



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 November 2015

Highlights

- On November 12, counter-terrorist police conducted coordinated counter-terrorist raids in Italy, the United Kingdom, Norway, Finland, Germany and Switzerland, targeting the Rawti Shax (“The New Course”) network and the Didi Nwe (“Towards the Mountain”) network. As a result of the raids, 15 militants were arrested. The cells were charged with plotting attacks in northern Europe and the Middle East.
- On November 12, 43 people were killed and 240 others injured in a suicide bombing in Beirut, Lebanon. The Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the attack.
- On November 13, IS gunmen carried out a sophisticated coordinated attack at seven locations in Paris, France, killing 129 people and injuring more than 350 others. This was the worst attack in Paris to take place in recent years. At least seven terrorists were involved in the attack, which included mass shootings, hostage takings, and suicide attacks, which were the first ever in France. Following the attacks, a wide-scale manhunt was launched for French-Belgium national, Salah Abdeslam, who was suspected of driving the car transporting the suicide bombers to the Bataclan theatre, where they carried out one of the attacks. He remains at large. Counter-terrorist raids also took place in Belgium, France, Germany and Turkey, resulting in several arrests. In total 168 raids were conducted in France resulting in 23 arrests and 31 weapons seized. Additionally, 104 people were placed under house arrest. On November 22, authorities conducted 22 counter-terrorist raids in Brussels and Charleroi, Belgium, culminating in the arrests of 16 people. The government also placed an unprecedented security lockdown on Brussels, which involved the closure of shops, schools, public transportation.
- During November, the wave of terrorist attacks in Israel and the West Bank that began in October 2015 continued, resulting in the deaths 10 people (one Palestinian and nine Israelis) and 58 other people were injured. The majority of attacks were carried out by lone wolf attackers and were carried out using the modus operandi of either stabbing, vehicular attacks or shootings. Additionally, a large Hamas cell based in Qalqilya was broken up by Israeli security forces. Authorities said 24 Hamas members were arrested.

- On November 13, the US military conducted an airstrike over Raqqa, Syria killing IS militant Mohammed Emwazi, alias “Jihadi John”. He appeared on the majority of IS videos showing the beheading of hostages held in Syria by the IS. US-led coalition airstrikes intensified in Syria following the IS attack on November 13, in Paris. On November 15, French forces in coordination with US-led coalition forces conducted 20 airstrikes targeting IS targets in Raqqa. The targets targeted and destroyed: a command centre; a recruitment centre, an arms depot and a terrorist training camp.
- On November 21, 170 people were taken hostage inside the Radisson Blu Hotel in Bamako, Mali. Authorities said 21 people were killed, including two attackers and seven others were wounded in the incident. At least 30 people escaped during the siege. Al-Mourabitoun militants claimed responsibility in a message posted on social media site, Twitter.
- On November 24, Abid Naseer, 29, was jailed for 40 years in New York, USA He was convicted of an al-Qaeda plot to bomb the Arndale shopping centre in Manchester, UK in 2009.
- On November 29, police arrested Abubakar Sadiq Louw, 69, and Yassin Sambai Juma, 25, two Kenyan citizens who were charged and admitted to assisting Iranian state intelligence to plot attacks on western targets in Kenya.

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Europe

Belgium

On November 15, French authorities identified Salah Abdeslam¹, a Belgium-French national, as the driver of the black VW used in the IS French attacks in Paris on November 13 (see France section below). A wide-scale manhunt and international arrest warrant was issued however, he remains to date at large.²³

On November 22, authorities conducted 22 counter-terrorist raids in Brussels and Charleroi culminating in the arrests of 16 people in connection with the November 13 attacks in Paris. Authorities said no weapons or explosives were found during the searches. In one of the raids that took place in Molenbeek neighborhood of Brussels, which is a known hotbed of Islamic terrorism, a militant was injured after engaging in a firefight with police as he was travelling in a car.⁴ The government placed an unprecedented security lockdown on Brussels, which involved the closure of shops, schools, public transportation.⁵

Bosnia

On November 18, two soldiers were killed and five others were injured, when Enes Omeragic, a lone gunman opened fire on passengers on a bus in the outskirts of Sarajevo.⁶ Witnesses said the attacker shouted: “Allah Akbar” (God is Great in Arabic) before carrying out the attack. He was armed with an automated weapon. Omeragic escaped and hid in a nearby building. However, as police surrounded the building, Omeragic detonated an explosive device killing himself. There were no other casualties as a result of the suicide bombing.⁷

¹ Independent, “Salah Abdeslam: 11 things we know about fugitive of Paris attacks”, November 23, 2015

² BBC, “Paris attacks: Manhunt for Salah Abdeslam and accomplices”, November 16, 2015

³ RT, “International manhunt underway for suspect involved in Paris attacks”, November 16, 2015

⁴ BBC, “Brussels lockdown: Belgian police arrest 16 in anti-terror raids”, 23 November 2015

⁵ Time, “This Is Life Under a Terror Lockdown in Brussels”, November 23, 2015

⁶ Reuters, “Two army soldiers shot dead in Bosnia shooting spree”, November 18, 2015

⁷ RT, “Bosnia: Gunman kills two soldiers and blows himself up in Sarajevo 'terror' attack”, November 19, 2015

France

On November 13, IS gunmen carried out a coordinated attack at seven locations in Paris killing 129 people and injuring more than 350 others.⁸ The IS claimed responsibility saying the attacks were in retaliation for the French intervention in Syria and Iraq.⁹ This was the worst attack in Paris to take place in recent years.¹⁰ At least seven terrorists were involved in the attacks, which were highly organized and coordinated. The modus operandi comprised mass shootings, hostage takings, and suicide bombings- which was the first time a suicide attack had taken place in France.¹¹

The attacks occurred as follows:

- The first attacks were launched virtually simultaneously, with two explosions close to the Stade de France (football stadium).¹² Three suicide bombers detonated at 21:20, 21:30 and 21:53. The French president was in the stadium watching football game between France and Germany but was evacuated safely.¹³ Witnesses described three men at the stadium entrance, talking quietly in Arabic, attempting to permeate the crowds, before detonating their explosive belts. Authorities confirmed two of the attackers had posed as migrants¹⁴ using stolen Syrian passports with false pictures, entering Europe through Greece.¹⁵
- The next attacks targeted civilians in restaurants and bars in the 10th and 11th district of the city at 21:25 at the rue Bichat. The attackers were armed with machine guns and witnesses said they shouted: 'Allahu Akbar' (God is Great in Arabic) before opening fire killing 15 people. The area was particularly popular with young people and authorities said hundreds of people

⁸ Reuters, "France in shock after Islamist attacks kill 129", November 14, 2015

⁹ CNN, "Paris suicide bomber identified; ISIS claims responsibility for 129 dead", November 16, 2015

¹⁰ BBC, "Paris attacks: What happened on the night", December 9, 2015

¹¹ Guardian, "Paris attacks: day after atrocity - as it happened", November 14, 2015

¹² CNN, "How attacks in Paris unfolded", November 14, 2015

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ In 2015, a wave of migrants entered Europe from Syria. Authorities had raised concerns that foreign fighters would permeate amongst the migrants, with the aim to carry out IS attacks in mainland Europe.

¹⁵ AFP, "Paris attacks: Terrorist 'played xylophone' during Bataclan massacre", December 29, 2015

¹⁵ Guardian, "Bataclan attack: 'Everyone was dancing and smiling, and then men began shooting'", November 15, 2015

were in the area at the time of the attack.¹⁶ Witnesses say the attackers arrived in a black vehicle.¹⁷ At 21:32, five other people were killed in a shooting outside a bar in Paris' 11th district on the rue de la Fontaineau-Roi.¹⁸ At 21:36, attackers in a black car opened fire with assault rifles outside the La Belle Équipe restaurant, on the rue de Charonne, killing 19 people. Another suicide bomber detonated at 21:40 in a restaurant on Boulevard Voltaire, injuring several victims. There were no fatalities in this attack. Authorities said the explosives used by the suicide bomber was similar to those used at the football stadium.¹⁹

- Also at 21:40, the worst attack occurred in the Bataclan Concert hall, on Boulevard Voltaire, where Californian rock group Eagles of Death Metal was playing a concert attended by 1500 people.²⁰ Authorities said the attackers fired indiscriminately into the crowd, killing 87 people and injuring 90 others, with several hundred people treated for shock. The attackers then took the other people hostage.²¹ The Paris chief prosecutor said three attackers wearing suicide belts were involved. The attackers forced the hostages to gather in front of the stage where the attackers made a speech about the French intervention in Syria and Iraq against the IS.²² At 12:20 French elite police units stormed the concert hall, killing one of the attackers. The other two detonated suicide belts as the police entered. ²³

The suspected perpetrators were identified as brothers: Ibrahim Abdeslam, who carried out the suicide bombing attack outside the Comptoir Voltaire restaurant in Paris;²⁴ Salah Abdeslam, 26, he escaped and an international arrest warrant was issued for him and police believe he drove the vehicle that transported the suicide bombers to the Bataclan Hall;²⁵ and Mohammed Abdeslam, was

¹⁶ Mailonline, "I've been shot': Gunman dressed in black picked off terrified diners firing 'professional bursts' of shots in cafe shooting rampage", November 14, 2015

¹⁷ CNN. Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ WSJ, "At Paris Bistro La Belle Equipe, a Vision of France Is Damaged", November 18, 2015

²⁰ BBC, "What happened at the Bataclan?", December 9, 2015

²¹ New York Times, "Hostage at Bataclan Recalls Terrorists During Paris Attack", December 31, 2015

²² CNN. Ibid.

²³ BBC. Ibid.

²⁴ BBC, "Paris attacks: Who were the attackers?", January 19, 2016

²⁵ Independent, "Salah Abdeslam: 11 things we know about fugitive of Paris attacks", November 23, 2015

arrested in Brussels, Belgium but was released without charge. He claimed he did not know his brothers had been radicalised.²⁶ The other perpetrators were identified as: Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the suspected mastermind of the attacks (He was killed on November 18, following a shootout with police see paragraph below);²⁷ Omar Ismail Mostefai, 29, who was one of the Bataclan concert hall attackers; Sami Amimour, 28, a French national was also identified as one of the suicide bombers at the Bataclan concert hall; Bilal Hadfi,²⁸ 20 was the youngest of the attackers, carried out one of the suicide bombings at the Stade de France and Ahmad Al Mohammad also carried out one of the suicide bombings at the Stade de France. Authorities discovered a Syrian passport with his name at the scene of the attack.²⁹

On November 15, French authorities said some of the attackers had ties to Belgium and it was believed that is where some of the operational preparations took place. At least two of the terrorists lived in Brussels. This led to the raids in Belgium (see section above). The other attackers were believed to be French nationals and in response to the attacks, anti-terrorism units conducted multiple raids across France, in Toulouse, Grenoble, Calais and Paris. In total 168 raids were conducted resulting in 23 arrests and 31 weapons seized. Bernard Cazeneuve, the interior minister also said that 104 people were placed under house arrest.³⁰ Counter-terrorist operations in connection with the attacks were also conducted in Germany, however, the suspects were freed due to lack of evidence³¹ and in Turkey, where an arrest was made. (See these countries section in the report.)

On November 18, more than 100 armed police conducted counter-terrorist raids targeting a residential address in the St-Denis neighbourhood of Paris.³² During the raids, armed police engaged

²⁶ Telegraph, “Who were the terrorists? Everything we know about the Isil attackers so far”, November 20, 2015

²⁷ Telegraph, “Paris terror attack: Everything we know on Saturday afternoon”, November 14, 2015

²⁸ Mailonline, “‘I should have been closer to my children’: Mother of Paris attacker Bilal Hadfi says she missed warning signs”, December 28, 2015

²⁹ Independent, “France attacks: Is this the face of Paris suicide bomber Ahmed Almohammad?”, November 15, 2015

³⁰ Telegraph, “Paris attacks: France strikes back - as it happened on Sunday evening”, November 15, 2015

³¹ The local, “Police to apologize after wrongful Aachen arrests”, November 17, 2015

³² Reuters, “Tapped phone led Paris attack leader to his death”, November 21, 2015

with the militants and witnesses reported hearing shooting and explosions in the early hours of the morning. Police surrounded a third-floor apartment and at approximately 0600 a woman appeared at the window. A large explosion followed verbal exchanges between her and the police. Two suspects remained inside, carrying out additional shooting and grenade explosions. The operation ended shortly before midday.³³ Abdelhamid Abaaoud, 27, his cousin, Hasna Aït Boulahcen, 28 and an unidentified third person were killed during this incident. Three men were arrested at 04.50 after fleeing the apartment. At 06.20 Jawad Bendaoud, the landlord of the apartment where the suspects were staying, and a female friend of his were detained.³⁴

For a full report on the Paris attacks, see ICT Website article -The Paris Black Friday Attacks which provides a full overview and details of the attackers and its context in France's history of terrorism.³⁵

Germany

On November 26, two male suspects, 28 and 46, were arrested in Berlin following an intelligence tip that an attack on the city was being planned.³⁶ The arrests were the culmination of a series of counter-terrorist raids targeting suspected jihadist cells in the Britz neighbourhood of Berlin. Several residential addresses were evacuated as a precaution.³⁷

Italy and Norway

On November 12, 15 militants were arrested as the culmination of a series of coordinated counter-terrorist raids coordinated by Italian authorities. Authorities said the militants belonged to an al-Qaeda linked network called the Rawti Shax ("The New Course" or "Towards the Mountain") group. The group is based in Norway and Italy and operated across Europe using the internet to plot attacks.³⁸ Italian authorities said the raids and arrests were the culmination of a complex

³³ Guardian, "How the events of the St-Denis raid unfolded – a visual guide", November 27, 2015

³⁴ *ibid*

³⁵ For a detailed report on this attack see ICT Publications special reports on ICT website: <http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1512/The-Paris-Black-Friday-Attacks>

³⁶ The local, "Two men arrested in Berlin police terror raids", November 26, 2015

³⁷ DW, "German police arrest suspected jihadists", November 26, 2015

³⁸ BBC, "Krekar 'jihadist network' targeted in Europe terror raids", November 12, 2015

investigation into the network that began in 2010 following the discovery of an al-Qaeda linked website that radicalized users.³⁹

The raids were carried out mainly in Merano, in northern Italy, but also in the United Kingdom, Norway, Germany, and Finland and Switzerland.⁴⁰ Authorities said six suspects were arrested in Italy, four were detained in the UK and three people were arrested in Norway. Authorities said the raids in Germany, Finland and Switzerland, led to no arrests but resulted in the seizure of important data including electronic devices and documents.⁴¹

Authorities identified one of the militants as Abdul Rahman Nauroz, who was responsible for working with recruitment on the internet. He led operations from his home in Merano. Authorities also arrested Nauroz who recruited five men who travelled to fight with the IS in Syria. The cell also funded the Kosovan suspect, identified as Eldin Hodza, to travel to Istanbul, where he then travelled to Syria to join the IS. He returned to Europe, where he was then arrested in these raids.⁴²

The cell was charged with preparing to stage attacks in northern Europe and the Middle East. The cell consisted of mainly Kurds, except one militant who was from Kosovo. The location of one suspect is unknown, while another is believed to be in Iraq. Authorities said the cell communicated with each other via the internet. Authorities said they were plotting to target Norwegian and British diplomats in the Middle East as well as politicians in Norway. During interrogation, the suspects admitted they were plotting a jail break to free Najmuddin Faraj Ahmad⁴³ alias Mullah Krekar, the group's leader who was serving a prison sentence in a Norwegian jail.⁴⁴ He was convicted of issuing death threats and encouraging people to commit murders, and praising the Charlie Hebdo attacks in France in

³⁹ Guardian, "Suspects held across Europe in alleged plot to kidnap Norwegian diplomats", November 12, 2015

⁴⁰ CNN, "15 arrested in European sweep against Ansar al Islam offshoot, police say", November 26, 2015

⁴¹ Guardian, "Suspects held across Europe in alleged plot to kidnap Norwegian diplomats", November 12, 2015

⁴² New York Times, "Coordinated European Raids Target Ring Supporting Terrorist Groups", November 12, 2015

⁴³ Guardian Ibid.

⁴⁴ Reuters, "European swoop seizes 15 Islamists police say planning attacks", November 12, 2015

January 2015.⁴⁵ The cell also intended to oust the Iraqi Kurdistan government and replace it with sharia law. The cell recruited and funded militants to travel to Iraq and Syria, hoping that they will be trained there for a future conflict in Iraqi Kurdistan.⁴⁶

Spain

On November 2, six Basque Homeland and Freedom (ETA) militants went on trial in connection with killing a Sergeant Jean-Serge Nerin in a terrorist incident in March 2010 where the cell attempted to steal cars from a car showroom and took the salesmen hostage in Paris. The suspects had then allegedly engaged in a firefight with police which led to the death of the policeman. Xavier Goyenexea Irragori and Mikel Kabikoitz Carrera Sarobe were charged with the murder. The other cell members were charged with crimes relating to weapons theft and kidnapping. Authorities said nine militants were involved although only six were charged. The suspect's arrests were carried out over a period of five years between 2010-2015.⁴⁷

On November 3, Spanish authorities said they had arrested three Moroccans in Madrid, who were plotting to carry out an attack in Spain on behalf of the IS.⁴⁸ The arrests were carried out in the early morning at the suspects' apartment. They were both residents of Spain. Interior Minister Jorge Fernandez Diaz said unlike other recent similar incidents where the suspects were charged with recruiting other people to travel to Syria or Iraq to fight with the IS, this cell was primarily focused on carrying out attacks in Spain.⁴⁹

United Kingdom

On November 12, four male suspects were arrested in the UK following a counter-terrorism operation led by Italian authorities (See Italy section above). British authorities said the suspects arrested were

⁴⁵ WSJ, "Police in Europe Launch Coordinated Swoop on Terror Suspects With Links to Islamic State", November 12, 2015

⁴⁶ Rt, "15 jihadists arrested in Europe-wide raid while planning attacks", November 12, 2015

⁴⁷ Reuters, "Six suspected members of Basque group ETA go on trial in France", November 2, 2015

⁴⁸ CNN, "Ministry: Police break up jihadist terror cell 'ready to attack' Madrid", November 4, 2015

⁴⁹ AFP, "Three jihadists arrested in Madrid planning terror attacks in Spain", November 3, 2015

likely to be extradited to Italy.⁵⁰ The four suspects were aged between 32- 52, and were arrested at residential addresses in Hull, Derby, Birmingham and Sheffield.⁵¹

Africa

Chad

On November 8, a twin suicide bombing killed two people and injured 14 others near Lake Chad. Witnesses said the bombings were carried out by female attackers.⁵² No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Boko Haram.⁵³

Cameroon

On November 9, a teenage female suicide bomber detonated at a mosque in Fotokol, killing five people and injuring approximately 20 others. The military announced they had also foiled a third attack by another child bomber. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Boko Haram.⁵⁴

On November 21, four people were killed and 10 others were injured when a male suicide bomber detonated in a residential neighborhood of Fotokol.⁵⁵ Authorities said the attack targeted the home of a local tribal leader. Shortly after, three suicide bombers detonated close by injuring an additional 10 people. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Boko Haram.⁵⁶

Kenya

On November 29, police arrested Abubakar Sadiq Louw, 69, and Yassin Sambai Juma, 25, two Kenyan citizens who were charged and admitted to assisting Iranian state intelligence to plot attacks on

⁵⁰ BBC, "Counter-terror operation sees four arrested in UK", November 12, 2015

⁵¹ Guardian. Ibid.

⁵² PTI, "Boko Haram suicide bombing kills two in Chad: security source", November 12, 2015

⁵³ AFP, "Boko Haram suicide bombing 'kills two in Chad'", November 8, 2015

⁵⁴ Vanguard, "Women suicide bombers kill 3 in Cameroon mosque attack", November 9, 2015

⁵⁵ Al-Jazeera, "Deadly suicide attack rocks northern Cameroon", November 22, 2015

⁵⁶ CNN, "Cameroon: At least 6 killed in suspected Boko Haram suicide bombings", November 21, 2015

western targets in Kenya.⁵⁷ Both suspects admitted travelling on several occasions to Iran where they met their handlers and were given money to locate potential targets for the terror attacks and recruit others, including children, to join the cell. No further details were made public and Iran denied the claims.⁵⁸

Libya

On November 14, a US military airstrike targeted and killed IS Commander Abu Nabil, alias Wissam Najm Abd Zayd al Zubaydi. US authorities said the man was an Iraqi national who was a senior operative for many years with Al-Qaida in Iraq and more recently was a senior leader of IS in Libya.⁵⁹

On November 24, a car bomb killed five soldiers and wounded 16 others at the Mislattah checkpoint near Khoms, on a road between Tripoli and Misrata. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.⁶⁰

Mali

On November 21, 170 people were taken hostage inside the Radisson Blu Hotel in Bamako. Authorities said 21 people, including the two attackers were killed and seven others were wounded in the incident.⁶¹ Security forces said the militants who shouted, “Allahu Akbar” (God is great in Arabic), entered the inner compound of the hotel and detonated grenades before opening fire at security guards and taking hostages, many of whom were diplomats and foreign nationals. Three Chinese, one American and one Belgian were among the casualties. Malian special forces assisted by counterparts from the US and France killed the two gunmen and rescued the hostages. At least 30 people escaped during the siege. Al-Mourabitoun militants claimed responsibility in a message posted on social media site Twitter.⁶²

⁵⁷ AP, “Kenya Police: 2 Kenyans Arrested for Spying for Iran”, November 29, 2015

⁵⁸ AP, “Iran denies links to alleged operatives arrested in Kenya”, December 1, 2015

⁵⁹ Guardian, “Islamic State leader in Libya 'killed in US airstrike'”, November 14, 2015

⁶⁰ Reuters, “Car bomb kills five at checkpoint east of Libya's Tripoli - source”, November 24, 2015

⁶¹ LATimes, “Mali attack latest to rattle global security: The deadly hotel siege underscores a broader threat”, November 20, 2015

⁶² Guardian, “Mali attack: more than 20 dead after terrorist raid on Bamako hotel”, November 21, 2015

Nigeria

On November 17, 34 people were killed and 80 others injured when a suicide bomber exploded at a farmer's market in Yola. No group has claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Boko Haram.⁶³

On November 18, two female suicide bombers, aged 11 and 18, detonated themselves in a busy mobile phone market in Kano, killing 15 people and injuring 123 others.⁶⁴ Witnesses said the first bomber detonated inside a mobile phone market, and the other at the entrance to the marketplace. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Boko Haram.⁶⁵

On November 27, 21 people were killed after a suicide bomber detonated amongst crowds at a Shia Muslim procession marking the 40th day of Ashura festival, in Dakasoye village near Kano. Boko Haram claimed responsibility for the attack.⁶⁶ Witnesses said the bomber detonated amongst a crowd of pilgrims. A second man was arrested and confessed they were instructed by Boko Haram to carry out the attack.⁶⁷

Somalia

On November 1, a car bomb detonated outside the Sahafi hotel compound in Mogadishu. A group of gunmen then stormed the area. The hotel is often frequented by politicians and military leaders.⁶⁸ Witnesses said the gunmen shot indiscriminately at guests and threw grenades into the building, killing 13 people.⁶⁹ Amongst the casualties was a local politician and Gen Abdikarim Dhagabadan, a former military general who was the owner of the hotel.⁷⁰ Al-Shabab Al-Mujihdeen claimed responsibility for the attack.⁷¹

⁶³ Al-Jazeera, "Dozens killed in Nigeria market bombing", November 17, 2015

⁶⁴ BBC, "Nigeria blast: Yola market explosion kills 30", November 18, 2015

⁶⁵ BBC, "Kano blasts: Twin bombs in Nigeria market 'kill 11'", November 18, 2015

⁶⁶ Independent, "Kano blast: 'Boko Haram' suicide bomb leaves 21 dead as Shia Muslim procession attacked in Nigeria", November 27, 2015

⁶⁷ AFP, "Several die in Nigeria suicide attack near Kano", November 27, 2015

⁶⁸ BBC, "Somalia: Al-Shabab attack kills 15 in Mogadishu hotel", November 1, 2015

⁶⁹ Reuters, "Islamist al Shabaab attacks Somali hotel, kill at least 13", November 1, 2015

⁷⁰ BBC *ibid.*

⁷¹ AFP, "At least 12 killed as Shebab attack Somalia hotel", November 12, 2015

On November 22, eight Al-Shabab Al-Mujihdeen militants were killed in a suspected US drone airstrike targeting a militant base near Baladul Amin village. Authorities said that three militants were killed.⁷²

Tunisia

On November 24, a suicide bomber detonated on a bus that was transporting the President's Security Guards in Tunis, killing 12 people and injuring 17 others.⁷³ Authorities said the guards were boarding the bus to be taken to the presidential place when the bomber detonated his explosive belt inside the bus amongst the passengers. The explosion occurred near a city landmark known as the '7 November clock tower'.⁷⁴

Middle East

Egypt

On November 4, a suicide bomber detonated a car bomb targeting police recruits in Al-Arish. Three recruits were killed and 10 others were wounded in the incident. The IS claimed responsibility for the attack.⁷⁵

On November 23, a policeman was killed and two others injured in North Sinai's Sheikh Zuweid by an IED that exploded as a police vehicle was passing through the Abu-Taweel neighborhood.⁷⁶ The incident occurred as parliamentary polls were taking place.⁷⁷ On November 24, militants attacked a

⁷² VOA, "Airstrike Kills 8 al-Shabab Militants in Somalia", November 22, 2015

⁷³ Reuters, "Apparent suicide attack on Tunisian presidential guard bus kills 12", November 25, 2015

⁷⁴ Guardian, "Tunisian president declares state of emergency after bus bombing", November 24, 2015

⁷⁵ Al Jazeera, "Gunmen kill four policemen in Egypt's Giza", November 24, 2015

⁷⁶ Albawaba.com, "IED kills policeman in North Sinai during parliamentary polling", November 23, 2015

⁷⁷ Voters across 13 districts including North Sinai went to the polls on November 24-25 to elect a new parliament, part of Egypt's "roadmap to democracy" put in place by Morsi's successor, President Abdel Fatah al-Sisi.

hotel housing election judges in the provincial capital of al-Arish in Egypt's North Sinai.⁷⁸ At least seven people were killed and 12 others injured, including two judges. The IS claimed responsibility.⁷⁹

On November 28, four policemen were killed by masked gunmen on motorcycles who attacked a police checkpoint in Saqqara, Giza. Authorities said the attackers fled from the scene after seizing the dead policemen's weapons.⁸⁰ The IS claimed responsibility for the attack.⁸¹

Iraq

During November 2015, according to the US ministry of Defense, "In Iraq there was a total of 332 airstrikes against IS targets which destroyed 165 tactical units, 81 vehicles, 25 VBIED's, eight IED's, 236 fighting positions, 81 buildings, four home-made explosive caches, 13 assembly areas, 16 mortar positions, 14 bunkers, three anti-air artillery sites, 58 heavy machine guns, two IED facilities, five tunnel systems, three Headquarters, 43 weapons caches, four artillery pieces, 15 command and control nodes, five checkpoints, four trenches, 10 fighters were wounded, three mortar systems, 27 staging areas, two structures and 17 airstrikes that denied IS access to terrain." The airstrikes were carried out as part of "Operation Inherent Resolve" - a counter-terrorist offensive to counter the IS in Iraq and Syria. ⁸²

Some of the significant air strikes included, amongst others:

- On November 8, US-led coalition military forces conducted 19 strikes against IS targets in and around Abu Hayat, Mosul, Ramadi, Qayyarah, Sinjar and Sultan Abdallah. During the strikes, amongst the targets hit and destroyed were: 22 fighting positions; nine tactical units; eight buildings; an IS command and control node; an IS checkpoint; a staging area; a weapons cache, four vehicles; a building; two IS assembly areas, three light machine guns, and one heavy machine gun.⁸³

⁷⁸ Guardian, "Hotel in Egypt's Sinai peninsula hit by fatal twin blasts", November 25, 2015

⁷⁹ Guardian *ibid.*

⁸⁰ <http://egyptianstreets.com/2015/11/28/four-egyptian-policemen-killed-in-giza-attack/>

⁸¹ Al-Jazeera, "Gunmen kill four policemen in Egypt's Giza", November 8, 2015

⁸² http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0814_Inherent-Resolve

⁸³ *Ibid.*

- On November 11, US-led coalition strikes conducted 40 airstrikes against IS targets throughout Iraq. The airstrikes were conducted near Albu Hayat, Kisik, Mosul, Ramadi, Sinjar, and Tal Afar. Amongst the IS targets hit and destroyed were: eleven tactical units; three command and control nodes; two weapons caches; 18 staging areas; five buildings, four vehicles, an excavator, 27 fighting positions, a heavy machine gun, six assembly areas, two weapons caches, a bridge, and an observation post, and three bunkers, amongst other targets. An IS militant was also wounded as a result of the strikes.⁸⁴
- On November 13, US-led coalition forces conducted 20 airstrikes in and around Bayji, Kisik, Ramadi, Sinjar, Sultan Abdallah and near Tal Afar. As a result of the strikes four tactical units, 16 IS buildings, two tunnels, seven IS fighting positions, four machine guns, an IS rocket rail, two sniper positions, five IS VBIEDs, a staging area, two IS command and control nodes, four weapons caches, eight vehicles, six tactical units and two fighting positions were targeted and destroyed. Additionally, two IS fighters were wounded.
- On November 23, US-led coalition forces conducted 17 airstrikes coordinated with and in support of the Government of Iraq using rocket artillery as well as bomber, fighter, attack, and remotely piloted aircraft against IS targets which included: 10 IS tactical unit, two IS staging area and three IS building, an IS VBIED and 14 fighting positions, an IS excavator, an IS bunker, mortar position, an IED, one supply cache and machine weapon. The airstrikes were conducted near Al Baghdadi, Fallujah, Mosul, Ramadi, and near Sultan Abdallah.⁸⁵
- On November 28, US-led coalition military forces conducted 17 strikes near Al Baghdadi, Albu Hayat, Mosul, Ramadi and Sinjar. The airstrikes destroyed amongst other targets: two IS rocket rails; five IS tactical units; an IS mortar position; seven IS fighting positions; an IS home-made explosives cache; four IS vehicles; an IS boat; a VBIED; two IS buildings; an IS heavy machine gun; an IS ammo cache and two weapons caches.⁸⁶

Other significant incidents in Iraq during November 2015, included:

⁸⁴ Idem.

⁸⁵ http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0814_Inherent-Resolve

⁸⁶ Ibid.

On November 7, nine people were killed and 15 others injured, by several bombs that exploded in and around Baghdad. In one incident near Baghdad, a suicide bomber detonated at a security checkpoint killing five soldiers and a civilian. A bomb also exploded in the northwestern district of Duwanim killing two civilians and injuring nine others. Additionally, an explosion in southern Baghdad killed one civilian and wounded six others. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.⁸⁷

On November 13,⁸⁸ a suicide bombing targeted Shiite Muslims attending a funeral in the Al-Ashara al-Mubashareen mosque in Baghdad, killed 17 people and wounded 33 others.⁸⁹ Two officials said the funeral was for a member of the volunteer paramilitary force known as the Popular Mobilisation units. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed the IS.⁹⁰

On November 15, a series of explosions occurred in Baghdad killing seven people and injuring 15 others. In central Baghdad, three people were killed in two bombings and an IED and car bomb killed two soldiers and two civilians in southern Baghdad. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks.⁹¹

On November 28, a suicide car bombing killed seven people and wounded 17 others, in Tuz Khormato, The attack occurred by a police checkpoint near the entrance to a market. The IS claimed responsibility for the attack.⁹²

On November 30, nine people were killed and 21 others injured when a suicide bomber detonated amongst Shiite pilgrims who were taking part in a special annual pilgrimage known as the Arba'een in the al-Shaab neighborhood of Baghdad. Authorities said four soldiers who were guarding the pilgrim's route were among the victims. The IS claimed responsibility for the attack.⁹³

⁸⁷ Reuters, "Bombs across Baghdad kill nine people - sources", November 7, 2015

⁸⁸ AFP, "Suicide bomber kills at least 19 in Baghdad funeral", November 13, 2015

⁸⁹ <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/11/13/Suicide-bomb-in-Baghdad-kills-at-least-18.html>

⁹⁰ AlArabiya, "Suicide bomber kills at least 19 in Baghdad funeral", November 13, 2015

⁹¹ Time, "Baghdad Bombings Kill at Least 7, Injure 15", November 15, 2015

⁹² Reuters, "Suicide car bomb kills seven in northern Iraq", November 28, 2015

⁹³ AP, "Suicide bombing against Shiite pilgrims in Baghdad kills 9", November 30, 2015

Israel and the West Bank

The wave of terrorist attacks that began in October 2015, continued but to a slightly lesser extent. According to the Shin Bet, “November 2015 saw a decrease from 620 attacks: to 326 (249 in the form of firebombs). Security was also increased throughout Israel. During November, 10 people (one Palestinian and nine Israelis) were killed in terrorist attacks and 58 others were injured. The majority of attacks were carried out by lone wolf attackers and were carried out using the modus operandi of either stabbing, vehicular attacks or shooting attacks.”

Significant incidents included:

- On November 2, three Israelis were seriously injured and a fourth person moderately injured in a stabbing attack near the central bus station in Rishon Le Tzion, in central Israel. The Palestinian attacker, 19, was arrested.⁹⁴ Also in a separate stabbing incident, a man, 70 was seriously wounded in Netanya when he was stabbed by a male suspect, 22 from Tulkarem. The attacker was arrested by security forces.⁹⁵
- On November 4, Border Police officer, Sgt. Binyamin Yakobovitch, 19 was critically injured in a vehicular attack and died of his wounds on November 8.⁹⁶ Another officer was slightly injured in the attack. The perpetrator was killed by security forces.⁹⁷
- On November 10, two Palestinian youths, 11 & 14, stabbed and moderately wounded a light-rail security guard.⁹⁸ The 11-year-old was shot and critically wounded by security forces. He was taken to hospital under arrest. The other attacker was arrested by authorities.⁹⁹
- On November 14, Rabbi Ya'akov Litman 44, and his son, Netanel, 18, were killed in a drive-by shooting near Otniel, in the West Bank, while traveling with five other members of their

⁹⁴ Times of Israel, “80-year-old woman among 3 stabbed in Rishon Lezion terror attack”, November 2, 2015

⁹⁵ Jpost, “Terrorist shot after stabbing elderly man in Netanya”, November 2, 2015

⁹⁶ Jpost, “Border Police officer critically injured in car ramming succumbs to his wounds”, November 8, 2015

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Palestinian/Pages/Wave-of-terror-October-2015.aspx>

⁹⁹ Ibid

family, to a pre-wedding celebration of his daughter.¹⁰⁰ Security forces arrested Shadi Ahmed Matawa, 28, at his house in Hebron, after his father reported him to Israeli security forces at an IDF checkpoint in the West Bank. Security forces also seized the weapon and vehicle used in the attack. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack.¹⁰¹

- On November 19, a Palestinian militant opened fire on civilians in cars in a traffic jam at the Alon Shvut junction, in the West Bank.¹⁰² Three people were killed in the attack. They were identified as Yaakov Don, 51, an Israeli citizen and resident of Allon Shvut settlement,¹⁰³ Ezra Schwartz, 18,¹⁰⁴ a US citizen, who was spending a GAP year studying and volunteering in Israel and Shadi Arafa, 24 from Hebron.¹⁰⁵ The attacker was arrested by Border Police officers at the scene of the attack.¹⁰⁶
- On November 23, an IDF soldier was killed at the Dor Alon gas station along Route 443 located between Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv, near the town of Modiin. Two others were lightly wounded in the attack. Another soldier at the gas station immediately shot and killed the attacker. A truck driver who saw the attack happen and attempted to help the soldiers, was injured by fragments from the shooting.¹⁰⁷
- On November 26, an IDF soldier at the Fawwar junction on Highway 60 in the West Bank was wounded when a Palestinian attacker stabbed him. The attacker was arrested.¹⁰⁸

During November, other incidents included:

On November 10, a large Hamas cell based in Qalqilya was broken up by Israeli security forces in the West Bank. Authorities said 24 Hamas members were arrested and 'senior Hamas officials' were

¹⁰⁰ <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Victims/Pages/Rabbi-Yaakov-Litman.aspx>

¹⁰¹ Jpost, "Shin Bet arrests suspected terrorist who killed Ya'akov and Netanel Litman", November 15, 2015

¹⁰² Jpost, "3 killed, including American tourist, in terrorist shooting near Gush Etzion in the West Bank", November 19, 2015

¹⁰³ <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Victims/Pages/Yaakov-Don.aspx>

¹⁰⁴ <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Victims/Pages/Ezra-Schwartz.aspx>

¹⁰⁵ <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Victims/Pages/Shadi-Arafa.aspx>

¹⁰⁶ Jpost, "American teen named among victims of Gush Etzion terror attack", November 19, 2015

¹⁰⁷ TOI, "Terror strikes in Jerusalem, West Bank; Belgium battles threat on its doorstep", November 23, 2015

¹⁰⁸ Jpost, "Soldier seriously wounded in stabbing attack near Hebron", November 26, 2015

among the detainees. The Shin Bet said during the raid, NIS 35,000 were seized from the suspects and it is believed the cell had received funding to carry out attacks against Israel from Hamas leaders in Qatar and the Gaza Strip.¹⁰⁹

On November 12, Israeli security forces arrested Azzam Shadallah at a hospital. During the incident, the Shin Bet and IDF forces shot and killed the suspect's cousin, Abdallah Azzam Shaldallah, 28, when he attacked them.¹¹⁰ Azzam Shaldallah, 20, is suspected of being responsible for carrying out an attack in Gush Etzion on October 25, 2015.¹¹¹

Kuwait

On November 20, two Australian nationals were arrested by Kuwaiti authorities' accused of being part of a cell supplying funds and weapons, including rockets, to the IS. The cell also included a Lebanese, an Egyptian, five Syrians, and a Kuwaiti national. The alleged leader of the cell was the Lebanese man, who during interrogation admitted to raising funds and arranging the purchase of arms and air defense systems for the IS in Syria.¹¹²

Lebanon

On November 5, a suicide bomber attacked offices in Arsal where the Qalamoun Clerics Association was meeting. The association's head, Sheikh Othman Mansour, was killed as well, along with four other people and the perpetrator. No group claimed responsibility.¹¹³

On November 12, 43 people were killed and 240 others injured in a twin suicide bombing attack in Beirut.¹¹⁴ The bombs exploded minutes apart, in an area filled with shops and food markets. The area also includes a Palestinian refugee camp where many Syrians have taken refuge.¹¹⁵ The military said the attack occurred during the evening rush hour at 1800, to maximize casualties. The military

¹⁰⁹ Times of Israel, "Alleged 24-man Hamas cell busted in West Bank", November 10, 2015

¹¹⁰ CBS, "IDF Undercover Unit Arrests Terrorist in Hebron Hospital", November 12, 2015

¹¹¹ For details of that incident see October 2015 ICT database report.

¹¹² SMH, "Australians in terror arrests in Kuwait", November 20, 2015

¹¹³ AFP, "Several killed after car bombing in Lebanon's Arsal", November 5, 2015

¹¹⁴ BBC, "Lebanon holds day of mourning after deadly Beirut blasts", November 13, 2015

¹¹⁵ New York Times, "ISIS Claims Responsibility for Blasts That Killed Dozens in Beirut", November 12, 2015

discovered the body of a third bomber near one of the incident sites but that his explosives belt was still largely intact. Authorities said a suicide bomber detonated a bike loaded with explosives.¹¹⁶ The IS claimed responsibility for the attack.¹¹⁷

Syria

According to the US Department of Defense, during November 2015, there was a total of “136 airstrikes against IS targets which destroyed 92 tactical units, one cash distribution site, 322 vehicles, 57 fighting positions, 13 buildings, five VBIED’s, one IED, one rocket rail, one mortar position, one heavy machine gun, one headquarter, two weapons caches, two artillery pieces, three checkpoints, three trenches, 18 fighters were wounded, one mortar system, six staging areas, and 22 structures.” The airstrikes were carried out as part of “Operation Inherent Resolve”- a counter-terrorist offensive to counter the IS in Iraq and Syria.¹¹⁸

Some of the significant airstrikes included:

- On November 3, seven airstrikes were conducted by US-led coalition forces near Al Hasakah, where three strikes struck three separate tactical units and destroyed an IS fighting position. Six airstrikes were conducted near Al Hawl, destroying five IS tactical units and 16 fighting positions and a vehicle. In the area near Mar’a, two tactical units and an IS fighting position were destroyed in two strikes that also wounded an IS militant. Also near Washiya, one strike destroyed a weapons cache and damaged a cave.¹¹⁹
- On November 8, US-led coalition forces conducted 12 airstrikes near Al Hasakah, Al Hawl, Mar’a, and Washiya. IS targets that were destroyed included: 18 fighting positions, 10 tactical units and destroyed a supply cache and damaged an IS cave. An IS militant was also wounded.

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¹¹⁶ CNN, “Beirut suicide bombings kill 43; suspect claims ISIS sent attackers”, November 16, 2015

¹¹⁷ New York Times, “ISIS Claims Responsibility for Blasts That Killed Dozens in Beirut”, November 12, 2015

¹¹⁸ http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0814_Inherent-Resolve

¹¹⁹ *ibid*

¹²⁰ http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0814_Inherent-Resolve

- On November 13, the US-conducted airstrike over Raqqa killed IS militant Mohammed Emwazi¹²¹, alias “Jihadi John”.¹²² He had appeared on the majority of IS videos showing the beheading hostages held in Syria by the IS.¹²³ The US military said the strike targeted and destroyed a vehicle they were reasonably certain that Emwazi, and a second militant, who was also killed, were travelling in.¹²⁴
- On November 15, in retaliation for the attacks in Paris (see France section above) on November 13, French forces in coordination with US-led coalition forces, conducted 20 airstrikes targeting IS targets in Raqqa.¹²⁵ The targets targeted and destroyed: a command centre; a recruitment centre, an arms depot and a terrorist training camp.¹²⁶
- On November 18, airstrikes against IS targets in Raqqa continued by French military assisted by coalition forces including Russia¹²⁷, resulting in the deaths of 33 IS militants.¹²⁸
- On November 20, US-led coalition military forces conducted 22 strikes throughout Syria. In the area near Abu Kamal, one strike struck destroyed a crude oil collection point. In and around al- Hasakah, four strikes struck three tactical units and destroyed an IS building, an IS vehicle borne explosive device, and four vehicles. Near Mar’a, 13 strikes destroyed 12 separate tactical units and destroyed four IS fighting positions, three IS buildings, an IS heavy

¹²¹ For a full profile of the IS militant see:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/islamic-state/11992681/Jihadi-John-profile-how-did-Mohammed-Emwazi-a-quiet-football-fan-become-the-symbol-of-Isil.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/jihadi-john-was-a-computer-programmer-known-to-mi5-for-at-least-four-years-10073607.html>

¹²² PTI, “British’ Islamic State leader ‘Jihadi John’ killed in US drone strike in Syria: Reports”, November 14, 2015. It should be noted that the US government confirmed his death in December 2015. See: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/12/14/remarks-president-military-campaign-destroy-isil>

And in January 2016, the IS confirmed his death.

See: <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/01/19/middleeast/jihadi-john-dead/>

¹²³ CNN, “U.S. ‘reasonably certain’ drone strike killed ISIS mouthpiece ‘Jihadi John’”, November 14, 2015

¹²⁴ BBC, “‘Jihadi John’: US ‘reasonably certain’ strike killed IS militant”, November 13, 2015

¹²⁵ WSJ, “France Launches Airstrikes Against Islamic State Stronghold in Syria”, November 15, 2015

¹²⁶ Telegraph *ibid*.

¹²⁷ <http://www.understandingwar.org/backgrounder/russian-strikes-syria-november-6-november-17-2015>

¹²⁸ BBC, “Air strikes on IS stronghold of Raqqa ‘kill 33 militants’”, November 18, 2015

machine gun, an IS staging area, damaged an IS fighting position and an IS building, and wounded an IS fighter. Additionally, strikes were conducted near Al-Hawl, Ar Raqqa and near Dayr Ar Zawr¹²⁹

- On November 23, US-led coalition forces conducted 14 strikes against IS targets near Mar'a, Abu Kamal, Al Hasakah, Al Hawl and Ayn Isa. IS targets destroyed included: nine tactical units, three vehicles, seven structures, an artillery piece, and two fighting positions, a mortar tube, and a weapons cache.¹³⁰

Additionally, on November 15, a suicide bombing killed six members of the Yarmouk Martyrs Brigade, including the group's leader, in northern Syria.¹³¹ On November 28, Jabat A-Nusra claimed responsibility for the attack.¹³²

North American

USA

On November 24, Abid Naseer, 29, was jailed for 40 years in New York on multiple terrorist related charges. He was convicted of an al-Qaeda plot to bomb the Arndale shopping Centre in Manchester, UK in 2009. He led a terrorist cell who planned to detonate a car bomb and suicide vests amongst the shoppers, which according to authorities would have killed hundreds of people if the plot was carried out.¹³³ Investigations showed that the plot was orchestrated by Pakistani senior al-Qaeda leaders and was also intended to target a New York City subway system and a newspaper office in

¹²⁹ http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0814_Inherent-Resolve

¹³⁰ Ibid.

¹³¹ Breibart, "Report: Nusra Front-Led Coalition Kills Regional ISIS Leader, Issues Ultimatum", November 17, 2015

¹³² <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/clash.of.2.terror.groups.al.qaeda.suicide.bomber.kills.top.isis.commander.in.syria/71920.htm>

¹³³ Telegraph, "Abid Naseer: Student who plotted to blow up Manchester's Arndale Centre jailed for 40 years", November 24, 2015

Copenhagen, Denmark. The disruption and foiling of this incident changed al-Qaeda's methods, shifting its focus to smaller, less sophisticated plots rather than large-scale attacks.¹³⁴

Asia

Afghanistan

On November 28, a suicide bomber detonated in Kabul during the morning rush hour, as Abdul Rahman Rodwal, the regional director of the Afghan Independent Election Commission (IEC), left his home. He was believed to be the target of the attack, however, he escaped unharmed.¹³⁵ His driver was killed and several others injured.¹³⁶ No group claimed responsibility for the attack but police blamed the Taliban.¹³⁷

Bangladesh

On November 26, three militants stormed a Shia mosque in a town in Bogra District. Witnesses said the attackers indiscriminately fired at worshippers, killing the cleric and wounding three others.¹³⁸ The IS claimed responsibility for the attack.¹³⁹ This was the second attack that targeted the Bangladesh minority Shia Muslim community in less than a month. Authorities detained two people in connection with the attacks.¹⁴⁰

¹³⁴ <http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/manchester-bomb-plot-abid-naseer-10495568>

¹³⁵ http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2015/11/28/1-killed-iec-official-survives-kabul-suicide-attack?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

¹³⁶ IBT, "Afghanistan Suicide Attack Aimed At Election Commission Official Kills 1, Injures Several", November 28, 2015

¹³⁷ Guardian, "Ohio man arrested over alleged Isis-related threats against US military", November 12, 2015

¹³⁸ Reuters, "Suicide bomber targets Afghan election official in Kabul: police", November 28, 2015

¹³⁹ Haaretz, "ISIS Claims Responsibility for Deadly Attack on Shi'ite Mosque in Bangladesh", November 27, 2015

¹⁴⁰ Haaretz Ibid. and for details of the other incident see October 2015 ICT report- Bangladesh section.

Malaysia

On November 3, authorities announced that following the culmination of several coordinated raids by the Special Branch Counter Terrorism Division in Selangor, Perak and Johor in late October 2015, eight suspected Malaysian militants were arrested. Amongst the suspects arrested were two civil servants working in a government department. The suspects, aged between 22 and 36, had ties to Tanzim Al-Qaeda, and two are members of the IS. Authorities said the cell were responsible for radicalizing potential recruits including other civil servants with IS ideology.¹⁴¹

Turkey

On November 12, Aine Lesley Davis, was arrested in Istanbul accused of plotting attacks for the IS in Europe and acting as an accomplice to British IS militant Mohammed Emwazi, alias Jihadi John who was killed in a drone strike in Syria (see above Syria section.) Authorities claimed he and some other IS militants were planning to stage an attack in Istanbul, similar and in parallel to the Paris November 13 attacks.¹⁴² The plot was foiled by Turkish authorities, who were alerted to Davis's movements, when he allegedly left Syria on November 7 and infiltrated Turkey illegally through Kilis. He reached a safe house in Gaziantep. He was tracked by Turkish authorities when on November 9 he travelled by bus to Siliviri, leading to his arrest on November 12.¹⁴³

On November 15, five policemen were injured during a counter-terrorist raid against an IS cell in Gaziantep. Authorities arrested two female militants. The militants had three children with them, who were placed into State care. The officers also seized a cache of weapons including machine guns and explosives.¹⁴⁴ In a separate incident, militants targeted a military vehicle on the south-east border, shooting at the vehicle. The militants were travelling in two cars – one escaped in the direction of the Syrian border and four militants in the other car were killed.¹⁴⁵

¹⁴¹ Channel News Asia, "Malaysia detains 8 terror suspects", November 4, 2015

¹⁴² BBC, "'Jihadi John': Suspected accomplice arrested in Turkey", November 13, 2015

¹⁴³ Independent, "British Isis fighter Aine Lesley Davies arrested on eve of Paris attacks 'planning similar atrocity in Europe'", November 20, 2015

¹⁴⁴ RT, "Suicide bomber blows himself up during anti-ISIS raid in G20-host Turkey", November 15, 2015

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

On November 21, Ahmet Dahmani, 26, was accused of conducting several reconnaissance trips to choose the sites for the attacks in Paris on November 13, (See France section above). Dahmani was arrested at a luxury hotel in Antalya where he was staying since November 16.¹⁴⁶ Dahmani, who is a Belgian citizen of Moroccan origin arrived in Turkey from Amsterdam on November 14. However, Belgium authorities were unaware of his activists and he was not subject to an entry ban. Authorities said he was planning to escape to Syria.¹⁴⁷ Turkish authorities also said two other men were arrested but their identities were not made public.¹⁴⁸

Pakistan

On November 4, authorities conducted raids which were part of an ongoing counter-terrorist operation, in the Khyber Tribal Agency, seizing a large cache of weapons that were manufactured in the US and Russia. The cache included RPGs, rifles, mortar shells, sub-machine guns, anti-aircraft guns, SMGs launchers and thousands of cartridges.¹⁴⁹

On November 26, it was reported that Khan Sayed alias Sajna, a senior Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) leader, who was wanted by both Pakistani and US authorities, was killed in a US drone strike.¹⁵⁰ The drone strike occurred in North Waziristan in the Damma region of Khost Province, close to the Afghan border.¹⁵¹ Authorities said as a result of the airstrike, 12 other militants were killed and 20 others were wounded.¹⁵² The TTP denied claims that Sajna was killed.¹⁵³

Oceania

Nothing significant.

¹⁴⁶ BBC, “Paris attacks: The investigation so far”, November 24, 2015

¹⁴⁷ BBC, *ibid*.

¹⁴⁸ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3328350/Turkish-police-arrest-Belgian-man-Moroccan-descent-allegations-scouted-Paris-terror-attack-sites.html#ixzz3s9oOuvf>

¹⁴⁹ <http://www.pakistanherald.com/news/8328/04-november-2015/security-forces-claim-recovery-of-weapons-cache-from-khyber-agency>

¹⁵⁰ News International, “Khan Said Sajna among 12 terrorists killed in Afghan drone strike: sources”, November 12, 2015

¹⁵¹ The Nation, “Drone strike killed Sajna at Pak-Afghan border”, November 27, 2015

¹⁵² New York Times, “Pakistani Taliban Commander Reported Killed in Drone Strike in Afghanistan”, November 25, 2015

¹⁵³ Al-Jazeera, “Pakistan Taliban commander allegedly killed by drones”, November 26, 2015

Attacks on Energy facilities

Nothing significant.

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