



**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 July 2014**

## Highlights

- On July 5, a video was disseminated on the internet showing Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State (IS), purportedly leading Friday prayers at the Great Mosque of al-Nuri in Mosul, one of the most important mosques in Iraq. In the 21 minute video, Al-Baghdadi addressed all Muslims preaching the importance of Ramadan and jihad. He urged people to follow his call to create a "caliphate," an Islamic state, in Iraq and Syria, and wage "jihad".
- On July 6, authorities arrested Hafsat Usman Bako, Zainab Idris and Aisha Abubakar, in Madagali, Nigeria. The military reported that Boko Haram had a 'female wing' and that the woman detained were charged with secretly recruiting members for this female wing. Following the arrests there was a surge of suicide attacks carried out by female bombers in late July.
- On July 8, following relentless rocket fire targeting Israeli civilians (According to the IDF since the beginning of 2014, 450 rockets were fired at Israel) and the discovery by Israel's security forces of Hamas' vast underground tunnel network in Gaza, the IDF initiated Operation Protective Edge. The military campaign, which lasted 50 days, had the dual aim to restore security to Israeli civilians and to dismantle the Hamas tunnel network used by Hamas militants to infiltrate Israel. On the 10th day of the operation, on July 18 after continued terrorist assaults on Israel from land, air and sea, the IDF commenced the ground phase of the operation with the aim to locate and destroy the underground tunnel network. The IDF forces neutralized 32 terror tunnels. According to the IDF, during the Operation, Hamas militants fired 3,360 rockets at Israel but 86% were intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome System. Israeli authorities said during Operation Protective Edge, 64 IDF soldiers were killed and 469 others injured. Five Israeli civilians, including a four year old child, were killed by rocket or mortar strikes, one Thai worker was killed and 36 others were wounded by shrapnel. Gaza health officials said more than 2,100 people were killed in Strip in the fighting and many thousands more were wounded. During the operation, Hamas violated 11 ceasefire agreements, firing at Israeli civilians and forces during ceasefires and UN-declared humanitarian windows. Operation Protective Edge ended in a cease-fire agreement

announced on August 26, brokered by the Egyptian government with the support of Qatar and the US, but without a fixed long term agreement.

- On July 9, French authorities announced they had arrested a man only identified as Ali M. and uncovered a plot linked to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) to target the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre and a nuclear plant in France. Details of the plot were released to the public as the French government set out the parameters of new surveillance legislation giving them powers to monitor jihadist websites.
- On July 11, Musa Cerantonio, an Australia cleric who supported and joined IS, was arrested on the island of Cebu, Philippines along with a woman claiming to be his wife, days after announcing on Twitter that he had arrived in Syria to support the “caliphate” established by IS fighters. On July 23, Cerantonio was deported from the Philippines to Australia, where he landed at Melbourne airport and was met by Australian federal police officers. Authorities said Cerantonio was under surveillance by Philippines police for five months.
- On July 17, a team of approximately 50 Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) militants, armed with rocket-propelled grenades and rifles, raided two military checkpoints near Mount Chaambi, Tunisia. Authorities said 14 soldiers were killed and 18 others were wounded. One soldier was also reported missing. Authorities said this was the worse attack by Jihadists targeting the Tunisian militants since Tunisia's independence in 1956.
- On July 28, masked militants attacked civilians, police and officials in Xinjiang, China. The Xinjiang government said 59 militants were shot by security forces while 37 civilians were killed in the attacks. Police confiscated long knives, axes as well as banners calling for jihad.

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## Europe

### Bulgaria

On July 18, Bulgarian authorities identified the suspected bomber of the July 18, 2012 Burgas Bombing attack<sup>1</sup> as Mohamad Hassan El-Husseini, a dual Lebanese-French citizen. He was killed carrying out the explosion.<sup>2</sup> Bulgarian State Agency for National Security made the announcement on the second anniversary of the attack, and published the information by the independent Bulgarian news service Focus.<sup>3</sup> El-Husseini who was identified after lengthy DNA analysis, was born in Lebanon in 1989. Authorities said that Mohamad Hassan El-Husseini had used a fake driving license under the name Jacques Felipe Martin. During the investigation into the attack, Bulgaria accused Hezbollah of mounting the attack and identified two Lebanese plotters, Meliad Farah, 32, who holds Australian citizenship, and Hassan El Hajj Hassan, 25, a Canadian citizen. However, to date neither have been arrested and they remain at large.<sup>4</sup> Burgas prosecutor Kalina Chapkanova said the investigation was ongoing.<sup>5</sup> This incident was significant as it led to the European Union placing Hezbollah's armed wing on its terrorism blacklist. Hezbollah denied any involvement.<sup>6</sup>

### France

On July 9, French authorities announced they had uncovered plot linked to AQIM to target the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre and a nuclear plant in France. Details of the plot were released to the public as the French government set out the parameters of new surveillance legislation giving them powers to monitor jihadist websites.<sup>7</sup> French security services said they foiled the plot in April 2013. Details of

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<sup>1</sup> For further details of this incident see ICT database report July 2012.

<http://www.ict.org.il/Article/251/Summary%20of%20Terrorist%20Incidents%20and%20CT%20Operations%20July%202012>

<sup>2</sup> Jerusalem Post, "Bulgaria identifies airport bus bomber as Lebanese-French national", July 18, 2014

<sup>3</sup> Haaretz, "Bulgarian authorities identify third suspect in 2012 Burgas bombing", July 18, 2014

<sup>4</sup> AP, "Bulgaria identifies bomber of Israeli tourist bus", July 18, 2014

<sup>5</sup> Haaretz, Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Jerusalem Post Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> BBC, "Eiffel Tower and Louvre terror plot foiled", July 10, 2014.

the plot were hidden in encrypted messages between Ali M, 29, who used the pseudonym Abu Jaji and his AQIM contact, whose web alias was Redouane18 and a high ranking AQIM lieutenant.<sup>8</sup> The messages were allegedly passed between the two men on the Shumukh al-Islam forum.<sup>9</sup> French security services said Ali. M was reportedly asked by Redouane18, to suggest suitable targets for the attack. In response, Ali M suggested targeting nuclear power plants, “planes at the moment of take-off” and several French landmark sites, including the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre museum in Paris. Ali M also suggested cultural events to target such as the Avignon theatre festival. The AQIM contact then instructed Ali M to travel to Algeria where he was promised he would receive military training and training in combat techniques.<sup>10</sup> The AQIM contact told Ali M to return to France, and await instructions to carry out the attack. Although the plans were still at the discussion stage, French police arrested Ali M in June 2013, a month before he was due to fly to Tunisia and then onto Algeria for training.<sup>11</sup>

On July 30, Mehdi Nemmouche, 29, was extradited from France to Belgium to be questioned over the May 24, 2014 attack at the Jewish museum in Brussels that killed four people.<sup>12</sup> The Frenchman of Algerian descent was questioned by Belgian officers over the deaths of a Jewish couple, a Frenchwoman and a Belgian man by a gunman who opened fire at the downtown museum in broad daylight. Belgian media said Nemmouche had remained largely silent during his interrogation.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> AFP, “France foils terrorist plot to target Eiffel Tower”, July 10, 2014

<sup>9</sup> Telegraph, “Islamist plot to blow up Eiffel Tower, Louvre and nuclear power plant foiled, say French police”, July 9,2014

<sup>10</sup> BBC, “Eiffel Tower and Louvre terror plot foiled”, July 10, 2014

<sup>11</sup> Telegraph, “Islamist plot to blow up Eiffel Tower, Louvre and nuclear power plant foiled, say French police”, July 9,2014

<sup>12</sup> For further details of the incident see May 2014 ICT database report: [http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1194/Summary\\_of\\_Terrorist\\_Incidents\\_and\\_CT\\_Operations-May\\_2014](http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1194/Summary_of_Terrorist_Incidents_and_CT_Operations-May_2014)

<sup>13</sup> Haaretz, “Belgium Jewish Museum shooting suspect charged with murder”, July 30, 2014

## United Kingdom

On July 4, Abdul Rahman Benhammedi, 20, a dual British and Libyan citizen, was arrested at Manchester Airport as he returned to the UK from Libya.<sup>14</sup> On July 11, he appeared Westminster Magistrates' Court where he was accused of possession of an article for a purpose connected with terrorism. Authorities said at the time of arrest he was found in possession of electronic copies of The Sniper Training Field Manual, The Counter Sniper Guide and the US Marine Corps Sniper Manual found on a USB memory stick.<sup>15</sup> Benhammedi, appeared via videolink from Belmarsh prison and spoke only to confirm his identity during the brief hearing at the Old Bailey. Authorities said he will enter his plea on November 7, 2014 and was likely to face trial by jury on December 1.<sup>16</sup>

On July 8, Nahin Ahmed and Yusuf Sarwar, pleaded guilty in Woolwich crown court to terrorism charges relating to preparing acts of terrorism. Authorities said the men, who were childhood friends, spent eight months in Syria and had ties to the Al-Nusra Front. The pair were arrested by West Midlands Police's counter-terrorism unit at Heathrow Airport on their return in January 2014.<sup>17</sup> West Midlands Police said they were alerted to the case after Sarwar's parents contacted them in May 2013. His parents discovered a six-page letter in which their son, who was a computer science undergraduate at Birmingham City University, admitted he had gone "to do jihad" in Syria. He also left instructions to cancel his mobile phone contract and money to settle outstanding debts.<sup>18</sup>

On July 11, a man, whose identity was not released to the public, was arrested on suspicion of terrorism at Luton airport while trying to travel to Turkey.<sup>19</sup> Scotland Yard said the suspect, who is 22 years old, was detained by officers from Bedfordshire police before he got on a flight to Istanbul. He was arrested on suspicion of being involved in the preparation of acts to commit terrorism and taken to a police station in South London, where he is still being questioned. He was subsequently arrested

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<sup>14</sup> Telegraph, "Man found with sniper manual charged with terror offence", July 11, 2014

<sup>15</sup> BBC, "Manchester man, 20, charged with terrorism offence", July 11, 2014

<sup>16</sup> [www.courtnewsuk.co.uk/newsgallery/?page=88](http://www.courtnewsuk.co.uk/newsgallery/?page=88)

<sup>17</sup> Guardian, "Two British men admit in court to planning terrorist acts", July 8, 2014

<sup>18</sup> BBC, "British pair who travelled to Syria admit terror charges", July 8, 2014

<sup>19</sup> Crime and Justice, "Man arrested under Terrorism Act", July 11, 2014

by the officers on suspicion of being involved in the preparation of acts to commit terrorism, contrary to Section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2006. He was taken to a south London police station where he remains in custody.<sup>20</sup>

## Africa

### Cameroon

On July 27, a group of suspected Boko Haram gunmen kidnapped Bieshair Hashimir and Bieshair Cavaye Yegue, two teenage sons of Bieshair Mohaman, one of Cameroon's most influential Muslim clerics, in Limani. He was not home at the time of the attack. Authorities said the militants accused Mohaman of providing information concerning Boko Haram activities to Cameroon's military. This is the first reported kidnapping of Cameroonians by Boko Haram.<sup>21</sup> Following this incident, on July 27, the Cameroonian military said suspected Boko Haram militants also abducted the wife of the country's deputy prime minister in Kolofata. Authorities said at least three other people were killed in the incident. Authorities also said in a separate attack but possibly related incident a local religious leader and mayor, Seini Boukar Lamine, was also kidnapped in an attack on his home.<sup>22</sup> It was unclear whether the incidents were related and no group claimed responsibility for the attacks, however the attacks bore the hallmarks of Boko Haram.<sup>23</sup>

### Libya

On July 22, a double suicide bombing on a military base in Benghazi, killed four Libyan soldiers.<sup>24</sup> Authorities said the two attackers targeted the soldiers as they were breaking the fast for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Authorities said a first suicide truck bomber detonated at the entrance to Benghazi's Special Forces headquarters, allowing a second suicide car bomber to detonate his

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<sup>20</sup> Guardian, "Man held at Luton airport on suspicion of terrorism", July 11, 2014

<sup>21</sup> VOA, "Suspected Boko Haram Militants Kidnap Cleric's Children", July 15, 2014

<sup>22</sup> Al-Jazeera, "Boko Haram kidnaps wife of Cameroon vice PM", July 27, 2014

<sup>23</sup> BBC, "'Boko Haram' abducts Cameroon politician's wife", July 27, 2014

<sup>24</sup> Reuters, "Suicide attack escalates Libya violence, oil output slips", July 22, 2014

explosives at the base. No group claimed responsibility for the incident.<sup>25</sup>

## Nigeria

On July 6, authorities arrested three women identified as Hafsat Usman Bako, Zainab Idris and Aisha Abubakar, in Madagali.<sup>26</sup> Bako was allegedly the leader of the group. Authorities said she is the widow of a Boko Haram insurgent who was recently killed by security agents. The military reported that Boko Haram movement had a 'female wing' and that the woman detained were specifically targeting widows and young girls to join this female wing. They recruited other woman by allegedly enticing them with male suitors who are mainly members of Boko Haram, for marriage.<sup>27</sup> Following the arrests there was a surge of female militant activity in July linked to Boko Haram.<sup>28</sup>

On July 27, a teenager with an explosive device concealed under her veil detonated her explosives at a university campus in Kano, injuring five police officers.<sup>29</sup> Witnesses said the female suicide bomber was dressed in a long black hijab, where she managed to conceal the explosives. Authorities said

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<sup>25</sup> AFP, "Twin suicide attack in Libya's Benghazi kills 4 soldiers", July 23, 2014

<sup>26</sup> Daily Independent, "Nigerian military arrests three female recruiters of Boko Haram", July 4, 2014.

<sup>27</sup> CNN, "Nigeria: Arrested women recruited for Boko Haram", July 5, 2014

It should be noted that there has been an increase of suicide attacks perpetrated by woman in recent weeks in Nigeria, possibly indicating a new tactic by Boko Haram. The first female suicide attack by Boko Haram within Nigeria took place in Gombe on June 8, 2014. Authorities claimed a middle-aged woman carried out a suicide attack on the North-Eastern Nigerian Gombe barracks. She rode toward the barracks on a motorbike before detonating explosives hidden in her veil, killing one. Following this incident on June 25, a female suicide bomber attacked in Lagos. These bombings are significant as they all took place outside the three key states Boko Haram targets: Borno, Adamawa and Yobe. The attacks were followed by incidents in late July 2014 - see above. Each of the four attackers was a woman under the age of eighteen and all focused on soft targets.

<sup>28</sup> IBT, "Nigeria's Female Suicide Bombers: Why Boko Haram are Turning Women into Weapons", October 11, 2014.

<sup>29</sup> BBC, "Boko Haram crisis: Nigeria's female bombers strike", August 6, 2014

police on duty noticed the woman was behaving strangely, so they isolated her and as they were about to ask a female colleague to search the woman, the girl detonated her explosives.

On July 27, five people were killed and eight others were injured in a bomb attack on a Catholic church in a mainly Christian area of Kano. Authorities said the attacker threw the bomb at worshippers on their way out of the church. No groups claimed responsibility for the attacks but authorities blamed Boko Haram.<sup>30</sup>

On July 28, a teenage female suicide bomber killed three people and wounded 16 others when she detonated her explosives amongst a group of woman standing in line to buy kerosene for cooking.<sup>31</sup> Also on July 28, a teenager injured six people after exploding her device at a shopping centre in Kano. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Boko Haram.<sup>32</sup>

On July 30, a teenager, 14, set off her explosives belt within a crowd of students at a college campus in Kano, killing six people<sup>33</sup> and wounding six others.<sup>34</sup> Also on 30 July, explosives were found strapped to a girl aged 10. Police found the girl with her 18-year-old sister and an older man in a car that was stopped at a roadblock in Funtua, Katsina state, west of Kano. The two adults were also arrested. No groups claimed responsibility for the attacks but authorities blamed Boko Haram.<sup>35</sup>

## Kenya

On July 5, a group of approximately 15 gunmen raided the Malamandi village of Hindi in Lamu County and shot indiscriminately at residents. Authorities said the majority of those killed were men and the victims had their hands tied behind their back. Witnesses said they called the local police station in

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<sup>30</sup> AFP, "Five dead in bombing of church in north Nigeria's Kano", July 27, 2014

<sup>31</sup> AP, "3 female suicide bomber kill several in Nigeria", July 28, 2014

<sup>32</sup> AFP, "Female Suicide Bomber Kills Three In Kano", July 28, 2014

<sup>33</sup> Independent, "Nigerian forces find girl wearing bomb after stopping two suspected Boko Haram members", July 21, 2014

<sup>34</sup> Bloomberg, "Bombing Kills Six Students in Northern Nigerian City of Kano", July 30, 2014

<sup>35</sup> LA Times, "Young women used in Nigerian suicide bombings", July 30, 2014

Gamba in nearby Tana River, after hearing gunfire. However, police officers were unable to assist, as the gunmen attacked the police station and engaged in a firefight.<sup>36</sup> The Kenya Red Cross said nine people were killed in Hindi, while in Gamba nine others were killed and one person was missing. In Gamba, amongst those killed were five inmates who were killed when the gunmen attacked the police station. Three other inmates escaped with the gunmen. Authorities said the gunmen approached the police station by car-jacking a truck and killing its three occupants. Five police officers were wounded in the attack and one officer was killed.<sup>37</sup> Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attacks.<sup>38</sup>

On July 18, Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militants killed seven people, including two soldiers when they ambushed a civilian bus and shot the passengers. The incident occurred near Witu in Lamu County.<sup>39</sup> It is believed that many of the survivors had found safety in the surrounding forests when the gunmen opened fire on the bus. Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the incident. In a statement Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen said: "The attack was carried out in response to the Kenyan government's claim that all the areas that have recently been subject for attacks were secured after having deployed troops." They also warned the Kenyan government that the attackers were sending a message to Kenya that they cannot stop the group's operations in coastal areas.<sup>40</sup>

## **Somalia**

On July 3, a group of gunmen in a car opened fire on Somali politicians as they left a hotel in Mogadishu.<sup>41</sup> The politicians were on their way to attend a parliamentary session. Somali lawmaker Ahmed Mohamud Hayd and his bodyguard were killed and another politician and a parliamentary

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<sup>36</sup> AP, "Red Cross: 18 dead in attacks in Kenyan coast", July 6, 2014

<sup>37</sup> Haaretz, "Al-Shabab terror attack leaves 22 dead in Kenya", July 6, 2014

<sup>38</sup> France24, "Al Shabaab claims new deadly attacks on Kenya's coast July 6, 2014

<sup>39</sup> AFP, "Kenya Al-Shebaab gun attack on bus kills seven people", July 19, 2014

<sup>40</sup> The Independent, "Al-Shabaab claims responsibility for Kenyan bus attack that leaves seven dead", July 19, 2014

<sup>41</sup> VOA, "Al-Shabab Militants Kill Somali Lawmaker in Mogadishu", July 3, 2014

secretary were wounded in the attack.<sup>42</sup> Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the incident.<sup>43</sup>

On July 5, a suicide car bomber killed at least five people and injured 19 others, outside the parliament building in Mogadishu.<sup>44</sup> Authorities said the attacker detonated the explosives at a checkpoint after the car had been stopped by Somali security guards. Police said the target of the attack was the Parliament building, however no politicians were hurt in the attack. Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack. Spokesman Adulaziz Abu Musab said "we killed more than a dozen so-called police members after the sacrificial attack at the main entrance of parliament buildings."<sup>45</sup>

On July 8, armed militants launched an attack on the Presidential palace. Authorities said a team of heavily armed militants were responsible for a major bomb attack and armed assault against Somalia's heavily fortified presidential palace. Witnesses reported gunfire and a major fire. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was not at the palace at the time.<sup>46</sup> Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the incident.<sup>47</sup>

## **Tunisia**

On July 17, a team of approximately 50 AQIM militants, armed with rocket-propelled grenades and rifles, raided two military checkpoints near Mount Chaambi, near the Algerian border. Authorities said 14 Tunisian soldiers were killed and 18 others were wounded. One soldier was also reported missing. According to the Chief of Staff, Mohamed Salah Hamdi, it was unclear if the missing soldier

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<sup>42</sup> BBC, "Al-Shabab kills Somali MP in Mogadishu", July 3, 2014

<sup>43</sup> DW, "Somali lawmaker killed in Mogadishu gun attack", July 3, 2014

<sup>44</sup> Reuters, "At least five killed in attacks in Somali capital", July 5, 2014

<sup>45</sup> DW, "Al Shabab again targets Mogadishu's Villa Somalia", July 8, 2014

<sup>46</sup> BBC, "Somali president's palace under attack from al-Shabab", July 8, 2014

<sup>47</sup> DW, "Somalia group Al Shabab claims assault on presidential palace in Mogadishu", July 8, 2014

had been killed, wounded or taken hostage.<sup>48</sup> The military said one militant was killed during the attack. The militants targeted the soldiers as they were breaking their day-long Ramadan fast. The majority of the militants infiltrated from outside the Chaambi region. Authorities said this was the worse attack by Jihadists targeting the Tunisian militants since Tunisia's independence in 1956.<sup>49</sup>

## Middle East

### Egypt

On July 10, 20 Grad rockets were seized by Egyptian authorities who claimed the rockets were smuggled from the Gaza Strip through a tunnel by militants in northern Sinai. Egypt's army spokesman Brigadier General Mohamed Samir confirmed that the rockets and launch pads, were seized after a firefight between security forces and militants in the town of Rafah.<sup>50</sup> The Egyptian military said they stopped a vehicle loaded with the weapons in Sinai that were intended to be fired at Israel and at Egyptian military bases.<sup>51</sup>

On July 19, militants firing machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades attacked the El-Farafrah border checkpoint near Egypt's borders with Libya,<sup>52</sup> killing 21 soldiers and wounding four others. After a 30-minute exchange of fire, the checkpoint was destroyed.<sup>53</sup> Authorities said one grenade targeted a nearby ammunition warehouse, causing the majority of the damage. The military also managed to defuse two car bombs at the scene. No group claimed responsibility for the incident although authorities blamed Beit al-Maqqdis.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> AFP, "Fourteen Tunisian troops killed in deadliest attack on army", July 17, 2014

<sup>49</sup> BBC, "Tunisian soldiers killed in attack near Algerian border", July 17, 2014

<sup>50</sup> AFP, "Egypt says 20 Grad rockets smuggled from Gaza seized", July 10, 2014

<sup>51</sup> YNET, "Report, Egyptian troops shoot, kill terrorist heading to Kerem Shalom", July 24, 2014

<sup>52</sup> BBC, "Egyptian troops killed at checkpoint", July 19, 2014

<sup>53</sup> AFP, "Gunmen kill 21 Egyptian soldiers in checkpoint attack", July 19, 2014

<sup>54</sup> LA times, "At least 21 Egypt soldiers slain in attack at checkpoint near Libya", July 19, 2014

On July 30, three militants were killed when the bombs they were transporting detonated prematurely in the village of Shurafa.<sup>55</sup> No group claimed responsibility for the incident.<sup>56</sup>

## Iraq

On July 4, a suicide car bomber detonated explosives at a checkpoint killing 15 people and wounding 25 others. Authorities said the explosion occurred 15 km south of Samarra in Salaheddin province, the city is where the revered Shiite Al-Askari shrine is located. No group claimed responsibility for the incident.<sup>57</sup>

On July 5, a video was disseminated on the internet showing the leader of the Islamic State (IS)<sup>58</sup>, Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, purportedly leading Friday prayers at the Great Mosque of al-Nuri in Mosul, one of the most important mosques in Iraq. ISIS seized control of Mosul in June 2014. In the 21 minute video, Al-Baghdadi address all Muslims preaching the importance of Ramadan and jihad. He urged people to follow his call to create a "caliphate," an Islamic state, in Iraq and Syria, and wage "jihad" during Ramadan. IS declared Al-Baghdadi the leader of its new "caliphate," on June 29.<sup>59</sup> Al-Baghdadi spoke in classical Arabic and was dressed in traditional black robes and a black turban. At the beginning of the video, as the call to prayer is made Al-Baghdadi is seen cleaning his teeth with a *miswak*, a twig used as a traditional toothbrush similar to one supposedly used by Prophet Mohammed before prayer. This was significant as it indicated Al-Baghdadi's shifting role in IS from the battlefield the

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<sup>55</sup> AFP, "Three dead in Egypt as planned bomb attack fails", July 30, 2014

<sup>56</sup> AP, "3 militants reported killed in Egypt car explosion", July 30, 2014

<sup>57</sup> AFP, "Suicide bomber kills 15 in attack on Iraq forces", July 5, 2014

<sup>58</sup> On June 30, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Al-Sham (ISIS) changed its name to the Islamic State therefore, the ICT database reports will now refer to the organization as the Islamic State (IS). The group claimed that they are now a caliphate stretching from Aleppo, Syria through to Iraq. For further details see: Foreign Policy, "ISIS Is Dead, Long Live the Islamic State - Foreign Policy", June 30, 2014 and <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/06/29/world/meast/iraq-developments-roundup/>

<sup>59</sup> CNN, "Video emerges of purported militant leader in Mosul preaching holy war", July 5, 2014

spiritual role for the self-proclaimed "caliph". Al-Baghdadi has a \$10 million U.S. bounty on his head.

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On July 11, 28 people were killed in a suicide bombing in Kirkuk and wounded 27 others.<sup>61</sup> Authorities said the majority of the casualties, who included women and children, were refugees seeking to travel to safer areas in the south of Iraq. The attack ignited a nearby fuel tanker, causing severe burns to many of the victims. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed IS.<sup>62</sup>

On July 17, a teenage Australian suicide bomber killed five people and wounded 37 others outside a Shi'a mosque in Baghdad near the Shiite mosque of Abdullah bin Rawah in the main wholesale market of Shorja.<sup>63</sup> IS claimed responsibility for the attack and named the militant as Abu Bakr al-Australi on an affiliated Twitter feed. The Australian government confirmed that the bomber was from Melbourne.<sup>64</sup> Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said Abu Bakr al-Australi was the second Australian to have carried out a suicide attack on behalf of IS.<sup>65</sup>

On July 19, four car bombs exploded within a two-hour period in Baghdad's Abu Dsheer, al-Baya, al-Jihad and Hurriya neighborhoods, killing 16 people and wounding dozens more. Authorities said one bomb exploded near a mosque and two were placed near commercial markets. In Abu Dsheer, a suicide car bomb exploded near a security checkpoint, killing 11 people and wounding 24 others. Two people were killed in a bombing in al Bayaa, a southeastern district, when a suicide car bomb detonated near the Musa al Kadhim mosque. In the al Jihad and al Kadhimya neighborhoods car bombs exploded near commercial markets.<sup>66</sup> IS claimed responsibility for the incident.<sup>67</sup>

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<sup>60</sup> AP, "Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the jihadist 'caliph'", July 5, 2014

<sup>61</sup> AFP, "Iraq Kurds claim oilfields as bombings kill 28", July 11, 2014

<sup>62</sup> Daily Star, "Kirkuk bombings kill 28 as Kurds seize oil fields", July 12, 2014

<sup>63</sup> ABC News, "Australian suicide bomber in Iraq was an 18-year-old man from Melbourne", July 21, 2014

<sup>64</sup> Long War Journal, "Australian Islamic State suicide bomber attacks Shia shrine in Baghdad", July 18, 2014

<sup>65</sup> The Australian, "Second Aussie suicide bomber kills five near Baghdad", July 11, 2014

<sup>66</sup> AFP, "Death toll rises to 19 after car bombs hit Iraqi capital", July 19, 2014

<sup>67</sup> New York Times, "5 Bombs Explode in Baghdad as Dispute Continues With Jordan". July 19, 2014

On July 22, a suicide car bomber killed 21 people, including five policemen and injured 35 others at a police checkpoint at the entrance to the Kadhimiya district in Baghdad.<sup>68</sup> Many of those killed were reportedly on their way to a Shia shrine in the area.<sup>69</sup> On the following day, a suicide bombing killed 33 people in Baghdad, on July 23. IS militants claimed responsibility for the incident and named the suicide bomber Abu Abdul-Rahman al-Tunisi (the Tunisian).<sup>70</sup>

On July 24, a double car bombing in central Baghdad has killed 21 people and wounded 33, hours after lawmakers elected the country's new president. Authorities said the bombs detonated minutes apart near a restaurant in central Baghdad's busy commercial Karradah neighborhood as people were gathering to break their daily fast for the holy month of Ramadan.<sup>71</sup> Also on July 24, suicide attackers launched a bomb and gun attack on a prison convoy in Taji, killing 51 prisoners and nine police officers.<sup>72</sup> No group claimed responsibility for either of the incidents but authorities blamed IS.<sup>73</sup>

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

On July 2, Muhammed Abu Khdeir, 16, a Palestinian resident of Shuafat, Jerusalem was murdered in a suspected nationally motivated incident. His body was discovered, burnt after being set alight with fuel, in the Jerusalem Forest.<sup>74</sup> Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu strongly condemned the attack and promised to punish those responsible. On July 6, six Israeli Jewish suspects were arrested in connection with the incident.<sup>75</sup> Police interrogated the suspects and three later confessed and reenacted the murder at the scene of the crime. Three other suspects were released as unconnected

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<sup>68</sup> AFP, "Baghdad suicide car bomb kills 23: police", July 22, 2014

<sup>69</sup> BBC, "Iraq violence: Suicide car bombs kills 21 in Baghdad", July 22, 2014

<sup>70</sup> Reuters, Islamic State says carried out Baghdad suicide bombing", July 23, 2014

<sup>71</sup> CNN, "As Iraq gets new president, car bomb kills 21", July 24, 2014

<sup>72</sup> BBC, "Militants 'kill 60' in ambush on Iraq prison convoy", July 24, 2014

<sup>73</sup> AFP, "Attack on Iraq prisoner convoy kills 60", July 24, 2014

<sup>74</sup> It should be noted that the incident occurred the day after the funeral for the three Israeli teenagers who were kidnapped and killed in the West Bank in June 2014. Both incidents were condemned by senior Israeli leaders. The incidents were linked as this as reported as a revenge killing. For more details on the Israeli teenager kidnapping incident see June ICT database Report. <http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1227/Summary-of-Terrorist-Incidents-and-CT-Operations-June-2014>

<sup>75</sup> Times of Israel, "3 suspects indicted in killing of Muhammad Abu Khdeir", July 2, 2014

with the crime, though they heard about it from the alleged murderers. On July 17, two of the suspects were indicted in court. The primary suspect was identified as Yosef Chaim Ben David, a resident of Adam settlement. He plead temporary insanity, however, this was contested by the prosecution, due to the intricate planning of the murder. According to an indictment issued against Yosef Chaim Ben David, he picked up the other two suspects in his vehicle. The other suspects' names remained under gag order because they are minors. According to the indictment, Ben David drove his vehicle to the scene of the kidnapping in Shuafat, and then to a forest outside of Jerusalem, where he proceeded to hit Abu Khdeir on the head with a wrench, while his accomplices kicked him before dousing him in gasoline and setting him alight.<sup>76</sup> This incident was the catalyst to riots throughout the Palestinian population in which light rail stations near Shuafat were targeted.<sup>77</sup>

On July 8, following this relentless rocket fire targeting Israeli civilians (According to the IDF since the beginning of 2014, 450 rockets were fired at Israel) and the discovery by Israel's security forces of Hamas' vast underground tunnel network in Gaza, the IDF initiated Operation Protective Edge. The military campaign, which lasted 50 days, had the dual aim to restore security to Israeli civilians and to dismantle the Hamas tunnel network used by Hamas militants to infiltrate Israel.<sup>78</sup> On the tenth day of the operation, July 18, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that the ground invasion had begun during the previous night, with the purpose to destroy the underground Hamas tunnel network. In the first 48 hours of the ground operation, IDF revealed they had uncovered a tunnel network dug 20 meters deep and running 2kms towards Israeli territory with multiple exits. IDF Corps of Engineers detonated and demolished the discovered tunnels.<sup>79</sup> The IDF excavation of the tunnels resulted in the seizure of tons of Hamas supplies as well as the discovery of plans for future attacks including a massive plot to attack southern Israel on the Jewish New Year in September 2014.<sup>80</sup> During the operation, IDF aerial, naval and ground forces struck 4,762 terror sites across the

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<sup>76</sup> Haaretz, "Chief suspect named in Abu Khdeir murder", July 20, 2014

<sup>77</sup> MFA, "Ministry of Defense recognizes Muhammed Abu Khdeir as victim of terror", June 17, 2014

<sup>78</sup> IDF blog: 'Everything-need-know-hamas-underground-city-terror', July 2014

<sup>79</sup> <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/PressRoom/2014/Pages/Statement-by-PM-Netanyahu-20-Jul-2014.aspx>

<sup>80</sup> Jpost, "Bennett: Ground invasion stopped mega-attack", July 20, 2014 For a full detailed report about Operation Protective Edge, please see ICT DATABASE Insight 'Operation Protective Edge Report'.

Gaza Strip, including according to IDF sources: 1,678 rocket launching facilities; 977 command and control centers; 237 military administration facilities; 191 weapons storage and manufacturing facilities; 144 training and military compounds; and 1,535 additional terror sites. According to the IDF, 3,659 rocket and mortar impact sites were discovered, including those fired on IDF soldiers in Gaza. Of those that struck in Israel, 224 hit built-up areas. The IDF said Israel's Iron Dome system successfully intercepted 86% of the Palestinian rockets that it has engaged during Operation 'Protective Edge'. The IDF also claimed that there were 197 "failed launchings", projectiles that never left the Gaza Strip or that did not launch at all.<sup>81</sup> Overnight on July 17/18, IDF ground troops entered Gaza with the aim to locate and destroy the underground tunnel network. The IDF forces neutralized 32 terror tunnels. According to Israeli authorities, during Operation Protective Edge 64 IDF soldiers were killed and 469 others injured. A total of 82,201 IDF reservists were called up throughout the campaign. Five Israeli civilians, including a four year old child, were killed by rocket or mortar strikes, one Thai worker was killed and 36 other Israeli civilians were wounded by shrapnel.<sup>82</sup> Gaza health officials said more than 2,100 people were killed in Strip in the fighting and many thousands more were wounded. The IDF said many of these were Hamas militants, who hid behind civilians as human shields. During the operation, Hamas violated 11 ceasefire agreements, firing at Israeli civilians and forces during ceasefires and UN-declared humanitarian windows. Operation Protective Edge lasted 50 days and ended in a cease-fire agreement announced on August 26, brokered by the Egyptian government with the support of Qatar and the US<sup>83</sup>, but without a fixed long term agreement.<sup>84</sup>

## Lebanon

On July 11, authorities arrested a militant in connection to a rocket that was fired from Lebanon overnight and hit a village in the Upper Galilee, Israel. It was reported that the suspect's car had blood

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<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

<sup>82</sup> Jerusalem Post, "50 days of Israel's Gaza operation, Protective Edge – by the numbers", August 28, 2014.

<sup>83</sup> Guardian, "Gaza ceasefire: Israel and Palestinians agree to halt weeks of fighting", August 27, 2014

<sup>84</sup> [http://www.shabak.gov.il/English/EnTerrorData/Reports/Pages/Monthlysummary%E2%80%93July2014.as](http://www.shabak.gov.il/English/EnTerrorData/Reports/Pages/Monthlysummary%E2%80%93July2014.aspx)

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stains that matched blood traces found at the scene where the rocket was launched. The man was reportedly injured during the attack. The Lebanese military discovered additional rockets intended to be used against Israel at the suspected launching pad, as they continued to search for the militants behind the incident. Two Grad rockets were defused during the operation. The Lebanese Army also said that some 25 artillery shells were fired from Israel at the outskirts of Kfar Shuba but no casualties were reported.<sup>85</sup>

On July 19, Monzer al-Hassan, was killed by security forces in an overnight raid in Tripoli. Security forces raided Hassan's apartment after receiving intelligence that he had provided explosive belts and material to a terrorist cell that was planning to carry out major attacks in Lebanon. The military attempted to negotiate with Hassan, who was armed with an explosive belt, in a bid to convince him to surrender. However, Hassan was killed after throwing a grenade at the security forces. In a separate raid, wanted militant Hussam al-Sabbagh, was arrested during overnight during raids carried out by Lebanese security forces. Sabbagh is considered as the military commander of Salafists in Tripoli. Sabbagh was immediately transferred to the military prison at the Defense Ministry in Beirut.<sup>86</sup>

## **Syria**

On July 3, IS seized control of al-Omar oil field, Syria's largest oil field, strengthening its advance across the eastern Deir al-Zor province.<sup>87</sup> The capture of the oil field gave IS control of crude reserves which authorities claim will be useful for its advancing fighters. A video posted on the Internet showed a group of armed men dressed in black outside what they said was the entrance to al-Omar oil field.<sup>88</sup>

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<sup>85</sup> Jpost, "Report: Lebanon arrests man in connection to rocket fired at Israel", July 11, 2014

<sup>86</sup> Daily Star, "Terrorist killed, militiaman arrested overnight in Tripoli", July 20, 2014

<sup>87</sup> Al-arabiya, "ISIS seizes oil field and towns in Syria's east", July 3, 2014

<sup>88</sup> Reuters, "Islamic State seizes oil field and towns in Syria's east", July 3, 2014.

Following this on July 25, IS militants claimed they have taken over a large Syrian army base on the outskirts of the city of Raqqa in north-eastern Syria.<sup>89</sup>

## North America

### Canada

On July 11, Misbahuddin Ahmed, a Former Ottawa hospital technician was found guilty of two terrorism-related charges, but a jury acquitted him on a third more serious count. Ahmed, 30, was convicted of conspiring to knowingly facilitating a terrorist activity and participating in the activities of a terrorist group. He was found not guilty of possession of explosives with intent to do harm. He was taken into custody pending sentencing on September 15, 2014.<sup>90</sup>

### USA

On July 2, Adam Dandach, alias Fadi Fadi Dandach, 20, was arrested by US authorities at Orange County's John Wayne Airport, as he was preparing to board a flight to Istanbul, Turkey. Authorities charged that Dandach intended to travel to Syria. He admitted to federal agents that he was planning join the IS.<sup>91</sup> During questioning, Dandach told Federal agents he would assist IS in any attacks and allegedly said that the killing of US soldiers is justified.<sup>92</sup> On July 21, Dandach appeared in US District Court in Santa Ana where he was charged with two felony counts of making a false statement on a passport application. He pleaded not guilty to the charges. He had applied for an expedited US passport on June 17, 2014 claiming he needed to replace a passport issued in December 2013. He allegedly wrote that he had accidentally thrown his passport away. However, authorities said that Dandach's brother told federal officers that their mother had hid the original passport after learning that her son planned to fly overseas in December 2014. Authorities did not make public whether Dandach had actually planned to travel in December, or how agents were tipped to Dandach's alleged

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<sup>89</sup> BBC, "Isis 'overruns' Syrian military base of Raqqa", July 25, 2014

<sup>90</sup> Canadian Press, "Former Ottawa hospital technician found guilty on two terror charges", July 11, 2014

<sup>91</sup> CNN, "California man arrested, said he wanted to join ISIS", July 20, 2014

<sup>92</sup> Los Angeles Times, "Man who allegedly hoped to join ISIS arrested at John Wayne Airport", July 18, 2014

plans before his flight to Turkey. If convicted, Dandach faces up to five years in prison for each charge.<sup>93</sup>

On July 2, three accused leaders of Peru's Shining Path were charged in New York with running a drug trafficking ring to fund the Shining Path. The three Peruvian citizens faced terror, narcotics and weapons charges, each of which carries the possibility of life in prison. The suspects were identified as Florindo Eleuterio Flores-Hala, 52, known as "Comrade Artemio," Victor Quispe-Palomina, 54, known as "Comrade Jos," and Jorge Quispe-Palomino, 56. Flores-Hala is in custody in Peru, while the other two are (to date) at large.<sup>94</sup>

On July 11, Gufran Ahmed Kauser Mohammed, 31, a naturalized US citizen from India, pleaded guilty to providing material support to Al-Qaeda, the Al-Nusra Front and Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.<sup>95</sup> Mohammed was one of two men arrested as a result of an FBI operation that saw an undercover FBI agent use an Internet chatroom to pretend to help finance the militant groups in Syria and East Africa. Mohammed's co-defendant, Mohamed Hussein Said from Kenya, was charged with conspiring to provide and attempting to provide material support to the terrorist organizations. Said served as an intermediary between Mohammed and Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.<sup>96</sup> According to the court indictment, Mohammed and Said met in Saudi Arabia in May 2011.<sup>97</sup> In total, Said allegedly wired a combined total of approximately \$25,000 to the three militant groups. In addition, Mohammed and Said agreed to the FBI agent, that they would recruit experienced Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militants to join the Al-Nusra Front in Syria. Mohammed faced sentencing on October 24 and if convicted is likely to be sentenced to 15 years in prison. Said, who pleaded not guilty, faced trial in 2015.<sup>98</sup>

On July 23, three woman were arrested and charged with providing material support to Al-Shabab

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<sup>93</sup> AP, "Man, 20, who 'lied on a passport so he could travel to Syria and pledge allegiance to terrorist group ISIS' pleads not guilty", July 21, 2014

<sup>94</sup> Reuters, "Accused Shining Path leaders face terror, drug charges in New York", July 2, 2014

<sup>95</sup> AFP, "American pleads guilty in Al-Qaeda sting operation", July 11, 2014

<sup>96</sup> AFP, "American pleads guilty in al Qaeda sting operation," July 12, 2014

<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

<sup>98</sup> Miami Herald, "U.S. citizen pleads guilty to supporting al-Qaida splinter groups in Miami FBI probe", July 11, 2014

Al-Mujahideen. US prosecutors charged Muna Osman Jama, of Reston, VA, and Hinda Osman Dhirane of Kent, WA, with 20 counts each of providing material support to a foreign terrorist group.<sup>99</sup> Authorities said Jama and Dhirane were the leaders of the cell operating in the United States, Kenya, the Netherlands and Somalia. On July 25, three additional people were also charged overseas, with funneling money to Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen. One of the suspects identified as Farhia Hassan, was arrested in the Netherlands. Two others, Fardowsa Jama Mohamed and Barira Hassan Abdullahi, are fugitives in Kenya and Somalia, respectively. The court indictment alleged that, beginning in February 2011, the women sent monthly payments to Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen fighters. Authorities said the payments mainly consisted of up to \$100 but the largest single payment was \$1,500. According to the government, the defendants would refer to money they sent overseas as 'living expenses' and used code words like 'orphans' to refer to Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militants and 'camels' to refer to trucks. If convicted, each defendant faced a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison on each count in the indictment.<sup>100</sup>

On July 24, Mohamed Hersi was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Hersi was convicted of attempting to participate in terrorist activity abroad and trying to enlist an undercover officer. He was accused of attempting to join Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.<sup>101</sup> Authorities said Hersi was bound for Cairo when he was arrested at Toronto's Pearson International Airport in March 2011.<sup>102</sup> Hersi never officially joined the group and denied the allegations, saying he was going overseas to study Arabic for several months. Hersi is the first person convicted in Canada for offences related to Criminal Code's Section 83.18, which makes it illegal to 'knowingly participate' or 'knowingly contribute' to 'any activity of a terrorist group for the purpose of enhancing the ability of any terrorist group to facilitate or carry out

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<sup>99</sup> AP, "Women charged with sending money to al-Qaida-linked group in Somalia", July 25, 2014

<sup>100</sup> US Dept. of Justice, "Three Defendants Arrested on Charges of Providing Material Support to a Foreign Terrorist Organization", July 23, 2014

<sup>101</sup> National Post, "Canadian 'terror tourist' Mohamed Hersi gets 10 years in jail for planning to join Islamic jihadist group in Somalia", July 24, 2014

<sup>102</sup> For further details of this incident see March 2011 ICT Database Report.  
<http://www.ict.org.il/Article/285/Summary%20of%20Terrorist%20Incidents%20and%20CT%20Operations%20March%20to%20May%202011>

a terrorist activity.<sup>103</sup>

## Asia

### Afghanistan

On July 2, eight military officers and one civilian were killed and 13 other people were injured when a suicide bomber on foot detonated after approaching a military bus in Kabul.<sup>104</sup> The incident occurred near Kabul University. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>105</sup> Also on July 2, Taliban suicide attackers detonated a truck bomb at the gates of a NATO supplier's compound in Kabul and sprayed gunfire at security personnel, killing five guards and two civilians.<sup>106</sup> Authorities said the explosion caused a crater six meters deep and about 15 meters wide and damaged a guard tower. Two truck drivers waiting nearby to enter the compound were also killed in the explosion, along with the bomber. Four gunmen then stormed into the breach and engaged in a gun battle with security guards. One Afghan and four Nepalese guards were also killed. The Taliban claimed responsibility and threatened further attacks on high profile targets in Afghanistan.<sup>107</sup>

On July 8, a suicide bomber killed 16 people, including four Czech soldiers and wounded eight civilians in an attack near a clinic in Parwan Province.<sup>108</sup> The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>109</sup> Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said the attack, was carried out by a man named Abdullah Ghaznavi, and had targeted US Special Operations Forces.<sup>110</sup>

On July 15, a suicide bomber in an explosives-laden vehicle killed 89 people and wounded 42 others near a busy market and a mosque in Paktika Province.<sup>111</sup> Authorities said the market was packed with civilians and that the bomb detonated at 10.30, one of the busiest times of the day for shopping

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<sup>103</sup> CBC News, "Mohamed Hersi sentenced to 10 years for attempting to join al-Shabab", July 24, 2014

<sup>104</sup> WSJ, "Taliban Suicide Bomber Hits Military Bus in Kabul", July 2, 2014

<sup>105</sup> BBC, "Afghan suicide bomber attacks military bus in Kabul", July 2, 2014

<sup>106</sup> AP, "Taliban hit NATO supply compound in Kabul, kill 7", July 2, 2014

<sup>107</sup> Reuters, "Taliban attack on supply base in Afghan capital kills six", July 2, 2014

<sup>108</sup> DW, "Suicide bomber kills 16 people in Afghanistan", July 8, 2014

<sup>109</sup> AP, "4 Czech Soldiers Kill in Afghanistan by Taliban", July 8, 2014

<sup>110</sup> WSJ, "Taliban Suicide Attack in Central Afghanistan Kills 16", July 8, 2014

<sup>111</sup> Guardian, "Afghanistan car bomb leaves at least 89 civilians dead", July 15, 2014

during Ramadan. Authorities said the explosion occurred near a religious school in the bazaar, causing major damage to surrounding buildings. Police said they had been tipped off about the car and were chasing it when it exploded. Also on July 15, an IED killed two employees of President Hamid Karzai's media office in Kabul and wounded five others. The Taliban claimed responsibility.<sup>112</sup>

On July 22, a suicide bomber on a motorcycle killed at least four foreign security guards at an Afghan police compound.<sup>113</sup> The attacker managed to get through several checkpoints before detonating in an area occupied by trainers from DynCorp International, an American military contractor. The victims, three from Nepal and one from Peru, were guarding the entrance to buildings used by DynCorp within a fortified compound run by the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan. Seven other people were wounded, he said, including an Afghan prosecutor. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. Zabiullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, called DynCorp's part of the counter-narcotics compound "the center of foreign intelligence forces" and claimed that 15 foreign soldiers had been killed or wounded.<sup>114</sup>

## China

On July 28, masked militants attacked civilians, police and officials in Xinjiang.<sup>115</sup> The Xinjiang government said 59 militants were shot by security forces in Shache County, while 37 civilians were killed in the attacks. Officials claimed that the militants attacked a police station and government offices in Elixku town, before continuing to the nearby town of Huangdi, targeting civilians and destroying vehicles. Police confiscated long knives, axes as well as banners calling for jihad.<sup>116</sup> Local

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<sup>112</sup> Reuters, "Car bomb in market kills scores in Afghanistan", July 15, 2014

<sup>113</sup> AP, "89 killed in worst Afghanistan bombing since 2001", July 15, 2014

<sup>114</sup> New York Times, "Suicide Bomber Kills Guards at Afghan Police Compound", July 22, 2014

<sup>115</sup> Reuters, "Almost 100 killed during attacks in China's Xinjiang last week", August 2, 2014

<sup>116</sup> WSJ, "China Says Violent Xinjiang Uprising Left Almost 100 Dead", July 28, 2014

police said it was premeditated and well planned terror attack. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>117</sup>

## Malaysia

On July 12, a group of eight armed men fatally shot Corporal Abdul Rajah Jamuan, 32, a Malaysian police officer and kidnapped Constable Zakiah Aliep, 26, after a gunfight with the officers at a diving resort on the island of Borneo. The two policemen were stationed at the resort following a series of kidnappings which began in Sabah in 2013. Witnesses said the militants were dressed in military fatigues when they arrived by boat at the luxury Mabul Water Bungalows Resort, on Borneo Island.<sup>118</sup> Authorities said no tourists were injured.<sup>119</sup> No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Abu Sayaff.<sup>120</sup> Following the incident, police launched a massive manhunt for the attackers.<sup>121</sup>

## Pakistan

On July 5, five militants were killed in an airstrike in Pakistan's North Waziristan region. The military says it launched the strikes targeting militants in the area's capital, Miranshah, and the village of Boya. One Pakistani soldier was killed in the same region by an explosive device.<sup>122</sup>

On July 17, police foiled an attack against the home of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, in Lahore. Security forces engaged in a ten hour firefight. An intelligence officer and two militants were killed.

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<sup>117</sup> AFP, "Dozens killed in terror attack in China's Xinjiang–Xinhua", July 30, 2014

<sup>118</sup> AFP, "Gunmen attack diving resort on Malaysia's Borneo island", July 13, 2014

<sup>119</sup> CNN, "Malaysian police officer killed, another kidnapped at Borneo resort", July 14, 2014

<sup>120</sup> Free Malaysia Today, "Shoot-out in Mabul, policeman killed", July 13, 2014

<sup>121</sup> The Nation, "Mabul attack: Massive hunt for gunmen after cop killed, another feared kidnapped during shootout", July 14, 2014

<sup>122</sup> CNN, "5 militants, 1 Pakistani soldier killed in North Waziristan", July 5, 2014

Authorities said Sharif was away from the residence at the time.<sup>123</sup> Authorities said they seized a large amounts of weaponry, explosives and suicide vests from the militants and that they suspect the attack was in reprisal for a military offensive against insurgent safe havens in North Waziristan. No group claimed responsibility for the incident.<sup>124</sup>

On July 16, a suspected US airstrike killed at least 50 people in northwestern Pakistan. The strikes were part of a military campaign, that begun in June 2014<sup>125</sup> to rid the region of militants. Authorities said since the start of the military operation, at least 450 militants have been killed in the region. The majority of senior militant leaders are believed to have escaped before the operation began. But Pakistani military commanders say their offensive will permanently disrupt the ability of terrorist groups to congregate in the country's restive tribal areas. The attack occurred in an area suspected of housing militants affiliated with the Afghan Haqqani network as well as Islamist militants from Uzbekistan. One villager said he saw the aircraft fire at least four missiles. In a separate incident, it was reported that a separate Pakistani airstrike killed 35 suspected terrorists who were trying to flee North Waziristan.<sup>126</sup> Following this incident on July 19, a suspected US drone killed 11 Punjabi Taliban militants at a compound in North Waziristan Agency of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. Authorities said two significant militant commanders were killed but their identities was not released to the public.<sup>127</sup>

## Philippines

On July 11, Musa Cerantonio, an Australia cleric who supported and joined IS, was arrested on the island of Cebu, along with a Filipina woman claiming to be his wife, days after announcing on Twitter

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<sup>123</sup> Fox News, "Pakistan police foil attack against PM's home", July 17, 2014

<sup>124</sup> AP, "Pakistani police foil attack against PM's home", July 17, 2014

<sup>125</sup> For further details see June 2014 ICT database report:

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

<sup>126</sup> Washington Post, "Airstrikes in northwestern Pakistan kill at least 50 militants", July 16, 2014

<sup>127</sup> AFP, "US drone strike kills eleven in northwest Pakistan", July 19, 2014

that he had arrived in Syria to support the “caliphate” established by IS fighters. Cerantonio, boasted about being the third most 'liked' extremist preacher on Facebook, announced on July 2, he was travelling to Syria to join the jihad. It was reported that he had renounced his Australian citizenship and since 2013 resided in the Philippines. Cerantonio used social media to recruit supporters for a worldwide jihad against the West and encourage Muslims to join IS. According to a study conducted in early 2014 by the International Centre for the Study of Radicalization, one in four foreign fighters followed Cerantonio’s Twitter account and his Facebook page is the third-most ‘liked’ among jihadists.<sup>128</sup> On July 23, Cerantonio was deported from the Philippines to Australia. He, landed at Melbourne airport and was met by Australian federal police officers. Authorities said Cerantonio was under surveillance by Philippines police for five months.<sup>129</sup>

On July 28, authorities said at least 40 suspected Abu Sayyaf militants, led by Idang Susukan and Sibih Pisi, ambushed a civilian vehicle in Sulu, killing 21 people and injuring 13 others, including five children. Authorities said the passengers were on their way to traditional Eid celebrations. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Abu Sayyaf militants.<sup>130</sup>

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<sup>128</sup> Mail Online, “Australian Muslim extremist who uses social media to spread Jihad tweets that he's off to Syria to preach hate”, July 2, 2014

<sup>129</sup> Guardian, “Radical preacher back in Melbourne after deportation from Philippines”, July 23, 2014

<sup>130</sup> New York Times, “Filipino Rebels Kill 21 Villagers Over Peace Deal”, July 28, 2014

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