



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 September 2015

Highlights

- On September 3, two female suicide bombers killed 19 people and wounded 143 others in Kerawa in northern Cameroon. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Boko Haram.
- On September 4, an armed militant attempted to infiltrate a security facility near the Saudi-Aramco oil facility near Abqaiq, Saudi Arabia. The attacker was killed security guards. No group claimed responsibility for the incident.
- On September 7-22, Security Forces launched a wide-scale counter-terrorist operation against IS militants in the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt. During the operation, hundreds of militants were killed and hundreds were arrested. The Egyptian military also suffered casualties.
- On September 13, an Israeli civilian was killed and two people were injured, when his vehicle was struck by rocks thrown by Palestinian teenagers in East Jerusalem. On September 26, four Palestinian teenagers were arrested in connection with the incident.
- On September 14, Taliban militants, including suicide bombers and gunmen, attacked a prison in Ghazni, Afghanistan killing at least four police and freeing 352 prisoners, including 150 Taliban militants.
- On September 18, 20 people were killed and 42 others wounded by Taliban militants who attacked the Badaber Pakistani military airbase on the outskirts of Peshawar, Pakistan.
- On September 20, more than 100 people were killed and 90 others injured in a series of four coordinated bombings which targeted a railway crossing, a mosque, a soccer match and a food market in Maiduguri, Nigeria. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Boko Haram.
- On September 22, counter-terrorist raids were conducted throughout Berlin, Germany targeting a network of suspected IS militants who trained in Syria and allegedly incited others in Germany to join the IS.
- On September 23, Chiheb Esseghaier and Raed Jaser were sentenced to life in prison in Toronto, Canada. The men were convicted of plotting to derail a commuter train from New York to Toronto in April 2013.
- On September 24, 25 people were killed and 36 others were injured in a twin suicide bombing targeting worshippers at the Al-Balili Mosque in Sanaa, Yemen. The IS claimed responsibility for the attack.

- On September 27, the French military led its first airstrike in coordination with US-led coalition strikes against IS positions near Deir ez-Zor in eastern Syria. French authorities said six fighter jets were used and as a result an IS training camp was destroyed.

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Europe

France

On September 18, French authorities announced that they had foiled an IS plot to attack a concert hall, although the exact location was not publicized. Authorities said in August 2015, they arrested a French national, as he returned to France from a trip to Syria, where he is accused of attending terrorist training camp in Raqqa.¹ The suspect, whose identity was also not made public and was not previously known to French authorities, was armed with a handgun at the time of his arrest.² French police were to the activities of the suspect, following the arrest of a Spanish militant was arrested and during questioning revealed information about the suspect and the alleged plot.³

On September 22, four Basque Homeland and Freedom (ETA) militants were arrested in Saint-Étienne-de-Baïgorry, (near the French-Spanish border) as a result of a joint French-Spanish counter-terrorist operation.⁴ Two senior ETA leaders, identified as David Pla, 40, and Iratxe Sorzabal, 43 were amongst the suspects.⁵ Both were wanted on terror related charges in France and Spain.⁶ Authorities said in 2011, Sorzabal and Pla, had previously appeared on television masked so their identities were not revealed, announcing an end to the campaign of ETA violence.⁷

On September 24, Ahmed Sahnouni El Yaacoubi, a Moroccan convicted militant, was deported from France to Morocco. In March 2013, he was sentenced to seven years in prison after being convicted of organizing a jihadist recruitment network. French authorities claimed that Sahnouni continued to radicalize fellow prisoners leading to his expulsion.⁸ In 2003, he was naturalized and in 2013, he was convicted of conspiracy to commit terrorist acts, leading in 2014 to authorities removing his French citizenship and his passport.⁹

¹ France 24, “Man Was Plotting Terror Attack in Busy French Concert Venue, Police Say”, September 18, 2015

² Ibid.

³ AFP, “Arrested French jihadist ‘instructed’ to attack concert”, September 18, 2015

⁴ Reuters, “Spain, France arrest leaders of Basque separatist militants ETA”, September 18, 2015

⁵ The Guardian, “Senior members of Basque separatist group Eta arrested in France”, September 22, 2015

⁶ AP, “Spain: The 2 top leaders of ETA arrested in raid in French Pyrenees on terrorism charges”, September 22, 2015

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ The local “French jihadist stripped of passport and deported”, September 24, 2015

⁹ Reuters, “Moroccan national to be stripped of French citizenship over terror conviction”, January 23, 2015

On September 25, a male security guard, 33, who worked at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Guyancourt, near Paris was arrested at his home. He was accused of possessing documents that promoted IS related activities. The manager of the office, claimed the guard had photocopied sections of the document and left the papers in the office. Authorities said the alleged activities took place during a night shift in March 2015.¹⁰ Authorities said counter-terrorist officers' discovered a computer and USB cards containing additional jihadist documents in the suspects' home.¹¹ The suspect denied the accusations claiming that the documents were copied by another worker, but the suspect did not name the other person involved.¹²

Germany

On September 3, Ayoub Moutchou, 21 a Moroccan national and suspected IS militant, was extradited to Spain, following his arrest in August 2015 in Stuttgart.¹³ German authorities were alerted to his presence after Spanish authorities issued a European arrest warrant.¹⁴ Authorities claimed he was in possession of false identification documents, after registering as an asylum seeker in the district of Ludwigsburg. Moutchou was accused of being a central figure in a network recruiting IS foreign fighters to the group and was responsible for providing recruits with logistical and operational support.¹⁵ Authorities alleged that Moutchou was in direct contact with IS militants in Turkey, Syria and Iraq. It was reported that his activities were performed locally and also on social media websites.¹⁶

On September 17, Rafik Y, 41, an Iraqi national, was killed by police, after he stabbed a policewoman in Berlin.¹⁷ The suspect was known to authorities' served a prison sentence in Stuttgart. Authorities said in 2004, the suspect was part of a radicalized cell that was convicted for

10 RT, "Night guard arrested in France after photocopying jihadist papers", September 25, 2015

11 IBT, "France: Security guard arrested after leaving pro-Isis material in office photocopier", September 25, 2015

12 RT, "Night guard arrested in France after photocopying jihadist papers", September 25, 2015

¹³ See ICT August database report

14 La Moncloa, "Germany hands over Ayoub Moutchou to Spain for undertaking recruitment activity for DAESH", September 3, 2015

15 ISIS Terrorist Arrested in Stuttgart "Refugee" Center; "Boxes" of Fake Syrian Passports Intercepted", September 9, 2015

16 La Moncloa *ibid.*

17 IBT, "Germany: Iraqi al-Qaeda Islamist Rafik Mohamad Yousef killed by police after Berlin knife attack", September 17, 2015

plotting to assassinate, Iyad Allawi, a former Iraqi prime minister, during a visit to Berlin.¹⁸ Authorities said the suspect, was recently released on parole under the condition he would wear an electronic tag. However, he removed the tag on the morning of the incident, prior to carrying out the attack.¹⁹

On September 18, six German nationals and one Pakistani national, were charged with supporting terrorist organizations in Syria. A woman was amongst the suspects.²⁰ Authorities claimed that between 2013 and late 2014 the suspects helped facilitate militant recruits to travel to Syria with the intent of joining the IS, the Ahrar al-Sham and Jund al-Sham. Authorities alleged the cell, helped organize and finance the travel plans. All seven suspects, who were aged 23-59, faced charges of supporting terrorist organizations.²¹

On September 22, counter-terrorist raids were conducted throughout Berlin targeting a network of suspected IS militants who trained in Syria and allegedly incited others in Germany to join the IS.²² During the raids, police questioned Iman Abdul Qader D., 51, at his mosque in the Tempelhof-Schöneberg neighborhood of Berlin, about inciting his followers to travel to Syria and join the IS. However, he was later released without charge.²³ German police suspect the cell is recruiting vulnerable Syrian refugees to join the IS.²⁴ During the raids, they questioned several other suspects about the location of a Macedonian national, 19 who authorities believed traveled to Syria to join the IS and was involved in recruitment for the cell.²⁵

Spain

On September 5, a female Moroccan national, 18, whose identity was not made public, was

18 Independent, "Islamic extremist shot dead in Berlin after stabbing police officer", September 17, 2015

19 DW, "'Islamist' shot dead in Berlin after knife attack on policewoman", September 17, 2015

20 The Tribune, "Pakistani among 7 people charged with supporting IS group in Germany", September 18, 2015

21 Dawn, "Pakistani among seven charged in Germany with supporting terrorists", September 19, 2015

22 Reuters, "German police raid suspected Islamists in Berlin", September 22, 2015

23 DW, "German police conduct raids in Berlin's Islamist scene", September 22, 2015

24 <http://www.ibtimes.com/isis-germany-berlin-police-crack-down-islamist-extremists-amid-fears-islamic-state-2110605>

25 The Telegraph, "Police raid Berlin mosque as 'Isil' jihadists try to recruit refugees", September 22, 2015

arrested in Gandia, near Valencia.²⁶ Authorities said the suspect was allegedly preparing to fly to Syria to join the IS at the time of her arrest.²⁷ The suspect who was dressed in a burqa, was handcuffed and paraded before the public. She was accused of recruiting women to join the IS. Authorities' also recovered jihadist related documents from the suspect's apartment.²⁸

United Kingdom

On September 1, Zahera Tariq, a British citizen and her four children, were detained by Turkish authorities who suspected the family were planning to travel to Syria to join the IS. She was then transferred to British authorities, where she was arrested upon landing in the UK at Luton airport.²⁹ Authorities said Tariq had ties to radical Islamists in the UK, including radical preacher Admen Choudhry.³⁰ Counter-terrorist police, were initially informed by Tariq's family, that she and her children had gone missing, leading to a nationwide appeal for her safety. Authorities believe the suspects flew from London City airport to the Netherlands in late August 2015, where they then travelled to Turkey.³¹

On September 3, a man, 38, and woman, 31, were arrested at a residential address in Birmingham by counter-terrorist police following an intelligence tip that the couple were planning to travel to Syria to take part in terrorist activities.³² They were charged with taking part in terrorist related activities.³³ No further details were made public.

Africa

Cameroon

On September 3, two female suicide bombers killed 19 people and wounded 143 others in Kerawa

26 Jpost, "Police arrest Moroccan woman allegedly recruiting for ISIS in Spain", September 6, 2015

27 Ibid.

28 RT, "Teenage 'ISIS recruiter' caught in Spain, paraded handcuffed through streets", September 6, 2015

29 Independent, "Zahera Tariq: Woman thought to be taking her children to Turkey to join Isis arrested on suspicion of child abduction after returning to Britain", September 4, 2015

30 Telegraph, "Syria mother of four 'has family links to Anjem Choudary'", August 30, 2015

31 Mailonline, "Mother suspected of trying to join ISIS with her four children is arrested at Luton Airport after being flown back from Turkey", September 4, 2015

32 Telegraph, "Birmingham anti-terror arrests: Two held on suspicion of preparing for Syria-related terrorism", September 3, 2015

33 BBC, "Terror police arrest Birmingham pair over 'Syria terror offences'", September 3, 2015

in northern Cameroon.³⁴ Authorities said the first bomber targeted a marketplace and the second bomber targeted a military base in the town.³⁵ No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Boko Haram.³⁶

On September 20, three people, including a police officer, were killed by two teenage Boko Haram suicide bombers in Mora town. Police said officers were alerted to the attackers' suspicious behavior and when the police officer approached the suspects to question them, the bombers detonated an explosive belt. Police believe the intended target of the attack was a local market.³⁷

Kenya

On September 8, police foiled a bombing to target the Garden City Mall (shopping Centre) in Nairobi.³⁸ Three men were arrested in possession of an IED. Authorities said the device was attached to a mobile phone that police believe was to be used as a detonator. The mall was evacuated and temporarily closed.³⁹ The bomb was safely detonated by police. No group claimed responsibility for the plot.⁴⁰

On September 23, a roadside bomb targeted a military vehicle in Mandera County, killing three police officers and wounding seven soldiers.⁴¹ Al Shabab al- Mujahideen militants claimed responsibility for the attack.⁴²

Libya

On September 7, Libyan authorities said eight soldiers were killed and six wounded by IS militants who targeting a military checkpoint on the outskirts of Benghazi. The IS claimed responsibility for the attack via posts on social media where there also claimed that two tanks and several military

³⁴ Reuters, "Double suicide bombing in north Cameroon kills 19, wounds 143", September 3, 2015

³⁵ AllAfrica.com, "Cameroon: Suicide Attacks Kill 10 in Cameroun", September 4, 2015

³⁶ IBT, "Boko Haram in Cameroon: 10 dead and 100 injured in Kerawa twin blasts", September 3, 2015

³⁷ Vanguard, "Cameroon: Young Suicide Duo Kill Three", September 20, 2015

³⁸ UPI, "Man with explosive device among three arrested in Nairobi mall", September 8, 2015

³⁹ BBC, "Kenyan men arrested with 'mall IED' in Nairobi", September 8, 2015

⁴⁰ Reuters, "Kenyan police foil potential bomb attack in Nairobi mall", September 8, 2015

⁴¹ <http://www.criticalthreats.org/gulf-aden-security-review/gulf-aden-security-review-september-23-2015>

⁴² All Africa.com, "Somalia: Three Police Officers Killed in Bomb Explosion By Al Shabab in Kenyan Town", September 23, 2015

vehicle were destroyed.⁴³

On September 8, two Indians citizens who were working at the Ibn-e-Sina hospital in Sirte were kidnapped by armed militants. Indian authorities identified the men as Pravash Ranjan Samal from Odisha and Ramamurthy Kosanam from Andhra Pradesh.⁴⁴ No group claimed responsibility but Indian authorities blamed militants linked to the IS.⁴⁵ On September 18, it was reported that Samal was released but the whereabouts of the other captive was unknown.⁴⁶

On September 18, four IS linked militants wearing explosive vests and armed with hand grenades, attacked the prison guards at a prison in Tripoli, Libya in an attempt to free IS prisoners who were detained there. All the militants were killed after a firefight with security guards. The Tripolitania Province of the IS, a cell of IS linked militants claimed responsibility for the incident.⁴⁷

Mali

On September 12, armed militants on motorcycles, killed two police officers and two civilians, when they targeted a security checkpoint in Ouenkoro village in Mopti, a town near the border with Burkina Faso. Following this incident, in a similar attack on September 19, four people, including two police officers were killed by gunmen on a motorcycle. The target of this attack was a checkpoint in Bih in Mopti.⁴⁸ Authorities said the attacks were perpetrated by members of Macina Liberation Front (FLM) group.⁴⁹ Authorities claimed that former members of the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MOJWA), and also Ansar Dine are members of this network.⁵⁰ Authorities said the group is led by radical preacher Amadou Koufaand were responsible for several recent attacks in Mali.⁵¹

Nigeria

⁴³ UPI, "Islamic State militants kill eight Libyan soldiers in Benghazi", September 8, 2015

⁴⁴ The Hindu, "Two Indians abducted in Libya", September 17, 2015

⁴⁵ Indian Express, "Two Indians abducted in Libya, MEA says efforts on to secure release", September 17, 2015

⁴⁶ <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india/one-indian-freed-in-libya-no-info-on-the-other-captive/story-auM08AoOPy5PEjpfzEuSxL.html>

⁴⁷ Al-Jazeera, "ISIL attacks Libyan prison in attempted jailbreak", September 18, 2015

⁴⁸ BBC, "Four killed in Mali attack blamed on jihadists", September 23, 2015

⁴⁹ AFP, "Mali Islamists armed group push fighting beyond conflict-hit north", September 23, 2015

⁵⁰ AllAfrica.com, "Mali's Terrorists Cast Their Web Wider", September 21, 2015

⁵¹ For a profile of the group see:

[http://www.jamestown.org/single/?tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=44593&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=228&cHash=d7dba1c0b3fb147f67a547e825f418cf#.VnPE1b8nItN](http://www.jamestown.org/single/?tx_ttnews[tt_news]=44593&tx_ttnews[backPid]=228&cHash=d7dba1c0b3fb147f67a547e825f418cf#.VnPE1b8nItN)

On September 20, more than 100 people were killed and 90 others injured in a series of four coordinated bombings in Maiduguri.⁵² The explosions occurred over approximately a twenty minute period.⁵³ Authorities said the bombs, which included a suicide bombing, targeted a railway crossing, a mosque, civilians watching a soccer match and a food market which was busy with civilians buying items for the Eid al-Adha holiday.⁵⁴ No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Boko Haram.⁵⁵

On September 23, more than 200 woman and children were freed from Boko Haram captivity in the villages of Jangurori and Bulatori. Security forces arrested 43 Boko Haram militants including Bulama Modu, the suspected local leader. Authorities said the Boko Haram camps were destroyed during the operation. Additionally, weapons and ammunition were seized.⁵⁶

Somalia

On September 1, 12 Ugandan soldiers were killed when their base was ambushed by Al-Shabab al-Mujahideen militants in Janale in southern Somalia. The militants threw explosives into the perimeter of the base, then a team of heavily armed fighters entered base and attacked the troops inside. While the fighters were assaulting the base, another team destroyed a nearby bridge to cut off any reinforcements.⁵⁷

On September 21, a car bomb detonated at a security checkpoint by the gates of the presidential palace in Mogadishu, killing five soldiers and wounding 12 others. Authorities believe the target of the attack President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. He was unhurt in the attack.⁵⁸ Many nearby houses and business centers were damaged in the attack. Witnesses also claimed following the attack there were also sounds of gunfire. Al-Shabab al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack.⁵⁹

On September 29, four Al-Shabab al-Mujahideen militants were arrested at the Ifo refugee camp in Dadaab. During the operation, authorities seized weapons and explosives, including AK47 rifles,

⁵² NYtimes, "More than 100 Killed by Boko Haram Bombings in Nigeria", September 21, 2015

⁵³ BBC, "Nigeria's Boko Haram crisis: Maiduguri blasts kill dozens", September 21, 2015

⁵⁴ AP, "Dozens die in blasts in Borno state capital, Nigerian official says", September 21, 2015

⁵⁵ Reuters, "At least 80 people killed in bomb blasts in Nigeria's Borno state", September 22, 2015

⁵⁶ CNN, "Nigerian forces free 241 women, children in Boko Haram camps, arrest kingpin", September 23, 2015

⁵⁷ LWJ, "12 Ugandan troops killed as Shabaab assaults base in Somalia", September 3, 2015

⁵⁸ Al-Jazeera, "Car bomb in Mogadishu targets Somali president", September 21, 2015

⁵⁹ New York Times, "Deadly Car Bombing at Somalia's Presidential Palace Is Claimed by Shabab", September 21, 2015

ammunition and materials used to construct IEDS. Authorities carried out the raid, after receiving an intelligence tip that the militants were hiding amongst the refugees.⁶⁰

Middle East

Egypt

During September 2015, Egyptian security forces carried out a 16 day counter-terrorist offensive that began on September 7, targeting IS militants in the Sinai Peninsula.⁶¹ During the offensive, the Egyptian military claimed to have killed more than 400 IS linked militants and arrested more than 300 IS linked militants. Authorities also seized weapons and explosives and destroyed militant hideouts, buildings and vehicles. The operation was dubbed referred by the military as “Operation Right of the Martyr”.⁶²

Significant incidents during the offensive included:

- On September 8, Egyptian security forces killed approximately 30-50 (different reports varied and the exact figure is difficult to verify) IS militants during a large scale counter-terrorist operation in the Sinai Peninsula.⁶³ It was also reported that more than 100 militants were arrested.⁶⁴ The raids were carried out in the towns Rafah, Sheikh Zuweid and Arish. During the operation two soldiers were killed.⁶⁵
- On September 12, 64 IS linked militants were killed by the Egyptian military during counter-terrorist raids that targeted their hideouts in northern Sinai Peninsula. During the incident the military said two soldiers were killed.⁶⁶
- On September 15, the Egyptian military claimed to have killed 55 IS linked militants in northern Sinai Peninsula.⁶⁷
- On September 22, security forces foiled a plot by armed IS militants who were planning to

60 Hiiraan.com, “Four Al-Shabaab suspects arrested at Ifo in Dadaab, weapons recovered”, September 29, 2015

61 APP, “4 soldiers, 2 civilians killed in Egypt Sinai attacks”, September 12, 2015

62 Reuters, “Egypt says killed 55 militants in Sinai, two soldiers killed”, September 15, 2015

63 AFP, “Egypt in ‘major operation’ in Sinai, 29 militants killed”, September 8, 2015

64 Guardian, “Egypt kills 56 militants in first two days of major operation in Sinai”, September 8, 2015

65 AFP, “29 jihadists killed in Sinai ‘major operation’”, September 8, 2015

66 AFP, “Egypt military says two soldiers, 64 militants killed in Sinai”, September 12, 2015

67 Reuters. Ibid.

attacks against foreign targets during Eid holiday celebrations.⁶⁸ Authorities killed 10 members of the cell that was based in Western Sinai Peninsula. Additionally, a further 10 IS militants were killed in the northern Sinai Peninsula by security forces. Authorities also arrested 17 suspects during the offensive and destroyed 25 IS hideouts, 28 buildings, 14 motorbikes and seven vehicles.⁶⁹

Other significant terrorist incidents during September 2015 in Egypt included:

On September 2, IS militants in the Sinai Peninsula attacked an Egyptian military convoy, killing 11 soldiers. Authorities said two soldiers were killed by an IED and then the militants fired on the other soldiers as they attempted to escape.⁷⁰

On September 10, a bomb detonated at dawn, targeting an electricity pylon supplying the Haram neighborhood of Greater Cairo. The explosion caused extensive damage to the pylon. The attack temporality affected the electricity supply in surrounding neighborhoods affected areas. There were no casualties and no group claimed responsibility.⁷¹

On September 11, three civilians, including two children were killed when a suicide car bomber detonated by a military convoy in Rafah in northern Sinai. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks but authorities blamed the IS.⁷² On the same day, authorities also said four soldiers were killed in a bombing perpetrated by IS militants in northern Sinai.⁷³

On September 26, two police officers were killed and 16 others wounded when a bomb exploded at a police checkpoint in the Sinai Peninsula. Authorities said the bomb targeted the security forces as they were setting up a checkpoint in north Sinai. The IS claimed responsibility for the attack.⁷⁴

Iran

On September 6, the Mohiuddin al-Nasr Brigades, the militant wing of the Arab Struggle Movement for the Liberation of Ahwaz (ASMLA), released a video allegedly claiming responsibility for bombing

68 Egyptian army kills 10 militants in Bahariya Oasis", September 22, 2015

69 AFP ibid.

70 Reuters, "Attack on Egypt security convoy kills 11 in Sinai: security sources", September 2, 2015

71 <http://72.44.93.236/~aswatmasriya/en/news/politics/explosion-downs-electricity-ylon-in-greater-cairo/>

72 AP, "Car bomb targeting military convoy in Egypt's northern Sinai kills man and his 2 children", September 11, 2015

73 AFP, "4 soldiers, 2 civilians killed in Egypt Sinai attacks", September , 2015

74 AFP, "Egypt kills 56 militants in first two days of major operation in Sinai", September 8, 2015

an oil pipeline located near Behbahan in Khuzestan province. There were no other details reported about the case and no casualties.⁷⁵

Iraq

During September 2015, according to the US ministry of Defense, “a total of 434 airstrikes were conducted, which destroyed: 164 tactical units; 408 fighting positions; 101 vehicles; 30 bunkers; 23 heavy machine guns; 11 light machine guns; 20 staging areas; one homemade explosive facility; one explosives cache; seven rocket firing positions; four artillery pieces; three recoilless rifles; four checkpoints; eight trenches; 20 mortar firing positions; one encampment; 18 rocket rails; four anti-aircraft artillery pieces; 69 buildings; three IED’s; 19 VBIED’s; one IS training camp; 28 weapons caches; five mortar tubes; two observation towers; 18 tunnels; one tunnel entrance; two sniper firing positions and one mortar firing suppression”. 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 September 9, a stadium that used by IS militants as a weapons storage facility was destroyed in an airstrike near Ramadi. Authorities said the strike also destroyed IS weapons, ammunition and explosives.⁷⁶
- On September 10, US-led coalition airstrikes targeted and destroyed an IS operating base and staging area in a stadium near Ramadi in central Iraq.⁷⁷
- On September 13, 18 airstrikes were conducted by US-led coalition strikes near Baiji, Fallujah, Kisik, Mosul, Tuz, and near Sinjar. Targets that were destroyed included several IS tactical units, fighting positions, buildings, bunkers and vehicles. Other targets destroyed included: two weapons caches, a command and control facility, a staging area, a mortar firing position, and rocket firing positions.⁷⁸
- On September 15, 15 airstrikes were conducted by the US-led coalition against IS targets throughout Iraq. The US military said the strikes destroyed tactical units, buildings, mortar firing positions, tunnels, rocket firing positions, tactical units, and destroyed

75 Janes, September 13, 2015. It should be noted that this was the only source reporting the case.

76 Business Insider, “US-led airstrikes blew up a stadium filled with ISIS' explosives, weapons, and ammunition”, September 9, 2015

77 Guardian, “US-led coalition airstrike destroys Islamic State base in Iraq”, September 11, 2015

78 <http://www.defense.gov/News-Article-View/Article/617014/airstrikes-continue-against-isil-targets-in-syria-iraq>

heavy machinery and weapons caches. The towns targeted were: Al Baghdadi, Al Huwayjah, Bayji, Habbaniyah, Kirkuk, Mosul, Ramadi and Sinjar.⁷⁹

- On September 20, 22 US-led coalition airstrikes were conducted against IS targets in the vicinity of Al Huwayjah, Bayji, Habbaniya, Kisik, Mosul, Ramadi, Qayyarah, Sinjar and Tal Afar. The most significant of these airstrikes were conducted in the vicinity of Mosul, where nine airstrikes destroyed four IS tactical units and destroyed five IS fighting positions, as well as an IS VBIED facility, bunker, heavy machine gun, building, C2 node and wounded a IS militant.⁸⁰
- On September 27, US-led coalition strikes conducted 20 airstrikes against the IS, including targeting and destroying a staging point in Kubaysah town. It was reported that 22 people, including seven IS fighters were killed. Authorities said five airstrikes targeted and destroyed an explosives facility in the town of Hit and also targeted and destroyed a command and control facility in the town.⁸¹
- On September 28, three airstrikes were conducted in and around al-Huwayjah, destroying nine IS fighting positions, three bunkers and five tunnels used by IS militants, Additionally, a separate US-led coalition airstrike conducted near Kirkuk destroyed two IS fighting positions.⁸²

Other significant terrorist incidents during September 2015 in Iraq, included:

On September 17, IS militants claimed responsibility for two suicide bombing attacks in Baghdad, killing 23 people and wounding more than 60 others.⁸³ In the first bomb, a suicide bomber on foot targeted the al-Tayaran square in central Baghdad, killing seven people, including a police officer, and wounding 29 others. A second bomb, targeted the al-Wathba commercial area located nearby, killing six people, including two police officers, and injuring 18 others.⁸⁴ The attacks occurred during the morning rush-hour.⁸⁵

79<http://www.centcom.mil/en/news/articles/sept.-15-military-airstrikes-continue-against-isil-terrorists-in-syria-and>

80 Ibid.

81 Al-Arabiya, "U.S., allies conduct 23 air strikes in Syria, Iraq", September 27, 2015

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

83 AP, "IS says it's behind 2 Baghdad suicide blasts that killed 21", September 17, 2015

84 CNN, "13 killed in Baghdad bombings claimed by ISIS", September 17, 2015

85 BBC, "Iraq: Baghdad market bombings kill at least 23", September 17, 2015

On September 21, 17 people were killed and more than 40 others were wounded by four bombs, including a car bomb, in and around Baghdad. According to authorities, the first bomb targeted civilians East of Baghdad, in the Shiite Ameen district. In this bomb, 12 people were killed and 42 others were injured. The second bomb, killed two people and wounded seven others in northern Baghdad. A third explosion was reported in Sunni areas in Latifii killing two civilians. Finally, the fourth explosion targeted a military patrol on the outskirts of Mashad, killing one soldier and wounding four others. It was also reported that rockets were fired by IS militants and landed near Baghdad airport, injuring a civilian. The IS claimed responsibility for the attacks.⁸⁶

On September 29, IS militants detonated an explosives-filled Humvee at a military base in the town of Garma in Anbar province. Authorities said seven soldiers were killed and 10 others were wounded. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed the IS.⁸⁷

Israel and the West Bank

According to the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) during the month of September 2015, 223 terrorist incidents occurred. The majority of the incidents occurred in the West Bank, however, approximately 70 terrorist related incidents occurred in Jerusalem. It was also reported that four attacks occurred in the Gaza Strip.⁸⁸ Significant incidents included:

On September 8, the Shin Bet arrested Hafez Cundus (Hafeez Kondus) 57,⁸⁹ a former high security prisoner from Jaffa, who was charged with throwing a grenade on September 1 at the Shirat Moshe Hesder yeshiva⁹⁰ in Jaffa targeting Jewish students.⁹¹ Israeli authorities said there were no

⁸⁶ Reuters, "Bombs in and around Baghdad kill at least 17", September 21, 2015

⁸⁷ <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/09/29/ISIS-claims-responsibility-for-car-bomb-attack-in-Baghdad.html>

⁸⁸ <http://www.shabak.gov.il/English/EnTerrorData/Reports/Pages/MonthlySummary-September2015.aspx>

⁸⁹ According to the Shin Bet, in 1984 Cundus was imprisoned for 18 months after he was convicted of a grenade attack that targeted a Jaffa Arab official who was responsible for the maintenance of Muslim sites in the Jaffa. The sites were controversial as the land was planned to be sold to several Jewish developers. The target was not harmed in the attack. In 1989 Cundus was sentenced to an additional ten years in prison, after being found guilty of being part of a group of prisoners who plotted to sell firearms to militant groups in the Gaza Strip. In 1996 he and two other security prisoners attempted to escape from jail.

⁹⁰ A Hesder Yeshiva is a higher center of Jewish learning that combines Jewish studies with military service.

⁹¹ TOI, "Ex-prisoner charged with tossing stun grenade at Jaffa yeshiva", September 24, 2015

casualties in the attack as the grenade failed to explode. Cundus admitted to carrying out the attack and faced several charges which included "hate crimes, firearms offenses and carrying out violent threats."⁹² Cundus was indicted at the Tel Aviv District Court on September 24.⁹³

On September 13, Israeli police discovered pipe bombs during a violent clash with Palestinians on Temple Mount, Jerusalem. The site is a religious place of worship for both Jews and Muslims. According to authorities, Palestinian militants were allegedly planning violent clashes stockpiling rocks and firecrackers to use against Israeli worshippers. Polices said the suspects barricaded the entrance of the Al-Aqsa mosque and they pipe bombs were seized from the suspects at the entrance of the mosque.⁹⁴

In a separate incident on September 13, Alexander Levlovich, 64, an Israeli citizen was killed in East Jerusalem, when his vehicle was struck by rocks by Palestinian assailants. Two other passengers were slightly injured.⁹⁵ On September 26, Israeli authorities announced they arrested four Palestinian teenagers in connection with the incident. The teenagers were all residents of the Arab village of Sur Bahir in east Jerusalem and all four suspects admitted to carrying out the attack. According to the Shin Bet the leader of the group was a member of Hamas.⁹⁶

On September 19, a rocket exploded near a residential area in Sderot in southern Israeli. There were no casualties. However damage was caused to the property and some people were treated for shock. Following this incident, several hours later a rocket that was fired from the Gaza strip toward Ashkelon in southern Israel was intercepted by the Iron Dome system. There were no casualties or damage sustained. The Sheikh Omar Hadid Brigade, a group affiliated with the IS claimed responsibility for the rocket attacks.⁹⁷

On September 21, a rocket exploded in an open area in Hof Ashkelon. There were no casualties or damage in the incident. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Hamas.⁹⁸

⁹² Jpost, "Terrorist Indicted in Attack on Jaffa Yeshiva", September 24, 2015

⁹³ Haaretz, "Jaffa Man Charged for Throwing Stun Grenade at Yeshiva", September 24, 2015

⁹⁴ TOI, "Police find pipe bombs on Temple Mount during clash", September 13, 2013

⁹⁵ Haaretz, "Driver in Jerusalem Car Crash Dies from Injuries; Police Suspect Stone-throwing Caused Crash". September 18, 2015

⁹⁶ Jpost, "Four Palestinian teens arrested for deadly Jerusalem Rosh Hashana rock attack", September 26, 2015

⁹⁷ Times of Israel *ibid.*

⁹⁸ Times of Israel, "IDF foils second attempted attack in run-up to Yom Kippur", September 22, 2015

On September 22, a female Palestinian, 18, attempted to stab an IDF soldier in Hebron in the West Bank. According to the IDF, the suspect attempted to stab the soldier at a military position in Hebron. In response, the IDF soldiers fired and wounded the attacker, who was subsequently arrested. The IDF said no soldiers were wounded in the incident.⁹⁹

On September 29, the Iron Dome intercepted a Grad rocket fired from Gaza into southern Israel. There were no casualties. Israeli authorities blame Hamas. In response the IDF targeted and destroyed four Hamas sites in the Gaza Strip.¹⁰⁰

Kuwait

On September 1, 22 Kuwaiti nationals and one Iranian citizen, were arrested and accused of planning a terrorist attacks on behalf of Hezbollah. Authorities said the likely target was against Kuwaiti security forces.¹⁰¹ The suspects were also charged with spying for the militant group.¹⁰² Authorities claimed the suspects were manufacturing explosives and when arrested, police discovered weapons, ammunition and tapping devices.¹⁰³ Authorities said three others individuals were wanted in connection with the incident and were charged in absentia.¹⁰⁴

Lebanon

On September 22, a Syrian national, whose identity was not made public, was arrested by Lebanese security forces. He was accused of financing and operating a car bomb that targeted the Iranian Embassy in Beirut on November 19, 2013. The attack killed 23 people and injured more than 100 others.¹⁰⁵ The suspect was the leader of an alleged terrorist cell based in Yabrud in Syria.¹⁰⁶ The network operated a bomb making factory where they prepared explosives to be used in car

⁹⁹ Jpost, "Hebron: Attempted stabbing attack of IDF soldier in Hebron. Assailant apprehended on site", September 22, 2015

¹⁰⁰ Ynet, "Iron Dome shoots down rocket in southern Israel", September 29, 2015

¹⁰¹ Haaretz, "26 Charged in Kuwait for Possessing Arms, Links to Hezbollah, Iran", September 1, 2015

¹⁰² Al-Jazeera, "Kuwait charges 'terror cell tied to Iran and Hezbollah'", September 1, 2015

¹⁰³ New York Times, "Kuwait: 26 Accused of Iran-Linked Plot", September 1, 2015

¹⁰⁴ ArabianBusiness.com, "Kuwait arrests 23 suspected of planning a terrorist attack", September 2, 2015

¹⁰⁵ AFP, "General Security arrests suspect in Iran embassy attack", September 22, 2015

Also for more details about the embassy attack see November 2013 ICT database report <http://www.ict.org.il/Article/213/Summary%20of%20Terrorist%20Incidents%20and%20CT%20Operations%20November%202013>

¹⁰⁶ Daily Star, "General Security arrests suspect in Iran embassy attack", September 22, 2015

bombings and missile attacks. The suspect was accused of tampering with Lebanese cars so they could be used as car bombs.¹⁰⁷ Furthermore, the suspect was found to have collaborated in the bombing of the Iranian cultural center in Beirut, Lebanon in 2013.¹⁰⁸ Authorities said the suspect and another Syrian national transferred to Lebanon a car bomb that was used to bomb the Iranian embassy in Beirut in 2014. Authorities launched a manhunt for the other members of the cell involved in the attack.¹⁰⁹

On September 26, the Lebanese military conducted counter-terrorist raids in Beirut and towns in northern Lebanon, leading to the arrest of two Syrian militants and a wanted Palestinian suspect who was identified as Ahmad Hasan Merhi. The Syrian suspects were identified as Ghazi Ahmad Othman and Mohammad Khodr Othman. During the operation, witnesses reported hearing gunfire although there were no casualties reported. The suspects were all accused of taking part in terror related activities with terrorist organizations, although authorities did not specify which groups the suspects were tied to.¹¹⁰

Saudi Arabia

On September 4, an armed militant attempted to infiltrate a security facility near the Saudi-Aramco oil facility near Abqaiq. The suspect allegedly attempted to attack a security guard, however he was killed by other security guards at the site. No additional details were made public.¹¹¹ No group claimed responsibility for the attack, however the site has been attacked previously by al-Qaeda linked militants.¹¹²

On September 16, Saudi police carried out two simultaneous counter-terrorist raids targeting two suspected IS cells in Riyadh. In the first raid, authorities were alerted to the suspicious behavior of two individuals. They arrested two brothers who were identified as Saeed and Mohammed Al-Zahrani, 21, and 19. The suspects are known to have links to 16 wanted militants. Security forces surrounded their house in Mounsiya in eastern Riyadh. The suspects fired guns and threw grenades

¹⁰⁷ MEHR news, “Lebanon arrests terrorist behind Iran embassy bombing”, September 22, 2015

¹⁰⁸ Albawaba News, “Lebanese security arrests Syrian suspect in Iranian cultural center attack”, September 22, 2015

¹⁰⁹ MEHR *ibid.*

¹¹⁰ Albawaba.com, “Army arrests 3 'terror' suspects in Beirut, north Lebanon”, September 26, 2015

¹¹¹ IBT, “Saudi Arabia Thwarts ‘Terrorist’ Attack In Abqaiq, World’s Largest Oil Processing Facility”, September 4, 2015

¹¹² Reuters, “Saudi security forces kill 'terrorist' in Abqaiq: state TV”, September 4, 2015

at the security forces. Authorities safely evacuated nearby homes. Police also seized weapons, cash and computer equipment from the home.¹¹³ In the second raid, a house, which police claimed was being used as a bomb making factory in Al-Dharma. Authorities seized weapons, an explosive belt, and large sums of cash.¹¹⁴ Three militants fired at police and escaped in a stolen car, with false number plates. The suspects were then pursued by police in helicopters. One suspect was injured during the incident. The suspects were charged in connection to an attack on the Al-Anoud mosque in Dammam in May 2015.¹¹⁵ Following these counter-terrorist raids, separately on September 29, Saudi authorities carried out four simultaneous counter-terrorist raids in Riyadh and in Dammam, targeting an IS cell linked to the suicide bomber behind the Abha mosque attack that took place in August.¹¹⁶ During the operations, two IS militants were killed and three others were arrested.¹¹⁷

Syria

According to the US Department of Defense, during September 2015, there was a total of “82 airstrikes, which destroyed a total of 40 tactical units, 25 fighting positions, 28 vehicles, two bunkers, two bunker entrances, four staging areas, three artillery pieces, one trench, two mortar firing position, five rocket rails, four buildings, two training camps, two weapons cache, two mortar tubes, one bridge.” 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 September 2, seven airstrikes were conducted by US-led Coalition forces using attack, fighter and remotely piloted aircraft. The targets destroyed included several IS bunkers, five tactical units, a bridge, an IS staging area and a IS vehicle. The strikes targeted in the vicinity of: Al Hawl, Ar Raqqa, Dayr Az Zawr, Kobani and Mar’a.¹¹⁸
- On September 5, eight airstrikes were conducted in Syria by US-led Coalition forces. The US military announced that near Mar’a, a weapons cache, a vehicle, five IS tactical units and a

¹¹³ WSJ, “Saudi Police Raid Two Alleged Terror Cells”, September 16, 2015

¹¹⁴ <http://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2015/9/16/saudi-police-seize-suspected-militants-with-guns>

¹¹⁵ Aawasat, “ Saudi Arabia arrests terror suspects, seizes weapons in two raids”, September 16, 2015 Also see ICT database report May 2015

¹¹⁶ See ICT database report for August 2015

¹¹⁷ Alarabiya, “Saudi arrests ISIS-related terror cell in two cities”, September 29, 2015

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

mortar tube, were destroyed. Additionally, Near Tal Abyad, a tactical unit and two IS fighting positions were destroyed.¹¹⁹

- On September 10, US-led coalition military forces conducted 10 airstrikes against IS targets. The strikes were conducted near Abu Kamal, which targeted and destroyed an IS crude oil collection point, as well as near Al Hasakah, Al Hawl, Ar Raqqa, Kobani, Mar'a, and near Palmyra. In these airstrikes, IS tactical units, fighting positions, vehicles and structures were all targeted and destroyed.¹²⁰
- On September 13, seven airstrikes were conducted by US-led coalition forces against IS targets. According to the US military two airstrikes destroyed seven IS fighting positions and an IS tank near Al Hawl. Additionally, an IS tactical unit was destroyed near Al-Raqqa and near Mar'a, three airstrikes destroyed an IS staging facility and four structures including a weapons cache. An airstrike was also conducted near Kobani, destroyed weaponry.¹²¹
- On September 27, the French military led its first airstrike in coordination with US-led coalition strikes against IS positions near Deir ez-Zor in eastern Syria.¹²² French authorities said six fighter jets were used and as a result an IS training camp was destroyed.¹²³ Other air strikes were conducted by the US-led coalition destroying IS targets near Al Hasakah, Abu Kamal and Mar'a.¹²⁴
- On September 29, US -led coalition airstrikes were conducted against IS targets destroying IS weapons and rockets, tactical units, vehicles, an IS mortar system, a crude oil collection point. The airstrikes were conducted in Abu Kamal Dayr Az Zawr and Mar'a.¹²⁵

Additionally, on September 30, Russian fighter aircraft launched airstrikes targeting IS militant strongholds and bases in Homs, Hama, Lattakia and Idlib provinces.¹²⁶ The airstrikes are part of the Russian campaign against IS targets in Syria. Russia also launched missiles from warships in the Caspian Sea.¹²⁷ US-led coalition forces claimed that the Russian strikes were targeting militants

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² Reuters, "France launches air strikes against Islamic State in Syria", September 27, 2015

¹²³ RT, "France carries out first airstrikes against ISIS in Syria", September 27, 2015

¹²⁴ Al-Arabiya ibid.

¹²⁵ http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0814_Inherent-Resolve

¹²⁶ Ynet, "Report: Russian fighter jets strike Syrian rebel strongholds", September 30, 2015

¹²⁷ BBC, "Battle for Iraq and Syria in maps", December 10, 2015

fighting against the Assad regime and not necessarily targeting IS strongholds.¹²⁸ It was reported that approximately 30 civilians were killed in the strikes.¹²⁹ The Russian ministry of Defense said the strikes destroyed: IS weapons, arms depots, ammunition and equipment as well as, IS communication facilities and fuel supplies. The Russian Defense ministry denied any civilians were hurt in the strikes.¹³⁰

Other significant terrorist incidents during September 2015 in Syria included:

On September 2, a car bomb exploded in Hamam square in Latakia, killing at least 10 people and wounding 25 others. Many cars and residential buildings were damaged in the explosion.¹³¹ No group claimed responsibility for the attack. Authorities said the modus operandi of the attack was rare, as the majority of incidents that previously occurred in Latakia were rocket attacks, rather than car bombings. It was also reported that two car bombs were discovered the previous day and police arrested those responsible. The bombs were defused by security forces and caused no casualties or damage.¹³²

On September 14, a suicide car bomb detonated at a checkpoint manned by Kurdish fighters in Hasaka killing approximately 20 people and injuring 70 others. Several hours later, a second suicide bomb detonated in a neighborhood in western Hasaka.¹³³

On September 9, Jahbat al-Nusra militants stormed the Abu Zuhour airbase in Idlib and took 45 soldiers captive. On September 19, it was reported that the soldiers were executed on the runway of the airbase. Jahbat al-Nusra claimed responsibility for the incident.¹³⁴

Yemen

On September 2, 28 people were killed and 75 others wounded, in twin suicide bombings at a mosque in northern Sanaa.¹³⁵ Witnesses claimed that the first suicide bomber detonated amongst the worshippers as people were leaving the mosque. Minutes later a car bomb that was remotely

¹²⁸ Ynet News, "Report: Russian fighter jets strike Syrian rebel strongholds", September 30, 2015.

¹²⁹ CNN, "Russia launches first airstrikes in Syria", October 1, 2015

¹³⁰ BBC, "Syria crisis: Russian air strikes against Assad enemies", September 30, 2015

¹³¹ AFP, "Car bomb kills 10 in Syria regime bastion Latakia", September 2, 2015

¹³² AP, "State media: Car bomb in Syrian port city kills 10", September 2, 2015

¹³³ AFP, "Twin suicide bomb blasts kill 26 in Syria's Hasakeh: monitor", September 14, 2015

¹³⁴ Mohave Valley Daily News: "Al-Qaida group kills 45 prisoners", September 20, 2015

¹³⁵ Al-Jazeera, "Two bomb blasts at Yemen mosque kill at least 20", September 2, 2015

detonated targeted rescue workers at the scene. The IS claimed responsibility for the attack.¹³⁶

On September 12, a drone attack killed four suspected (Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula) AQAP militants in northern Yemen. It was reported that two missiles struck the militants vehicle. The identities of the militants were not made public. Also in a separate incident, a Saudi-led military coalition airstrikes killed 16 Yemeni civilians including 10 members of one family, in Saana and Taiz. Witnesses claimed the strikes targeted the houses Houthi political leaders.¹³⁷

On September 24, 25 people were killed and 36 others injured in a twin suicide bombing attack that targeted the worshippers at the Al-Balili Mosque in Sanaa.¹³⁸ Authorities said the bombers were disguise a female worshippers.¹³⁹ Witnesses said the bombers detonated first inside the mosque and then a second suicide bomber exploded in the entrance, creating more casualties as people tried to evacuate the site. The worshippers were performing traditional prayers for the holiday when the suicide bombers targeted them. The IS claimed responsibility for the attack.¹⁴⁰

On September 30, two missiles targeted and hit a wedding party of a local Houthi rebel in the village of Al-Wahijah, near the port of Al-Mokha Authorities reported than more than 130 were killed.¹⁴¹ No group claimed responsibility for the missile attack. Village residents blamed Saudi led coalition forces however, the coalition made a statement to say it had not conducted a strike in the area and were not responsible.¹⁴²

North America

USA

On September 9, Hanad Mustofe Musse, 19, plead guilty to providing material support to the IS.¹⁴³ It was reported that two additional charges that included using a federal student loan to finance

¹³⁶ BBC, "Yemen crisis: Sanaa mosque bombings kill at least 20, officials say", September 2, 2015

¹³⁷ Reuters, "Saudi-led coalition strikes kill at least 50 in Yemen", September 21, 2015

¹³⁸ WSJ, "Yemen Suicide Bomber Kills 26 in Mosque", September 24, 2015

¹³⁹ Reuters, "IS suicide bomber dressed as a woman kills 10 at Yemen Houthi mosque", September 24, 2015

¹⁴⁰ BBC, "Yemen suicide bombing in Sanaa mosque kills 25", September 24, 2015

¹⁴¹ BBC, "Yemen conflict: Wedding attack death toll rises to 130", September 29, 2015

¹⁴² Reuters, "Missile attack on Yemen wedding kills 131", September 29, 2015

¹⁴³ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/minneapolis-man-pleads-guilty-conspiracy-provide-material-support-isil>

travel plans to Syria were cancelled. If convicted under the guilty plea, Musse is likely to receive a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.¹⁴⁴ Musse part of a nine person cell from Minneapolis who planned to travel to Syria to join the IS. The other suspects were awaiting trial.¹⁴⁵

On September 15, US authorities foiled a plot against Pope Francis, during a trip to the US that was scheduled to take place in late September 2015.¹⁴⁶ A teenager, whose identity was not made public, was arrested in August 2015 in Philadelphia. He was reportedly radicalized on social media by the IS. Authorities said the suspect had obtained explosives to carry out the attack.¹⁴⁷ The suspect was charged with supporting a terrorist group and attempting to provide support to terrorist activities.¹⁴⁸

Canada

On September 23, Chiheb Esseghaier and Raed Jaser were sentenced to life in prison after they were convicted of plotting to derail a commuter train from New York to Toronto. Esseghaier, was convicted of all the charges against him. Jaser was found guilty of conspiring to commit murder in support of terrorism and two other charges but not guilty of one other charge.¹⁴⁹ The jury also found the men guilty of six other terror-related charges between them.¹⁵⁰ The men were arrested in April 2013 following the culmination of an FBI sting operation and convicted in March 2015 of the plot.¹⁵¹ The Judge ruled that both men must serve 10 years before they are eligible for parole.¹⁵²

Asia

¹⁴⁴ CBS, "1 Of 7 Charged In Terror Case Pleads Guilty To Aiding ISIS", September 9, 2015

¹⁴⁵ Washington Times, "Minnesota man pleads guilty in Islamic State case", September 9, 2015

¹⁴⁶ AFP, "Pope Francis 'was target of arrested 15-year-old's alleged Isis-inspired attack'", September 15, 2015

¹⁴⁷ Fox News, "Teen was plotting to attack Pope Francis during US visit, authorities say", September 15, 2015

¹⁴⁸ ABC News, "Teen Arrested for Planning Alleged ISIS-Inspired Attack on Pope", September 15, 2015

¹⁴⁹ AP, "2 men charged in Canada train terror plot with support from al-Qaida get life in prison", September 23, 2015

¹⁵⁰ CBC, "2 Via Rail terror plotters sentenced to life in prison", September 23, 2015

¹⁵¹ The Canadian Press, "Via Rail train terror plotters sentenced to life in prison", September 23, 2015

¹⁵² CBC, "2 Via Rail terror plotters sentenced to life in prison", September 23, 2015

Afghanistan

On September 9, a US airstrike killed 15 TTP militants in the Gomal district in the eastern Afghan province of Paktika. No further details were made public about the airstrike.¹⁵³

On September 13, the Afghan military launched a large counter-terrorist operation in 11 provinces, targeting TTP militant hideouts. As a result, 100 militants were killed, 25 wounded and one militant was arrested. The operation took place over 24 hours. The military also said that 12 soldiers were killed. Afghan authorities also said security forces seized a large cache of weapons, ammunition and explosions from the militant hideouts.¹⁵⁴

On September 14, Taliban militants, including suicide bombers and gunmen, attacked a prison in Ghazni killing at least four police officers, wounding seven others and freeing 352 prisoners, including 150 Taliban militants.¹⁵⁵ Authorities said the incident began when the Taliban militants detonated a car bomb at the gates of the prison and then fired rocket-propelled grenades inside the compound of the prison. A team of six militants disguised as Afghan police officers raided the prison and set the prisoners free. Security officers killed three of the militants but the others escaped. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.¹⁵⁶

On September 27, 10 people were killed and more than 30 people were wounded after the attack at a volleyball match in Afghanistan's Paktika province.¹⁵⁷ Many children were amongst the injured. Authorities said the explosives were hidden in a motorbike and detonated on the perimeter of the volleyball playground as the match occurred. No group claimed the attack but authorities blamed the Taliban.¹⁵⁸

On September 29, Taliban militants stormed Kunduz city and seized the provincial governor's office.¹⁵⁹ The militants also freed hundreds of Taliban prisoners from the local prison. The militants captured the governor's compound and provincial police headquarters. Witnesses said the Taliban

¹⁵³ Reuters, "US drone strike kills 15 TTP men in Afghanistan", September 11, 2015

¹⁵⁴ CNN, "Taliban free 350 inmates and kill police in Afghan jail raid", September 14, 2015

¹⁵⁵ Rt, Taliban storms Afghan jail with suicide bombers, releases over 350 prisoners", September 14, 2015

¹⁵⁶ CNN *ibid.*

¹⁵⁷ CNN, "Nine dead in Afghanistan suicide bombing", September 27, 2015

¹⁵⁸ AFP, "At least nine dead' in attack at Afghan volleyball match", September 27, 2015

¹⁵⁹ BBC, "Taliban overrun Afghan city of Kunduz", September 29, 2015

militants were armed with light and heavy weapons.¹⁶⁰

China

On September 18, approximately 50 suspected Xinjiang militants, who were armed with knives attacked, workers at the Sogan colliery in Aksu. During the attack, witnesses claimed that the militants loaded trucks with coal and rammed them into police cars who arrived on the scene. Police said that the workers were off duty at the time of the attack and the militants raided their living quarters, killing them as they were sleeping.¹⁶¹ The attackers escaped and no group claimed responsibility for the attack, however, Uighur militants were suspected to have carried out the incident.¹⁶²

Indonesia

On September 21, the Indonesian military launched a counter-terrorist operation in Poso central Sulawesi, targeting an IS training facility. The head of Indonesia's counter-terrorist unit said that the majority of the militants attending the training camps were from Malaysia, who entered Indonesia under the auspices that they were seeking asylum.¹⁶³

Malaysia

On September 14, two Malaysians (a male and female suspect) and one Pakistani man, were arrested in connection with the August 2015 Erawan shrine bombing in Bangkok, Thailand.¹⁶⁴ Malaysian authorities were working with the Thai authorities on the investigation into the attack.¹⁶⁵

On September 25, Malaysian authorities arrested three people including a Syrian and an Indonesian national in Kuala Lumpur.¹⁶⁶ The arrests were made as a response to a terror alert that was issued by the US embassy and Australian embassies in Jakarta about a possible terror attack on Jalan Alor, Bukit Bintang, a popular area filled with restaurants. Authorities believe the suspects were plotting terrorist attacks on domestic and foreign targets.¹⁶⁷ Authorities said the suspects had travelled on

¹⁶⁰ Reuters, "Taliban attack airport after seizing northern Afghan city", September 29, 2015

¹⁶¹ Reuters, "At least 50 said killed in September Xinjiang attack as China warns on security", October 1, 2015

¹⁶² AP, "China confirms deadly Xinjiang attack, says suspects killed", November 19, 2015

¹⁶³ ABC news, "Indonesian military launch attack on terror cell stronghold", September 21, 2015

¹⁶⁴ For further details of the attack see August 2015 ICT database report

¹⁶⁵ BBC, "Bangkok bomb: Two Malaysians and a Pakistani arrested", September 14, 2015

¹⁶⁶ Jakarta Post, "Indonesian arrested in Malaysia following terror alert", September 26, 2015

¹⁶⁷ AFP, "Malaysian police arrest three over suspected terror plot", September 25, 2015

several occasions to Yemen and recently returned to Malaysia.¹⁶⁸ Authorities said at the time of arrest, the suspects had in their possession books related to Al-Qaeda.¹⁶⁹

Pakistan

On September 1, four people were killed and 50 others were wounded when a suicide bomber detonated amongst a crowd lining up to enter a government building in the Khyber tribal region. Both the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (PTT) and Lashkar-e-Islam claimed responsibility for the attack.¹⁷⁰ Several hours later, security forces claimed they safely defused a bomb that was found close to the government building.¹⁷¹

On September 2, 17 TTP militants were killed in an airstrike that targeted their hideout in the Shawal Valley. Authorities said four militant hideouts were destroyed. It was also reported that air strikes were conducted in the Tirah Valley killing 14 militants and wounding six more.¹⁷²

On September 14, the Pakistani military announced that it conducted airstrikes in the tribal region of North Waziristan, killing approximately 15 TTP militants. Authorities said seven TTP hideouts were targeted and destroyed in the airstrike.¹⁷³

On September 16, Pakistani police said they arrested Syed Sheaba Ahmad, a former air force pilot and businessman, in Karachi who had suspected ties to Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS). He was charged with financing terrorist groups, including Afghan Taliban and AQIS.¹⁷⁴ Authorities also charged that Ahmad, assisted two militants who were part of a cell of six IS linked militants who attacked Shi'ite Ismaili Muslim commuters who were travelling on a bus in Karachi on May 13, 2015.¹⁷⁵

On September 18, 20 people were killed and 42 others wounded by TTP militants who attacked the

¹⁶⁸ ABC, "Three arrested on suspicion of planning terror attacks in Malaysia", September 25, 2015

¹⁶⁹ Jakarta Post *ibid.*

¹⁷⁰ Reuters, "Four killed, dozens wounded, in suicide attack on Pakistan forces", September 1, 2015

¹⁷¹ NYTimes, "Suicide Bomber in Pakistan Attacks Government Office, Killing 4", September 1, 2015

¹⁷² Reuters, "Pakistan air strikes kill at least 31, as offensive continues", September 2, 2015

¹⁷³ UPI, "Pakistan: Airstrikes in North Waziristan kill at least 15 militants", September 14, 2015

¹⁷⁴ AP, "Pakistan arrests former air force pilot linked to al-Qaida", September 16, 2015

¹⁷⁵ Reuters, "Pakistani police accuse businessman of helping al Qaeda", September 17, 2015 and see May 2015 ICT database report

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

Badaber Pakistani military airbase on the outskirts of Peshawar.¹⁷⁶ Authorities said the militants stormed the base and the majority of the victims were killed inside a mosque within the compound during prayers.¹⁷⁷ The militants clashed with security forces at the base, killing several guards and wounding 10 soldiers. The military said they killed 13 militants but were unclear as to whether some managed to escape or whether all were killed. The TTP claimed responsibility for the attack.¹⁷⁸ Separately, several hours later a suspected US drone strike hit a home in the South Waziristan tribal region, south of Peshawar, killing three militants and wounding five others.¹⁷⁹

On September 21, nine men were sentenced to death in a military court in a secret hearing and a tenth man, was sentenced to life in prison after convicting them of involvement in terrorist activities. The men were convicted of separate attacks on military convoys in the northwesterly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province as well as a sectarian attack that killed 27 people in Baluchistan province and an attack on a military convoy near the border with Afghanistan in which a military general was killed.¹⁸⁰

On September 30, two oil tankers were partially damaged by an IED in the Jorkain area of Noshki, Balochistan. The Tankers transporting oil for electricity generators and other machinery used by the Saindak Gold & Copper Project in Chagai. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed the Baloch freedom fighters.¹⁸¹

Thailand

In September 2015, Thai authorities continued investigations into the Erawan shrine bombing that took place in August 2015.¹⁸² Police issued warrants for the arrested of 17 people, including Chinese, Thai, Turkish and Pakistani citizens. It was alleged that the cell had ties to Uigher militants.¹⁸³ On September 1, a male suspect was arrested in Sa Kaeo province on the Thai-

¹⁷⁶ The Tribune, "At least 29 killed, including army captain, as militants attack PAF base in Peshawar", September 18, 2015

¹⁷⁷ BBC, "Gunmen attack Pakistan air force base in Peshawar", September 18, 2015

¹⁷⁸ AP, "Taliban attack on Pakistan base kills 20; 16 die in mosque", September 18, 2015

¹⁷⁹ Ibid,

¹⁸⁰ Reuters, "Pakistan military court sentences nine to death for terrorism", September 21, 2015

¹⁸¹ <http://balochwarna.com/2015/09/30/balochistan-saindak-project-oil-tankers-attacked-in-noshki/>

¹⁸² See ICT database report August 2015

¹⁸³ BBC, "Bangkok Erawan Shrine bomb: Suspects appear in re-enactment", September 26, 2015

Cambodian border. Authorities transferred him for interrogation in Bangkok.¹⁸⁴ He was the second suspect detained in connection with the attack.¹⁸⁵ The main suspect who appeared on CCTV footage of the attack was identified as Bilal Mohammed alias Adem Karadag. He was charged in Min Buri provincial court on September 5 and then detained in police custody at a prison in eastern Bangkok. On September 26, Karadag was charged with perpetrating the attack.¹⁸⁶ Additionally, on September 13, an arrest warrant was issued for a Muslim man identified as Abudusataer Abudureheman (Ishan) from Xinjiang. Police claimed he left Bangkok the day before the attack and is believed to have played an important role in the network that carried out the attack. His photograph was circulated amongst the public and media.¹⁸⁷

Philippines

On September 18, a girl, 11, was killed and at 32 other were injured after a crude bomb that was hidden under a seat on a bus, exploded at a bus terminal in Beng Climaco in the southern Philippines. The bomb exploded as the bus was loading passengers, near a crowded marketplace.¹⁸⁸ No group claimed responsibility for the attack however, authorities suspected Abu Sayaff militants who are known to operate in the region.¹⁸⁹

Turkey

On September 2, security forces launched 12 simultaneous raids in residential addresses in several neighborhoods in Istanbul targeting Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) members. Police said during the raids weapons, digital equipment and documents were seized from the properties and three suspected PKK militants were detained.¹⁹⁰

On September 7, 16 soldiers were killed and six others wounded, when their military convoy was hit by two IEDs near Daglica village in Hakkari province. The military said the soldiers were conducting

¹⁸⁴ Reuters, "Thailand arrests second 'important' suspect in Bangkok blast probe", September 1, 2015

¹⁸⁵ BBC, "Bangkok bomb: Second foreign suspect arrested", September 1, 2015

¹⁸⁶ Guardian, "Thai police say first arrested suspect is the Bangkok bomber", September 26, 2015

¹⁸⁷ BBC, "Bangkok bomb: Two Malaysians and a Pakistani arrested", September 14, 2015

¹⁸⁸ Daily Star, "Bomb explosion on bus in Philippines kills 1, wounds 16", September 18, 2015

¹⁸⁹ IBT, "Philippines bomb blast: Bus explosion kills 11-year old, injures 32 in Zamboanga City", September 18, 2015

¹⁹⁰ Hurriyet daily, "Three suspects detained in anti-terror operations in Istanbul", September 2, 2015

an operation to remove landmines from the area. The PKK claimed responsibility for the incident.¹⁹¹ Turkish authorities conducted airstrikes against PKK hideouts in the region, as a response to the attack.¹⁹²

On September 8, 14 police officers were killed when the minibus they were travelling in was targeted by an IED that detonated in Iğdir province, located near the border with Iraq. The PKK claimed responsibility.¹⁹³ The Turkish government retaliated by carrying out airstrikes strike against PKK targets in northern Iraq.¹⁹⁴

On September 13, two police officers were killed when a car bomb exploded by a checkpoint in Sirnak province.¹⁹⁵ The military in response launching airstrikes on a PKK militant hideout, killing six PKK militants. Separately, one police officer was killed and one injured, by armed PKK militants who launched a rocket-propelled grenade towards them in the Silvan district of Diyarbakir province. Authorities declared a curfew on the area, following violent clashes between militants and security forces.¹⁹⁶

On September 24, two soldiers were killed and eight other soldiers and a civilian were injured, in Sirnak in an attack staged by PKK militants. In response the military launched a counter-terrorist operation against the militants killing 34 PKK militants. Authorities also confiscated weapons and ammunition from the slain militants.¹⁹⁷

On September 28, two people including a nine year old child were killed and five other civilians were injured, by a rocket-propelled grenade that was aimed to hit a military convoy but that landed on a residential address in Diyarbakir province. The PKK claimed responsibility for the incident.¹⁹⁸ Also in a separate attack, five soldiers were wounded in a PKK bombing attack in the Tatvan district.

¹⁹¹ BBC, "PKK attack kills soldiers in south-eastern Turkey", September 7, 2015

¹⁹² AP, "Turkey's military: 16 troops killed, 6 wounded in PKK attack", September 7, 2015

¹⁹³ Ynet, "10 police officers killed in bomb attack in Turkey", September 8, 2015

¹⁹⁴ The Washington Post, "Bombs kill 15 Turkish police officers as jets strike PKK in Iraq", September 8, 2015

¹⁹⁵ SundayZaman, "PKK attacks in SE leave 3 policemen dead, curfews declared in Diyarbakir", September 13, 2015

¹⁹⁶ Reuters, "Clashes, militant bombing kill nine in southeast Turkey", September 13, 2015

¹⁹⁷ Hurriyet Daily, "Two security personnel killed, nine others injured in PKK attacks in southeast", September 25, 2015

¹⁹⁸ <http://www.trtworld.com/turkey/pkk-terror-attack-kills-9-year-old-in-turkeys-diyarbakir-8517>

The militants targeted the soldiers' convoy.¹⁹⁹

Oceania

There were no significant incidents in this region during September 2015.

Attacks on Energy facilities

On September 6, the Mohiuddin al-Nasr Brigades, the militant wing of the Arab Struggle Movement for the Liberation of Ahwaz (ASMLA), released a video allegedly claiming responsibility for bombing an oil pipeline located near Behbahan in Khuzestan province, Iran. There were no other details reported about the case and no casualties.²⁰⁰

On September 10, a bomb detonated at dawn, targeting an electricity pylon supplying the Haram neighborhood of Greater Cairo. The explosion caused extensive damage to the pylon. The attack temporality affected the electricity supply in surrounding neighborhoods affected areas. There were no casualties and no group claimed responsibility.²⁰¹

On September 30, two oil tankers were partially damaged by an IED that exploded as the tankers were travelling in the Jorkain area of Noshki, Balochistan. Oil for electricity generators and other machinery was being transported to the Saindak Gold & Copper Project in Chagai. No group claimed responsibility for the attack. However, authorities suspected the Baloch freedom fighters were responsible.²⁰²

¹⁹⁹ Hurriyet daily, "Five soldiers wounded in PKK bomb attack in Turkey's east", September 28, 2015

²⁰⁰ Janes, "Ahwazi Arab pipeline explosion indicates renewed attacks against energy pipelines in southern Iran but capability limited", September 30, 2015

²⁰¹<http://72.44.93.236/~aswatmasriya/en/news/politics/explosion-downs-electricity-ylon-in-greater-cairo/>

²⁰²<http://balochwarna.com/2015/09/30/balochistan-saindak-project-oil-tankers-attacked-in-noshki/>

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