detained but their identities were not made public.¹⁷⁰ Police alleged the suspects may have been radicalized by Neil Prakash, an Australian IS recruiter. The suspects also had links with the Al-

¹⁶⁵ Dawn, "Militants gun down 20 laborers in Balochistan", April 11,2015

¹⁶⁶ The Bangkok Post, "Eight wounded by Yala Bombs", April 25 2015.

¹⁶⁷ WSJ, "Australia Arrests Five on Suspicion of Anzac Day Terrorism Plot", April 5, 2015

¹⁶⁸ Ibid.

¹⁶⁹ The Age, "Anzac terror plot: Third man held in custody as details of alleged attack plot emerge", April 21, 2015

¹⁷⁰ Guardian, "Police arrest five over alleged Anzac Day terrorism plot", April 18, 2015

Furqan Islamic Information Centre, where police say preachers are known to radicalize members.¹⁷¹

¹⁷¹ The age ibid.

ABOUT THE ICT

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