



**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 October 2015**

## Highlights

- On October 1, Rabbi Eitam Henkin and his wife Na'ama were fatally shot by Hamas militants, as they travelled with their children in a private vehicle in the West Bank. The children were physically unharmed but treated for shock. Following this incident, a wave of terrorist incidents targeted Israeli security forces and civilians during October 2015. According to Israeli authorities, during October 2015, 609 terrorist attacks took place, resulting in 11 people (one foreign national and 10 Israelis) killed and 80 others injured.
- On October 3, Farhad Khalil Mohammad Jabar, 15, fatally shot police worker Curtis Cheng, 58, outside the police headquarters in Parramatta, New South Wales, Australia. No group claimed responsibility but authorities said Jabar had links to Hizb ut-Tahrir.
- On October 10, 95 people were killed and 246 were wounded in a twin bombing which targeted a peace rally in Ankara, Turkey, organised by leftist groups campaigning against Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) terrorist activities. There was no claim of responsibility for the attack.
- On October 12, authorities arrested a cell of IS linked militants in an apartment in Moscow, Russia and seized approximately four kilograms of homemade explosives from the suspect's possession. The National Anti-Terrorism Committee said the cell were planning to target civilians in Moscow and the suspects had attended terrorist training camps in Syria.
- On October 15, 36 people were killed in multiple suicide attacks in Borno state, Nigeria at a mosque and a residential building. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Boko Haram.
- On October 19, four Iraqi citizens were charged in Geneva, Switzerland with planning a terrorist attack in Europe on behalf of the Islamic State (IS).
- On October 29, Mohammed Hamzah Khan, 20, pleaded guilty in North America, to one count of attempting to provide material support the IS. If convicted Khan, a US citizen from Illinois, faced a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.
- On October 31, a Russian plane, Metrojet Flight 9268, carrying 224 passengers crashed over the Sinai Peninsula killing everyone on board. The flight departed the Sharm el-Sheikh International Airport and was destined to land in Pulkovo Airport, Saint Petersburg, Russia. The Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the incident.

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## Europe

### Russia

On October 12, Russian authorities arrested a cell of IS linked militants in an apartment in Moscow and seized approximately four kilograms of homemade explosives from the suspect's possession.<sup>1</sup> The explosives were deactivated and the security services have evacuated 120 people from the suspects' building.<sup>2</sup> Reports varied, but the cell consisted of between 10-15 men.<sup>3</sup> The National Anti-Terrorism Committee said the cell was planning to target civilians in Moscow and the suspects had attended terrorist training camps in Syria.<sup>4</sup>

On October 19, Russian authorities foiled an attack that was intended to target a passenger train in Krasnodar region. One man, who worked as a junior train driver, was arrested and accused of attempting to detonate a bomb on the train.<sup>5</sup> Authorities said the man had posted radicalized messages on social media sites and that he was allegedly planning to join IS militant groups in Syria. His identity was not made public.<sup>6</sup>

### Spain

On October 28, five suspected former ETA leaders were charged with crimes against humanity for attacks. The suspects were charged with carrying out a 2004 attack which killed 12 people. Two of the suspects charged were the former military heads of ETA, identified as Garikoitz Aspiazu Rubina, and Angel Iriondo Yarza. They were both arrested in 2008 and remained in detention. Aitor Elizaran Aguilar, the suspected head of ETA's political apparatus who was detained in 2009 was also amongst the suspects charged, as was Mikel Carrera Sarobe who was arrested in 2010. The judge also charged Jose Antonio Urruticoetxea, who was an active member of the group between 1977.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> AP, "Russia says it broke up ISIS cell in Moscow", October 12, 2015

<sup>2</sup> Yahoo, "Russian police foil 'terror attack' planned on Moscow", October 12, 2015

<sup>3</sup> Guardian, "Russian police foil 'terror attack' on Moscow after making arrests in city", October 12, 2015

<sup>4</sup> Ap ibid.

<sup>5</sup> <http://tass.ru/en/politics/829934>

<sup>6</sup> Ap, "Russian intelligence says it foiled terror plot", October 19, 2015

<sup>7</sup> AFP, "Spain charges suspected Eta leaders with crimes against humanity", October 28, 2015

## Switzerland

On October 19, four Iraqi citizens were charged in Geneva, with planning a terrorist attack in Europe on behalf of the Islamic State (IS). Authorities made few details public but Switzerland's attorney general said the suspects were members of the IS and ranged in ages from 29 to 34. Three of the suspects were arrested between March and April 2014 and remained in custody. The criminal investigation expanded leading to the fourth suspect to be arrested in July 2015. He is accused of bringing radio equipment to the IS and posting radicalized messages on social media.<sup>8</sup>

## United Kingdom

On October 12, British citizens Nadir Ali Syed, 22, Yousaf Shah Syed, 20, and Haseeb Hamayoon, 28, appeared in Woolwich Crown Court accused of planning a beheading in the UK. The men pleaded not guilty.<sup>9</sup> Authorities said the men's arrests were made following intelligence gathered during a series of counter-terrorist raids conducted in November 2014. Police said that a fatwa that was issued by IS spokesman Abu Muhammad al-Adnani in September 2014, encouraged followers' to carry out attacks and this had inspired the men's plot. Authorities claimed the suspects had suspected ties to the IS and had attempted but were not successful in, travelling to Syria to join fighting there.<sup>10</sup>

On October 21, four people were arrested on terror related charges suspected of having ties to IS militants in Syria.<sup>11</sup> The suspects, a man, 44 and woman, 55, from Batley, and two men, 40 and 36 respectively, from Sheffield, were arrested under section five of the Terrorist 2000 Act that related to fundraising for terrorist groups.<sup>12</sup> The arrests were carried out by police officers from the North East Counter Terrorism Unit (NECTU). The suspects were detained and questioned in West Yorkshire and five properties in Sheffield, Batley and Dewsbury were searched.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> [http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/terror-cell\\_four-iraqis-charged-in-alleged-swiss-isis-cell/41723398](http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/terror-cell_four-iraqis-charged-in-alleged-swiss-isis-cell/41723398)

<sup>9</sup> IBT, "Trio accused of beheading plot 'inspired by Isis fatwa'", October 12, 2015

<sup>10</sup> BBC, "IS fatwa 'inspired beheading plot by UK trio' – 12 October 2015

<sup>11</sup> AP, "Four people arrested in Syria-related counter-terrorism raids", October 21, 2015

<sup>12</sup> IBT, "UK terror threat: Four arrested on terrorism suspicion in London and West Yorkshire raids", October 21, 2015

<sup>13</sup> Guardian, "Four people arrested in Syria-related counter-terrorism raids", October 21, 2015

## Africa

### Cameroon

On October 11, nine people were killed and 29 others wounded in a twin suicide bombing, carried out by teenage girls in Kanfaleri village, in northern Cameroon.<sup>14</sup> In the first explosion, the bomber detonated her explosive vest in a market area, causing the majority of casualties. The second bomber detonated close by. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Boko Haram for the attack.<sup>15</sup>

### Chad

On October 10, 38 people were killed and 51 others injured, in a series of five simultaneous suicide bombings which targeted a refugee camp in N'Djamena and a market in Baga Sola.<sup>16</sup> Authorities said three female suicide bombers carried out the Baga Sola attack killing 16 people and the other casualties occurred in the vicinity of the refugee camp.<sup>17</sup> Boko Haram claimed responsibility for the attacks.<sup>18</sup>

### Niger

On October 4, a suicide bomber killed a policeman and six other civilians in Diffa. Authorities said 11 others were injured. The attacker was thought to be targeting a military personal.<sup>19</sup> No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Boko Haram.<sup>20</sup>

On October 9, gunmen stormed the Kolo Creek Oilfields<sup>21</sup> in Ogbia in the Bayelsa region in the Niger Delta, killing a security guard. Authorities also said the attackers managed to steal weapons including a General Purpose Machine Gun and ammunition. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Ap, "Boko Haram stages suicide bombings in Cameroon, Chad", October 12, 2015

<sup>15</sup> Voa, "Suicide Bombing Kills Nine in Cameroon", October 12, 2015

<sup>16</sup> Ap, "5 suicide bombings target Chad, killing at least 36 people", October 11, 2015

<sup>17</sup> Reuters, "Suspected Boko Haram suicide bombers kill 33 in Chad", October 10, 2015

<sup>18</sup> Guardian, "At least 36 killed in suicide bombings on market and refugee camp in Chad", October 10, 2015

<sup>19</sup> AFP, "Boko Haram suicide bombers kill 6 in Niger", October 4, 2015

<sup>20</sup> Van guard, "Boko Haram suicide bombers kill 6 in Niger", October 4, 2015

<sup>21</sup> The oilfields were operated by Shell Petroleum Development Company

<sup>22</sup> Allafrika.com, "Nigeria: Niger Delta Militants Attack Shell Facility, Kill Guard", October 11, 2015

## Nigeria

On October 2, 18 people were killed and more than 40 others injured in a series of bombings in Abuja.<sup>23</sup> In the first incident, a suicide bomber detonated outside a police station in Kuje township. A bomb then exploded at a nearby market. Following this, a third bomb exploded at a bus stop in Nyanya. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Boko Haram.<sup>24</sup> Two people were arrested on October 14, identified as, Abdulazeez Muhazab, 27, and Isiaka Salihu, 25, and accused of carrying out the attacks.<sup>25</sup> Authorities said the suspects were plotting to carry out other attacks in the area and that police discovered a cache of homemade explosives and detonators in the suspect's possession.<sup>26</sup>

On October 15, 36 people were killed in multiple suicide attacks in Borno state at a mosque and a residential building. In the mosque incident, a twin suicide bombing killed 29 people on the outskirts of Maiduguri and six people were killed and 17 injured in a suicide bombing attack by a residential building also in Maiduguri, close to the site of the other bombings. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Boko Haram.<sup>27</sup>

On October 23, 18 people were killed when a double bombing targeted worshippers in a mosque in Maiduguri, during Friday morning prayers. One of the bombs was detonated by a suicide bomber. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Boko Haram.<sup>28</sup> Also in a separate attack, 27 people were killed and 96 others were injured, when a bomb exploded in the parking lot of a mosque in Yola in northeast Nigeria. The attack targeted worshippers attending Friday prayers at a newly installed mosque in the Jimeta area of Yola.<sup>29</sup> No group claimed responsibility but authorities suspected Boko Haram.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> BBC, "Nigeria's Abuja hit by blasts with at least 18 dead", October 2, 2015

<sup>24</sup> *ibid*

<sup>25</sup> IBT, "Nigeria Boko Haram: Police arrest two suspected masterminds of Abuja blasts as new attack is foiled", October 14, 2015

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> Reuters, "Nigeria Hit With Wave Of Deadly Suicide Attacks", October 16, 2015

<sup>28</sup> IBT, "Nigeria Boko Haram: 18 killed in suicide bomb blasts at Maiduguri mosque during morning prayer", October 23, 2015

<sup>29</sup> BBC, "Nigeria bombs leave at least 42 dead in Maiduguri and Yola", October 23, 2015

<sup>30</sup> BBC, *ibid.*



## Tunisia

On October 11, a shepherd was kidnapped in the Sammama Mountains in Kasserinethe region near the Algerian border. During a rescue attempt, Tunisian soldiers engaged in a firefight with militants, resulting in the deaths of two soldiers and four other soldiers were injured.<sup>31</sup> Authorities said the Shepard was found beheaded. The Oqba Ibnou Nafaa brigade al-Qaeda linked group claimed responsibility for the incident claiming the shepherd was targeted as he had leaked information about the group to the police.<sup>32</sup>

## Middle East

### Egypt

On October 15, an IED detonated in el-Arish in northern Sinai, killing a soldier and civilian. Authorities said the explosion also injured six policemen. The IS claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>33</sup>

On October 23, two policemen and two security guards were injured when they deactivated an IED that was discovered outside a tourist hotel near the Giza pyramids in Cairo. Authorities said no tourists were injured in the incident and minor damage was sustained to the hotel.<sup>34</sup> No group claimed responsibility for the failed attack.<sup>35</sup>

On October 31, a Russian plane, Metrojet Flight 9268, carrying 224 passengers crashed over the Sinai Peninsula killing everyone on board.<sup>36</sup> The flight departed the Sharm el-Sheikh International Airport and was destined to land in Pulkovo Airport, Saint Petersburg, Russia.<sup>37</sup> The IS claimed responsibility for the incident.<sup>38</sup> The black box was recovered from the wreckage.<sup>39</sup> Following the bombing, the IS magazine published a photograph showing the bomb that was hidden in a soft drinks can and they

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<sup>31</sup> Reuters, "Two Tunisian soldiers killed in clashes with militants", October 12, 2015

<sup>32</sup> AP, "Tunisian group linked with al-Qaida's North Africa branch kills shepherd abducted Sunday", October 13, 2015

<sup>33</sup> AP via Times of Israel, "Bomb in northern Sinai kills civilian, soldier", October 15, 2015

<sup>34</sup> Telegraph, "Four people injured in bomb blast near hotel close to Egypt's pyramids", October 23, 2015

<sup>35</sup> AFP, "Four hurt in failed Cairo bomb disposal near pyramids", October 23, 2015

<sup>36</sup> Reuters, "Russian airliner with 224 aboard crashes in Egypt's Sinai, all killed", October 31, 2015

<sup>37</sup> BBC, "Sinai plane crash: How tragedy unfolded", October 31, 2015

<sup>38</sup> Reuters, "ISIS claims credit for fatal plane crash in Egypt", October 31, 2015.

<sup>39</sup> Reuters *ibid*.

claimed was placed under a passenger seat.<sup>40</sup> The claims were not verified by authorities.<sup>41</sup> Debris of plane was discovered within an 8 mile radius in the Wadi al-Zolomat mountainous area in the Sinai Peninsula on November 1, 2015.<sup>42</sup> Russian authorities said investigators had discovered traces of foreign-made explosive in fragments of the wreckage of downed plane and on passengers' personal belongings and believed the bomb contained 1kilogram of TNT explosives.<sup>43</sup>

## **Iraq**

During October 2015, according to the US ministry of Defense, “a total of 422 airstrikes were conducted against IS targets which destroyed 178 tactical units; 78 vehicles; 49 buildings; 16 VBIEDs; 394 fighting positions; 19 fighters; 22 bunkers; 19 rocket rails; 31 mortar shells; 37 weapons caches; 26 homemade explosive houses; 61 heavy machine guns; seven tunnels; seven road obstacles; two bridges (NEW); one RPG, one anti-tank missile; two checkpoints; three IED compounds; six trenches; six berms; 77 staging areas; two anti-air missile; nine command and control centers and two minefields.” The airstrikes were carried out as part of “Operation Inherent Resolve”- a counter-terrorist offensive to counter the IS in Iraq and Syria.

Some of the significant air strikes included, amongst others:

- On 2 October, US-led coalition military forces conducted 17 strikes coordinated against IS targets throughout Iraq, including near Al Baghdadi which destroyed two IS rocket rails. Other strikes were carried out near: Al Huwayjah; Bayji; Kirkuk; Kisik; Mosul; Ramadi and near Sinjar. Targets destroyed included: IS tactical units; IS fighting positions; IS vehicles; buildings; two mortar systems; an IS fighting position; and an IS mortar position and weapons cache. Five militants were also wounded in the strikes.<sup>44</sup>
- On October 10, 20 airstrikes were conducted by US-led coalition air forces targeting and

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<sup>40</sup> BBC, “Russia plane crash: IS publishes 'improvised bomb' photo”, November 29, 2015  
Mailonline, “ISIS: 'The drink-can bomb we used to bring down Russian plane'. Gloating terrorists release picture of pineapple- juice device they claim was used to kill 224 people”, November 29, 2015

<sup>41</sup> It should be noted that in November 2015, it was confirmed that the IS was responsible for the bombing and that the bomb contained 1 kilogram of TNT explosives. See

<sup>42</sup> New York Times, " Amid Vigils and Debris, Officials Seek Cause of Sinai Peninsula Crash”, November 1, 2015

<sup>43</sup> Abc, “Russian plane crash: Islamic State says 'soft drink bomb' used to bring down Sinai plane”, November 19, 2015

<sup>44</sup> [http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0814\\_Inherent-Resolve](http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0814_Inherent-Resolve)

destroying IS targets including: five tactical units; three buildings; vehicles; a IS mortar system; six IS fighting positions and three separate IS staging areas; heavy machine guns and a IS VBIED factory and storage facility. The strikes were carried out near Al Huwayjah; Fallujah; Habbaniyah; Hit; Kirkuk; Kisik; Mosul; Sinjar; Ramadi and Sultan Abdallah.<sup>45</sup>

- On October 11, 18 airstrikes were conducted by US-led coalition forces throughout Iraq including near Al Huwayjah, where three strikes struck a large IS tactical unit and destroyed three IS tactical vehicles and destroyed a mortar position. Other strikes targeted IS positions near Fallujah; Habbaniyah; Hit; Kirkuk; Kisik; Mosul; Ramadi; Sinjar and Sultan Abdallah.<sup>46</sup>
- On October 14, 16 US-led coalition forces conducted airstrikes throughout Iraq targeting IS facilities, more than five tactical units, weapons and explosions caches; IS fighting and staging positions and destroyed approximately five vehicles; 10 IS bunkers; and two IS tunnel systems. The strikes occurred in and around Al Baghdadi, Bayji, Kisik, Mosul, Ramadi, Samarra and near Tal Afar. <sup>47</sup>
- On October 16, 21 airstrikes were conducted by US-led coalition forces targeting and destroying six IS tactical units, one building and two vehicles, two heavy machine gun and an IS tunnel and four fighting positions. The majority of airstrikes took place near Ramadi, where seven strikes struck three separate IS tactical units and destroyed an IS mortar position; seven IS fighting positions; an IS IED cluster; six vehicles, an IS supply pile, two IS boats, and breached two IS obstacles. The other strikes were conducted near Al Baghdadi, Al Huwayjah, Bayji, Kisik, Mosul, Sinjar, and Qayyarah. Finally near Tal Afar three strikes struck an IS tactical unit and destroyed two IS vehicles, 49 IS fighting positions, an IS cache, and wounded an IS fighter.<sup>48</sup>
- On October 24, 21 airstrikes were conducted throughout Iraq, including: near Al Baghdadi; Al Qaim; Albu Hayat; Ar Rutbah; Fallujah; Mosul; Kisik; Ramadi; Sinjar; Sultan Abdallah and Tal Afar. The airstrikes hit and destroyed multiple IS staging areas, mortar systems, tactical units and 27 IS fighting positions, an IS mortar position, an IED cluster, two vehicles, two IS weapon caches, an IS building, an IS structure and denied IS access to terrain.<sup>49</sup>
- On October 31, US led coalition forces conducted 17 airstrikes targeting and destroying IS

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<sup>45</sup> [http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0814\\_Inherent-Resolve](http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0814_Inherent-Resolve)

<sup>46</sup> [http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0814\\_Inherent-Resolve](http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0814_Inherent-Resolve)

<sup>47</sup> Al-Jazeera, "Iraq liaises with Syria, Russia and Iran to bomb ISIL", October 14, 2015

<sup>48</sup> [http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0814\\_Inherent-Resolve](http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0814_Inherent-Resolve)

<sup>49</sup> [http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0814\\_Inherent-Resolve](http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0814_Inherent-Resolve)

facilities, buildings, vehicles, equipment, staging areas, tactical units and fighting positions near Al Qaim, Albu Hayat, Al Baghdadi, Fallujah, Ar Rutbah, near Kisik, Mosul, near Ramadi, near Tal Afar, near Sinjar and in the vicinity of Sultan Abdallah.<sup>50</sup>

Other significant incidents during October 2015 in Iraq, included:

On October 2, 24 people were killed and more than 60 others were injured when two suicide bombers detonated by a police checkpoint at Adan Square in the Kadhimiyah neighborhood, a Shiite Muslim neighborhood of Baghdad. The checkpoint is located near the Shiite shrine of Kadhimiyah which is a popular visitor site.<sup>51</sup> Authorities said a suicide bomber detonated a vest laden with explosives outside the checkpoint. In this attack, 11 people were killed, the majority were police officers. Then a second suicide bomber killed the other victims, in the al-Horreya neighborhood.<sup>52</sup> A third suicide bomber was shot by security forces before the bomber was able to detonate his device.<sup>53</sup> The IS claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>54</sup>

On October 5, a series of explosions which included car bombs, killed more than 60 people and injured approximately 120 others in Iraq.<sup>55</sup> The first explosion, targeted civilians in the Shia-majority town of Khalis, killing approximately 40 people. Then, a car bomb exploded at a market, in Khalis killing 35 people. The third explosion killed 10 people in al-Zubair and finally 13 people were killed when a bomb exploded in Baghdad.<sup>56</sup> No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed the IS.<sup>57</sup> Also on October 5, in a separate incident, 70 members of the Al Bu Nimr tribe were killed by the IS. The victims were part of local tribes fighting with US led coalition forces against the IS.<sup>58</sup> Authorities said that the tribesmen were shot in Khanizir village in Anbar province.<sup>59</sup> It was reported that the victims were targeted for having relatives serve in the Iraqi military.<sup>60</sup>

On October 22, Kurdish and US commandos carried out a pre-dawn counter-terrorist raid to free

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<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> BBC, "Baghdad hit by deadly suicide bombings", October 3, 2015

<sup>52</sup> DW, "Two fatal bomb blasts rock Baghdad", October 3, 2015

<sup>53</sup> Al-Jazeera, "Twin suicide bombings target Iraqi capital Baghdad", October 2, 2015

<sup>54</sup> DW ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Al-Jazeera, "Car bomb attacks kill dozens in Iraq", October 5, 2015

<sup>56</sup> Reuters, "Car bomb attacks kill 57 people in Iraq: police", October 6, 2015

<sup>57</sup> BBC, "Iraq violence: More than 60 people killed in bombings", October 5, 2015

<sup>58</sup> UPI, "Islamic State executes 70 members of anti-IS Sunni tribe in Iraq", October 6, 2015

<sup>59</sup> BBC, "Islamic State 'executes 70 Sunni tribesmen in Iraq'", October 5, 2015

<sup>60</sup> Xinhua, "At least 51 people killed in car bomb attacks, 70 executed by IS in Iraq", October 5, 2015

prisoners being held by IS militants near the northern town of Hawija. The prisoners, which included some senior members of the Iraqi security services, were held in a school that was captured by the IS. It was reported that one of the targets of the raid was Nema Arbid Nayef al-Jabouri, an IS senior commander. Authorities said the prisoners were facing imminent execution by the IS captors.<sup>61</sup> As the operation began, the US conducted an airstrike to destroy a bridge near Hawija, to enable the soldiers to reach the prison. An intense battle followed between the IS militants and the commandoes.<sup>62</sup> During the incident, one US soldier was killed (the first US combat soldier to be killed in Iraq since 2011<sup>63</sup>); four Iraqi soldiers were wounded; five militants were detained and important intelligence was recovered. The soldiers freed 70 prisoners, however, authorities said that the group of prisoners released was not the group that the soldiers had expected to find. It was unclear where those prisoners were being held.<sup>64</sup>

On October 26, seven people, including two policemen, were killed and 23 others wounded, when a male suicide bomber attacked a tent serving refreshments to pilgrims in the Shaab neighborhood of Baghdad. The pilgrims were observing an annual Ashura Shiite ceremonial ritual.<sup>65</sup> The IS claimed responsibility for the attack but claimed 20 people were killed and 40 others were injured.<sup>66</sup>

### **Israel and the West Bank**

According to the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) during the month of October 2015, a wave of terrorist attacks began that caused “609 attacks (483 in the form of firebombs. Eleven people (one foreign national and 10 Israelis) were killed and 80 others were injured. The majority of the attacks were carried out by “lone wolves” using knives as a modus operandi.<sup>67</sup> The Shin Bet reported “74 stabbings, five shooting incidents, and five car ramming attacks.”<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> BBC, “US-Iraqi rescue operation 'foils IS mass execution'”, October 22, 2015

<sup>62</sup> New York Times, “U.S. Soldier Dies in Raid to Free Prisoners of ISIS in Iraq”, October 22, 2015

<sup>63</sup> Guardian, “US forces rescue Iraqi hostages facing 'imminent execution' by Isis”, October 22, 2015

<sup>64</sup> Idem.

<sup>65</sup> AP, “Officials: Suicide bomber targets Shiite pilgrims, killing 7”, October 26, 2015

<sup>66</sup> Reuters, “Bomb attack on Shi'ite pilgrims in Baghdad kills seven: sources”, October 26, 2015

<sup>67</sup> Times of Israel, “Shin Bet: Hopelessness fueling recent Palestinian attacks”, November 11, 2015

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.shabak.gov.il/English/EnTerrorData/Reports/Pages/ReportE112015.aspx>

Significant incidents included<sup>69</sup>:

- On October 1, an Israeli couple who were later identified as Rabbi Eitam Henkin, 31, and wife Naama, 30, were fatally shot by Hamas militants, as they travelled with their children, aged 9, 7, 4, and 9 months, in a private vehicle on a road near Nablus in the West Bank. The children were physically unharmed but treated for shock.<sup>70</sup> Authorities believe that Eitam had tried to wrestle with the attacker, but was shot at point blank range.<sup>71</sup> On October 5, security forces arrested a five man Hamas linked cell who were accused of carrying out the attack.<sup>72</sup> According to the Shin Bet, the mastermind of the group, Ragheb Ahmad Muhammed Alawi, 37, who is a former Israeli security prisoner, had recruited the cell and provided the weapons to carry out the attack. He was not, however, present during the attack.<sup>73</sup> According to the Shin Bet, the men who carried out the attack were: Karam Razaq (led the group and shot the pistol), Samir Kusa (the driver) and Yahya Haj Hamed (organized the attack and shot dead both Eitam and Naama).<sup>74</sup> According to the Shin Bet interrogation of the cell, the suspects confessed to the attack and Hamed claimed the incident was in retaliation for the Duma attack in July 2015.<sup>75</sup>
- On October 3, four Israeli civilians were stabbed in Jerusalem by a Palestinian man, later identified as Mohannad Hallabi, 19. Authorities said Aharon Banita-Bennet, 22, was fatally stabbed whilst he was in the Old City with his wife and two-year-old son, who were wounded in the attack. The second casualty was identified as Rabbi Nehemia Lavi who arrived at the scene and attempted to help the casualties. The attacker grabbed a firearm that belonged to

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<sup>69</sup> For a comprehensive list of all the attacks that took place in October see MFA website <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Palestinian/Pages/Wave-of-terror-October-2015.aspx>

<sup>70</sup> Ynet, "Eitam and Na'ama Henkin murdered in West Bank terror attack", October 1, 2015

<sup>71</sup> Ynet, "Distressing details revealed in Henkin murder investigation", November 11, 2015

<sup>72</sup> <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Palestinian/Pages/Wave-of-terror-October-2015.aspx>

<sup>73</sup> Jpost, "Shin Bet: Hamas suspects arrested for murder of couple in front of their children", October 5, 2015

<sup>74</sup> Ynet, *ibid.*

<sup>75</sup> For details of this incident see July ICT database report

<http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1529/Terrorist-Incidents-and-CT-Operations-July-2015>

Lavi, fatally shooting him. Police shot the attacker.<sup>76</sup>

- On October 7, Tamer Younis Ahmed Vareidat, 25, a Palestinian lone wolf attacker from the West Bank, armed with a knife, attempted to stab Israeli civilians at a shopping mall in Petach Tikva, wounding one man.<sup>77</sup> The knife broke, preventing further victims. Bystanders apprehended the perpetrator until security forces arrested him.<sup>78</sup> Additionally, in Pisgat Zeev in northern Jerusalem, two teenage attackers stabbed and seriously wounded an Israeli man, 25 and a boy, 13, who was riding his bicycle. Authorities said the boy was stabbed multiple times and was critically injured. Police shot and killed one assailant and apprehended the second.<sup>79</sup> Other stabbing incidents occurred at the Lion's Gate of the Old City in Jerusalem, when a female Palestinian attacked a male Israeli, who was armed and shot the terrorist<sup>80</sup> and in Kiryat Gat where Amjad Hatem al-Jundi, 24, a Palestinian lone wolf, stabbed an IDF soldier and snatched his gun, and attempted to stab an Israeli civilian in her home.<sup>81</sup> The terrorist was killed by police.<sup>82</sup>
- On October 8, five people were wounded by a Palestinian attacker, who used a screwdriver to stab them in Central Tel Aviv. An IAF soldier, who was at the scene, shot and killed the attacker.<sup>83</sup>
- On October 11, Alaa Raed Ahmad Ziwad, purposefully crashed his car into three Israeli civilians and one soldier and proceeded to stab them. The attack occurred on Route 65 at the entrance to the kibbutz of Gan Shmuel, near Hadera. Security forces shot and arrested the assailant.<sup>84</sup> Additionally, in a separate incident, police foiled an attack by a Palestinian woman intended to be carried out in Jerusalem. Police saw a suspicious vehicle, near a checkpoint en route to

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<sup>76</sup> Times of Israel, "Two Israeli men killed, 2 injured, in Jerusalem stabbing attack", October 3, 2015 and MFA <http://embassies.gov.il/UnGeneva/NewsAndEvents/Pages/Wave-of-terror-October-2015.aspx>

<sup>77</sup> TOI, "One injured in fresh stabbing attack outside Tel Aviv", October 7, 2015

<sup>78</sup> Ynet, "Third stabbing attack in a day wounds on, October 7, 2015

<sup>79</sup> Jpost, "Two terrorists carried out attack which also seriously wounded a 24-year-old", October 12, 2015

<sup>80</sup> Jpost, "Wave of violence reaches Kiryat Gat, Petah Tikva", October 7, 2015

<sup>81</sup> Jpost, "Terror attack: Assailant stabs IDF soldier in attempted weapon snatch in Kiryat Gat", October 7, 2015

<sup>82</sup> Jpost, "Wave of violence reaches Kiryat Gat, Petah Tikva", October 7, 2015

<sup>83</sup> Times of Israel, "Soldier who shot Tel Aviv terrorist: I did what is expected of IDF fighters", October 8, 2015

<sup>84</sup> Times of Israel, "Israeli woman, 19, badly hurt in knife attack near Hadera", October 11, 2015

Jerusalem and signalled the female assailant to stop. She then yelled “Allahu Akbar” (God is Great) in Arabic and detonated the bomb in her car. Police found a gas canister in the vehicle.<sup>85</sup>

- On October 13, several attacks took place in Central Israel and in Jerusalem.<sup>86</sup> During the morning rush hour, a Palestinian man stabbed an Israeli man at a bus stop in Ra'anana. Civilians overpowered the attackers and he was arrested by the police. The victim was moderately wounded.<sup>87</sup> A second attack in Ra'anana, wounded four people. The attacker was arrested. Police said the attacks were carried out by lone wolves and not coordinated.<sup>88</sup> In Jerusalem, two Palestinian attackers attacked Israeli civilians on a bus. The attackers were armed with a gun and a knife. One assailant was killed by police and the second was apprehended.<sup>89</sup> Chaim Haviv, 78, and Alon Govberg, 51, were killed, and 15 other people were wounded, several seriously. One of the casualties Richard Lakin, 76, succumbed to his wounds on October 27.<sup>90</sup> Minutes later, a Palestinian rammed his car into a bus stop in an ultra-Orthodox Jewish neighbourhood in Jerusalem. The attacker then attacked a civilian with an axe but was shot by an armed civilian who arrived at the scene. One person was killed and six others were injured.<sup>91</sup>
- On October 18, a combined shooting and stabbing in the Beersheba bus station injured four IDF soldiers and seven civilians.<sup>92</sup> During the incident, IDF soldier Sgt. Omri Levy, 19,<sup>93</sup> was killed and 10 people were wounded when the assailant shot the soldier and grabbed his gun and started shooting. The attacker was shot by police officers.<sup>94</sup>
- On October 22, Maqdad Alhih from Halhul and Mahmoud Ghanimat, two Palestinian

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<sup>85</sup> Times of Israel, “Bombing attempt outside Jerusalem wounds police officer”, October 11, 2015

<sup>86</sup> <http://embassies.gov.il/UnGeneva/NewsAndEvents/Pages/Wave-of-terror-October-2015.aspx>

<sup>87</sup> Times of Israel, “Israeli man hurt in stabbing attack in Ra'anana”, October 13, 2015

<sup>88</sup> Jpost, “Two stabbing attacks in Ra'anana”, October 13, 2015

<sup>89</sup> Reuters, “Palestinian 'Day of Rage' attacks kill three: Israeli police”, October 13, 2015

<sup>90</sup> TOI, “Man wounded in Jerusalem bus attack 2 weeks ago dies”, October 27, 2015

<sup>91</sup> Reuters *ibid*.

<sup>92</sup> TOI, “Terrorist opens fire at Beersheba bus station, kills one, wounds 11”, October 18, 2015

<sup>93</sup> TOI, “Soldier killed in terror attack identified as Omri Levy, 19”, October 19, 2015

<sup>94</sup> MFA *ibid* and Times of Israel, “Terrorist opens fire at Beersheba bus station, kills one, wounds 11”, October 18, 2015. It should also be noted that this incident sparked controversy as an Eritrean asylum seeker, who was later identified as Habtom Zerhom, was mistaken for a second terrorist and shot by a security guard. He died of his wounds



attackers both in their 20s, injured an Israeli teenager near a synagogue in Bet Shemesh. Authorities said the two assailants, who had ties to Hamas and were from the West Bank, had intended to carry out an attack targeting a school bus.<sup>95</sup> The attacker's caused suspicion when they were waiting by the bus stop. The driver closed the bus doors to prevent them from entering the bus and a civilian chased them away. The attackers then went to a nearby street where the synagogue is located and stabbed the teenager as he was leaving the prayer house. The attacker was killed by police.<sup>96</sup>

- On October 28, Nirit Zimora, an Israeli woman was stabbed and moderately wounded by a Palestinian assailant, outside a supermarket in Gush Etzion in the West Bank. The attacker was arrested by security forces.<sup>97</sup>

Also in Israel and the West Bank during the month of October 2015,

On October 5, two rockets were fired into southern Israel and landed in open areas. One of the rockets landed in Eshkol and the second rocket was fired from the Gaza strip but landed inside the border area. There were no casualties or damage during the attack. The Sheikh Omar Brigades, an IS linked group in the Gaza strip claimed responsibility for the incident.<sup>98</sup>

On October 10, a rocket fired by militants in the Gaza strip landed in Southern Israel in an open area. There were no casualties or damage cause and no group claimed responsibility.<sup>99</sup>

On October 20, Hassan Yousef, 60, a senior West Bank Hamas leader arrested for incitement. Authorities said the raid was carried out in the Ramallah suburb of Beitunia by the IDF together with the Shin Bet.<sup>100</sup> He is accused of incitement. Previously, he was arrested and jailed in Israel for terror related activities.<sup>101</sup>

## **Saudi Arabia**

On October 16, an IS militant opened fire at Shia Muslims who were attending a religious Ashura

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<sup>95</sup> Jpost, "Palestinian stabbers in Beit Shemesh tried to board school bus, police say", October 22, 2015

<sup>96</sup> TOI, "Israeli wounded in Beit Shemesh stabbing attack", October 22, 2015

<sup>97</sup> Jpost, "Beit Hagai mother of eight slashed by terrorist near Gush Etzion junction", October 28, 2015

<sup>98</sup> Jpost, "ISIS affiliated group in Gaza claims rocket attack on Israel", October 5, 2015

<sup>99</sup> Jpost, "Rocket from Gaza lands in southern Israel triggering sirens", October 10, 2015

<sup>100</sup> MFA ibid.

<sup>101</sup> Jpost, "IDF arrests senior Hamas figure Hassan Yousef in West Bank", October 20, 2015

ceremony in Saihat, killing five people and injuring four others.<sup>102</sup> Authorities said the attacker shot people indiscriminately before security forces fatally shot him. The attacker was male and in his 20s.<sup>103</sup>

On October 26, a suicide bomber detonate inside the Shia Al-Mashhad mosque in Najran. One person was killed and 19 others were wounded.<sup>104</sup> The IS claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>105</sup>

## Syria

According to the US Department of Defense, during October 2015, there was a total of “97 airstrikes were conducted against IS targets, which destroyed 41 IS tactical units; 12 fighting positions; 45 vehicles; 20 buildings; three VBIEDs; three fighters, one bunker, one mortar shell, one checkpoint, one camp, two staging areas, a crude oil collection point, an IS petroleum pump, an IS pump station, and mobile pump; three command and control centers, and two minefields.” The airstrikes were carried out as part of “Operation Inherent Resolve”- a counter-terrorist offensive to counter the IS in Iraq and Syria.

Some of the significant airstrikes included:

- On October 2, airstrikes were conducted by US-led coalition forces targeting IS militants, buildings, vehicles, fighting positions, buildings and crude oil collection points. The strikes were carried out in the vicinity of Al Hasakah, Kobani, Abu Kamal, Al Hawl and Dayr Az Zawr.<sup>106</sup>
- On October 11, 10 airstrikes were conducted by US-led coalition forces targeting and destroying amongst other targets: IS buildings, tactical units, buildings and vehicles near Al Hasakah; Al Hawl, Ar Raqqa, Manbij, Palmyra, Dayr Az Zawr, and Washiya.<sup>107</sup>
- On October 15, eight airstrikes were conducted by US-led coalition forces near Ar Raqqa, Washiyah, and Mar’a, targeting IS tactical units, vehicles and buildings. Finally, five airstrikes were conducted near Dayr Az Zawr, destroying two IS crude oil collection points, an IS

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<sup>102</sup> BBC, “Saudi Arabia Shia attack: Five killed at Ashura event”, October 17, 2015

<sup>103</sup> Guardian, “Isis gunman kills five in Saudi Arabia before being shot dead by police”, October 16, 2015

<sup>104</sup> Al-Arabiya, “Ministry: one killed after Saudi mosque blast”, October 26, 2015

<sup>105</sup> Wsj, ‘Islamic State Claims Responsibility for Saudi Mosque Bombing’, October 26, 2015 and Al-Jazeera, “ISIL claims Saudi mosque suicide bombing”, October 27, 2015

<sup>106</sup> [http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0814\\_Inherent-Resolve-](http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0814_Inherent-Resolve-) see Syria airstrikes for date October 2

<sup>107</sup> Ibid. See airstrikes for October 15

maintenance and storage yard, an IS main petroleum station, and an IS cash distribution site.<sup>108</sup>

- On October 18, five coalition led air strikes were conducted throughout Syria. A strike near Ar Raqqa, destroyed an IS tactical unit. In the area near Washiyah, one strike destroyed a tactical unit and destroyed an excavator. Other airstrikes were conducted near Mar'a, destroying an IS heavy machine gun and a building and five airstrikes were conducted near Dayr Az Zawr, destroyed two IS crude oil collection points, an IS maintenance and storage yard, an IS main petroleum station, and an IS cash distribution site.<sup>109</sup>
- On October 21, US led coalition forces conducted airstrikes targeting IS militants in and around Ar Raqqa, Washiyah, Mar'a, and near Dayr Az Zawr. In total, as a result of the strikes two IS tactical units; an IS excavator; an IS heavy machine gun; IS buildings; two IS crude oil collection points; an IS maintenance and storage yard; an IS main petroleum station; and an IS cash distribution site were all targeted and destroyed.<sup>110</sup>

Other significant terrorist incidents during October 2015 in Syria included:

On October 8, the IS claimed they killed three Assyrian Christian prisoners and threatened to execute 200 more if they are not paid a \$100,000 dollar ransom for per person. These prisoners were among 253 Assyrian prisoners that IS took captive from an Assyrian settlement in northeastern Syria.<sup>111</sup>

On October 13, two mortar shells hit the Russian embassy compound in Damascus, causing a large explosion and damage to the building. The shells were targeting demonstrators, who were at the embassy, in support of Russian airstrikes against IS militants in Syria.<sup>112</sup> There were no fatalities but several people were injured. No group claimed responsibility.<sup>113</sup>

## Yemen

On October 6, 15 people were killed in a series of coordinated suicide car bombings in Aden and Saana. The targets were: the Al Qasr Hotel & Resort, the palace of Sheikh Fareed Al Awlaqi, and a

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<sup>108</sup> Ibid. See Syria airstrike for October 15

<sup>109</sup> Ibid. See Syria airstrikes for October 18

<sup>110</sup> Ibid See Syria airstrikes for October 21

<sup>111</sup> The Guardian, "Isis appears to have killed three Christian hostages in Syria", October 8, 2015

<sup>112</sup> Wsj, "Shells Hit Russian Embassy Grounds in Damascus", October 2015

<sup>113</sup> BBC, "Syria conflict: Shells hit Russian embassy compound", October 13, 2015

coalition military camp and on a Houthi-run mosque in the capital Sanaa.<sup>114</sup> Authorities said the bombers used military vehicle to stage the attack.<sup>115</sup> The bombings caused a large fire at the hotel. The government blamed Houthi rebels.<sup>116</sup> The IS however, claimed responsibility for the suicide bombings.<sup>117</sup>

On October 7, 25 people and 50 others were injured at a wedding celebration hosted by a tribal leader known to support the Houthi rebels. It was reported that the incident was caused by an airstrike conducted by Saudi-led coalition forces that targeted the home of the tribal leader in Sanban.<sup>118</sup> However, Brigadier General Ahmed Asseri, who is a spokesman for the coalition, said the attack was blamed on Houthi rebels.<sup>119</sup>

## North America

### USA

On October 29, Mohammed Hamzah Khan, 20, pleaded guilty to one count of attempting to provide material support to the IS. If convicted Khan, a US citizen from Illinois, faced a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison. He was arrested in October 2014 at O'Hare International Airport by members of the Chicago Joint Terrorism Task Force.<sup>120</sup> According to his plea agreement, Khan was in contact with IS members in Syria via the internet.<sup>121</sup> Also on October 29, in a separate incident, Alaa Saadeh, 24, pleaded guilty to providing support to the IS. Authorities said Saadeh conspired with his brother and others to travel overseas to join the IS. Saadeh also admitted that he and his brother watched videos depicting the execution by IS militants of individuals. If convicted, the suspects faced 15 years in

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<sup>114</sup> Al-Jazeera, "ISIL claims suicide bombings in Yemen's Aden", October 7, 2015

<sup>115</sup> Reuters, "Islamic State kills 22 in attacks on Yemen government, Gulf troops, mosque", October 6, 2015

<sup>116</sup> Guardian, "Yemen rocket attacks on government hotel kill 15 in Aden", October 6, 2015

<sup>117</sup> AP, "Islamic State-claimed suicide car bombers targeting Yemen officials, Saudi-led force kill 15", October 6, 2015.

<sup>118</sup> AP, "Witnesses: Saudi-led airstrikes kill 15 at wedding in Yemen", October 7, 2015

<sup>119</sup> Reuters, "Three bridegrooms among 25 killed in Yemen rocket strike: residents", October 8, 2015

<sup>120</sup> <https://www.fbi.gov/chicago/press-releases/2015/bolingbrook-man-pleads-guilty-to-attempting-to-provide-material-support-to-isil>

<sup>121</sup> <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/illinois-man-pleads-guilty-attempting-provide-material-support-isil>

prison and a fine of \$250,000.<sup>122</sup>

## Asia

### Afghanistan

On October 9, a large team of approximately 80 Taliban militants attacked a police checkpoint in Nizan area of Pashtun Zarghon district, leading to an intense firefight. Authorities said 10 militants were killed, a civilian who was passing by was also killed and eight militants were injured seriously. However, no security forces members were hurt.<sup>123</sup>

On October 11, seven people were injured when a convoy of British military vehicles was hit by an IED in Kabul.<sup>124</sup> The MoD said the convoy was on a routine patrol when it was hit. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>125</sup> Also on October 11, in a separate incident, a US military airstrike targeted and destroyed an Al-Qaeda training area that spanned over 30 square miles in southern Afghanistan along the border with Pakistan.<sup>126</sup> The operation involved over 200 Special Operation Forces as well as multiple US airstrikes. Authorities said 160 Al-Qaeda militants were killed.<sup>127</sup>

### Bangladesh

On October 23, a teenager was killed and 80 others were wounded when a bomb exploded outside the main Shia site in Dhaka as pilgrims gathered for the annual Ashura procession. The IS claimed responsibility for the attack and authorities believe it was the first time IS has carried out an attack in Bangladesh targeting Shia Muslims. Authorities said three small bombs exploded at approximately 0200, as approximately 20,000 people were inside and outside the building at the time. They were preparing hold the annual Muharram mourning procession. Authorities safely detonated two

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<sup>122</sup> <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2015/10/29/nj-man-pleads-guilty-terror-charges/>

<sup>123</sup> Xinhua, "10 militants killed, 8 injured as Taliban attack police checkpoints in W. Afghanistan", October 9, 2015

<sup>124</sup> BBC, "Taliban attack UK military convoy in Afghan capital Kabul", October 11, 2015

<sup>125</sup> Guardian, "UK military convoy targeted in Afghanistan blast", October 11, 2015

<sup>126</sup> Long War Journal, "US military strikes large al Qaeda training camps in southern Afghanistan", October 13, 2015

<sup>127</sup> The Washington Post, "US-Afghan forces, airstrikes destroy huge al-Qaida training camp", October 30, 2015.

additional bombs that they found unexploded.<sup>128</sup>

## **Pakistan**

On October 14, seven people were killed and 13 others wounded when a bomb exploded at the office of Sardar Amjad Khosa, a member of Pakistan's National Assembly in the Punjab province.<sup>129</sup> He was unhurt in the attack as was in Islamabad when the bombing took place. The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>130</sup>

On October 19, a bomb exploded targeting passengers on a bus in Quetta. Authorities reported that 11 people were killed, including several children, and 22 others were injured.<sup>131</sup> Authorities said the bus was transporting 40 passengers at the time of the attack. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>132</sup>

On October 23, a suicide bomber detonated himself amongst pilgrims celebrating a Shiite Muslim holiday killing 22 people, including five children and wounding 40 others. No groups have claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>133</sup>

## **Turkey**

On October 10, approximately 100 people were killed and more than 300 were wounded, as a result of a twin bombing which targeted a peace rally, organized by leftist groups near the central train station in Ankara.<sup>134</sup> The bombs exploded seconds apart and authorities said one was carried out by a suicide bomber.<sup>135</sup> Approximately 14,000 people attended the event protesting against the PKK.<sup>136</sup> Authorities said one of the bombers was a male aged 25-30. His name was not made public.<sup>137</sup> There was no claim of responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed the IS and the PKK.<sup>138</sup> Authorities

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<sup>128</sup> AFP, "One killed and scores wounded in attack at Shia site in Bangladesh capital", October 24, 2015

<sup>129</sup> Guardian, "Seven killed in suspected suicide bombing at Pakistan MP's office", October 14, 2015

<sup>130</sup> International Business Times, "Pakistan: Bomb blast kills 7 in Taliban-linked attack on office of PML-N lawmaker", October 14, 2015.

<sup>131</sup> BBC, "Pakistan bus blast kills 11 in Quetta", October 19, 2015

<sup>132</sup> Dawn, "Children among 11 killed in Quetta bus explosion", October 19, 2015

<sup>133</sup> Al-Jazeera, "Deaths as suicide bomber targets Shias in Pakistan", October 23, 2015

<sup>134</sup> Hurriyet, "Ankara Bombing death toll rises to 102: Chief Public Prosecutor's Office", October 2015

<sup>135</sup> BBC, "Turkey bomb: Almost 100 dead after attack in Ankara", October 11, 2015

<sup>136</sup> CNN, "At least 95 killed in twin bombings near train station in Turkey's capital", October 11, 2015

<sup>137</sup> Guardian, "Turkey terror attack: mourning after scores killed in Ankara blasts", October 11, 2015

<sup>138</sup> BBC, "Ankara bombing: Who is behind Turkey's deadliest attack?", October 12, 2015

detained 13 people in connection with the attack.<sup>139</sup> Airstrikes were also conducted targeting PKK hideouts and facilities in the south-east and over the border in northern Iraq. PKK positions were destroyed in the Metina and Zap and in Turkey's Diyarbakir province.<sup>140</sup>

As part of the investigation into the attack, on October 12, Turkish police conducted anti-terrorist operations arresting approximately 50 suspects with ties to the IS. The suspects were allegedly planning to travel to Syria to join militants there. Authorities made no other details public.<sup>141</sup>

## Oceania

### Australia

On October 2, Farhad Khalil Mohammad Jabar, 15, fatally shot Curtis Cheng, 58, a police worker who was unarmed, outside the police station headquarters in Parramatta, New South Wales.<sup>142</sup> A policeman who was guarding the station, responded and fatally shot Jabar. Authorities said the attacker was of Iraqi-Kurdish background, and that he and his sister had displayed radicalized views.<sup>143</sup> He attended a local mosque which he allegedly visited before the attack. No group claimed responsibility but authorities alleged links to Hizb ut-Tahrir.<sup>144</sup> Following the attack counter-terrorism officers carried out raids in Parramatta, including targeting a mosque where Jabar frequented and several residential addresses.<sup>145</sup> Five men were arrested, but two were released without charges due to lack of evidence. The remaining three suspects have been targeted in previous raids for their involvement in a plot to behead an Australian citizen.<sup>146</sup> On October 15, two of the suspects were indicted for their involvement in the attack and charged with supplying the weapon and for

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<sup>139</sup> Hurriyet ibid.

<sup>140</sup> CNN, "Turkey train station bombings kill dozens in Ankara", 11 October 2015

<sup>141</sup> Hurriyet, "Police detain 50 ISIL-linked suspects across Turkey - 12 October 2015

<sup>142</sup> SMH, "Parramatta shooting: Gunman identified as Farhad Khalil Mohammad Jabar", October 4, 2015

<sup>143</sup> Guardian, "Parramatta shooting: 15-year-old killer named as Farhad Jabar Khalil Mohammad", October 4, 2015

<sup>144</sup> New SouthWales, "Parramatta shooting: Teen gunman Farhad Khalil Mohammad Jabar's alleged links to extremist group Hizb ut-Tahrir", October 4, 2015

<sup>145</sup> AFP, "Sydney mosque raided after Australia 'terrorism-linked' shooting by 15-year-old", October 4, 2015

<sup>146</sup> Daily Telegraph, "Five men arrested in terror raids across Sydney following Parramatta shooting", October 7, 2015.

“terrorism-related” offences. In addition, the Australian government passed a new law to lower the age at which a minor can be held in detention if one is suspected of taking part in an imminent attack.<sup>147</sup>

### **Attacks on Energy facilities**

On October 9, a security guard was fatally shot by gunmen who stormed the Kolo Creek Oilfields operated by Shell Petroleum Development Company in Ogbia in the Niger Delta in the Bayelsa region.<sup>148</sup> No group claimed responsibility for the attack. Authorities also said the attackers managed to steal weapons including a General Purpose Machine Gun and ammunition.<sup>149</sup>

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<sup>147</sup> Reuters, “Australia to charge two men over 'terrorism' killing of police officer”, October 15, 2015.

<sup>148</sup> Premium Times, “Niger Delta militants attack Shell facility, kill guard”, *ibid.*

<sup>149</sup> AllAfrica, “Nigerian Militants Attack Shell Facility”, *ibid.*



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