



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 August 2014

Highlights

- Between August 1 and August 26, Operation 'Protective Edge' entered phase three of the campaign in which the IDF pulled out ground forces from Gaza. During this stage, rocket attacks continued targeting Israeli civilians and soldiers. During the 50-day campaign, 64 IDF soldiers were killed and 469 IDF soldiers were wounded. Four Israeli civilians were killed by rocket or mortar strikes, including a 4-year-old child, and 36 others were wounded by shrapnel. Gaza health officials said that more than 2,100 Palestinian civilians were killed throughout the campaign and many thousands more were wounded. Israeli authorities claimed more than 1,000 Hamas militants were killed throughout the 50-day operation. During Operation 'Protective Edge', Hamas violated 11 ceasefire agreements, firing at Israeli civilians and forces during ceasefires and UN-declared humanitarian windows. On August 26, a cease-fire agreement was finally announced, brokered by the Egyptian government with the support of Qatar and the US, but without a fixed long-term agreement.
- On the morning of August 3, Islamic State (IS) militants advanced into and captured Sinjar Mountain in northern Iraq. According to some reports, as many as 500 Yazidis were massacred in the IS attack and its aftermath, and dozens more died of hunger while fleeing the IS advance. In response to the ongoing threat of IS, the US launched airstrikes on August 8 against IS targets in northern Iraq using Predator drones and Navy F-18 fighter jets in order to destroy rebel positions around the city of Erbil. By August 14, US strikes and Kurdish ground forces had broken the IS siege of Mount Sinjar, allowing thousands of Yazidi refugees to escape.
- On August 4, Mohammed Jaabis, 23, commandeered a construction excavator and rammed it into a bus in Jerusalem, killing Avraham Walles, 29 and wounding six others in Jerusalem. Jaabis was shot dead by police who were at the scene.

- On August 11, the suspected leader of Boko Haram's female wing was arrested in Kano and identified as Ibrahim Ibrahim. At the time of his arrest, he was training 16 women who were allegedly preparing for suicide bombings. The women were also detained by the authorities.
- On August 13, Amal EL-Wahabi became first female Briton to be convicted under terrorism laws against funding jihadist fighters in Syria.
- On August 14, Moroccan police, working in collaboration with Spanish authorities, arrested nine militants and charged them with recruiting militants for the IS. According to the authorities, the cell is believed to have been dedicated to the recruitment, financial support and deployment of jihadists. The network was operating in Tetouan, Fez and Fnideq, a small town near the Spanish enclave of Ceuta, raising funds and sending recruits to Syria and Iraq.
- On August 19, a video was uploaded to YouTube titled, "A Message to America" by the Islamic State (IS) showing the beheading of American journalist, James Foley. In the video, Foley read a prepared statement in which he criticized US airstrikes as well as his brother who serves in the United States Air Force. His captor, referred to in the media as 'Jihadi John', also read a prepared statement in which he criticized the US and President Barack Obama. He made demands to cease the 2014 American-led intervention in Iraq. The FBI and United States National Security Council confirmed that the video, which included footage of Foley's beheaded corpse, was genuine.
- On August 21, two French teenagers, ages 15 and 17, were arrested in Tarbes and Lyon. Both were accused of preparing to join jihadist activities in Syria. Authorities said the teenagers were planning carry out a suicide bombing at a synagogue in Lyon. They were charged with conspiracy to commit terrorism.
- On August 29, Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis claimed it had beheaded four Egyptians, accusing them of providing Israel with intelligence for an airstrike that killed three of its fighters. In a video released on Twitter, armed men in black masks stood over the kneeling captives as one of the militants read out a statement. Minutes later, the four men were beheaded. This was the first time that any beheadings had been made public in Egypt.

Contents

Highlights	2
Europe	6
Belgium.....	6
France	6
Germany and the Netherlands.....	7
Kosovo	8
Spain	8
United Kingdom.....	8
Africa	9
Nigeria	9
Mali.....	10
Morocco	10
Kenya	11
Somalia	11
Middle East	12
Egypt.....	12
Iraq	13
Israel and the West Bank	15
Operation ‘Protective Edge’ - Phase Three	16
Lebanon.....	20
Saudi Arabia.....	20
Syria	21
Yemen.....	22
North America.....	23
Asia.....	23
Afghanistan.....	23

China.....	24
Indonesia.....	24
Pakistan.....	25
Philippines.....	26
Oceania.....	26
Australia.....	26

Europe

Belgium

On August 2, a Syrian man, 25, whose identity was not made public, was arrested by Belgium authorities at Brussels South Charleroi Airport after two false French passports and a USB stick containing video clips of killings and jihadist propaganda were found in the man's belongings.¹ Belgian authorities accused the suspect of having ties to Al-Nusra Front militants in Syria. The man denied the charges. He claimed to be a journalist who was held hostage by Al-Nusra Front militants before escaping. He said he arrived in Belgium from Greece and that he was planning to go to Sweden to continue his studies in journalism.²

On August 7, two Dutch citizens of Turkish ancestry were arrested at Zaventem Airport in Brussels, as part of a joint Dutch and Belgium counter-terrorist operation to identify jihadist activities in Europe.³ Belgium police said the suspects, who were from The Hague, were tied to a jihadist network in Schilderswijk.⁴ Dutch prosecutors said they seized USB sticks and jihadist propaganda during raids on four locations in The Hague and the Netherlands. Belgian prosecutors said they found weapons and body armor in a separate search in Brussels. The suspects appeared before an investigative judge in Dendermonde, Belgium.⁵

France

On August 2, French police arrested a Franco-Moroccan man at Roissy International Airport, in Paris on suspicion that he was part of a conspiracy to carry out terrorist attacks in France. The suspect, whose name and age were not made public, had just disembarked from a plane arriving from Istanbul, Turkey, after his expulsion by Turkish authorities. The French interior ministry said in a statement that the man was arrested as part of a preliminary investigation for "criminal association

¹ AFP, "Syrian arrested in Belgium over terror fears", August 3, 2014.

² Al-Arabiya, "Syrian man suspected of terrorist links arrested in Brussels' airport", August 3, 2014.

A similar incident also occurred in September 2014, where a Syrian man was arrested in the same airport in Brussels, accused of having ties to militant groups in Syria. He also arrived via Greece and was planning to travel to Scandinavia. He denied the charges against him. For further details see:

The Bulletin, "Suspected terrorist arrested at Charleroi airport", September 25, 2014.

³ IBT, "Suspected Islamic State Jihadi Man and Wife Arrested in Hague", August 9, 2014.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ AP, "Dutch, Belgian police cooperate in raids on suspected terrorist group; 2 arrests", August 7, 2014.

with a view to preparing terrorist acts". The man was detained in police custody pending formal charges.⁶ The Interior Ministry made no further details public.⁷

On August 21, two French teenage girls, ages 15 and 17, were arrested in Tarbes and Lyon for allegedly planning a suicide attack on the Great Synagogue in Lyon. The teenagers were also accused of preparing to join jihadist activities in Syria.⁸ One of the teenagers is from Venissieux, a suburb of Lyon; the other from Tarbes, in the eastern Pyrenees. On August 22, the girls were indicted for conspiracy to commit terrorism.⁹ French authorities said the two had never met but communicated via social media.¹⁰ The girls are among some 60 people being investigated in France for criminal association with a terrorist enterprise.¹¹

Germany and the Netherlands

On August 28, authorities in the Netherlands and Germany said they carried out a joint operation that led to the arrest of three suspects from The Hague, who were charged with inciting hatred through social media and plotting terrorist attacks. The two male suspects were charged with recruiting militants to fight in Syria and Iraq.¹² Police and prosecutors said one man was arrested in Germany and the other was arrested in The Hague. A female suspect was arrested in Germany charged with incitement and spreading hate on social media forums. Dutch police said they raided four homes during the operation. The identities of the suspects were not released to the public.¹³

⁶ Reuters, "French police arrest Islamist militant at a Paris airport part of a conspiracy to carry out terror attack in France", August 1, 2014.

⁷ The Washington Times, "French police arrest man at Paris airport believed to be involved with Islamic terror plot", August 2, 2014.

⁸ RFI, "Two French girls arrested for alleged jihad activities", August 21, 2014.

⁹ Jpost, "French authorities arrest Muslim girls planning attack on synagogue", August 22, 2014.

¹⁰ Times of Israel, "French teenagers planned suicide bombing at Lyon synagogue", August 29, 2014.

¹¹ Haaretz, "Two French teens arrested for plotting suicide attack against Lyon synagogue", August 31, 2014.

¹² The Straits Times, "2 'jihad recruiters' arrested in the Netherlands, Germany", August 28, 2014.

¹³ AFP, "Jihad recruiters' arrested in Netherlands, Germany", August 28, 2014.

Kosovo

On August 14, police in Kosovo arrested 43 men for allegedly recruiting militants to join jihadist groups in Syria and Iraq.¹⁴ A police statement said explosives, weapons and ammunition were seized during the counter-terrorist operation, which was carried out in 60 locations across Kosovo.¹⁵ The men were questioned on suspicion of engaging in acts against Kosovo's constitutional order and endangering the safety and security of the state. The identities of the suspects were not released to the public.¹⁶ Authorities said that in August 2014, approximately 100-200 ethnic Albanians from Kosovo had joined extremist fighters in Syria and Iraq, and that 16 Kosovars have been killed while fighting in Iraq and Syria as members of the IS and the Al-Nusra Front.¹⁷

Spain

On August 4, Spanish authorities arrested Fauzia Mohamed Allal, 19, and a teenage girl, 14, whose identity was not made public, in Melilla. The suspects were allegedly planning to travel to the Middle East, specifically to Iraq or Syria to enlist in the IS. Both are Spanish citizens.¹⁸ A video released by the Spanish Interior Ministry showed two women dressed in black niqabs getting off a plane, each flanked by two policemen.¹⁹ It was reported that the two girls were radicalized through social media forums.²⁰

United Kingdom

On August 13, Amal EL-Wahabi, became the first female British citizen to be convicted under terror laws against funding jihadist fighters in Syria. She was convicted of funding terrorism and instigating terrorist acts in Syria.²¹ In January 2014, El-Wahabi and her friend, Nawal Msaad, were charged under Section 17 of the Terrorism Act 2000, for the commission, preparation and instigation of acts of

¹⁴ DW, "Jihad 'Made in Kosovo'", August 11, 2014.

¹⁵ Reuters, "Kosovo police arrest 40 for fighting in Iraq, Syria", August 11, 2014.

¹⁶ AFP, "Police arrest men suspected of having fought with rebel groups, in crackdown aimed at deterring further recruitment", August 11, 2014.

¹⁷ RFE, "Kosovar Imams Arrested In Bid To Stem Militant Recruiting", September 16, 2014.

¹⁸ Morocco World News, "Spain: 14 Year Old Girl Arrested on Terrorism Charges", August 6, 2014.

¹⁹ Guardian, "Spanish girl, 14, held on suspicion of trying to join Isis", August 4, 2014

²⁰ The Local, "Spanish girl, 14, arrested 'on way to join ISIS'", August 4, 2014.

²¹ AP, "UK Woman Convicted of Funding Terrorism in Syria", August 13, 2014.

terrorism.²² According to the court indictment, Msaad agreed to hide 20,000 euros in her underwear on a flight from London to Istanbul in January 2014 in return for a payment, but the plan was foiled when she was detained at Heathrow Airport. Msaad, who denied knowing that the cash was intended for funding terrorism, was cleared of the charge.²³

On August 15, a British man identified as Asim Ali, 33, was charged with attempting to assist terrorism. Authorities claimed he had ties to Imran Khawaja, 26, who was previously charged with terrorism offences, including allegedly attending a terrorist training camp in Syria. Ali allegedly gave Khawaja £300 from his bank account before his departure from the UK and provided advice on establishing communications using mobile phone applications. It is also alleged that he coordinated fundraising efforts through sales of property and clothing with the knowledge that the money was required for the purchase of weapons. Ali is also accused of providing advice on how to transmit money from the UK to avoid detection.²⁴

Africa

Nigeria

On August 10, suspected Boko Haram militants raided villages in Borno State in northern Nigeria, killing 28 people, injuring 25 others and kidnapping a further 97 civilians.²⁵ Authorities reported that scores of homes were set on fire.²⁶ Some of those abducted were reportedly later rescued in an operation by the multinational force from Nigeria, Chad and Niger, which is nominally responsible for security in the area.²⁷ It was also reported that on August 15 the remaining captives were freed by Chadian soldiers at the Chad border.²⁸

On August 11, a man who was identified as Ibrahim Ibrahim was arrested in Kano during a raid by security forces who alleged that Ibrahim was running a Boko Haram cell training Boko Haram's female

²² For Further details see January 2014 ICT database report:

<http://images.i-hls.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Database-Report-January-2014.pdf>

²³ Telegraph, "Woman cleared of smuggling terror cash in her knickers", August 17, 2014.

²⁴ Belfast Telegraph, "Man, 33, faces terrorism charges", August 15, 2014.

²⁵ Bloomberg, "Nigeria Militants Kidnap About 100 Boys and Men in Northeast", August 14, 2014.

²⁶ Nigeria Sun, "Nigerian government fails to prevent further kidnappings by Boko Haram", August 17, 2014.

²⁷ DW, "Boko Haram 'carries out mass abduction'", August 10, 2014.

²⁸ Yahoo, "Boko Haram kidnaps 100, Chad frees most captives", August 15, 2014.

wing.²⁹ At the time of arrest, Ibrahim was with 16 women who were reportedly being trained for suicide operations. They were also detained by the authorities.³⁰ It was further reported that Ibrahim told interrogators that he brought the trainee bombers from Sambisa forest in Borno State. It was unclear whether they were linked to the girls kidnapped by Boko Haram militants in Chibok.³¹

Mali

On August 10, three Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) militants were arrested near Timbuktu as part of a counter-terrorism effort known as 'Operation Barkhane'. The AQIM militants were suspected of being responsible for a rocket-propelled grenade attack on Timbuktu's airport on July 13, 2014 and for the killing of two staff members of the non-profit organization, Norwegian Refugee Council, near Timbuktu on May 29, 2014.³² Authorities said the suspects were linked to Yahia Abou El Hammam, the Algerian leader of AQIM in the Sahel.³³

On August 16, a suicide car bomber attacked a patrol base in Ber, 40 miles east of Timbuktu.³⁴ The attack killed two UN peacekeepers and injured nine others.³⁵ No group claimed responsibility for the attack.³⁶

Morocco

On August 4, Moroccan security services announced that they had arrested a French jihadist on July 26, who was operating in Morocco to recruit fighters in order to send them to Al-Qaeda affiliated organizations. He was accused of recruiting Al-Nusra Front militants in Syria and Ansar al-Sharia militants in Libya. Authorities said the suspect, whose identity was not made public, had previously fought in Bosnia before joining Al-Qaeda affiliates in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and then

²⁹ IBT, "Nigeria's Female Suicide Bombers: Why Boko Haram are Turning Women into Weapons", October 16, 2014. Also for further details of the female wing of Boko Haram see July 2014 ICT database report.

³⁰ Nigerianunited, "Boko Haram: 'Female Suicide Bomber Trainer' Arrested in Kano", August 2014.

³¹ News Express, "Master trainer of Boko Haram female suicide bombers nabbed with 16 recruits on training ground", August 11, 2014.

³² All Africa, "Mali: French Forces in Mali Capture Three Al-Qaeda Suspects", August 2014.

³³ AllAfrica, "Mali: Al-Qaeda Claims Mali Peacekeeper Attacks", September 5, 2014.

³⁴ Reuters, "Suicide bomber attacks U.N. base in northern Mali, kills two", August 16, 2014.

³⁵ All Africa, "Mali: Security Council Press Statement On Terrorist Attack in Mali", August 18, 2014.

³⁶ Reuters, "Suicide bomber attacks U.N. base in northern Mali, kills two", August 16, 2014.

later in Iraq and Syria. The Moroccan Interior Ministry alleged that the suspect had been in contact with militants belonging to Ansar al-Sharia in Libya, before coming to Morocco via Tunisia.³⁷

On August 14, Moroccan police, working in collaboration with Spanish authorities, arrested nine militants charged with recruiting militants for IS. All nine were Moroccan nationals.³⁸ Authorities believe the cell was dedicated to the recruitment, financial support and deployment of jihadists. The network was operating in Tetouan, Fez and Fnideq, a small town near the Spanish enclave of Ceuta, raising funds and sending recruits to Syria and Iraq.³⁹ Authorities also said the militants were plotting to return to Morocco and carry out bombing attacks. Morocco's Interior Ministry said that 1,212 Moroccans belong to terrorist groups in Iraq and Syria, including the IS, and that approximately 100 militants have been arrested on their return to Morocco.⁴⁰

Kenya

On August 5, Hanifi Hassan, a senior Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen commander and former Somali journalist, was arrested in Nairobi.⁴¹ Authorities said that Hassan had been injured in an ambush several weeks prior to his arrest and had entered Kenya seeking medical assistance at Eastleigh Hospital. He used the alias, Yussuf Hassan Abdisalam, and later admitted that this was not his true identity. Security forces allege that he is the director of the Al-Shabab radio station, Al Andulus. He was wanted for killing journalists in Mogadishu between 2012 and 2013. The Kenyan government agreed to extradite him to Mogadishu, where he faced legal action against him.⁴²

Somalia

On August 1, Aden Madeer was fatally shot outside a mosque in the Hamar Weyne district of Mogadishu shortly after Friday prayers.⁴³ Witnesses said the gunmen escaped by car. Mader was chairman of the parliamentary finance committee and a former minister in the Somali government.

³⁷ Magharebia, "Morocco arrests French terror recruiter", August 4, 2014.

³⁸ The Local, "Spain helps Morocco break up ISIS terror cell", August 14, 2014.

³⁹ Al-Arabiya, "Morocco dismantles ISIS recruitment cell", August 14, 2014.

⁴⁰ AP, "Morocco dismantles ISIS recruitment cell", August 14, 2014.

⁴¹ AP, "Al-Shabaab commander arrested", August 5, 2014.

⁴² SomaliCurrent, "Suspected Al Shabaab member in Kenya confirms his Hanafi", August 2014.

⁴³ Al-Jazeera, "Al-Shabab fighters gun down Somali MP", August 1, 2014.

He is the fifth Somali politician to be killed in 2014.⁴⁴ Al-Shabab al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack.⁴⁵

On August 31, Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militants launched a multi-pronged attack on the Godka Jilacow facility, an interrogation center for Somalia's intelligence agency, in Mogadishu. The militants were trying to reach a high-security prison within the facility and free militants held in underground cells there.⁴⁶ The attack began when a suicide car bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle at the gate of the prison, followed by gunmen who attempted to breach the prison's walls.⁴⁷ Authorities said at least three further explosions and a gun battle took place afterwards, resulting in two guards sustaining serious injuries. Somali security forces said all of the attackers were killed.⁴⁸ Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the incident.⁴⁹

Middle East

Egypt

On August 5, five policemen were killed when militants attacked two checkpoints on the Matrouh road. Four militants were also killed. The location was significant as the Matrouh road is a busy highway running along Egypt's Mediterranean coast that connects several popular tourist resorts and leads to the Libyan border. Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis militants claimed responsibility for the attack in a video that they posted online.⁵⁰

On August 29, Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis claimed it had beheaded four Egyptians accused of providing Israel with intelligence for an airstrike that killed three of its fighters. Authorities said the men had been abducted by the gunmen two days earlier while driving in the town of Sheikh Zuwaid, which is just a few kilometers from the Gaza Strip. In a video released on Twitter, armed men in black masks stood over the kneeling captives as one of the militants read out a statement. Minutes later, the four

⁴⁴ Reuters, "Somali lawmaker killed in Mogadishu, fifth since April", August 1, 2014.

⁴⁵ DW, "Somalia lawmaker shot dead by Islamists in Mogadishu", August 1, 2014.

⁴⁶ AP, "Somalia forces foil Shabab attack on high security prison", August 31, 2014.

⁴⁷ AP, "Somalia: 12 killed as army repels attack on prison", August 31, 2014.

⁴⁸ DW, "Al-Shabab militants attack Somali intelligence headquarters", August 31, 2014.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ahram Online, "5 police personnel, 4 militants killed in clashes on Matrouh road", August 5, 2014.

men were beheaded. This was the first time that any decapitations had been made public in Egypt.⁵¹ In the video, Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis presented what it said were confessions by the men. Two of them said they had spent time in Israeli jails for smuggling. The other two said Israeli intelligence agency, the Mossad, had paid them for information. The filmed killings was evocative of images posted on the Internet by the IS, suggesting that Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis was inspired by recent beheadings and executions carried out by the IS.⁵²

Iraq

On August 1, IS militants captured the town of Zumar and its nearby oil field,⁵³ followed by the town of Sinjar. On the morning of August 3, IS militants advanced into and captured Sinjar Mountain. According to some reports as many as 500 Yazidis⁵⁴ were massacred in the IS attack and its aftermath, and dozens more died of hunger while fleeing the IS advance.⁵⁵ Tahseen Said, Emir of the Yazidis, issued a plea on August 4 to world leaders concerning the plight of the Yazidi people.⁵⁶ On August 6, IS militants captured the nearby towns of Qara Qosh, Bartella, Karemlash, and the following day the militants captured nearby Makhmour.⁵⁷ IS militants also captured the strategic Mosul Dam,⁵⁸ which was then recaptured by security forces on August 18.⁵⁹ In response to the ongoing threat of IS, the US launched airstrikes on IS targets in northern Iraq on August 8 using Predator drones and Navy F-

⁵¹ Jpost, "Sinai terror group decapitates four alleged Mossad spies", August 28, 2014.

⁵² Mail online, "Four Israeli 'Mossad spies' in copycat video that echoes recent Islamic State beheadings in Iraq", August 29, 2014.

⁵³ Al-Jazeera, "Islamic State takes Iraqi oilfield and towns", August 3, 2014.

⁵⁴ Yazidis are a Kurdish-speaking people who follow an ancient religion blending elements of Zoroastrianism, Islam, Christianity and local folk beliefs. Several hundred thousand followers live in Sinjar and Sheikhan, two regions just west and east of Mosul. They were forced to convert to Islam by IS militants or be killed.

⁵⁵ Guardian, "Who are the Yazidis and why is Isis hunting them?", August 11, 2014.

⁵⁶ Guardian, "US troops land on Iraq's Mt Sinjar to plan for Yazidi evacuation", August 13, 2014.

As part of the rescue mission, on August, 12 an Iraqi military helicopter, piloted by Maj. Gen. Majid Ahmed Saadi, crashed in the mountains while delivering aid and rescuing stranded Yazidi refugees. The helicopter was also carrying Yazidi lawmakers and foreign journalists. All were injured and the pilot was killed. For further details see: Yahoo, "Injured New York Times correspondent describes helicopter crash on Mt. Sinjar", August 17, 2014 and UPI, "Aid helicopter crashes in Iraq's Sinjar mountains", August 12, 2014.

⁵⁷ New York Times, "Sunni Extremists in Iraq Seize 3 Towns From Kurds and Threaten Major Dam", August 3, 2014.

⁵⁸ BBC, "Mosul Dam: Why the battle for water matters in Iraq", August 18, 2014.

⁵⁹ Reuters, "Backed by U.S. strikes, Iraq Kurds retake strategic dam: officials", August 18, 2014.

18 fighter jets in order to destroy rebel positions around the city of Erbil.⁶⁰ Warplanes dropped 500-pound laser-guided bombs on a number of targets: a mobile artillery piece that was being towed from a truck and had begun shelling Erbil, a stationary convoy of seven vehicles, and a mortar position. The military also used a remotely piloted drone to strike another mortar position. The airstrikes began just hours after President Barack Obama authorized "targeted airstrikes," saying in a televised address that the US had an obligation to protect its personnel in Iraq and prevent a potential genocide of minority groups by the IS.⁶¹ By August 10, Kurdish forces claimed to have recaptured the towns of Mahmour and Gweyr from IS control. Additional Iraqi airstrikes conducted in Sinjar killed 45 IS militants and injured 60 more.⁶² By August 14, US strikes and Kurdish ground forces had broken the IS siege of Mount Sinjar, allowing thousands of Yazidi refugees to escape.⁶³

On August 23, a series of explosions killed 18 people and injured 100 others in Kirkuk.⁶⁴ Two of three near-simultaneous car bombs exploded near buildings under construction that were used as observation positions by security forces, while the third struck the entrance to a market.⁶⁵ Also on August 23, 70 people were killed when a suicide bomber detonated in a Sunni mosque during Friday prayers and gunmen fired on fleeing worshippers in Iraq's Diyala Province. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks.⁶⁶

On August 26, a car bomb ripped through a crowded Baghdad intersection during morning rush hour, killing 15 people and wounding at least 37 others. The explosion caused a shallow crater at the intersection.⁶⁷ The car bomb was parked close to outdoor pet and vegetable markets and a traffic police office. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, which bore the hallmarks of IS militants.⁶⁸

⁶⁰ New York Times, "Obama Allows Limited Airstrikes on ISIS", August 7, 2014.

⁶¹ CNN, "U.S. jet fighters, drones strike ISIS fighters, convoys in Iraq", August 9, 2014.

⁶² ABC, "Iraq crisis: Thousands of besieged Yazidi members escape mountain; reports women and children buried alive by IS militants", August 11, 2014.

⁶³ New York Times, "U.S. Jets and Drones Attack Militants in Iraq, Hoping to Stop Advance", August 8, 2014.

⁶⁴ Reuters, "Bombs kill at least 35 across Iraq a day after mosque shooting", August 23, 2014.

⁶⁵ Al Jazeera, "Iraq's north rocked by deadly blasts", August 23, 2014.

⁶⁶ BBC, "Sunni mosque attack kills dozens in Iraq", August 23, 2014.

⁶⁷ BBC, "15 killed in car bomb attack in Baghdad", August 26, 2014.

⁶⁸ AP, "Car bombing kills at least 11 people in Baghdad", August 26, 2014.

Israel and the West Bank

On August 4, Mohammed Jaabis, 23, from the Jabel Mukaber neighborhood of Jerusalem, commandeered a construction excavator⁶⁹ and rammed it into a bus in Jerusalem, killing Avraham Walles, 29, and wounding six others. Jaabis was shot dead by police who were at the scene.⁷⁰ Authorities said the attacker worked in a nearby building site and allegedly stole the vehicle to carry out the attack.⁷¹ Internal Security Minister Yitzhak Aharonovitch said the militant was known to the authorities from a previous incident and that his family members were being questioned.⁷²

On August 5, Israel made public that it had arrested Hamas militant, Hossam Kawasmeh (also referred to as Hussam), on July 11, 2014. He was at a relative's home in 'Anata near Jerusalem at the time of arrest.⁷³ He was charged with masterminding the killing of the three Israeli teenagers, Gil-Ad Shaer, Eyal Yifrah and Naftali Fraenkel, who were kidnapped and murdered in June 2014.⁷⁴ According to court documents, Kawasmeh admitted that Hamas members in Gaza had financed the recruitment and arming of the perpetrators.⁷⁵ Israeli authorities said Hossam confessed to giving the orders and that he had collected weapons and raised funding for the attack. In addition, Hossam assisted Marwan in concealing the bodies by burying them on land he had bought in recent months. The revelations arose as part of the state's legal response to the High Court of Justice, justifying its request to demolish the residences of the families of the three suspected terrorists.⁷⁶

⁶⁹ This incident was reminiscent of previous attacks perpetrated by Palestinian militants against Israeli civilians using tractors/excavators as a modus operandi. In the summer of 2008, tractors were used to carry out two separate terrorist attacks in Jerusalem in the span of three weeks. In 2009, a tractor plowed into a police car on Menachem Begin Boulevard in Jerusalem. The driver was apparently also trying to hit a nearby bus but missed. Two police officers were in the car when it was hit and both sustained mild injuries. Other police officers nearby shot the terrorist. In October 2013, a Palestinian was shot dead after he rammed a tractor through the main gate of an army base located north of Jerusalem.

For more information about this incident, see ICT database report October 2013: <http://www.ict.org.il/Article/212/Summary%20of%20Terrorist%20Incidents%20and%20CT%20Operations%20October%202013>

⁷⁰ Times of Israel, "Pedestrian killed in excavator terror attack in Jerusalem", August 4, 2014.

⁷¹ Ynet, "Terror in Jerusalem: One killed, six hurt when terrorist goes on rampage in industrial digger", August 4, 2014.

⁷² Jpost, "Tractor hits bus, killing 1 in Jerusalem terror attack", August 4, 2014.

⁷³ Ynet, "Suspect in kidnapping, murder of 3 Israeli teens arrested", August 5, 2014.

⁷⁴ See June ICT database report: <http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1227/Summary-of-Terrorist-Incidents-and-CT-Operations-June-2014>

⁷⁵ Jpost, "Alleged mastermind behind kidnapping of three Israeli teens arrested", August 5, 2014.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

On August 28, the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) announced that, in a joint operation with the police, four Arab Israelis suspected of selling drugs for drug dealers tied to Hezbollah had been arrested in July 2014, but the case was only made public now. During the Shin Net interrogation, it was revealed that the four had acted on orders from Hezbollah to advance terrorist activities in Israel. The Shin Bet identified the suspects as: A-Khalim Abbas and his brother, Iz a-Din Abbas, both residents of Nahaf, and Ahmed Mazariv and Riyadh Marariv from Biet Zazir. During questioning, it was revealed that the cell had links to George Nimer, a resident of the Lebanese town of Marjayoun and a Hezbollah militant. The four had reportedly transferred drugs to Nimer in Lebanon and established a safe communication channel used for the purpose of transporting arms. The interrogation also revealed that Nimer had intended to transfer weapons and drugs into Israel, and had even ordered patrol groups to inspect certain areas near the border with Lebanon. Several of the detainees had been in contact with Nimer in the past, prior to their involvement in the current criminal case. The interrogators also found one of the detainees to be in possession of illegal weapons. In addition, 12 more Israeli drug dealers were arrested and taken for questioning as part of the interrogation.⁷⁷

Operation 'Protective Edge' - Phase Three

Between August 1 and August 26, the IDF began phase three of Operation 'Protective Edge', in which the IDF pulled out ground forces from Gaza. Various ceasefire opportunities were created during this period but Hamas relentlessly continued to fire rockets targeting Israeli civilians. Below is a short summary of the major incidents that occurred during this period. For a full detailed report on Operation 'Protective Edge' see the special report on the ICT Web site.⁷⁸

- On August 1, Israel accepted the UN/US proposal for a 72-hour humanitarian cease-fire beginning at 08:00. Despite the ceasefire, rockets were fired at the Gaza periphery. Hamas violated the ceasefire an hour-and-a-half later. At approximately 09:30, Hamas terrorists, including a suicide attacker, fired at the IDF forces. During the attack, two IDF soldiers were killed by Hamas fire in the Rafah area of Gaza. Israeli authorities believe that Second Lt. Hadar Goldin was kidnapped during the exchange of fire and dragged into a tunnel. (He was declared

⁷⁷ Ynet, 'Police arrest Hezbollah-backed drug ring in northern Israel', August 28, 2014

⁷⁸ See: <http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1262/Operation-Protective-Edge-A-Detailed-Summary-of-Events>

KIA on August 3 based on forensic evidence found in the tunnel).⁷⁹

- On August 2, the IDF reported that 86 rockets were fired from Gaza towards Israel, of which 58 rockets hit Israel and six others were intercepted by the Iron Dome missile defense system.⁸⁰ On August 3, the IDF pulled most of its ground forces out of the Gaza Strip after completing the destruction of 32 Hamas tunnels. Israeli authorities said Hamas had spent five years building the tunnels.⁸¹ Within the tunnels, the IDF discovered weapons, explosives, and equipment, enabling terrorists dressed in civilian clothing to disappear into a shaft in Gaza and emerge in Israel disguised as IDF soldiers and fully equipped to carry out a mass casualty attack. The IDF also seized motorcycles in some of the tunnels, which were earmarked by Hamas for rapid raids into Israel and subsequent retreats back into Gaza.⁸² Despite the IDF withdrawal, 119 rockets were fired from Gaza towards Israel, of which 109 rockets struck Israel and eight were intercepted by the Iron Dome missile defense system.⁸³
- On August 4, Israel authorized a seven-hour humanitarian window in Gaza, from 10:00-17:00.⁸⁴ However, Hamas continued firing rockets throughout the lull. Rockets were fired from Gaza at southern Israel in the early morning hours directed towards Ashdod, Ashkelon, Kerem Shalom, and the Eshkol region.⁸⁵ The following day, on August 5, Israel notified Egypt that it has agreed to its ceasefire proposal. A 72-hour ceasefire went into effect at 08:00.⁸⁶ However, shortly before the ceasefire began, a barrage of rockets was fired at Ashdod, Ashkelon, Beersheba, Rishon Lezion, Gush Etzion, Bethlehem and Maale Adumim.⁸⁷
- On August 8, Israel agreed to Egypt's call to extend the 72-hour ceasefire. However, at approximately 04:00 with the ceasefire still in effect, two rockets struck in open areas near

⁷⁹ Ynet, "IDF: Hamas used ceasefire to kidnap soldier; ceasefire over", August 1, 2014.

⁸⁰ MFA, "Israel under Fire" - <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Pages/Israel-under-fire-July-2014-A-Diary.aspx>

⁸¹ Haaretz, "IDF to complete destruction of Hamas tunnels by Sunday; Troops begin withdrawal", August 2, 2014.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ MFA, "Israel under Fire" - <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Pages/Israel-under-fire-July-2014-A-Diary.aspx>

⁸⁴ Reuters, "Israel, Palestinians accept Egypt's 72-hour truce bid", August 4, 2014.

⁸⁵ Ynet, "IDF withdraws majority of ground forces from Gaza", August 3, 2014.

⁸⁶ MFA, "Protective Edge: Hamas' violations of ceasefires - A chronology", August 19, 2014.

⁸⁷ Times of Israel, "IDF finishes tunnel demolitions and leaves Gaza as truce holds", August 5, 2014.

the Eshkol Regional Council. At approximately 08:00, two rockets were fired towards Ashkelon, marking the renewal of rocket fire from Gaza as Hamas refused to extend the 72-hour ceasefire.⁸⁸ By 10:00, over 18 rockets had been fired from Gaza at Israel. The IDF said two rockets were intercepted over Ashkelon, 14 hit open areas and two landed in Gaza. At 10:30 rockets were fired at Sderot.⁸⁹

- At midnight on August 10, an Egyptian-brokered 72-hour ceasefire came into effect. Shortly before the ceasefire began, rockets were fired at Beersheba and Tel Aviv, following a day of rocket fire directed at Israeli civilians. Despite the firing of several rockets towards the end of the 72-hour ceasefire at midnight on August 13, the ceasefire was extended until midnight on August 18.⁹⁰
- On August 19, at approximately 15:30, three rockets fired from Gaza hit Beersheva and Netivot, ending the five-day ceasefire. Rockets targeted most of southern Israel as well as Tel Aviv and, shortly before midnight, the Jerusalem area as well. The IDF said a total of 50 rockets were fired from Gaza during the day. In response, the IDF struck terrorist targets in Gaza. It was reported that an IAF airstrike targeted the home of Mohammed Deif, the chief commander of Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas. His wife and two children were killed in the strike, but it was unclear whether Deif was also killed in the incident.⁹¹ Sami Abu Zuhri, a Hamas spokesman, denied that Deif was killed and claimed that he was not home at the time of the strike. He added that Deif would retaliate against the strike.⁹² Israeli authorities neither confirmed nor denied that Deif was targeted but Israel holds him responsible for the deaths of dozens of its citizens in suicide bombings. Deif has been targeted in air strikes at least four times since the mid-1990s.⁹³ Hamas threatened international airlines to cease flights to Ben-Gurion International Airport. Despite the threat,

⁸⁸ New York Times, "New Fighting a Bid for Leverage as a Gaza Cease-Fire Expires", August 8, 2014.

⁸⁹ MFA, "Protective Edge: Hamas' violations of ceasefires - A chronology", August 19, 2014.

⁹⁰ MFA, "Israel under Fire" - <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Pages/Israel-under-fire-July-2014-A-Diary.aspx>

⁹¹ Jpost, "Conflicting reports on whether Hamas military chief Deif killed in IDF strike", August 21, 2014.

⁹² Ynet, "Hamas vows revenge for Deif's family", August 20, 2014.

⁹³ ABC, "Gaza conflict: Hamas says military commander Mohammed Deif survived Israeli air strike", August 21, 2014.

no major disruptions to any flight schedules were reported.⁹⁴ Rocket warning sirens were heard across southern and central communities throughout the day.⁹⁵ Ashdod, Beersheba, Ashkelon, Sderot and Petah Tikva were among the targeted areas. The IDF Spokesman's Office said that since the end of the cease-fire, 175 rockets were fired into Israel and over 100 targets were struck by the IAF in Gaza.⁹⁶

- On August 21, an Israeli man was seriously wounded when a rocket exploded in a building that houses a kindergarten. An IAF airstrike also killed three senior Hamas commanders in the Gaza Strip and Israeli authorities said it would continue to target the group's armed leadership after a ceasefire failed.⁹⁷
- On August 22, Daniel Tregerman, 4, was killed in a direct mortar hit outside his home in Kibbutz Nahal Oz. He was the youngest Israeli casualty. The child was at home with his parents and siblings in the Sha'ar Hanegev Region, close to the border with Gaza, when the attack took place.⁹⁸ The IDF spokesperson's unit said the mortar shell was fired from near a school used as a shelter for Palestinian refugees.⁹⁹ A total of nine civilians were wounded in rocket attacks, including a direct hit on an Ashdod synagogue, a Sderot home, near a preschool in Beersheba, and in Gan Yavne.¹⁰⁰
- On August 24, three Israeli-Arab taxi drivers waiting to collect Gazan residents and bring them into Israel for medical treatment were wounded, two seriously, by mortar shells fired at the Erez Crossing.¹⁰¹
- On August 26, a rocket hit an Ashkelon home, wounding over 20 people, including six young children. Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack.¹⁰² A rocket also exploded in the

⁹⁴ Israel Hayom, "Hamas threat against Ben-Gurion Airport proves hollow", August 21, 2014.

⁹⁵ <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Pages/Protective-Edge-Hamas-violations-of-ceasefires-chronology.aspx>

⁹⁶ Jpost *ibid.*

⁹⁷ Reuters, "Israeli air strike kills three Hamas commanders in Gaza", August 21, 2014.

⁹⁸ Ynet, "4-year-old Daniel Tregerman was killed while running for shelter", August 24, 2014.

⁹⁹ Times of Israel, "Four-year-old killed in mortar attack named as Daniel Tragerman", August 22, 2014.

¹⁰⁰ MFA, 'Israel under Fire', <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Pages/Israel-under-fire-July-2014-A-Diary.aspx>

¹⁰¹ Times of Israel, "Waiting to transport sick, drivers at Gaza crossing come under attack", August 24, 2014.

¹⁰² Jpost, "Israeli killed, two seriously wounded in Eshkol mortar strike", August 26, 2014.

playground of a kindergarten in Ashdod. Shortly before 18:00, Ze'ev Etzion, 55, and Shahar Melamed, 43, of Kibbutz Nirim, were killed and four others were wounded in a mortar attack on the Eshkol region.¹⁰³ Several hours after the attacks, Egyptian Foreign Minister, Sameh Shoukry, announced that Egypt's ceasefire proposal has been accepted by both sides and would enter into effect at 19:00. The Israeli government stated that "the Egyptian ceasefire proposal has no time limit".¹⁰⁴

Lebanon

On August 1, Lebanese authorities arrested Imad Ahmad Jomaa at a checkpoint in Aarsal. Authorities said he had been wounded in a clash with Syrian troops and was seeking medical treatment at a clinic in the city. He admitted to authorities that he was a member of the Al-Nusra Front.¹⁰⁵ On August 2, armed militants crossed into northeastern Lebanon from Syria and attacked nine army checkpoints in Aarsal.¹⁰⁶ Authorities said the militants had launched multiple attacks on checkpoints, security posts and homes, and that gunmen, identified as rebel fighters from across the border in Syria, had seized some members of the security forces. Two civilians and two soldiers were killed while trying to help repel attacks by the gunmen on security checkpoints. Ahmad Fliti, the Deputy Mayor of Aarsal, said that the gunmen had seized 17 members of the security forces at a police station and wanted to exchange them for the release of Imad Ahmad Jomaa.¹⁰⁷

Saudi Arabia

On August 26, a court in Saudi Arabia sentenced 17 suspects to jail terms ranging from nine to 33 years for their involvement in terrorist attacks in the country. The 17 men were part of a larger group of 67 defendants on trial in Riyadh over similar accusations. The court rulings followed a massive crackdown by authorities in Saudi Arabia, where hundreds of terrorists have been sentenced for

¹⁰³ Times of Israel, "2 killed, 4 hurt in mortar strike on southern kibbutz", August 26, 2014.

¹⁰⁴ CNN, "Israel-Gaza truce reached, this time with no expiration date", August 26, 2014. For further details about the ceasefire see [ICT special report on 'Operation Protective Edge'](#).

¹⁰⁵ Al-Jourhuria.com, "Army arrest Syrian Imad Ahmad Jomaa in Aarsal", August 2, 2014.

¹⁰⁶ Daily Star, "Who is Imad Ahmad Jomaa?", August 2, 2014.

¹⁰⁷ New York Times, "Gunmen From Syria Hit Army Checkpoints in Lebanon", August 2, 2014.

having links to Al-Qaeda and its affiliated organizations.¹⁰⁸

Syria

On August 19, a four-minute video in English with Arabic subtitles titled, "A Message to America", was posted on the Internet by the IS in which it showed the beheading of American journalist James Foley, 40.¹⁰⁹ The video appeared to be filmed deliberately in a barren, featureless landscape at an unknown location.¹¹⁰ Foley was kidnapped on November 22, 2012 by Al-Nusra Front militants while reporting from Taftanaz in northern Syria.¹¹¹ In the video, Foley is seen dressed in an orange jumpsuit similar to those worn by detainees at the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He was forced to kneel down and read a prepared statement criticizing the US, specifically referring to recent air strikes in Iraq, as well as his brother who serves in the United States Air Force. His captor, who had a British accent but whose real identity has not been made public, was alluded to in the media as 'Jihadi John'.¹¹² He is seen in the video dressed in black and wearing a mask, holding a knife and carrying a pistol.¹¹³ He read a prepared statement in which he criticized the US and President Barack Obama and made demands to cease the 2014 American-led intervention in Iraq. He then beheaded Foley off-camera. The executioner threatened to behead Steven Sotloff, a second American journalist who was kidnapped by suspected IS militants near the Syrian-Turkish border in 2013, if the IS demands were not met.¹¹⁴ The FBI and United States National Security Council confirmed that the video, which included footage of Foley's beheaded corpse, was genuine. Foley was the first American to die in Iraq since the US armed forces withdrew from the country in 2011.¹¹⁵

¹⁰⁸ IANS, "17 sentenced over terrorism charges in Saudi Arabia", August 26, 2014.

¹⁰⁹ Washington Post, "Islamic State claims it executed American photojournalist James Foley", August 20, 2014.

¹¹⁰ Telegraph, "US journalist James Foley beheaded by Isis", August 21, 2014.

¹¹¹ CNN, "Video shows ISIS beheading U.S. journalist James Foley", August 20, 2014.

¹¹² Authorities have suggested that the man had a British accent, hinting that he may in fact be Abdel-Majed Abdel Bary, Abu Abdullah al-Britani or Jalman Al-Britani. All are known militants and wanted by British authorities. The Guardian, "UK launches manhunt for Foley's British killer", August 20, 2014.

It should also be noted that it was reported that Jihadi John was injured in a US airstrike in November 2014 although there was no official confirmation. See Telegraph, "Jihadi John' reportedly wounded in airstrike", November 16, 2014. See also: CNN, "The British connection to ISIS beheadings", September 16, 2014.

¹¹³ Telegraph, "Video clues that could unmask James Foley's murderer", August 20, 2014.

¹¹⁴ In September 2014, Steven Sotloff was beheaded by IS. Full details of this incident will be detailed in September 2014 ICT database report.

¹¹⁵ BBC, "Foley beheading video shocks the world, Obama says", August 20, 2014.

On August 28, Al-Nusra Front militants captured 72 UN troops from the Philippines and 44 UN troops from Fiji. The militants ambushed a crossing point in the so-called disengagement zone, which the UN peacekeeping mission known as UNDOF has monitored since 1974. The cease-fire line was agreed upon after a 1973 Arab-Israeli war.¹¹⁶ The Al-Nusra Front demanded that it be removed from the UN's list of terrorist organizations in exchange for the lives of the peacekeepers. The UN also said the group routinely captures UN vehicles to use as car bombs.¹¹⁷ In a statement issued after the Fijians were captured, the Al-Nusra Front said it was holding the peacekeepers in retaliation for what it called the failure of the United Nations to help Syrians during the civil war. In that statement, the group issued no demands for their release. However, in a second video posted several days later, Sami al-Oreidi, a ranking Jordanian cleric from the Al-Nusra Front, claimed that the group had originally intended to trade the peacekeepers for prisoners and for guarantees that aid would be delivered to rebel-controlled areas besieged by Syrian government forces.¹¹⁸ The Filipino soldiers managed to escape into safety in Israel but the 44 Fijian soldiers still remain in captivity. Al-Nusra militants threatened to put the Fijian soldiers on trial under Islamic shari'a law unless a series of demands were met, including the group's removal from the UN's list of global terrorist organizations, and monetary compensation for members killed in fighting.¹¹⁹

Yemen

On August 9, a suspected US drone strike killed three AQAP militants in the central province of Marib. The strike occurred as AQAP had been battling Yemeni forces for control of the eastern province of Hadramout. Yemeni security forces also killed 25 suspected militants in clashes in Wadi Hadramout, including seven militants who were killed as they tried to attack an army facility. Also on August 9, Ansar al-Sharia militants claimed responsibility for killing 14 soldiers in revenge for an army offensive against its members in the city of Seiyoun. Witnesses in the town discovered the bodies of the 14

¹¹⁶ All of the 45 peacekeepers were released from captivity from Al-Nusra militants on September 11, 2014. An IDF spokeswoman said the Fijian peacekeepers had crossed into Israeli territory. For further details see: Haaretz, "UN confirms 45 Fiji peacekeepers freed by Syrian rebels", September 11, 2014.

¹¹⁷ Reuters, "UN confirms 45 Fiji peacekeepers freed by Syrian rebels", September 11, 2014.

¹¹⁸ New York Times, "Qaeda Group Has Released 45 Members of U.N. Force", September 11, 2014.

¹¹⁹ Jerusalem Post, "IDF soldiers saved Irish UN troops from hostage crisis in Golan Heights, says report", September 7, 2014.

soldiers perforated with bullets on a road. Authorities believed the militants had abducted the soldiers several hours earlier as they were travelling to Sanaa, on leave after serving in the area.¹²⁰ Following this incident, on August 16, a drone killed three suspected AQAP militants in Hadramawt Province. Authorities said the three armed men were traveling in a vehicle along a desert stretch between Yemen and Saudi Arabia's border when the drone shot two rockets at them. All three were killed.¹²¹

North America

On August 2, Donald Ray Morgan, 44, was arrested by FBI officers at JFK International Airport, New York, after arriving from Frankfurt, Germany.¹²² He was returning from an eight-month stay in Lebanon. Authorities accused him of being a sympathizer to the IS. A federal grand jury in North Carolina charged him with illegal weapons possession and prosecutors say he was involved in weapons trafficking in violation of his probation for a previous felony conviction.¹²³ Counter-terrorism agents were alerted to a series of Twitter posts he made while in the Lebanon, using the alias Abu Omar al Amreeki, in which he allegedly pledged his allegiance to IS leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and appeared to be preparing for jihad in Syria, Iraq or possibly the US.¹²⁴

Asia

Afghanistan

On August 10, four civilians were killed and 35 others were injured when a suicide car bomb targeted an ISAF convoy in western Kabul.¹²⁵ Authorities said the suicide bomber was driving a black Corolla

¹²⁰ Reuters, "Yemen militants shoot 14 soldiers, drone kills three al Qaeda suspects", August 9, 2014.

¹²¹ Reuters, "Suspected al-Qaida militants killed in Yemen drone and air strikes", August 16, 2014.

¹²² It should be noted that in October 2014, he pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization and possession of firearm by a felon. More details on this case will be summarized in the October 2014 ICT database report.

¹²³ CNN, "Man arrested after overseas trip, accused of sympathizing with ISIS", August 11, 2014 and AP, "NC man pleads guilty in federal court to trying to aid international terrorist organization", October 30, 2014.

¹²⁴ Mail Online, "Suspected American Islamic State member arrested at JFK airport amid fears he may be running guns for terror group or preparing for jihad", August 11, 2014.

¹²⁵ Xinhua, "Backgrounder: Major attacks in Afghan capital in 2014", September 16, 2014.

vehicle. Afghan and NATO officials said no foreign forces were killed or injured.¹²⁶ The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.¹²⁷

On August 30, a suicide car bomber attacked the Afghan intelligence agency in Jalalabad.¹²⁸ After the explosion, armed militants stormed the building and two security guards as well as three civilians. Two of the attackers were killed in the ensuing firefight.¹²⁹ Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesperson, claimed responsibility for the attack.¹³⁰

China

On August 1, authorities said that Jume Tahir, 74, a leading pro-government Muslim cleric in the volatile northwestern territory of Xinjiang had been killed the previous day by militants as he was leaving dawn prayers. Police killed two suspects and arrested one other militant.¹³¹ Tahir had headed the 600-year-old Id Kah Mosque in the city of Kashgar since 2003, and was a strong supporter of government policy on Islam that critics say imposes harsh restrictions on Muslims. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.¹³²

Indonesia

On August 10, Afif Abdul Majid, 59 was arrested by the National Police's Densus 88 counterterrorism team and the Jakarta Police anti-terrorism squad in Bekasi, West Java. Authorities said he was a leading member of Jemaah Anshorut Tauhid (JAT) for the Bekasi region and was charged with involvement in financing a paramilitary training camp in Aceh.¹³³ Authorities alleged that in 2010, Majid handed money to a senior militant in the group known as Ubaid, aka Luthfi Hudairoh, to fund a militant training camp in Aceh whose members are suspected to be involved in the plotting of a series of attacks in Jakarta. Ubaid was arrested in 2011 and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. The

¹²⁶ Washington Post, "4 Afghans die in suicide bomb attack in Kabul". August 10, 2014.

¹²⁷ Xinhua, "Suicide car bomb kills 5, wounds 35 in Kabul", August 10, 2014.

¹²⁸ IBT, "Taliban Attack On Afghan Intelligence Agency Headquarters leaves Six Dead", August 30, 2014.

¹²⁹ Reuters, "Taliban suicide bombers hit Afghan intelligence agency", August 30, 2014.

¹³⁰ IBT, "Taliban Attack On Afghan Intelligence Agency Headquarters leaves Six Dead", August 30, 2014.

¹³¹ AFP, "Imam of China's biggest mosque killed in Xinjiang", July 31, 2014.

¹³² Ap, "Pro-China imam said murdered", August 1, 2014.

¹³³ Jakarta Post, "Alleged terrorist arrested in Bekasi", August 10, 2014.

police also said the pair had pledged their allegiance to the IS. Jatiasih Police Chief, Comm. Pol. Melda Sitohang, said that Majid was responsible for spreading the IS ideology in Bekasi and its surrounding areas.¹³⁴

Pakistan

On August 15, 13 reported militants attempted to storm two Pakistani Air Force bases; Samungli Airbase and Khalid Airbase in the southwest city of Quetta, Baluchistan. Four bombs were defused near the air force base in Quetta. Authorities said that 12 militants were killed and another 12 people were injured, including one militant and 11 security officials. Authorities said the militants were unable to enter the airport. The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the attack.¹³⁵

On August 10, three militants were arrested at the Chaklala Railway Station near Rawalpindi, wearing explosive belts.¹³⁶ Authorities said they had received intelligence that the suspects were travelling on a train coming from Rawalpindi. The officials said that all of them belonged to the tribal region and were possibly planning to carry out a terrorist attack in Punjab. Authorities did not provide the identities of the three suspects.¹³⁷

On August 22, Pakistan's para-military security agency, Frontier Corps (FC), said that it had foiled a terrorist plot and killed 12 of the alleged terrorists in a battle in Turbat city, Balochistan Province. Authorities said the militants had planned to launch large-scale targeted killing in various cities of the province. No group claimed the responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed the TTP.¹³⁸

On August 20, Pakistani authorities foiled a bombing attack in Peshawar. Authorities said the 10-kilogram bomb had been fixed in a pressure cooker and placed in the vicinity of Chamkani police station, and that the target of the attack was law enforcement agencies. No group claimed

¹³⁴For further details see:

http://www.pvtr.org/icpvtr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1103:indonesia-04-10-august-2014&catid=34:weekly-reports&Itemid=232

¹³⁵ Dawn, "TTP faction claims responsibility for attack on airbases in Quetta - Pakistan", August 15, 2014.

¹³⁶ DND, "3 terrorists arrested with suicide jackets from Chaklala Railway Station Rawalpindi", August 10, 2014.

¹³⁷ The Nation, "Rawalpindi: Three alleged militants arrested from train", August 10, 2014.

¹³⁸The newsTribe.com, "FC Balochistan kills 12 alleged terrorists in Turbat", August 22, 2014.

responsibility.¹³⁹

Philippines

On August 30, suspected Abu Sayyaf militants beheaded Hadji Aldam, a security guard they had kidnapped in Sumisip, Basilan.¹⁴⁰ Abu Sayyaf posted a photo of the beheading on the Internet, mimicking recent similar incidents in Syria by the IS. The Abu Sayyaf group confirmed its ties with the IS. Police said the video showed the terrorist beheading Hadji Aldam, and four masked men wielding rifles posed with the headless body inside a tent with what appeared to be a flag of the IS in the background.¹⁴¹

Oceania

Australia

On August 27, a man from Sydney whose identity was not made public was arrested at Sydney Airport after terrorist-related material linked to the IS was discovered by security agents in his luggage. The man was planning to travel with his family to Beirut, Lebanon. He was detained for questioning and placed on a national security watchlist.¹⁴²

¹³⁹ Dawn, "Terror bid foiled as 10kg bomb defused in Peshawar's Chamkani", August 20, 2014.

¹⁴⁰ ILPS.Phils.com, "Latest Abu Sayyaf beheading leads to more US intervention", September 5, 2014.

¹⁴¹ Manilla Standard, "Sayyaf does an ISIS, beheads local militia" September 5, 2014.

¹⁴² Telegraph, "Counter-terrorist unit stops would-be jihadist at Sydney Airport as security increased", August 28, 2014.

ABOUT ICT INCIDENT AND ACTIVISTS DATABASE

The ICT Incidents and Activists Database is a comprehensive survey of Open Sources of Intelligence (OSINT). The ICT's Database is one of the most all-encompassing non-governmental resources on terrorist incidents in the world. Based on comprehensive and integrated information compiled since 1975, the database records over 35,000 incidents, including successful terrorist attacks, foiled attacks, and counter-terror operations, along with background and follow-up information. All material is interlinked and cross-referenced in order to provide the user with an interactive system for retrieving data in an intuitive manner.

[Click here for a list of online the ICT Incidents and Activists Database publications](#)

For tailored research please contact us at Webmaster@ict.org.il.

ABOUT THE ICT

Founded in 1996, the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) is one of the leading academic institutes for counter-terrorism in the world, facilitating international cooperation in the global struggle against terrorism. ICT is an independent think tank providing expertise in terrorism, counter-terrorism, homeland security, threat vulnerability and risk assessment and intelligence analysis.