



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
June 2015**

Highlights

- On June 7, it was reported that Jordanian authorities foiled a plot by a member of the Iranian Bayt al-Maqdis group to carry out attacks in Jordan and along the border with Israel. Authorities said the suspect is a male dual Iraqi and Norwegian citizen, who at the time of his arrest, had in his possession 45 kg of explosives.
- On June 8, Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC) militants attacked a convoy of 19 trucks carrying crude oil in Puerto Asis in southern Colombia. Following the incident, on June 11, three policemen were shot by FARC militants as they patrolled the Pan-American Highway. The militants also detonated explosives on the road destroying an energy pylon. As a result, half a million people in the surrounding neighbourhoods lost power.
- On June 15, Boko Haram militants, killed 22 people and injured 100 others in two simultaneous suicide attacks that targeted police in Chad's capital city N'jamena. This was the first reported suicide bombing to take place in the city.
- On June 15, a US-led coalition air strike in Mosul, Iraq targeted and killed Ali Awni al-Harzi'an, a Tunisian Islamic State (IS) recruiter, who was also linked to the 2012 Benghazi attack in Libya.
- On June 16, US authorities confirmed that a US air strike in Mukalla, Yemen killed Nasser al-Wujayshi, the leader of AQAP.
- On June 26, during the month of Ramadan, four major terrorist incidents took place. In Tunisia, lone gunman Seifeddine Rezgui killed 39 people and wounded 36 others, the majority were tourists at a beach in Sousse. The IS claimed responsibility for the incident. In France, a large explosion occurred at the Air Products factory, a US-owned Gas Company in Saint-Quentin-Fallavier near Lyon and as police investigated the decapitated head of the factory owner was discovered on the factory railings, together with flags that contained Arabic inscriptions, similar to the IS flags. In Kuwait 27 people were killed and 227 people wounded, by a suicide bomber who detonated an explosive belt inside the Imam Sadiq Mosque, a Shia mosque in Kuwait City. The IS affiliated group, Wilayat Najd (the Najd Province) claimed responsibility for the attack.
- On June 29, four Israeli civilians travelling in the west bank were wounded, one seriously

who later succumbed to his wounds, by two Palestinian militants who opened fire on the Israeli vehicle, shooting 16 bullets at close range. The attackers escaped. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PLFP) claimed responsibility for the attack.

- On June 30, a bomb in a parked car remotely detonated targeting and killing Chief Prosecutor Hisham Barakat as he left his home in Cairo, Egypt. Authorities said the bomb also killed three civilians and caused major damage to the residential area, setting alight trees and damaging other vehicles on the street.

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Europe

France

On June 27, a large explosion occurred at the Air Products factory, a US-owned Gas Company in Saint-Quentin-Fallavier near Lyon and as police investigated, the decapitated head of the factory owner, who was identified as Herve Cornora, 50, was discovered on the factory railings.¹ Several people were injured. Police also discovered a white and black flag, similar to that of the IS, containing Arabic inscriptions, raised at the factory.² Authorities arrested four people, including the main perpetrator identified as Yassin Sali, 35. He worked as a delivery worker at the factory. His wife and sister were amongst those arrested.³ Authorities said Sali had been under French surveillance over concerns he was radicalized, however, they had no prior intelligence or warnings about this attack.⁴

United Kingdom

On June 8, two men aged 21 and 27, and a woman, 27, were arrested in Birmingham during a counter-terrorist raid.⁵ Police said the public were at no risk and that the suspects were detained for questioning suspected of taking part in terrorist related activities in Syria.⁶

On June 18, a man, whose identity was not made public, was arrested in Watford suspected of planting a bomb in the town.⁷ Police evacuated the area, after witnesses saw a man dressed in Muslim garb leaving a suspicious package near a local hotel. Police immediately evacuated the area and bomb disposal experts safely defused the package. No group claimed responsibility for the

¹ CNN, "Suspect detained after beheading, explosion in France", June 27, 2015

² Telegraph, "Grenoble attack: Man found beheaded and Islamist flag raised above factory in France", June 27, 2015

³ BBC, "France attack: Man decapitated at factory near Lyon", June 27, 2015

⁴ See website for more information about the firm: <http://www.airproducts.com/Company/news-center/2015/06/0626-air-products-attack-on-facility-in-france.aspx>

⁵ BBC, "Three arrested after Walsall terror raids", June 9, 2015

⁶ Independent, "Walsall terror arrests: Three detained on suspicion of Syria-related terrorism offences", June 9, 2015

⁷ Telegraph, "Burka-clad white man' arrested after police detonate suspect package", June 18, 2015

attempted attack.⁸

Africa

Chad

On June 15, Boko Haram militants, killed 22 people and injured 100 others in two simultaneous suicide attacks that targeted police in Chad's capital city N'jamena.⁹ In the first incident, a suicide bomber who was travelling on motorcycle detonated outside the police headquarter offices in the city. In the other explosion, a suicide bomber targeted a police training school, detonating himself amongst a group of police cadets. The majority of the casualties occurred at this site. Authorities said this was the first suicide bombing in N'Djamena.¹⁰ No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Boko Haram.¹¹

Kenya

On June 4, four Kenyan men were indicted at the Mililmani Law court in Nairobi, with over 150 counts of terrorism for their roles in the April 2015 Garissa University attack which killed approximately 150 people.¹² Authorities identified the suspects as Kenyan citizens: Osman Abdi Dakane, Sahal Diriye Hussein, Hassan Aden Hassan, Mohamed Abdi Abikar and Rashid Charles Mberesero, a Tunisian national.¹³ Prosecutors did not detail the men's roles in the attack but said all five men conspired the attack. The men denied the charges against them and plead not guilty.¹⁴

On June 14, Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militants attacked a military camp in Buare in Lamu County

⁸ Guardian, "Man arrested in Watford after bomb squad destroys suspicious package", June 18, 2015

⁹ BBC, "Chad suicide attacks kill many in N'Djamena", June 15, 2015

¹⁰ New York Times, "Suicide Bombers Strike Chad's Capital", June 15, 2015

¹¹ Reuters, "Suspected Boko Haram suicide bombers kill 27 in Chad capital", June 15, 2015

¹² For further details about the attack see the April 2015 ICT database report <http://www.ict.org.il/UserFiles/ICT-DB-April-15.pdf>

¹³ Reuters, "Kenya charges five men over Garissa attack", June 5, 2015

¹⁴ Guardian, "Kenyan police charge five men over university attack that killed 148 people", June 5, 2015

which is located close to the Somalia-Kenya border. The Kenyan military said a firefight took place in which 11 militants were killed, including two foreign fighters, one of whom was identified as British militant Thomas Evans.¹⁵ It was also reported that during the battle, two soldiers were killed and several others were injured.¹⁶ Kenyan authorities also said they seized hundreds of weapons, guns and rockets from the Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militants.¹⁷

On June 24, Kenyan authorities arrested two suspected Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militants who attempted to infiltrate Kenya along the border with Tanzania. The suspects were allegedly planning on targeting young Somali woman recruiting them to join the militant group.¹⁸

Libya

On June 15, it was reported that a suspected US airstrike killed Mokhtar Belmokhtar, the leader of the Signed in Blood Battalion group.¹⁹ US authorities said they carried out an airstrike in eastern Libya, using two F15 fighter jets that launched multiple 500-pound bombs but authorities not did confirm if Belmokhtar was the target and if he had actually been killed. There have been reports in the past of his death, yet these proved false. US authorities had previously placed a \$5m bounty on his head for information about his location.²⁰

Nigeria

On June 2, 30 people were killed and 50 others injured when a female suicide bomber detonated by a bus station at a food market in Baga road in Maiduguri. There was no immediate claim of responsibility but authorities blamed Boko Haram.²¹

¹⁵ BBC, "Briton 'second in command' during Kenya al-Shabab raid", June 20, 2015

¹⁶ DW, "Militants and soldiers die in al-Shabab attack in Kenya", June 14, 2015

¹⁷ UPI, "Kenyan military: 11 al-Shabab militants killed in botched attack", June 14, 2015

¹⁸ Xinhua, "Kenyan police arrest 2 terror suspects along Tanzania border", June 27, 2015

¹⁹ Guardian, "Jihadi leader Mokhtar Belmokhtar killed in US air strike, Libya claims", June 15, 2015

²⁰ Reuters, "Libya says 'uncatchable' veteran militant killed in U.S. strike", June 15, 2015

Belmokhtar was charged with masterminding the Inn Amnaas hostage crisis in January 2013 in Algeria that killed 35 people, including three US citizens.²¹ He was also suspected of carrying out countless suicide attacks and other terrorist attacks in the Sahara region. He was for many years a senior AQIM leader but later formed an offshoot group known as

On June 5, 29 people were killed when two suicide bombers detonated their explosive belts in a market place in Yola, as the market was closing. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Boko Haram.²²

On June 11, suspected Boko Haram militants stormed three villages in Borno state: Matangale, Buraltima and Dirmanti, burning homes and killing 43 civilians. During the attack, residents said the gunmen, who were on motorcycles, looted properties before fleeing. Residents attempted to stop the gunmen and engaged in a firefight but the militants escaped to the surrounding Sambisa forest area, which is a known Boko Haram stronghold.²³

On June 22, witnesses claimed that approximately 30 suspected Boko Haram militants raided Debiro Hawul and Debiro Biu villages killing almost 40 residents. The militants shot the civilians and then looted their homes as well as settling homes alight. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Boko Haram.²⁴

On June 23, 30 people were killed when two female teenage suicide bombers detonated their explosive vests near a mosque located in a marketplace in Maiduguri. Witnesses said the majority of the casualties were caused in the first explosion and that the suspected bomber had caused suspicion as she was seen loitering around the mosque during prayers. A second explosion occurred minutes later near the entrance to the market place where witnesses said another teenage girl, with an explosive vest strapped to her, had attempted to escape, but the explosives detonated prematurely. There were no civilian casualties in the second explosion. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Boko Haram.²⁵

Signed in Blood Battalion group, which operated mainly in Mali and had ties with the Movement for Tawhid and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO). He was reportedly the emir or leader of its operations.

²¹AFP, "Bomb blast kills dozens in Nigeria", June 2, 2015

²² AP, "Nigeria Bombing Near Yola Market Kills Dozens; Boko Haram Involvement Suspected", June 5, 2015

²³ AFP, "Boko Haram kills 43 in NE Nigeria raids: residents", June 11, 2015

²⁴ Business Insider, "Over 40 killed in 'Boko Haram' attacks in Nigeria", June 24, 2015

²⁵IBT, "Boko Haram: 30 killed in twin female suicide bomb attacks at busy fish market in Maiduguri", June 23, 2015

Somalia

On June 24, three soldiers were killed and seven others were injured when an Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen suicide car bomber attacked a convoy of diplomats from the UAE in Mogadishu.²⁶ No diplomats were injured in the attack. Authorities said this was the first time UAE diplomats had been targeted by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militants in Somalia.²⁷

On June 26, 30 people were killed when a gunman and a suicide car bomber attacked an African Union military base in Lego.²⁸ The military base is situated along the main road connecting Mogadishu and Baidoa.²⁹ Witnesses said the militants were also armed with rocket-propelled grenades. Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack and said that their gunmen took control of the base and raised the militant flag as well as seizing weapons.³⁰

Tunisia

On June 26, a lone gunman, who was later identified as Seifeddine Rezgui, a Tunisian student, 23,³¹ staged a terrorist incident on behalf of the IS, killing 39 people and wounding 36 others in Sousse.³² The majority of the casualties were British, Tunisian, German, Belgian, French and Irish tourists.³³ Witnesses said minutes before the attack began, Rezgui was seen strolling along the beach, dressed as a Western tourist, carrying a rifle that was concealed under a parasol. He then started shooting tourists on the beach. He then entered the Hotel Riu Imperial Marhaba where he shot hotel guests and workers. He was then fatally shot in an exchange of fire with police.³⁴ The Islamic State (IS)

²⁶ Reuters, "Car bomb aimed at UAE officials kills three Somali soldiers in Mogadishu", June 24, 2015

²⁷ VOA, "Car Bomb Targets UAE Officials, Kills 3 in Mogadishu", June 24, 2015

²⁸ Times of Israel, "Islamic extremists bomb base in Somalia, many dead", June 26, 2015

²⁹ BBC, "Somalia attack: Al-Shabab 'kills 30' at AU military base", June 26, 2015

³⁰ Al-Jazeera, "Al-Shabab claims attack on AU base in Somalia", June 26, 2015

³¹ BBC, "Tunisia attack: Profile of gunman Seifeddine Rezgui", June 27, 2015

³² Telegraph, "Terror on the beach: The full story of the Tunisia beach terror attack", June 27, 2015

³³ Reuters, "Most Tunisia hotel attack victims were British: Tunisia premier", June 27, 2015

³⁴ New York Times, "Terrorist Attacks in France, Tunisia and Kuwait Kill Dozens", June 26, 2015

claimed responsibility for the incident.³⁵ Following the attack, Tunisian authorities said they made several arrests in connection with the attack, although the details were not made public. The interior ministry said Rezgui, acted alone in carrying out the attack, but had support in obtaining the weapon and they believe accomplices helped him plan the logistics of the attack.³⁶

Middle East

Egypt

On June 3, armed assailants on a motorcycle shot dead two members of Egypt's tourism and antiquities police force on a road near the Giza pyramid.³⁷ The incident took place near a security checkpoint in the outskirts of Cairo. No group immediately claimed responsibility.³⁸ Also on the same day, a soldier was killed at a checkpoint in Sheikh Zuweid, in the Sinai Peninsula on the border with the Gaza Strip and Israel.³⁹

On June 10, a group of three militants attempted to stage a suicide car bombing attack at the Karnak Temple in Luxor. Two assailants were killed and one other militant was injured by police, who thwarted the attack. There were no reported civilian casualties.⁴⁰ No group claimed responsibility.⁴¹ Also on June 10, rockets were fired by IS affiliated militants in the direction of the airport in Sinai, which is used by multi-national peacekeeping forces. Authorities were unable to verify where the rocket landed but there was minimal damage and there were no reported casualties. The Islamic Province claimed responsibility for the attack on Twitter.⁴²

³⁵ BBC, "Tunisia attack on Sousse beach 'kills 39'", June 27, 2015

³⁶ BBC, "Tunisia attack: Arrests over Sousse massacre", June 29, 2015

³⁷ Reuters, "Two Egyptian tourism police killed in rare attack near pyramids", June 3, 2015

³⁸ AP, "2 Egyptian police killed in Pyramids terror attack", June 3, 2015

³⁹ Reuters *ibid*.

⁴⁰ CNN, "Luxor suicide bomber, another assailant die in attack on temple, Egypt says", June 13, 2015

⁴¹ Reuters, "Suicide bomber attacks tourist site in Luxor, four Egyptians wounded", June 10, 2015

⁴² Reuters, "Sinai Province fires rockets towards airport used by multinational peacekeepers", June 10, 2015

On June 30, a bomb in a parked car remotely detonated targeting and killing Chief Prosecutor Hisham Barakat as he left his home in Cairo. Authorities said the bomb also killed three civilians and caused major damage to the residential area, setting alight trees and damaging other vehicles on the street.⁴³

Iraq

During June 2015, according to the US ministry of Defense, “299 airstrikes were carried out, destroying or damaging amongst other targets: 39 fighting positions, 25 mortar systems, 92 vehicles, five weapons caches, 67 Heavy machine guns, and 119 tactical units. .” The airstrikes were part of a continued counter-terrorist operation against IS militant dubbed “Operation Inherent Resolve”.⁴⁴

Some of the significant air strikes included, amongst others:

- On June 3, an air strike targeted and destroyed an IS car bomb factories in Hawijah in northern Iraq. Authorities said the factory included tanks, Humvees and large quantities of explosives. According to the Iraqi military the strike caused a large amount of casualties, both civilian and IS militants, although the exact figures were unclear. The factory was the largest known IS factory in Iraq and Syria.⁴⁵
- On June 10, 15 US-led coalition forces airstrikes were carried out in and around Baghdadi; Tal Afar, Bayji, Kirkuk, Makhmur, Mosul and Sinjar. Targets destroyed included: IS tactical units, vehicles, buildings, mortar systems, weapons and an IS tunnel system.⁴⁶
- On June 15, a US-led coalition air strike in Mosul targeted and killed Ali Awni al-Harzi'an, a Tunisian IS recruiter, who was also linked to the 2012 Benghazi attack.⁴⁷ According to the US State Department, he was a high profile terrorist who helped potential Ansar-al-Sharia Tunisia militants travel to Syria and obtain weapons and explosives. He also aided the

⁴³ Reuters, “Car bomb attack kills Egypt's top public prosecutor”, June 30, 2015

⁴⁴ <http://www.defense.gov/>

⁴⁵ AFP, “Air raid destroys huge ISIS car bomb plant in Iraq”, June 3, 2015

⁴⁶ <http://www.centcom.mil/en/news/articles/june-10-military-airstrikes-continue-against-isil-terrorists-in-syria-and-i>

⁴⁷ Long war journal, “Benghazi suspect killed in Mosul, Pentagon says”, June 23, 2015

recruits smuggle ammunition into Tunisia to aid fighting there.⁴⁸

- On June 21, 18 airstrikes were carried out by US-led coalition forces near the following cities: Baghdadi, Ar Rutbah, Bayji, Fallujah, Haditha, Makhmur, Mosul, Sinjar and Tal Afar. Targets destroyed included IS supply vehicles, weapons, safe houses, IS rockets supplies, tactical units and mortar systems.⁴⁹
- On June 28, according to the US military 10 airstrikes were carried out targeting IS positions in Iraq. The airstrikes occurred in: Mosul, Tal Afar, Sinjar, Fallujah, Bayji, Makhmur and Habbaniyah.⁵⁰

Other significant incidents in Iraq included:

On June 1, 45 police officers were killed and 33 injured including, Brig Gen Moussa Haider the commander of the 9th Brigade, was among the 33 wounded by three suicide car bombers who detonated by the gates of a military base located on the Falluja and Samarra Highway. Authorities said several high-ranking officers were amongst the casualties.⁵¹

On June 17, a suicide car bomber killed seven people and wounding 16 others at a police checkpoint at the northern entrance to the Kazimiyah section of Baghdad. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.⁵²

On June 25, a car bomb detonated by suspected IS militants killed 14 soldiers and wounded 27 others in Anbar province.⁵³

On June 27, a series of car bombs targeting civilians exploded in Baghdad. In the first incident, a car bomb detonated in southeast Baghdad, killing five people and wounding 13 others. A second incident occurred at an outdoor market, killing three people and wounding eight others. A third

⁴⁸ IBT, "US Airstrikes Kill Ali Awni al-Harzi In Iraq: Benghazi Suspect Affiliated With ISIS, Al Qaeda In Mosul, Pentagon Says", June 22, 2015

⁴⁹ <http://www.centcom.mil/en/news/articles/june-21-military-airstrikes-continue-against-isil-terrorists-in-syria-and-i>

⁵⁰ <http://www.centcom.mil/en/news/articles/june-28-military-airstrikes-continue-against-isil-terrorists-in-syria-and-i>

⁵¹ BBC, "Iraq: Islamic State bomb attack 'kills 45 police officers'", June 1, 2015

⁵² AP, "Iraqi officials: Suicide bomb at police checkpoint kills 7", June 17, 2015

⁵³ IS Kills 14 Iraqi Soldiers in Car Bomb Attack

bomb then exploded in Baiyaa, a commercial area of the city, killing two people and wounding 10 others. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.⁵⁴

Israel and the West Bank

On June 3, two rockets were fired from Gaza into southern Israel. However, there were no casualties or damage reported. The IDF responded to the rocket fire by striking three terror targets in the Gaza Strip.⁵⁵

On June 6, a rocket was fired into southern Israel from the Gaza strip. The rocket landed in an open area near Ashkelon. There were no casualties or major damage. An IS linked group in the Gaza strip claimed responsibility for the incident. In response, the IAF targeted terrorist infrastructure in the Gaza strip and the IDF closed the Keren Shalom crossing.⁵⁶

On June 7, the Shin Bet said they arrested four Bedouin male teachers, the majority were residents in Hura and taught in Rahat in the Negev. They were charged in the Beer Sheva Districts courts for spreading IS inspired ideology and supporting a banned terrorist organization. Authorities also said some of the cell members were planning to travel to Syria to join IS militants there. Some of the suspects were also charged with attending secret IS meetings in Hura. Their teaching licenses were revoked by the Israeli education Minister.⁵⁷

On June 19, a Palestinian shot two Israeli men near the Ein Buvin spring, close to the settlement of Dolev.⁵⁸ Danny Gonen, 25, died of his injuries and the second Israeli victim, whose identity was not made public, was wounded in the attack. The two victims were hiking in the area, when a Palestinian man approached them asking for help and shot them. Hamas claimed responsibility.⁵⁹

On June 23, militants in Gaza launched a rocket into southern Israel. It landed in an open area,

⁵⁴ AP, "Bomb blasts in Baghdad leave 10 dead, dozens injured", June 27, 2015

⁵⁵ MFA <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Pages/Rockets-fired-from-Gaza-hit-southern-Israel-4-Jun-2015.aspx>

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ynet, "Negev teachers charged with spreading ISIS dogma to their students", June 7, 2015

⁵⁸ Haaretz, "One Israeli Shot Dead, One Wounded in West Bank Terror Attack", June 19, 2015

⁵⁹ Jpost, "IDF, Shin Bet scour West Bank for terrorist who shot Israeli dead near Dolev on Friday", June 19, 2015

causing no injuries or damage. The IDF struck the launcher from which the rocket was fired at Israel.⁶⁰

On June 26, a Palestinian gunman attacked an IDF checkpoint in the Jordan Valley. Soldiers said a car approached the checkpoint that looked suspicious. When the soldiers checked the vehicle, the driver shot at the soldiers, however, the terrorist was shot.⁶¹

On June 29, four Israeli civilians travelling in the west bank were wounded, one seriously by two Palestinian militants who opened fire on the Israeli vehicle, shooting 16 bullets at close range. The following day, one of the victims, identified as Malachi Moshe Rosenfeld, 25 died of his injuries. The attackers escaped. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PLFP) claimed responsibility for the attack.⁶²

Jordan

On June 7, it was reported that Jordanian authorities foiled a plot by a member of the Iranian Bayt al-Maqdis group to carry out attacks in Jordan and along the border with Israel. Authorities said the suspect is a male dual Iraqi and Norwegian citizen, who at the time of his arrest, had in his possession 45 kg of explosives.⁶³

Kuwait

On June 26, 27 people were killed and 227 people wounded, by a suicide bomber who detonated an explosive belt inside the Imam Sadiq Mosque in Kuwait City.⁶⁴ The IS affiliated group, Wilayat Najd (the Najd Province) claimed responsibility for the attack.⁶⁵ The mosque was filled with almost 2000 worshippers at the time of the explosion. Witnesses said they saw the body of the suicide attacker, amongst the casualties. He was a young man in his 20s, who mingled amongst the

⁶⁰ Ynet, "IAF strikes in Gaza after rocket explodes in Israel", June 24, 2015

⁶¹ <https://www.idfblog.com/blog/2015/06/28/attempted-terror-attack-idf-checkpoint-jordan-valley/>

⁶² Haaretz, "Four Wounded, One Seriously, in West Bank Shooting Attack", June 30, 2015

⁶³ Ynet, "Report: Jordan foils Iran-backed terror plot", June 7, 2015

⁶⁴ Telegraph, "Kuwait attack: Islamic State suicide bombing at Shia mosque kills 27", June 28, 2015

⁶⁵ BBC, "Kuwait Shia mosque blast death toll 'rises to 27'", June 28, 2015

worshippers, before detonating the explosives during the prayer ceremony.⁶⁶ Authorities later identified the attacker as Fahd Suliman Abdul-Muhsen al-Qabaa. Authorities said the suspect, who was Tunisian, arrived in Kuwait several hours before the attack took place. Police arrested the driver who took al-Qabaa from the airport to the mosque and detained him for questioning. This attack was significant as it was the first known suicide bombing to target a Shia mosque in Kuwait.⁶⁷

Syria

According to the US Department of Defense, during June 2015, “189 airstrikes were conducted in Syria against IS targets. During those airstrikes, some of the targets that were destroyed included: “75 fighting positions, one command facility, four mortar systems, 99 vehicles, two weapons caches, four heavy machine guns and 135 tactical units. In addition 15 buildings, 15 rocket systems and various other weapons were destroyed.” The airstrikes were part of a continued counter-terrorist operation against IS militant dubbed “Operation Inherent Resolve”.⁶⁸

Some of the significant airstrikes included, amongst others:

- On June 9, nine air strikes were carried out by US-led coalition strikes targeting IS fighting positions, tactical units, vehicles and excavators near Raqqah and Kobani.⁶⁹
- On June 11, US-led air strikes were carried out in and around Al Hasakah, Ar Raqqah, Kobani and Dayr Az Zawr. Targets destroyed included IS tactical units, fighting positions, weapons and rockets. In the airstrike in Dayr Az Zawr, four IS crude oil collection points were targeted and destroyed.⁷⁰
- On June 16, nine US-led airstrikes were carried out in Syria. IS targets were destroyed in and around Raqqah. Kobani and Tal Abyad.⁷¹

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Reuters, “Kuwait says mosque bomber was young Saudi man, detains driver”, June 28, 2015

⁶⁸ Ministry of Defense Operation Inherent Resolve http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0814_Inherent-Resolve/cid/social_20141003_32807066

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ <http://www.centcom.mil/en/news/articles/june-11-military-airstrikes-continue-against-isil-terrorists-in-syria-and-i>

⁷¹ <http://www.defense.gov/News-Article-View/Article/604832>

- On June 27, US-led coalition carried out 14 air strikes against IS targets. During the strike, three Islamic State tactical units were hot near Kobani and two boats, a fighting position and a vehicle were destroyed. In Raqqa, five airstrikes targeted and destroyed vehicle, extractors and an aircraft. The other strikes occurred near the cities Aleppo, Tal Abyad and Hasaka.⁷²

Other significant incidents in Syria included:

On June 10, an explosion targeted a gas pipeline in the suburbs of Damascus and Homs. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed the IS.⁷³

On June 11, militants captured the al-Thala air base in Sweida province, although the airbase was dormant for the last decade.⁷⁴

On June 13, at 13 people were killed when a car bomb exploded at a mosque in al-Tal, near Damascus. No group claimed responsibility.⁷⁵

On June 14, a double bombing wounded 27 civilians in Homs. In the first incident, a car bomb detonated in a busy commercial street in the central Karm al Loz neighborhood. Authorities said, shortly after, a second bomb exploded on the southern edge of the city, wounding 10 civilians. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks.⁷⁶

On June 25, more than 120 people were killed and 200 others injured in Kobane by IS militants who detonated three car bombs and carried out armed assaults targeting Kobane residents and civilians in the surrounding villages.⁷⁷ Authorities said the militants managed to infiltrate the city by dressing as YPK fighters.⁷⁸ It was also reported, that during the incident, IS militants took more than 100 people hostage in Kobane.⁷⁹ Following these assaults, IS militants killed 20 civilians in the nearby

⁷² Reuters, "U.S., allies target Islamic State in Syria with 14 air strikes", June 27, 2015

⁷³ AFP, "ISIS blows up Syria gas pipeline serving capital: activists", June 10, 2015

⁷⁴ Reuters, "Syrian rebels seize parts of air base in south: monitor", June 11, 2015

⁷⁵ LA Tribune, "At Least 13 Killed in Car-Bomb Explosion Near Damascus", June 13, 2015

⁷⁶ Reuters, "Dozens injured in bombs attacks on Syria's Homs", June 14, 2015

⁷⁷ BBC, "Syria crisis: IS makes deadly return to Kobane", June 25, 2015

⁷⁸ CNN, "Rights group: ISIS attack on Kobani is 'second largest massacre'", June 26, 2015

⁷⁹ *ibid.*

village of Bakha Botan.⁸⁰

Yemen

On June 6, suspected Houthi rebels fired a scud missile into Saudi Arabia. This was the first incident of its kind noted in Yemen, suggesting the Houthis have greater operational capabilities than authorities realized. Saudi media reported that the scud missile was intercepted by a Patriot missile battery near Khamis Mushait town where the largest Saudi military air base is located. Saudi authorities said there were no casualties. Although there was no claim of responsibility, Yemen authorities said the Houthis were responsible for the attack. In response to the attack, the Saudi military launched an air strike targeting and destroying the Houthi rocket launcher in Saada.⁸¹

On June 16, a US air strike in Mukalla targeted and killed the leader of AQAP, Nasser al- Wuhayshi. Two other AQAP militants whose identity were not made public were also killed in the strike.⁸² His death was confirmed by both US authorities and by Al-Qaeda. Wuhayshi led AQAP since 2009 and since 2013 he served as deputy leader to Aymen al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaeda. He was also responsible for forming the Ansar-al-Sharia group in 2011, which focused on radicalizing young people in Yemen, to join the al-Qaeda linked group at the time of the Arab Spring. Wuhayshi was also responsible for the network communication of all the Al-Qaeda groups. Wuhayshi previously fought with Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan and in 2001, after the US invasion of Afghanistan, Wuhayshi served as Osama Bin Laden's secretary and senior aide in Tora Bora.⁸³ Qasim al-Raymi, al-Qaeda's military chief was named to be the new leader.⁸⁴

On June 18, 50 people were wounded when several car bombs detonated simultaneously by IS militants in Sanaa by the headquarters of the Houthi militants and by several mosques in the surrounding area. Authorities said the mosques were the main target of the attack.⁸⁵ Authorities

⁸⁰ Reuters, "Islamic State: Car bomb explosion, attack on Syrian border town Kobane kill at least 12, wound 70, hospital officials say", June 25, 2015

⁸¹ AP, "Saudi Arabia shoots down Scud missile fired from Yemen", June 6, 2015

⁸² CNN, "Top al Qaeda leader reported killed in Yemen", June 16, 2015

⁸³ Guardian, "US drone strike kills Yemen al-Qaida leader Nasir al-Wuhayshi", June 16, 2015

⁸⁴ BBC, "Yemen al-Qaeda chief al-Wuhayshi killed in US strike", June 16, 2015

⁸⁵ Al-Jazeera, "ISIL-linked group claims deadly Yemen bombings", June 18, 2015

said in total four explosions were reported.⁸⁶

On June 24, a drone strike killed four AQAP militants travelling near Mukalla. The strike targeted their vehicle. The militants' identities were not released.⁸⁷

On June 30, the IS claimed responsibility for killing 28 people in a car bombing that targeted two Houthi leaders named Faycal and Hamid Jayache during a funeral. The explosion injured 28 people including 12 women in a building where victims of a previous attack were being mourned. The IS claimed responsibility for the explosion.⁸⁸

North America

USA

On June 5, Michael Todd Wolfe, 28, alias Faruq, was sentenced to 82 months in prison for attempting to join the IS.⁸⁹ Authorities said he was arrested in June 2014, as a result of an FBI sting operation. Wolfe plead guilty to the charges against him.⁹⁰

On June 16, a man, who was not named, was indicted for providing the perpetrators of the May 2015 Garland Texas⁹¹ attack with the weapons. The suspect from Arizona was charged on three counts that included providing the weapons in the attack and assisting in the plans.⁹² Also on June 16, in a separate incident, Munther Omar Saleh, 20, was arrested suspected of plotting to detonate a pressure cooker bomb in New York. He was indicted for having ties with the IS. Authorities claimed he had displayed radicalized tendencies and showed his support for the IS on social media sites. In March 2015, he was detained for questioning for reconnaissance of the New Jersey side of

⁸⁶ Reuters, "Islamic State car bombs kill or injure 50 in Yemeni capital", June 18, 2015

⁸⁷ Al-Arabiya, "Drone strike kills four 'al-Qaeda militants' in Yemen", June 24, 2015

⁸⁸ Reuters, "Car bomb in Yemeni capital hits mourners, dozens wounded", June 30, 2015

⁸⁹ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/texas-man-sentenced-82-months-prison-attempting-travel-syria-join-isil>

⁹⁰ CNN, "Texas man pleads guilty to attempting to join ISIS' jihad in Syria", June 28, 2014

⁹¹ See May 2015 ICT database report <http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1472/Terrorist-Incidents-and-CT-Operations-May-2015>

⁹² CNN, "Man indicted for allegedly helping Mohammed cartoon contest attackers", June 16, 2015

the George Washington Bridge. He was suspected of planning the attack there but was later released due to lack of evidence.⁹³

On June 20, Reaz Qadir Khan was sentenced to 87 months in US federal prison. He was convicted of aiding the perpetrators of a 2009 suicide bombing attack in Pakistan. In February 2015, he pleaded guilty to providing financial assistance to Ali Jaleel, one of the suicide bombers who carried out the attack and aiding the bomber's family.⁹⁴

On June 26, Agron Hasbairami, an Albanian-US citizen was charged in a court in New York with providing material support to terrorist groups. He was accused of planning to travel to the tribal areas of Pakistan to join militant groups fighting there. Authorities arrested him at JFK airport as he was about to board a plane to Pakistan.⁹⁵

Latin America

Colombia

On June 8, Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC) militants attacked a convoy of 19 trucks carrying crude oil in Puerto Asis in southern Colombia. The militants forced the drivers to dump approximately 5,000 oil barrels. Major environmental damage was caused in the area.⁹⁶ Following the incident, on June 11, three policemen were shot by FARC rebels as they patrolled the Pan-American Highway. The militants also detonated explosives on the road destroying an energy pylon. As a result, half a million people in the surrounding neighborhoods lost power.⁹⁷

On June 17, a pipeline was bombed by suspected FARC militants in Catatumbo in northern Colombia. As a result of the attack, the oil spilled into a local river contaminating it. Almost 16,000

⁹³ NPR, "New York Man Accused Of Plotting To Explode Pressure Cooker Bombs", June 16, 2015

⁹⁴ Reuters, "Oregon man sentenced for helping people linked to Pakistan suicide bombing", June 20, 2015

⁹⁵ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/albanian-national-pleads-guilty-attempting-and-conspiring-support-terrorists>

⁹⁶ Colombia Reports, "'FARC forces 19 oil trucks to empty tanks in Colombia's Amazon jungle'", June 8, 2015

⁹⁷ BBC, "Colombia Farc rebel attack leave 500,000 without power", June 12, 2015

people lost their water supply.⁹⁸

Asia

Afghanistan

On June 4, a suicide bomber detonated an explosive belt, targeting a police check point in Helmand province. Four people were killed and six others, including four police officers, were injured. No group claimed responsibility for the incident but authorities suspected the Taliban.⁹⁹

On June 5, a US airstrike targeted a convoy of militants in Khost killing 30 Taliban fighters. The militants were attending a funeral of a senior Taliban leader who was killed in a gun battle with Afghan soldiers.¹⁰⁰

On June 13, the Taliban claimed responsibility for ambushing a military checkpoint in Southern Helmand province. During the incident, 20 security forces were killed and 10 others were wounded. The military said a battle between the soldiers and militants lasted for several hours, with losses also sustained to the militants, although the exact figure of militants killed was unclear.¹⁰¹

On June 22, Taliban militants staged an armed assault on the parliament building in Kabul killing two people, including a young child, in addition to injuring 40 civilians. The attack included: a car bomb, armed attack on security forces and suicide bombs. During the attack, a group of about seven attackers attempted to storm the parliament but were repelled by security forces who killed all the militants. The MPs were safely evacuated. A Taliban spokesman said the attack was to target Mohammad Masoom Stanekzai, the new defense minister, who was appearing in parliament for the first time.¹⁰² Also on June 22, an airstrike killed seven militants in eastern Nangarhar province.

⁹⁸ BBC, "Colombia's Farc blows up oil pipeline in Catatumbo", June 17, 2015

⁹⁹ AP, "Suicide bombing in southern province in Afghanistan kills 4 people", June 4, 2015

¹⁰⁰ Khaama, "Over 30 Taliban militants killed in US drone strike in Khost", June 5, 2015

¹⁰¹ Guardian, "Taliban kill 20 Afghan police officers in attacks on checkpoints", June 13, 2015

¹⁰² Guardian, "Afghanistan parliament attacked by Taliban suicide bomber and gunmen", June 22, 2015

Authorities said the airstrike destroyed the militant's vehicle and weapons inside the vehicle.¹⁰³

On June 29, 11 Afghan soldiers were killed and six others injured by suspected Taliban militants who ambushed their convoy in Herat Province. The military said during the incident, the militants took the soldiers weapons before managing to escape. There was no claim of responsibility for the incident.¹⁰⁴

On June 30, a suicide car bomb killed one Afghan citizen and injured 22 others on the main road to the Kabul airport, located close to embassies and diplomatic compounds in the city. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.¹⁰⁵ Authorities said the diplomatic missions were targeted but had sustained no casualties.¹⁰⁶ Also a suicide car bomb targeting a police headquarters in Lashkar Gah in Helmand province killed two civilians and injured 51 others. Authorities said the suicide bomber detonated before he reached the target.¹⁰⁷ Also on June 30, an airstrike targeted militants in Nangarhar province.

China

On June 24, a group of approximately 15 armed Uighur militants drove at high speed through a police checkpoint in Kashgar city in Xinjiang province, seriously injuring a police officer. The militants then exited the car and stabbed other police officers manning the checkpoint. The attack occurred late at night and resulted in the death of three police officers.¹⁰⁸ In response, armed police arrived at the scene and responded to the attack killing all 15 militants.¹⁰⁹

Pakistan

On June 1, four Taliban militants were killed in a suspected US drone strike in North Waziristan.¹¹⁰

¹⁰³ Khaaama, "Air strike kills seven militants in Nangarhar", June 22, 2015

¹⁰⁴ BBC, "Taliban ambush in Herat province 'kills 11 soldiers'", June 29, 2015

¹⁰⁵ Reuters, "Taliban wound 21 Afghans, kill one in attack on NATO convoy", June 30, 2015

¹⁰⁶ AFP, "Suicide truck bomb kills two, wounds over 40 in Afghanistan", June 30, 2015

¹⁰⁷ CNN, "Kabul blast targets foreign forces; car bomb kills 2 in southern Afghanistan", June 30, 2015

¹⁰⁸ BBC, "China police checkpoint attack 'kills 18' in Xinjiang", June 24, 2015

¹⁰⁹ Guardian, "China: Uighurs blamed as 18 die in Xinjiang attack, says report", June 24, 2015

¹¹⁰ Reuters, "US drone strike kills four suspected militants in North Waziristan", June 1, 2015

Witnesses said the strike targeted the militants as they were travelling in a vehicle, which was complete destroyed. Several additional drone strikes also were reported targeting militants in Shawal valley.¹¹¹ Following this airstrike, one June 6, militant hideouts were targeted in the same valley, killing nine militants, including three woman who were thought to be the family members of the militants. They were not identified.¹¹²

On June 28, authorities said that 10 Taliban militants were killed as a result of an airstrike in Shawal Valley. It was also reported that three militant hideouts were destroyed.¹¹³

Philippines

On June 21, Philippine security forces staged a counter-terrorist operation to arrest Abu Sayaff militant, Abs Indanan alias Alkobar. However, he remained at large. During the operation, police uncovered a massive weapons and explosive stash at a residential address in Talabaan. Naim Arula was arrested. He is suspected of being an Abu Sayaff member, Authorities said amongst the explosives discovered were a large quantity of bomb making equipment including liquid gas tank, ammonium nitrate, nails and wires, and several IEDs and M14 weapons.¹¹⁴

Turkey

On June 5, two people were killed and over 100 injured in a double bombing attack at a pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) election rally in Diyarbakir.¹¹⁵ The explosions were timed five minutes apart and were remotely detonated. Authorities said one bomb was hidden in a garbage container and the other by a generator. No group claimed the attack but authorities blamed PKK militants.¹¹⁶

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² <https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/2015/07/01/drone-war-report-january-june-2015-controversial-signature-strikes-hit-yemen-and-pakistan/>

¹¹³ Reuters, "Air strikes in northwest Pakistan kill 10 militants - officials", June 28, 2015

¹¹⁴ Inquirer, "Philippines: Abu Sayyaf member arrested with explosives", June 21, 2015

¹¹⁵ BBC, "Turkey election: 'Two dead' in blasts at Kurdish rally", June 5, 2015

¹¹⁶ Reuters, "Turkey blast: Two dead and 100 injured after explosions hit Kurdish party election rally", June 5, 2015

Oceania

There were no significant incidents noted in Oceania during June 2015.

Attacks on Energy facilities

On June 8 Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC) militants attacked a convoy of 19 trucks carrying crude oil in Puerto Asis.¹¹⁷ The militants forced the drivers to dump approximately 5,000 oil barrels. Major environmental damage was caused in the area.¹¹⁸ Following the incident, on June 11, three policemen were shot by FARC rebels as they patrolled the Pan-American Highway. The militants also detonated explosives on the road destroying an energy pylon. As a result, half a million people in the surrounding neighborhoods lost power.¹¹⁹

On June 10, an explosion was reported targeting a gas pipeline in the suburbs of Damascus and Homs in Syria. Local civilians lost electricity supplies as a result of the attack. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed the IS.¹²⁰

On June 17, a pipeline was bombed by suspected FARC militants in Catatumbo in northern Colombia. As a result of the attack, the oil spilled into a local river contaminating it. Almost 16,000 people lost their water supply.¹²¹

On June 29, FARC militants bombed a new section of the Tansandino pipeline in southern Putumayo province in Colombia. There were no casualties and minimal damage was caused to the pipeline, as the attack occurred at dawn when the pipeline was inactive. Damage was caused to two surrounding houses.¹²²

¹¹⁷ Reuters, "Colombia's FARC rebels step up infrastructure attacks, kill 3 police", June 19, 2015

¹¹⁸ Reuters, "Bombing of Colombian pipeline causes 'environmental tragedy,' Ecopetrol says", June 10, 2015

¹¹⁹ Reuters, "Colombia's FARC rebels step up infrastructure attacks, kill 3 police", June 19, 2015

¹²⁰ AFP, "ISIS blows up Syria gas pipeline serving capital: activists", June 10, 2015

¹²¹ BBC, "Colombia's Farc blows up oil pipeline in Catatumbo", June 17, 2015

¹²² Guardian, "Farc rebels bomb new section of Colombian oil pipeline June 29, 2015

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