



**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 2014**

## Highlights

- On September 1, Ahmed Abdi Godane, the leader of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, was killed in a US airstrike in Somalia. On September 5, Godane's death was officially confirmed by the group and Abu Ubaidah (aka Ahmad Umar) was named the new leader.
- On September 2, a video was posted to the internet by the Islamic State (IS), titled "A Second Message to America". The video showed the beheading of American-Israeli journalist, Steven Sotloff. In the video, Sotloff was forced to read a statement placing blame for his execution on US foreign policy towards the IS.
- On September 4, Al-Qaeda leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, announced the formation of an Indian branch of Al-Qaeda, to be known as Al-Qaeda in South Asia, which would focus on India, Myanmar and Bangladesh. Following this, on September 16, the group claimed responsibility for the attempted hijacking of a Pakistani Navy frigate, the PNS Zulfiqar, in the Arabian Sea.
- On September 14, authorities in Kampala, Uganda, together with US authorities, foiled a major Al-Shabaab Al-Mujahideen plot intended to target bars, hotels and Uganda's largest university. Authorities arrested 19 people, and seized explosives and suicide vests.
- On September 16, the Arab Bank was found liable in New York, USA, for providing material support to Hamas. The civil suit marked the first time a bank had faced a trial under the Anti-Terrorism Act, which allows victims of US-designated foreign terrorist organizations to seek compensation.
- On September 17, the Finnish government charged four people with financing terrorism, the first case of its kind in Finland. The suspects, whose identities were not released to the public, were accused of sending thousands of Euros to fund terrorist activities by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen between 2008-2011.
- On September 18, police in Australia carried a major counter-terrorism operation targeting residential addresses in the cities of Sydney and Brisbane.

- On September 20, Herve Gourdel, a 55-year-old mountaineering guide from Nice, was abducted by militants while he was hiking in the Djurdjura National Park, Algeria. Jund al-Khilafah, a newly formed group aligned with the IS, claimed responsibility and on September 24 the group released a video titled "A Message of Blood for French Government", showing that they had beheaded Gourdel.
- On September 23, after a three-month manhunt, IDF soldiers, supported by the Border Police Counterterrorism Unit (Yamam) and the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency), fatally shot Marwan Kawasme and Amer Abu Aysha, whilst trying to apprehend them. The suspects were identified as the Hamas militants who abducted and killed Israeli teenagers Eyal Yifrah, Gilad Shaar and Naftali Frenkel in June 2014.
- On September 25, British police arrested nine men in counter-terrorism raids that targeted 18 residential addresses in London and one in Stoke-on-Trent. Among the suspects arrested was Anjem Choudary, a radical preacher known to authorities as an outspoken critic of US and British actions in Iraq and Syria against the IS.
- On September 29, 46 alleged members of Sharia4Belgium, including the group's leader, Fouad Belkacem, were tried in Antwerp, Belgium on charges of leading a terrorist organization.

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## Europe

### Belgium

On September 29, 16 alleged members of Sharia4Belgium, including the group's leader, Fouad Belkacem, were tried in Antwerp on charges of leading a terrorist organization. Thirty other people were tried in absentia.<sup>1</sup> The majority of the suspects are of Moroccan descent and many have criminal records for drug dealing and other offenses.<sup>2</sup> Belgium authorities said those defendants still at large are believed to be in Syria, where some of them may have been killed. Sharia4Belgium members campaigned for the introduction of shari'a (Islamic law) in Belgium. In 2012, the group said it was disbanding but authorities claimed some members continued to recruit dozens of volunteers to fight in Syria.<sup>3</sup> Authorities said that Belkacem, a Salafist ideologue, had never actually been to Syria but he was accused of being responsible for prompting many others to go and fight with the Islamic State (IS) and Al-Nusra Front militants in Syria. If found guilty, he faces 15 to 20 years in prison.<sup>4</sup> Authorities said that Belgium has the highest number of jihadist recruits per capita of any western European country and that this trial is aimed as a deterrent for other young Muslims from joining the IS and the Al-Nusra Front.<sup>5</sup>

### Denmark

On September 5, Copenhagen police arrested three people charged with selling stickers bearing the logo of the IS. Police claimed that money from the sale of the IS stickers was being used to directly support the militants.<sup>6</sup> The stickers were first exposed by the Web site, syrienblog.dk, which is dedicated to outing suspected Danish jihadists. The stickers were sold for 50 kroner by the association, De Humanitære Hjerter (Humanitarian Hearts), and the association's chairman was among those arrested.<sup>7</sup> The suspects were identified by the police as 'AD', a 35-year-old man born in

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<sup>1</sup> Al-Akhbar, "Belgium tries 46 for sending jihadists to Syria", September 29, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> UPI, "Trial of 46 alleged jihadists begins in Belgium", September, 29, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> AP, "Trial opens for Belgian terror suspects", September 29, 2014.

<sup>4</sup> AFP, "Trial opens for Belgian terror suspects", September 29, 2014.

<sup>5</sup> BBC, "Belgium tries 46 over Syria jihadist links", September 29, 2014.

<sup>6</sup> The local, "Three Isis supporters arrested in Copenhagen", September 3, 2014.

<sup>7</sup> Newsweek, "Three Arrested in Copenhagen After Danish Mosque Declares its Support of ISIS", September 4, 2014.

Libya, a 30-year-old female Danish citizen with a Lebanese background, and a 51-year-old Danish woman. They both faced up to ten years in prison if convicted. Police said the raids were carried out in response to the Aarhus mosque that openly expressed its support of IS on September 2, 2014.<sup>8</sup>

## **Finland**

On September 17, the Finnish government charged four people with financing terrorism in the first case of its kind in Finland. The suspects, whose identities were not released to the public, were accused of channeling thousands of Euros to fund terrorist activities by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen in 2008-2011.<sup>9</sup> One of the defendants was also charged with recruiting members to the organization. The suspects admitted transferring the money but they denied having engaged in financing of terrorist activities. One of the female defendants said that the man who received the funds, who is known as a radical preacher in Kenya, is her husband. The trial was set for November 2014 and, if convicted, the suspects both face up to eight years in prison.<sup>10</sup>

## **France**

On September 27, three suspected jihadists returning to France from Syria surrendered to police in Le Caylar, a village northwest of Montpellier.<sup>11</sup> The men were placed under formal investigation for allegedly plotting terrorist attacks. Authorities said the men left France for Syria in 2013 to join the IS, but were disillusioned and decided to flee Syria for Turkey in July 2014. The men were captured by the IS and jailed on suspicion of being French spies but later managed to escape to the Turkish border where they surrendered to Turkish authorities.<sup>12</sup> The suspects were then meant to be flown from Istanbul to Orly Airport near Paris, but the pilot refused to take the men on his plane because they did not have the necessary documents for their expulsion. Therefore, Turkish authorities instead placed them on a flight to Marseille. Upon arrival in Marseille, the men drove off freely as French intelligence officers, who were waiting to arrest them, had not received warning of the change of

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<sup>8</sup> The local, "Danish mosque declares support for Isis", September 2, 2014.

<sup>9</sup> Hiiraan online, "Finland's first terror trial starts in Helsinki", November 18, 2014.

<sup>10</sup> AP, "Somalia: Finland Charges Four With Funding Al-Shabaab", September 17, 2014.

<sup>11</sup> New York Times, "3 Suspected French Jihadists Give Up After Botched Arrest", September 24, 2014.

<sup>12</sup> France 24, "France launches investigation into 'jihadists' back from Syria", September 27, 2014.

arrangements and were waiting at Paris's Orly airport. French passport control also failed to arrest the men as a security databank was out of order at the time and the suspects were not recognized.<sup>13</sup> The men eventually turned themselves in at a police station in Le Caylar. One of the suspects was identified as Abdelouahab el-Baghdadi, 29, a brother-in-law of Mohammed Merah, who carried out the Toulouse 2012 terrorist attacks.<sup>14</sup> The others two men were identified as Imad Jjebali, a childhood friend of Merah, who was sentenced to four years in prison in 2009 on terrorism charges, and Gael Maurice, who was suspected by the French intelligence services of having links to a jihadi terrorist cell.<sup>15</sup> The men's lawyers said that the suspects had admitted travelling to Syria but denied having fought there and denied that they were plotting terrorist attacks in France.<sup>16</sup>

## Germany

On September 8, three German men, who were flying back to Germany from Kenya,<sup>17</sup> were arrested upon arrival at Frankfurt Airport. The suspects were charged with being members of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen. They were identified only as Steven N., 26, Abdullah W., 28, and Abdulsalam W., 23, according to German privacy laws.<sup>18</sup> Authorities alleged the suspects had spent many months in Somalia, where they allegedly received weapons and combat training. However, authorities said there was no evidence to indicate that the suspects had actualized any plans for attacks to be carried out in Europe.<sup>19</sup> Kenyan authorities said they were investigating a possible connection between the three men and two other Germans who were arrested on August 29, 2014 in Nairobi. Those suspects were identified as Warsame Abdi Wahid and Pebourbi Mounir. Authorities believe the suspects were planning to return to Germany and may have recently fled Somalia during a military offensive against Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> AP, "3 suspected Syria jihadis face charges in France", September 27, 2014.

<sup>14</sup> For further details of this incident see March 2012 ICT database report. <http://www.ict.org.il/Article/266/Summary%20of%20Terrorist%20Incidents%20and%20CT%20Operations%20March%202012>

<sup>15</sup> Yahoo, "France charges three suspected jihadists back from Syria", September 27, 2014.

<sup>16</sup> France 24, "France launches investigation into 'jihadists' back from Syria", September 27, 2014.

<sup>17</sup> IBT, "German Al-Shabab Suspects Returning From Kenya Arrested At Frankfurt Airport", September 8, 2014.

<sup>18</sup> AP, "3 al-Shabab suspects arrested at Frankfurt airport as they returned to Europe", September 8, 2014.

<sup>19</sup> BBC, "Three al-Shabab suspects arrested at Frankfurt airport", September 8, 2014.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. AP

## **Kosovo**

On September 17, 15 people were arrested during a counter-terrorist operation targeting an IS-linked cell based in Pristina, Prizren and Mitrovica. The suspects were charged with terrorism, threatening the constitutional order, incitement and religious hate speech.<sup>21</sup> Authorities said that among those arrested were local imams, including the head of Pristina's Grand Mosque, Shefqet Krasniqi.<sup>22</sup> Kosovo police did not name the other suspects who were arrested, publishing only their initials, but said that the operation had been carried out following threats and due to the importance of national security.<sup>23</sup> The operation was part of an ongoing investigation targeting the recruitment of jihadist militants in Kosovo. On August 11, 40 other people were arrested on suspicion of fighting in Iraq and Syria or recruiting militants.<sup>24</sup> Authorities claim between 100 and 200 Kosovars are fighting in Iraq and Syria, and at least 20 were killed during 2014.<sup>25</sup>

## **United Kingdom**

On September 23, a suspected Al-Qaeda bomb maker, whose identity was not made public, was arrested in northwest London on suspicion of involvement in the production of improvised explosive devices in Iraq in 2007. He was detained under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000.<sup>26</sup> Authorities said DNA taken from devices was run through the Home Office database and matched the man, 37, who had been previously arrested in Britain for non-terrorist offences. No further details were made public.<sup>27</sup>

On September 25, British police carried out counter-terrorism raids that targeted 18 residential addresses in London and one in Stoke-on-Trent. Nine men, ranging in age from 22 to 51, were arrested on suspicion of encouraging terrorism and belonging to a banned organization.<sup>28</sup> Among those arrested was Anjem Choudary, a radical preacher who has been an outspoken critic of US and

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<sup>21</sup> Reuters, "Kosovo makes arrests in new push to stem flow of fighters to Syria, Iraq", September 15, 2014.

<sup>22</sup> Independent, "Imam of the Great Mosque of Pristina arrested", September 4, 2014.

<sup>23</sup> BBC, "Kosovo 'imams held' in raids on Islamic State recruitment", September 29, 2014.

<sup>24</sup> For further details see August 2014 ICT database report.

<sup>25</sup> Reuters, "Kosovo makes arrests in new push to stem flow of fighters to Syria, Iraq", September 17, 2014.

<sup>26</sup> BBC, "Anti-terror police arrest man over 'Iraq explosives'", September 23, 2014.

<sup>27</sup> Guardian, "Suspected al-Qaida bomb-maker arrested in London", September 23, 2014.

<sup>28</sup> New York Times, "British Police Arrest 9 in Antiterror Sweep", September 25, 2014.

British actions in Iraq and Syria against the IS.<sup>29</sup> Choudary was involved in founding several Islamist organizations in Britain that were later banned by the government, most recently including Islam4UK and its predecessor, al-Muhajiroun, which was proscribed in 2010 as a terrorist organization.<sup>30</sup> Also arrested was a man identified as Trevor Brookes, 39, who is a close acquaintance of Choudary. He was charged with breaching his notification requirements under the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008, including alleged failure to tell the authorities that he had changed address. Brookes appeared in custody at Westminster magistrates' court on September 27. Scotland Yard stressed that its investigation into Choudary and the others has continued, despite the fact that on September 26, Choudary was subsequently released due to lack of evidence. In addition, two men were arrested near Rugby in Warwickshire as part of the investigation. Authorities said one of the men, 33, was detained on suspicion of being a member of a proscribed Islamist group, supporting that banned group and encouraging terrorism. The second man, 42, was arrested for allegedly assisting an offender.<sup>31</sup>

## Africa

### Algeria

On September 20, Herve Gourdel, a 55-year-old mountaineering guide from Nice, was abducted by militants while he was hiking in the Djurdjura National Park in the northeast area of Kabylie. On September 21, Jund al-Khilafah, a recently formed IS affiliate, released a video that showed Gourdel being held hostage. Gourdel was seen kneeling with his arms tied behind his back before four masked militants who read out a statement in Arabic criticizing France's intervention in Iraq and Syria.<sup>32</sup> In the video, the militants threatened that if France did not halt airstrikes within 24 hours against the IS militants in Iraq, to whom they pledged allegiance, they would execute Gourdel. French President Francois Hollande refused and said that France "will give in to no blackmail, no pressure, no

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<sup>29</sup> Telegraph, "Anjem Choudary among nine men arrested by counter-terror police", September 25, 2014.

<sup>30</sup> Guardian, "Anjem Choudary among nine arrested in London anti-terrorism raid", September 25, 2014.

<sup>31</sup> Guardian, "Anjem Choudary released on bail after counter-terrorism investigation arrests", September 26, 2014.

<sup>32</sup> BBC, "French tourist Herve Gourdel abducted by Algeria militants", September 23, 2014.

ultimatum”.<sup>33</sup> Several days later, on September 24, the group claimed they carried out their threat in a 4-minute, 46-second video, titled "A Message of Blood for French Government", which they posted on Twitter. The production was made to resemble IS videos of beheadings and showed a similar title screen. Footage shows fighters standing behind Gourdel as one reads a speech, and then they hold him down while one takes a knife. The actual beheading was not shown, but a subsequent scene showed his severed head sitting on his lap, and then the fighters holding it up.<sup>34</sup> The Algerian military launched a manhunt for the attackers. On September 30, authorities said they knew the identities of the IS militants but did not make the details public.<sup>35</sup>

## Nigeria

On September 5, Boko Haram militants seized the northeast town of Bama after fierce fighting with government forces. Authorities said the military had initially repelled Boko Haram’s assault, but the group returned with reinforcements to seize the town. The militants, who travelled in armored trucks, took control of military barracks.<sup>36</sup>

On September 17, gunmen stormed a government run higher education college in Kano, killing 15 people and wounding 35 others. Witnesses also reported that one of the attackers was a suicide bomber who detonated his explosive belt within the college, causing a large explosion. A police spokesman said the militants ran into the college site after exchanging fire with police outside. Two of the attackers were killed.<sup>37</sup> No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Boko Haram.<sup>38</sup>

On September 24, the Nigerian military claimed it had killed Boko Haram leader, Abubakar Shekau, whose real name is Mohammed Bashir (he also used the alias, Abacha Abdullahi Geidam and Damasack) during a firefight in Kodunga, Borno State, between September 12 and 17, 2014. The Director of Defense Information, Maj.-Gen. Chris Olukolade, confirmed the death of Shekau at a news

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<sup>33</sup> BBC, “French hostage Herve Gourdel beheaded in Algeria”, September 24, 2014.

<sup>34</sup> Mailonline, “Beheaded French hostage will be avenged, country vows as tributes paid to married father of two”, September 25, 2014.

<sup>35</sup> IBT, “Hervé Gourdel Beheading Suspects Identified, Says Algerian Minister”, September 30, 2014.

<sup>36</sup> BBC, “Nigeria's Boko Haram 'seize' Bama town in Borno”, September 2, 2014.

<sup>37</sup> DW, “Gunmen attack college in Kano, Nigeria, with explosives”, September 17, 2014.

<sup>38</sup> Reuters, “Gunmen kill 15 at college in north Nigeria's Kano”, September 17, 2014.

conference in Abuja. However, it was reported in the Cameroon media that Shekau was killed by the Cameroon military. Olukolade denied these reports.<sup>39</sup> Boko Haram also posted a video with a man claiming to be Shekau. The new, 36-minute video showed Shekau in combat fatigues and black rubber boots standing on the back of a pick-up truck and firing an anti-aircraft gun into the air. Standing in front of three camouflaged vans and flanked by four heavily armed, masked fighters, he then speaks for 16 minutes in Arabic and the Hausa language widely spoken in northern Nigeria.<sup>40</sup> The Nigerian military issued a statement saying the dead man was a doppelganger and that there was no proof of when the video was shot.<sup>41</sup> Olukolade also said that on September 12-17, Boko Haram militants attempted to launch four attacks at Konduga but were repelled by air and land forces.<sup>42</sup> Authorities said that during the September encounters with the militants, 135 Boko Haram members surrendered with their weapons in Biu, Borno State, and that 133 others surrendered elsewhere in northeast Nigeria and were detained for interrogation.<sup>43</sup> On September 27, the Nigerian military said they killed 40 Boko Haram militants as part of the counter-terrorist campaign against Boko Haram. Authorities seized ammunition, including: a multi barrel T55 tank, nine rifles, two machine guns, two rocket-propelled grenade tubes, five boxes of ammunition and other weapons. Eleven soldiers were killed and 15 others were injured in the firefight.<sup>44</sup>

## **Mali**

On September 2, four United Nations peacekeepers from Chad were killed when their vehicle hit an IED in the northeast desert region of Kidal. The attack was condemned by UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon.<sup>45</sup> Following this incident, on September 18, five peacekeepers were killed and another three were wounded by an IED that exploded in the Kidal region. No group claimed responsibility for

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<sup>39</sup> Punch, "Military kills Abubakar Shekau 'again'", September 25, 2014.

<sup>40</sup> AFP, "Boko Haram leader dismisses claims of his death in new video", October 2, 2014.

<sup>41</sup> Independent, "'Boko Haram leader' appears in video just a week after he was reported dead", October 3, 2014.

<sup>42</sup> Vanguard, "Nigerian Army confirms death of fake Abubakar Shekau", September 24, 2014.

<sup>43</sup> BBC, "Boko Haram fighters 'surrender' as alleged chief killed", September 24, 2014.

<sup>44</sup> Premium Times, "Over 40 Boko Haram terrorists killed in counter attacks, Nigerian military says", September 27, 2014.

<sup>45</sup> AFP, "Mali bomb blast kills four UN peacekeepers", September 2, 2014.

either incident.<sup>46</sup>

## **Melilla**

On September 26, Spanish and Moroccan authorities arrested nine people who were suspected of being part of a terrorist cell linked to the IS in Melilla.<sup>47</sup> Authorities said the leader of the cell was responsible for recruiting militants and is the brother of Zakaria Said Mohamed, a former Spanish soldier who now fights with the IS and whose arrest was applauded by the Moroccan authorities. Authorities alleged that the cell leader traveled to Mali in western Africa, and other places where jihadists are fighting, in order to recruit members for the cell. It was reported that he stole and traded cars to raise funds for the IS. Authorities said all the suspects who belonged to the dismantled cell had been trained in the use of explosives and in handling arms.<sup>48</sup> The Moroccan government said the cell also had connections to AQIM in Mali. This counter-terrorist operation was linked to a joint Spanish-Moroccan operation that took place in August 2014,<sup>49</sup> when another cell was broken up in Ceuta, another Spanish enclave in northern Africa. Authorities claim that Melilla and Ceuta are hotbeds for terrorist recruiting.<sup>50</sup>

## **Somalia**

On September 1, Ahmed Abdi Godane, also known as Mukhtar Abu Zubayr, the leader of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen, was killed in a US airstrike that took place about 240km south of Mogadishu and struck an encampment and convoy of vehicles believed to have been made up of three lorries and a smaller vehicle.<sup>51</sup> Godane was one of the US state department's most wanted men. In 2012, the US placed a \$7m bounty on his head.<sup>52</sup> In 2008, Godane became the group's leader after his predecessor, Aden Hashi Ayro, was also killed in a previous US airstrike in a remote village in southern Somalia. Under Godane's leadership, Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen became a formal ally of Al-Qaeda and carried

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<sup>46</sup> BBC, "Mali UN peacekeepers killed by roadside bomb", September 18, 2014.

<sup>47</sup> AFP, "Morocco, Spain arrest nine ISIS-linked jihadists", September 26, 2014.

<sup>48</sup> New York Times, "Spain and Morocco Arrest 9 on Suspicion of Terrorism", September 26, 2014.

<sup>49</sup> For further details see August ICT database report.

<sup>50</sup> IBT, "ISIS Recruitment: Spain, Morocco Arrest Terror Cell With Links To Islamic State", September 26, 2014.

<sup>51</sup> AP, "Al Shabab Leader Ahmed Godane Killed In U.S. Strike: Pentagon", September 5, 2014.

<sup>52</sup> BBC, "Ahmed Abdi Godane: Somalia's killed al-Shabab leader", September 9, 2014.

out major terrorist attacks, including multiple suicide bombings in Mogadishu, as well as attacks outside of Somalia, including a series of attacks in Kampala, Uganda, in 2010 that killed more than 70 people. Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen was also responsible for the 2013 Westgate Mall attack in Kenya, the group's most high profile attack to date.<sup>53</sup> Under Godane's leadership, Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen became increasingly brutal, carrying out bombing attacks, suicide attacks and suicide car bombings, stoning attacks and amputations on anyone who defied Godane's proclamations banning music, dancing and football. Godane also utilized his background in finance to help recruit hundreds of foreign fighters into the group's ranks.<sup>54</sup> On September 5, Godane's death was officially confirmed by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen and the group announced that Abu Ubaidah (aka Ahmad Umar) was the new leader.<sup>55</sup>

On September 8, 12 people were killed in a twin suicide car bombing that targeted AMISOM personnel in Mogadishu.<sup>56</sup> A suicide bomber detonated his explosives-laden car next to a convoy of African Union forces moving near two minibuses. A second suicide car bomb then detonated into a convoy escorting Abdifatah Shaweye, the Mogadishu intelligence commander, who was in the area to inspect the scene of the first explosion. Shaweye suffered minor injuries in the attack. There were no fatalities from the second explosion. Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was in retaliation for the killing of Ahmed Godame.<sup>57</sup>

## Uganda

On September 14, authorities Kampala together with US authorities foiled a major Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen plot intended to target bars, hotels and Uganda's largest university. Authorities arrested 19 people,<sup>58</sup> and seized explosives and suicide vests.<sup>59</sup> Authorities said they arrested several foreign suspects but provided no further details about the militants. Authorities said they increased security at key sites in response, including Entebbe International Airport. Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen

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<sup>53</sup> For further details see September 2013 ICT database report.

<sup>54</sup> Telegraph, "Ahmed Abdi Godane: the al-Shabaab leader targeted by air strikes", September 2, 2014.

<sup>55</sup> Time, "Somalia Braces for Retaliation After Al-Shabab Leader's Death", September 6, 2014.

<sup>56</sup> LA Times, "Somali terror group kills at least a dozen in bombing", September 8, 2014.

<sup>57</sup> AP, "12 civilians killed in Somalia attack, say police", September 8, 2014.

<sup>58</sup> Reuters, "Uganda seizes explosives, suicide vests from suspected al Shabaab cell", September 14, 2014.

<sup>59</sup> AFP, "Uganda foils Somalia Shebab cell plotting 'imminent attack': US", September 13, 2014.

threatened to retaliate for the killing of Ahmed Godane,<sup>60</sup> prompting authorities, including the US Embassy in Uganda, to be placed on high alert.<sup>61</sup> The US embassy warned its citizens to stay indoors<sup>62</sup> following the discovery of the plot, as security forces searched for additional members of the cell who were reportedly at large.<sup>63</sup>

## Middle East

### Egypt

On September 3, a roadside bomb exploded near an armored police vehicle traveling in the Sinai Peninsula, killing 11 police officers, including a senior official. A medical official said the explosion also wounded two officers. Authorities said the bomb was detonated by remote control and it exploded as the police vehicle drove through the village of el-Wefaq near the Egyptian border with the Gaza Strip.<sup>64</sup>

On September 10, residents from a village south of the town of Sheikh Zuweid in northern Sinai claimed to have discovered a beheaded body that bore a note signed by Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, saying he was an agent for the Israeli spy agency, Mossad.<sup>65</sup> The group posted a video on Twitter showing the beheading, which resembled images posted on the Internet by the IS.<sup>66</sup> The beheading was the eighth claimed by Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis in under a month in a surge of attacks inspired by the IS.<sup>67</sup>

On September 16, a bomb exploded near an Egyptian security force convoy on the road between North Sinai provincial capital, El-Arish, and the town of Rafah on the Gaza border in the Sinai Peninsula, killing six policemen and wounding two others. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis.<sup>68</sup>

On September 21, a bomb exploded near Egypt's Foreign Ministry, killing two police officers and wounding several others. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack but

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<sup>60</sup> See Somalia section of this report.

<sup>61</sup> BBC, "Uganda on alert over 'foiled al-Shabab plot'", September 13, 2014.

<sup>62</sup> [http://kampala.usembassy.gov/em\\_091314a.html](http://kampala.usembassy.gov/em_091314a.html)

<sup>63</sup> AFP, "Uganda foils Somalia Shebab cell plotting 'imminent attack': US", September 13, 2014.

<sup>64</sup> AP, "Bomb attack kills 11 police officers in Egypt", September 3, 2014.

<sup>65</sup> Reuters, "Islamist militants leave signed note on beheaded corpse in Sinai: residents", September 10, 2014.

<sup>66</sup> Haaretz, "Mossad agent' found beheaded in Egypt's Sinai", September 10, 2014.

<sup>67</sup> Times of Israel, "Sinai man decapitated for being 'Mossad spy'", September 11, 2014.

<sup>68</sup> AFP, "Sinai bomb kills six Egypt policemen: ministry", September 16, 2014.

authorities blamed Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis.<sup>69</sup>

## **Iraq**

On September 5, a series of bombings killed 15 people and injured 52 others in several neighborhoods of Baghdad. A suicide car bomber targeted a police checkpoint in Kadhimiyah district in northern Baghdad, killing 11 people and injuring 35 others.<sup>70</sup> Several hours later, a car bomb exploded in a street in central Baghdad, killing six civilians and wounding 17 others.<sup>71</sup> A car bomb explosion hit Baghdad's district of Karrada, killing at least six people and injuring 17 others. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks.<sup>72</sup>

On September 8, a suicide bomber in a seized military Humvee struck a dirt berm that was built as part of the defenses around the southern part of Dhuluiya. The bombing cleared the way for a second suicide bomber in another Humvee to drive into the center of the town and strike the market area. At least nine people were killed and more than 70 others were wounded in the two bombings. Since June 2014, the southern part of Dhuluiya has been besieged and under constant attack by IS.<sup>73</sup>

On September 10, a series of attacks, mainly car bombings targeting security forces and markets, killed 30 people in Baghdad. The worst attack took place when twin car bombs hit a police checkpoint, killing at least 19 people. Seconds later, a car bomb exploded near the market killing 14 people and wounding 35 others. Several cars were damaged in the explosion. Several hours later, a suicide car bomb exploded at a police post in Ghadeer district in southeastern Baghdad, killing six police officers and two civilians. A sticky bomb attached to a mini-bus also exploded in southeastern Baghdad, killing three passengers.<sup>74</sup>

On September 18, a series of coordinated attacks that took place over two days in Baghdad killed at least 60 people and wounded over 100 others. The attacks began in the neighborhood of Kadhimiya, which is predominantly Shi'ite. This was significant as the IS had previously taken over mainly Sunni areas. A bombing and mortar attack killed 16 people. Following this, two car bombs detonated killing

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<sup>69</sup> Reuters, "Bomb kills two policemen near Egypt's foreign ministry", September 21, 2014.

<sup>70</sup> AFP, "Fresh bomb attacks leave 17 dead in Baghdad", September 5, 2014.

<sup>71</sup> IANS, "15 killed in Baghdad bomb attacks", September 5, 2014.

<sup>72</sup> BBC, "Iraq crisis: Two bombs kill at least 20 in Baghdad", September 4, 2014.

<sup>73</sup> CNN, "Double suicide bombing kills at least 9 in ISIS-besieged Iraq town", September 8, 2014.

<sup>74</sup> AP, "Attacks kill 30 people in Iraq's capital, Baghdad", September 10, 2014

24 other people. Mortar rounds were then fired in the same civilian area, killing five other people.<sup>75</sup> On September 19, a series of car bombs exploded, killing at least 22 people. One car bomb exploded near a Shi'ite mosque in Karradah. Two others exploded in outdoor markets in the Shi'ite suburb of Nahrawan and Bayya district. Another bomb exploded in the town of Mahmoudiya, south of Baghdad.<sup>76</sup> No group claimed responsibility for the attacks but authorities blamed the IS, raising fears that the group had surrounded Baghdad from three directions, demonstrating an unprecedented advance and the first of its kind since the group began its advance from Mosul in June.<sup>77</sup>

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

On September 4, Hassan Kawasme, the mastermind behind the killing of Eyal Yifrah, Gilad Sha'er and Naftali Frenkel on June 12, 2014,<sup>78</sup> was indicted in the Ofer Military Court.<sup>79</sup> The Shin Bet arrested him on July 11, on suspicion of assisting the killers and of hiding the victims' bodies in land he owned in Hebron. He is described in the indictment and by the Shin Bet as a command-level Hamas operative who obtained funding in the amount of NIS 150,000 for the kidnapping from his brother, Mahmoud Kawasme, a Hamas member who Israel expelled to the Gaza Strip as part of the Gilad Schalit deal.<sup>80</sup> The Shin Bet said that Mahmoud Kawasme transferred funds from Gaza to his brother, Hassan, in Hebron. Hasan allegedly then used the money to buy the vehicle used in the kidnapping as well as four firearms. During questioning, Hassan Kawasme confessed to being involved in the attack and named others who hid the two wanted men.<sup>81</sup>

On September 23, after a three-month manhunt, IDF soldiers, supported by the Border Police Counterterrorism Unit (Yamam) and the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency), surrounded a building in Hebron at 03:00 where Marwan Kawasme and Amer Abu Aysha, the suspected killers of the

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<sup>75</sup> IBT, "Baghdad Car Bombs, Motorcycle Bomb Near Green Zone Kill 22", September 19, 2014.

<sup>76</sup> AFP, "Series of attacks hit central, northern Baghdad", September 19, 2014.

<sup>77</sup> IBT, "ISIS: Baghdad Bombings Suggest Islamic State Militants Have Advanced", September 19, 2014. For further details of the Mosul advance by the IS see ICT database report June 2014 <http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1227/Summary-of-Terrorist-Incidents-and-CT-Operations-June-2014>

<sup>78</sup> See June Database report <http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1227/Summary-of-Terrorist-Incidents-and-CT-Operations-June-2014>

<sup>79</sup> Jpost, "Israel indicts Hamas mastermind in kidnap, murder of three Israeli teens", September 4, 2014.

<sup>80</sup> Times of Israel, "Palestinian sources: Teens' killing planned, funded by Hamas", September 2014.

<sup>81</sup> Jpost, "Israel indicts Hamas mastermind in kidnap, murder of three Israeli teens", September 2014.

teenagers, were hiding.<sup>82</sup> During the operation, the militants opened fire at the security forces. The forces returned fire and the suspects were killed in the exchange.<sup>83</sup> Abu Aysha, 32, a Hebron-based Hamas member and son of a family of Hamas members, had been in Israeli custody from 2005- 2006 on suspicion of being involved in terrorism. Marwan Kawasme, 29, had been arrested on a number of occasions for his involvement in Hamas activities, including in 2010 when he was identified as a member of a terrorist cell responsible for an attack that killed four civilians in Beit Hagai in August 2010. Security forces also arrested Basher Kawasme and Ta'ar Kawasme, the sons of Arafat Kawasme, who himself had been under arrest since July 14, 2014 on suspicion of helping to hide the murderers after they killed the three Israeli teens.<sup>84</sup>

## **Lebanon**

On September 26, two Lebanese nationals and a Syrian militant were arrested in Jbeil, suspected of being members of a terrorist organization. Authorities said the suspects were strolling in the local market in Jbeil when they were apprehended by security forces who photographed various weapons on their mobile phones. No further details were made public.<sup>85</sup>

## **Syria**

On September 2, a video was posted to the Internet by the IS, showed the beheading of American journalist, Steven Sotloff, 31. During his career, Sotloff had worked for Time magazine, the Foreign Policy and the Christian Science Monitor, and had reported extensively across the Middle East, including from Egypt, Libya, Yemen and Syria. His beheading was confirmed by the US government.<sup>86</sup> Sotloff disappeared in August 2013 near the city of Aleppo and authorities believe he was held in the IS stronghold of Raqqa. Initially, few people knew about his capture<sup>87</sup> until the release on August 19,

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<sup>82</sup> Jpost, "IDF kills two Palestinians wanted for kidnapping, murdering three Jewish teens", September 23, 2014.

<sup>83</sup> IDF, "Abductors of Three Israeli Teenagers Targeted in Hebron", September 23, 2014.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

<sup>85</sup> Naharnet, "Two Lebanese, Syrian Arrested in Jbeil on Suspicion of Terrorism", September 26, 2014.

<sup>86</sup> WSJ, "Islamic State Video Shows Beheading of U.S. Journalist Steven Sotloff: White House Says Intelligence Community Confirms That Video of Killing Is Authentic", September 3, 2014.

<sup>87</sup> It should be noted that Sotloff's family initially did not publicly confirm his abduction because of official advice that no publicity would improve his chances of release. They also kept his Jewish faith and that he also was an Israeli citizen away from public discourse.

2014 of another video showing the beheading of American journalist, James Foley,<sup>88</sup> in which Sotloff was named as the next prisoner to be executed.<sup>89</sup> A second video, titled "A Second Message to America", was released and showed Sotloff, wearing an orange jumpsuit similar to other IS hostage videos, being beheaded by a masked man with a British accent who authorities believe is the same IS militant, referred to as 'Jihadi John', who killed James Foley.<sup>90</sup> Sotloff is seen kneeling and handcuffed, and delivered a prepared statement. In the video, the executioner said, "I'm back, Obama, and I'm back because of your arrogant foreign policy towards the IS, so just as your missiles continue to strike our people, our knife will continue to strike the necks of your people." The next scene shows the same executioner holding the orange jumpsuit of another prisoner, British aid worker, David Cawthorne Haines, saying, "We take this opportunity to warn those governments that enter this evil alliance of America against the IS to back off and leave our people alone".<sup>91</sup> Following Sotloff's beheading, US President Barack Obama said that the US will take action against the IS. Consequently, on September 23, US airstrikes began bombing IS targets in Syria, focusing on the IS stronghold of Raqqa, though other locations were hit as well. At least 20 targets in an around Raqqa were hit. All foreign partners participating in the strikes with the United States are Arab countries, including Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Qatar.<sup>92</sup>

## North America

On September 16, a New York jury found Arab Bank liable for providing material support to Hamas. The civil suit marked the first time a bank had faced a trial under the Anti-Terrorism Act, which allows victims of US-designated foreign terrorist organizations to seek compensation.<sup>93</sup> The US State

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<sup>88</sup> For further details about this incident see August 2014 ICT database report.

<sup>89</sup> Times of Israel, "Obscuring heritage, Sotloff quietly observed Jewish customs", September 3, 2014.

<sup>90</sup> Authorities have suggested that the man had a British accent, hinting that he may in fact be Abdel-Majed Abdel Bary, Abu Abdullah al-Britani or Jalman Al-Britani. All are known militants and wanted by British authorities. Guardian, "UK launches manhunt for Foley's British killer", August 20, 2014. It should also be noted that it was reported that Jihadi John was injured in a US airstrike in November 2014 although there was no official confirmation. See Telegraph, "Jihadi John' reportedly wounded in airstrike", November 16, 2014. See also: CNN, "The British connection to ISIS beheadings", September 16, 2014.

<sup>91</sup> Guardian, "Steven Sotloff: Isis video claims to show beheading of US journalist", September 23, 2014.

<sup>92</sup> CNN, "U.S. airstrikes hit ISIS inside Syria for first time", September 23, 2014.

<sup>93</sup> BBC, "Arab Bank found liable by US court in Hamas attacks", September 16, 2014.

Department designated Hamas a terrorist group in 1997.<sup>94</sup> The US District Court decision says that the Jordan-based bank provided material support to Hamas that helped facilitate 24 terrorist attacks between 2001 and 2004.<sup>95</sup>

On September 23, Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, 48, the son-in-law of Osama bin Laden and former Al-Qaeda spokesman, was sentenced in Manhattan Federal Court, New York, to life in prison for conspiring to kill Americans.<sup>96</sup> In addition, Abu Ghaith was ordered to forfeit all foreign and domestic assets either derived from, involved in, used or intended to be used to commit terrorism against the United States, its citizens and residents, and their property. He was also ordered to pay a \$300 special assessment fee.<sup>97</sup> Abu Ghaith was captured in Jordan in March 2013 and brought to the US. In March 2014, a jury found him guilty of conspiring to kill Americans and aiding Al-Qaeda.<sup>98</sup> Abu Ghaith was the highest-ranking Al-Qaeda figure to face trial on US soil since the 9/11 attacks. During his trial, Abu Ghaith had argued that his role in Al-Qaeda was a purely religious one, aimed at encouraging all Muslims to rise up against their oppressors. He testified that former Al-Qaeda leader, Osama bin Laden, had asked him to be Al-Qaeda's spokesman on the night of the 9/11 attacks.<sup>99</sup> US District Judge Lewis Kaplan handed down the life sentence saying that Abu Ghaith was responsible for appearing on Al-Qaeda propaganda videos after the 9/11 terrorist attacks on America, in which he threatened further strikes. In particular, he appeared in a video from October 2001, in which he proclaimed that "the storm of airplanes will not stop". This video was played for the jury during his trial. Another film shown to the jurors featured Abu Ghaith sitting alongside Osama bin Laden and two other senior Al-Qaeda leaders as they tried to justify the attacks.<sup>100</sup>

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<sup>94</sup> Ynet, "US jury: Arab Bank liable for Hamas terror attacks", September 2014.

<sup>95</sup> Times of Israel, "Hamas ties puts Arab Bank in legal bind", September 25, 2014.

<sup>96</sup> New York Times, "Arab Bank Liable for Supporting Terrorist Efforts, Jury Finds", September 22, 2014.

<sup>97</sup> US Department of Justice, "Al Qaeda Spokesman Sulaiman Abu Ghayth Sentenced in Manhattan Federal Court to Life in Prison for Conspiring to Kill Americans, Providing Material Support to Terrorists", September 23, 2014.

<sup>98</sup> For further details see: ICT database report March 2013 <http://www.ict.org.il/Article/220/Summary%20of%20Terrorist%20Incidents%20and%20CT%20Operations%20March%202013> and <http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1153/Summary-of-Terrorist-Incidents-and-CT-Operations-March-2014>

<sup>99</sup> BBC, "Sulaiman Abu Ghaith sentenced to life in prison", September 23, 2014.

<sup>100</sup> DW, "Bin Laden's son-in-law Abu Ghaith sentenced to life", September 23, 2014.

## Yemen

On September 25, a rocket landed near the US Embassy in Sana. Two members of the Yemeni Special Police force who guard the site were injured. Police said the rocket was fired from a car using a M72 light antitank weapon. Ansar al-Sharia claimed responsibility for the attack and said it was an act of revenge for a drone strike that reportedly took place the previous day in the northern province of Al Jawf.<sup>101</sup>

On September 29, a suicide car bombing in Yemen's central province of Marib killed 15 people and wounded 20 others. The target of the attack were Houthi group members<sup>102</sup> who had launched a military offensive in Saana, after they signed a ceasefire deal with the government in early September.<sup>103</sup> The Houthi members were patrolling the area on the highway linking Marib to the capital Sanaa when the suicide attacker detonated the explosives. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>104</sup>

## Asia

### Afghanistan

On September 16, a Taliban suicide car bomber attacked a foreign motorcade close to the US Embassy in Kabul.<sup>105</sup> Three people were killed and 13 others were wounded. The explosion took place near the Supreme Court building and a military base on the road to the international airport.<sup>106</sup> The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>107</sup>

### China

On September 12, four people were convicted of murder, and of plotting and carrying out the March 1, 2014 knife attack at a train station in Kunming (see above for details). The attackers were identified

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<sup>101</sup> Reuters, "Yemeni Rebels Fire at U.S. Embassy", September 27, 2014.

<sup>102</sup> The Economist, "Houthis take over", September 27, 2014.

<sup>103</sup> Turkish Times, "15 Shiite rebels killed by al-Qaida suicide attack in Yemen", September 29, 2014.

<sup>104</sup> Al-Jazeera, "Attacks target Houthi fighters in Yemen", September 29, 2014.

<sup>105</sup> BBC, "Afghan conflict: Three Nato troops killed in Kabul bomb attack", September 16, 2014.

<sup>106</sup> IBT, "Taliban Suicide Bombing Near US Embassy In Kabul Kills At Least 3 NATO Personnel, Injures 13", September 16, 2014.

<sup>107</sup> Fox News, "Two American troops among dead in Afghanistan suicide bombing", September 16, 2014.

as Iskandar Ehet, Turgun Tohtunyaz and Hasayn Muhammad. The men were sentenced to death by a court in northwest Kunming. The fourth suspect on trial was identified as Patigul Tohti. She received a life sentence as she is pregnant.<sup>108</sup>

On September 21, it was reported that a series of bombings in Luntai County, southwest of the regional capital, Urumqi, killed 6 people and injured 46 others. Authorities said that explosive devices were detonated in several locations in Luntai, including at a farmers' market, in the doorway of a shop and outside two police stations. Authorities also said that 40 militants were killed in the attacks and ensuing clashes.<sup>109</sup> Four police officers were also killed. Authorities also said that two of the militants had been arrested.<sup>110</sup>

## India

On September 2, Indian forces killed three Jaish-e-Muhammad militants after engaging in a firefight in Kashmir.<sup>111</sup> Following this counter-terrorist operation, authorities carried out a raid the Kupwara district of Kashmir. During the operation, three other militants were killed and a large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from the militants.<sup>112</sup>

On September 4, Al-Qaeda leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, announced the formation of an Indian branch Al-Qaeda, to be known as Al-Qaeda in South Asia, which would focus on India, Myanmar and Bangladesh.<sup>113</sup> In a 55-minute video posted online, al-Zawahiri pledged renewed loyalty to Afghan Taliban leader, Mullah Omar, and designated Uman Asim, an activist tied to the Pakistani Taliban, as the leader of the Indian Al-Qaeda branch.<sup>114</sup> On September 16, militants attempted to hijack a Pakistani Navy frigate, the PNS Zulfiqar in the Arabian Sea. The militants briefly seized control of the frigate and tried to use it to fire rockets at US vessels. Authorities said that 10 militants, including four rogue Pakistani navy officers, were killed in the ensuing operation to recapture the ship. One rogue officer detonated a suicide bomb inside the ship after being surrounded. Four other officers

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<sup>108</sup> AP, "Four sentenced in terrorism trial in China", September 12, 2014.

<sup>109</sup> Irish Times, "Death toll from violence in China's Xinjiang revised to 50", September 26, 2014.

<sup>110</sup> New York Times, "At Least 50 Killed In Xinjiang Violence, Officials Say", September 25, 2014.

<sup>111</sup> New York Times, "India: Militants Are Killed in Shootout in Kashmir", September 2, 2014.

<sup>112</sup> DPA, "Three militants killed in encounter", September 10, 2014.

<sup>113</sup> BBC, "Al-Qaeda chief Zawahiri launches al-Qaeda in South Asia", September 4, 2014.

<sup>114</sup> The Washington Post, "Why Al-Qaeda is opening a new wing in South Asia", September 3, 2014.

who were involved but who did not participate in the attack were later arrested.<sup>115</sup> The naval yard on Pakistan's Arabian Sea coast is a strategically important facility at the center of US-Pakistani security, anti-terrorism and anti-trafficking cooperation. Al-Qaeda in South Asia claimed responsibility for the attack, in what was the first major assault by the newly formed group.<sup>116</sup>

## Indonesia

On September 15, police arrested seven suspected militants, including four Turkish nationals, in Sulawesi, suspected of having ties to the IS.<sup>117</sup> Police in Central Sulawesi made the arrests following a tip-off from Densus 88 (a Special Forces Indonesian counter-terrorism squad) in Palu to Parigi Moutong Police that suspected IS members were due to travel to Poso early in the morning, passing through Parigi. Parigi Moutong Police then set up a security checkpoint in front of its headquarters at about 01:00. Officers spotted a minibus making a U-turn before accelerating away. Policemen chased the minibus as far as Marantale village, Ampibabo district. Three people were arrested while four others fled into the surrounding forest. A manhunt was organized and the remaining four were arrested at 16:00. The police confiscated four Turkish passports but declined to reveal the identities of those arrested.<sup>118</sup>

## Pakistan

On September 12, 10 Taliban militants were arrested and charged with shooting Malala Yousafzai<sup>119</sup> on October 9, 2012.<sup>120</sup> Director General ISPR, Asim Bajwa, said in a statement to the media in

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<sup>115</sup> WSJ, "Al Qaeda Militants Tried to Seize Pakistan Navy Frigate", September 16, 2014.

<sup>116</sup> Reuters, "New al Qaeda wing in South Asia claims major attack", September 17, 2014.

<sup>117</sup> Jakarta Post, "4 Turks, 3 locals arrested in C. Sulawesi", September 15, 2014.

<sup>118</sup> AP, "Indonesia Police Arrested Suspected Terrorists in Sulawesi", September 15, 2014.

<sup>119</sup> Malala Yousafzai, now 17, survived the gunshot wound to the head after being airlifted to the UK for treatment. She has since written a book, 'I Am Malala', and become an emblem for defiance in the region and a leading advocate for girls' education. She won the European Union's human rights award, was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013. She now lives in the UK and cannot return to Pakistan because of threats against her life and the lives of her family members. See:

<http://time.com/3338883/malala-yousafzai/>

For further details of the 2012 incident see ICT database report October 2012. <http://www.ict.org.il/Article/232/Summary%20of%20Terrorist%20Incidents%20and%20CT%20Operations%20October%202012>

<sup>120</sup> Ibid.

Islamabad that the militants are part of a local cell called "Shura". Bajwa said that Israrur Rehman was the first militant group member to be identified and arrested. Acting upon the information received during his interrogation, all other members of the militant group were arrested. The arrests were made as a result of a joint operation conducted by the ISI, police and military.<sup>121</sup>

On September 26, nine suspected Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants were arrested during a raid in a mosque carried out by security forces in Islamabad. Authorities said the militants arrested were from Swat and Bajaur. Authorities claimed the militants were planning to target a senior military officer.<sup>122</sup>

## Oceania

### Australia

On September 18, police in Australia carried out the largest counter-terrorism operation in the nation's history, with over 800 heavily armed officers targeting households in the cities of Sydney and Brisbane. It came days after the Australian government raised the terror threat from medium to high due to concerns about Australian citizens returning to the country after fighting with the IS. Following the raids, two people were charged, one with terrorism offences and the other for possession of an unauthorized firearm.<sup>123</sup>

On September 24, police fatally shot an 18-year-old man after he stabbed two counter-terrorism officers in the southern state of Victoria.<sup>124</sup> It was reported that the suspect was associated with the al-Furqan group. Police said the militant was at the police station for a routine interview. As he greeted two members of the joint counter-terrorism team with a handshake, the suspect pulled out a knife and repeatedly stabbed both men. One officer fired a single shot that killed him. It was reported that the suspect had been seen waving an IS flag at a shopping center prior to the attack and was shouting insults about Prime Minister Tony Abbott and the Australian government.<sup>125</sup>

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<sup>121</sup> Pakistan Today, "Malala Yousafzai's attackers arrested: ISPR", September 12, 2014.

<sup>122</sup> IANS, "Nine Pakistan Taliban militants arrested", September 26, 2014.

<sup>123</sup> AP, "Australian police make several arrests in major counterterrorism operation", September 17, 2014.

<sup>124</sup> AFP, "Australian police shoot dead 'known terror suspect'", September 24, 2014.

<sup>125</sup> WSJ, "Australian Police Shoot Dead Terrorist Suspect After Stabbing Attack", September 25, 2014.

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