



The following is a summary and analysis of the terrorist attacks and counter-terrorism operations that occurred during the month of October 2012, researched and recorded by the ICT database team. Important events this month included the following:

- On 2 October, Ali Hussein Nassif, a senior Hezbollah militant responsible for the organization's operations in Syria, was killed near Homs, Syria.
- On 4 October, Israel's internal security agency, the Shin Bet, announced the arrest of Milad Hatib, 26, accused of spying on behalf of Hezbollah.
- On 6 October, the Israeli Air Force shot down an unmanned drone after it crossed into southern Israel. Hezbollah claimed responsibility.
- On 6 October, police in Strasbourg, France fatally shot a man during an anti-terrorism raid in connection with an investigation into a grenade attack against a Jewish grocery store near Paris on 19 September 2012.
- On 9 October, Taliban gunmen shot Malala Yousafzai, 14, while she was travelling home on a school bus in Pakistan's Swat Valley. Another child was also wounded. Yousafzai had been writing a BBC blog about life under the Taliban since the age of 11.
- On 17 October, Quazi Mohammad Rezwanul Ahsan Nafis was arrested in New York, NY by federal authorities on suspicion of attempting to detonate a bomb – a fake supplied by the FBI.
- On 18 October, a US federal jury convicted Somali national Mahamud Said Omar, 46, of conspiring to recruit young men from Minnesota to join Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedeen.
- On 19 October, a car bomb exploded in Beirut, Lebanon, killing three people, including Wissam Al-Hassan, a senior intelligence officer, and wounding 110 others.
- On 21 October, Jordanian authorities said they foiled a major plot by a suspected Al-Qaeda-linked cell to kill diplomats and detonate a series of bombs in Amman, Jordan.
- On 27 October, militants carried out a series of attacks across central and northern Iraq during the Eid Al-Adha holiday, killing approximately 30 people and wounding 100 others.
- On 27 October, 11 militants suspected of planning attacks on domestic and foreign targets throughout Indonesia were arrested by Indonesia's anti-terrorism squad in four provinces.
- On 28 October, senior ETA militants Izaskun Lesaka, 37, and Joseba Iturbide Ochoteco, 35, were arrested by elite police officers in Macon, France.
- On 29 October, Israel's internal security agency, the Shin Bet, reported arresting 30 operatives who had attempted to re-establish a Hamas command centre in the West Bank.



EUROPE

Cyprus

On 18 October, the Cypriot newspaper *Alithia* reported that the Cypriot secret service had foiled a terrorist attack against Israeli tourists on cruise ships arriving at Limassol port.¹ Authorities reported discovering 100 grams of explosives, which they claimed were intended to target cruise ships carrying Israeli tourists to Cyprus and other countries. Israeli authorities made no comment. No group claimed responsibility.²

France

On 6 October, Jérémie Louis-Sidney, 33, was killed after he fired a .357 Magnum pistol at police officers who were raiding his apartment in Strasbourg. The raid was connected to an investigation into a grenade attack on a Jewish grocery store near Paris on 19 September 2012, in which one person was wounded.³ Authorities reported that Louis-Sidney's fingerprints were found on the remains of a grenade thrown into the store. It was not clear whether he had been the one to throw the grenade, or whether he was an accomplice in the attack.⁴ Louis-Sidney, who was known to the authorities after serving time in prison for drug-trafficking, had recently converted to Islam. Other raids took place near Paris, Nice and Cannes, resulting in the arrests of 11 other suspects, one of whom was armed with a loaded pistol. The anti-terrorism prosecutor's office in Paris confirmed that a twelfth suspect was arrested in Torcy, about 30 kilometers east of Paris. Five of the suspects initially detained were released without charge. The other seven are French citizens ages 19-25. All but one of them had converted to Islam. Two of them had served time in prison for drug dealing.⁵ The suspects faced charges of conspiring to commit terrorist acts. During their raids on the suspects' homes, police seized Al-Qaeda literature, 27,000 euros in cash, weapons, and a list of Israeli associations in Paris.⁶ Authorities said they believed that the cell, known as the

¹ Ynet, "Report: Cypriot secret service foils terror attack against Israelis", 18 October 2012.

² Jpost, "Cyprus foils terror attack against Israelis' ", 18 October 2012.

³ BBC, "French police kill man in wave of anti-terror raids", 6 October 2012

⁴ New York Times, "French Investigators Find Bomb-Making Materials", 10 October 2012.

⁵ AFP, "French terrorist cell 'biggest threat' since 90s", 8 October 2012.

⁶ New York Times, "Man Killed by French Police During an Antiterrorism Raid", 6 October 2012.



Cannes Group, had been led by Jérémie Louis-Sidney and was planning to mount attacks in France and to join "jihadists" in Syria and elsewhere.⁷

On 28 October, Izaskun Lesaka, 37, and Joseba Iturbide Ochoteco, 35, were arrested by elite French police in a hotel in Macon. The suspects, who were both armed, were arrested by a special tactical operations unit of the French National Police, in collaboration with its Spanish counterpart.⁸ Police also seized computer equipment and a stolen car with false license plates. According to the French Interior Ministry, both suspects are senior ETA leaders, whom it believes are responsible for ETA's arms and explosives cache. According to Spain's Interior Ministry, Lesaka, who had been on the run since 2003, was one of the three masked figures who read out ETA's ceasefire announcement in October 2011.⁹ Joseba Iturbide Ochoteco was linked to the commando unit that detonated a car bomb at the Madrid airport in 2006.¹⁰

Russia

On 23 October, a suicide bomber attacked a border control checkpoint in North Ossetia. A statement on the Interior Ministry Web site said that security officers at a checkpoint on the Ingush side of the border pulled over a Lada VAZ 2109 vehicle for inspection. The driver, who remained in the car, detonated his explosives, killing police lieutenant Zaur Dzhilikov and injuring four police officers. Bomb experts determined that the explosives had a force equivalent to 30 kilograms of TNT. Authorities believe the suicide bomber was travelling in the direction of Vladikavkaz, the capital of North Ossetia, and had intended to carry out his attack there.¹¹

United Kingdom

On 10 October, two British nationals were arrested as they landed at Heathrow Airport, London, on a flight from Egypt. They were held on suspicion of having traveled to Syria to support terrorist activity, and were questioned about the kidnapping of John Cantlie and Jeroen Oerlemans, a British and Dutch photographer, respectively, who were kidnapped in

⁷ Haaretz, "Twelve suspected members of French Islamist cell linked to Jewish shop attack in detention", 8 October 2012.

⁸ AP, "Spain: French police arrest top Basque ETA leader", 28 October 2012.

⁹ BBC, "Eta military leader Izaskun Lesaka arrested in France", 28 October 2012.

¹⁰ Eitb, "Police suspect Izaskun Lesaka to be one of three ETA bosses", 29 October 2012.

¹¹ The Moscow Times, "One Policeman Killed, 4 Wounded in North Ossetia Terrorist Attack", 23 October 2012.



the summer of 2012 but had since been freed.¹² The two photographers reportedly told authorities that they had been captured at gunpoint by a group of foreign fighters, some of whom spoke English with a British accent.¹³ In a related investigation, police searched two east London properties.¹⁴

AFRICA

Somalia

On 30 October, Warsame Shire Awale, a well-known comedian, poet, playwright and songwriter who mocked and criticized Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedeen, was attacked and killed by two armed men in Mogadishu. The National Union of Somali Journalists said Awale had received death threats because of his work, which included songs exhorting people to join the police.¹⁵ No arrests have been made.¹⁶ Ali Mohamed Hussein, a senior Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedeen official, denied responsibility for the attack.¹⁷

Tunisia

On 25 October, a court in Tunis charged Ali Hamzi with membership in a terrorist organization. US media reported that Hamzi was linked to the attack on the US diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya in September 2012. Hamzi's lawyer denied the charges against his client. Hamzi was arrested in Turkey and deported to Tunisia on 11 October. Officials from the Interior and Justice Ministries confirmed Hamzi had been deported from Turkey and was being detained in Tunisia, but declined to give further details.¹⁸

MIDDLE EAST

Egypt

On 25 October, Karim El-Azizi, 35, a Libyan militant suspected of involvement in the September 2012 attack on the US diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, was killed during a

¹² BBC, "Terror suspects probed over kidnap of UK photographer", 10 October 2012.

¹³ Independent, "Two terror suspects arrested at Heathrow Airport in the first case of the Syrian civil war leading to the arrest of suspected terrorists in the UK", 10 October 2012.

¹⁴ Guardian, "Britons arrested at Heathrow suspected of supporting terrorism in Syria", 10 October 2012.

¹⁵ BBC, "Somali poet Warsame Shire Awale killed by gunmen", 30 October 2012.

¹⁶ UPI, "Somali poet Warsame Shire Awale killed", 31 October 2012.

¹⁷ Al Jazeera, "Somali comic who mocked al-Shabab shot dead", 30 October 2012.

¹⁸ AFP, "Tunisian terror suspect denies link to Benghazi attack", 25 October 2012.



raid by Egyptian security forces in Cairo's northern suburb of Nasr City. After a brief exchange of gunfire with the security forces that had surrounded his apartment, El-Azizi detonated an explosive device,¹⁹ setting fire to the apartment and destroying parts of the building. Police seized a large number of explosives in the apartment, including 15 rocket-propelled grenades and 195 hand grenades, and detained four other militants in the operation.²⁰ El-Azizi is the first suspect Egypt has linked to the Benghazi attack; Tunisia has also arrested one of its citizens in the incident (see above).²¹

Iraq

On 27 October, during the Eid Al-Adha holiday, militants carried out a series of attacks across central and northern Iraq. Reports of casualties ranged from 15 dead to nearly 40 dead; approximately 100 people were reported to have been injured in the attacks.²² In Baghdad, an explosion occurred near a playground and a small market in the neighbourhood of Bawiya, killing eight people, four of them children, and wounding 24, according to police.²³ In the Shiite Al-Mamel neighbourhood of north-eastern Baghdad, a roadside bomb planted at an outdoor market killed five people and wounded 13 others. At least 14 people were killed and 52 others were wounded by the explosion of two car bombs and a roadside bomb at two separate locations in Sadr City. The first car was detonated outside a busy restaurant, and the second was followed by a roadside bomb planted near an outdoor market. A roadside bomb also exploded beside a minibus that was transporting pilgrims to the Al-Askariya or "Golden" Mosque in Taji, killing five people and injuring 12. In and around Mosul, five people were killed and seven more wounded in four separate attacks, including two shootings and two explosions that targeted houses and shops. In Muqdadia, a car bomb exploded outside a restaurant, killing one person and wounding six others.²⁴

Israel and the West Bank

On 4 October, Israel's internal security agency, the Shin Bet, announced it had arrested Milad Hatib, 26, in September 2012. A state indictment was filed against him in Haifa District Court on various espionage charges. According to the indictment, in late 2009 and early

¹⁹ AP, "Karim el-Azizi, Libya Attack Suspect, Was Libyan National, Says Egyptian Official", 25 October 2012.

²⁰ Reuters, "Libyan suspect in US envoy attack killed in Cairo", 25 October 2012.

²¹ AP, "Egypt: suspect in US Consulate attack is Libyan", 25 October 2012.

²² AFP, "Iraq attacks kill 27 on month's deadliest day", 27 October 2012.

²³ AP, "Bomb, other attacks in Iraq leave 18 dead", 27 October 2012.

²⁴ CNN, "Deadly attacks hit Iraq amid Eid festival", 27 October 2012.



2010, Hatib had gathered intelligence for Hezbollah on the location and security details of IDF military bases, the location of arsenals and weapons manufacturers, and other strategic information. Hatib was planning to pass Hezbollah security information about Israeli President Shimon Peres, based on his observation of a visit by Peres to Hatib's village in August 2012. However, he was arrested before he could hand over the information. According to the Shin Bet, Hatib admitted to most of the charges against him.

Authorities believe that Hatib was recruited by Burhan Hatib, 47, a Lebanese Hezbollah agent who has been living in Denmark for several years. It was unclear whether the men were related, or simply shared the same surname. According to the authorities, Hatib was planning to pass the details about President Peres to Burhan Hatib in May 2013. The indictment alleged that the two men had already met in Europe and Turkey between 2007 and 2009, during which time Burhan allegedly questioned Milad about his views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and about Israeli Arabs involved in Zionist political parties. He also asked him where in northern Israel Hezbollah's missiles had landed during the 2006 Second Lebanon War, and how Israel's home front had reacted to the missile attacks. Also according to the indictment, when meeting with Burhan, Milad always travelled with another man, Amar Ja'aleeya. Milad agreed to work for Burhan in late 2009 or early 2010; Burhan allegedly paid Milad \$500 for agreeing to join Hezbollah's espionage efforts. Burhan apparently told Milad that his reconnaissance activities were the precursor to the establishment of a terrorist cell in Israel, which would aid Hezbollah in its struggle against Israel. He also gave Milad code words by which he would be able to contact his replacement, should anything happen to him.

All of the information that Milad gathered he passed to Burhan in person, to avoid leaving a trail. Although Milad and Burhan also spoke by telephone, they had no electronic communications and left no electronic record. For example, according to the indictment, during a meeting with Burhan in Turkey in July 2012, Milad revealed information about Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, a weapons manufacturer, and MK Ahmed Dabah. In its entirety, the indictment included conspiracy to aid and aiding the enemy during war, spying and working for an illegal terrorist organization and contact with a foreign spy.²⁵

On 6 October, the Israel Air Force shot down an unmanned drone after it crossed into southern Israel. The drone was first spotted above the Mediterranean near the Gaza Strip. It

²⁵ Jpost, "Shin Bet nabs alleged Hezbollah spy living in North", 4 October 2012.



was kept under surveillance and followed by Israeli Air Force jets before being shot down at 10:00, after having flown east some 35 miles across Israel's southern Negev desert. Israel Army Radio reported that the drone was not carrying any explosives.²⁶ Initially, no group claimed responsibility for the drone, but Israeli officials confirmed that the drone had not originated in the Gaza Strip, leading to suspicions that Hezbollah was responsible for it.²⁷ On 11 October, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah indeed took responsibility for sending the drone to Israel. In a televised speech on Hezbollah's Al-Manar television station, Nasrallah said that the drone, which was made in Iran, had been shot down near the Dimona nuclear reactor. Nasrallah added that the drone had been sent in retaliation for what he referred to as Israel's violations of Lebanese airspace since 2006.²⁸

On 24 October, over 80 rockets and mortar shells were fired into southern Israel by militants in the Gaza Strip, injuring three Thai workers; three Israeli civilians were hospitalized with Acute Stress Disorder. Hamas's armed wing, Izz Al-Din Al-Kassam, took responsibility for the rocket fire, and released a video on its Web site showing a multiple-rocket launcher firing several projectiles within seconds of each other.²⁹

On 29 October, Israel's internal security agency, the Shin Bet, arrested 30 operatives who had attempted to re-establish a Hamas command center in the West Bank. According to the Shin Bet, the operatives recruited students to establish cells at West Bank universities in Ramallah and Abu Dis. Hamas also transferred significant funds through student organizations, some of which were allocated to Hamas prisoners and their families. Attempts to establish student cells in Hebron and Bethlehem were thwarted by the arrests.³⁰ The charges brought against the operatives include membership and employment in, and carrying out services for, an illegal group; maintaining contact with the enemy; and transferring enemy funds to the West Bank. According to the indictment, Murad Muhammad Khaled Abu Baha was the leader of the command center;³¹ several militants operating under his leadership managed its finances, oversaw student recruitment and prisoner affairs, and supervised Hamas' activity in various areas of the West Bank. Two of

²⁶ Reuters, "Israeli air force shoots down drone aircraft", 6 October 2012.

²⁷ Haaretz, "The immediate suspect behind the drone that penetrated Israel: Hezbollah", 6 October 2012.

²⁸ Reuters, "Hezbollah confirms it sent drone downed in Israel", 11 October 2012.

²⁹ Jerusalem Post, "Gazans fire 80 rockets at Israel in 24 hours", 24 October 2012.

³⁰ Jerusalem Post, "Hamas men nabbed 'for founding Ramallah branch'", 29 October 2012.

³¹ Ynet, "Ramallah: Shin Bet exposes Hamas command center", 29 October 2012.



the detainees admitted to involvement in a 2000 lynch that claimed the lives of two IDF reserve soldiers at a Palestinian police station in Ramallah. In addition, the indictment revealed that the operatives had maintained contact with Hamas leaders abroad, taking extraordinary measures and extreme secrecy to conceal their identities and intentions³² – including using messengers, aliases, memory cards and e-mail. The operatives were remanded in military court and are being held in custody until the conclusion of their trial.³³

Jordan

On 21 October, Jordan foiled a plot by an Al-Qaeda-linked cell to target Western diplomats and shopping center in Amman. The cell, which originated in Syria, had allegedly been planning the attack since June 2012.³⁴ Security forces detained 11 suspects on suspicion of smuggling weapons and explosives into Jordan from Syria. Large quantities of ammunition, machine guns and other items, such as computers, were seized from the suspects.³⁵ Authorities reported that the suspects had been trained by Al-Qaeda operatives in Iraq, who also assisted in the manufacture of home-made explosives.³⁶ The suspects faced two charges – conspiracy to carry out terrorist acts, and possession of explosives – both of which carry the death penalty. Police released photographs of the suspects.³⁷

Syria

On 2 October, Ali Hussein Nassif, a founding member of Hezbollah who was responsible for its operations in Syria and who was its liaison to Bashar Al-Assad's regime,³⁸ was killed along with several other Hezbollah operatives, near Homs.³⁹ Few details were released as to the circumstances of his death. According to the Free Syrian Army, Nassif was driving near Homs when the rebels detonated a roadside bomb. According to Hezbollah and its affiliated media outlets Al-Manar television and www.moqawama.org, Nassif was killed during "operational activity". A Lebanese government official confirmed that Nassif's body was transferred from Syria through the Masnaa border crossing to his hometown of Baalbek, where he was

³² UPI, "Israel busts Hamas cell in West Bank", 29 October 2012.

³³ Ynet, "Ramallah: Shin Bet exposes Hamas command center", 29 October 2012.

³⁴ AL-Arabiya, "Jordan foils al-Qaeda-linked terror plot, arrests 11 suspects", 21 October 2012.

³⁵ Reuters, "Jordan foils major al-Qaida terror plot, arrests 11", 21 October 2012.

³⁶ BBC, "Jordan 'al-Qaeda plot uncovered'", 21 October 2012.

³⁷ AL-Arabiya, "Jordan foils al-Qaeda-linked terror plot, arrests 11 suspects", 21 October 2012.

³⁸ Ynet, "Report: Top Hezbollah operative in Syria Killed", 2 October 2012.

³⁹ Ynet, "Report: Top Hezbollah operative in Syria killed", 2 October 2012 .



buried. Another Hezbollah member, Zain al-Abidin Mustafa, was also killed while carrying out his “obligations” in Syria.⁴⁰

On 3 October, 34 people were killed and more than 120 were injured when three suicide bombers detonated cars packed with explosives in a government-controlled area of Aleppo. It was also reported that mortars targeted the political security department. An explosion also hit the edge of the old city, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Damage was caused to Saadallah Al-Jabri Square, which houses a famous hotel and a coffee shop popular with regime forces.⁴¹ Syrian state TV showed the bodies of three men wearing army uniforms, one of whom appeared to be wearing an explosive belt with a timer tied to his wrist.

Lebanon

On 19 October, a car bomb exploded in Beirut, killing three people – including Wissam Al-Hassan, a senior intelligence officer – and wounding 110 others.⁴² The explosion occurred near the office of the anti-Syrian Christian Phalange Party near Sassine Square in Ashrafiyeh, a mostly Christian area. The bomb's impact created a crater, and damaged buildings and cars.⁴³ Lebanese officials believe that Al-Hassan, who had headed the intelligence branch of the Lebanese Internal Security Forces and was prominent in the Sunni community, was the target of the attack. No group has taken responsibility for the attack.⁴⁴

Yemen

On 6 October, Yemeni security forces foiled a car bomb attack on the Al-Anad Air Base in the southern province of Lahj, which was used by US soldiers to train local forces in combating terrorism.⁴⁵ Authorities reported discovering an explosives-laden car in a wooded area near the gate of the air base;⁴⁶ they suspected that the US soldiers at the base were the target of the planned attack. Two militants were arrested when the car was seized.⁴⁷ Seizure of the car, which allegedly belonged to Al-Qaeda, led to the discovery of a large quantity of explosives, gas cylinders, anti-tank rockets, and clothes for women drivers.

⁴⁰ Guardian, “Syria bomb blast kills Hezbollah operative”, 2 October 2012.

⁴¹ CNN, “*Syria*: Dozens killed in *suicide* blasts in Aleppo”, 2 October 2012.

⁴² AP, “Senior security official killed in Lebanon bombing”, 19 October 2012.

⁴³ Reuters, “Beirut Bombing: Casualties Reported As Car Bomb Rocks Lebanese Capital”, 20 October 2012.

⁴⁴ CNN, “Lebanon on edge after anti-Syrian intel official killed by Beirut car bomb”, 20 October 2012.

⁴⁵ BBC, “Yemen 'foils attack' at air base used by US”, 6 October 2012.

⁴⁶ AFP, “Yemen foils car bomb attack on base used by US troops”, 6 October 2012.

⁴⁷ Reuters, “Yemen foils al Qaeda plan to bomb air base used by United States: official”, 6 October 2012.



NORTH AMERICA

On 6 October, Islamist cleric Abu Hamza Al-Masri, 54, and four other suspected terrorists appeared before US judges in Manhattan, NY and New Haven, Connecticut, after having been extradited from the UK after a protracted legal battle. The five suspects had left the UK from an RAF base only hours after the High Court had rejected their final appeals against extradition. Abu Hamza faced 11 charges in the Manhattan court, including hostage-taking in Yemen in 1998; conspiracy to establish a militant training camp in the US in 1999; and calling for holy war in Afghanistan in 2000 and 2011;⁴⁸ on 9 October, he pleaded not guilty.⁴⁹ If convicted, he could face life in prison.⁵⁰

Adel Abdul Bary, 52, and Khaled Al-Fawwaz, 50, also appeared in court in Manhattan; both pleaded not guilty⁵¹ to charges of conspiring with members of Al-Qaeda to kill US nationals and attack US interests abroad. Bary alone faced 284 counts, including conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction and offences in connection with the 1998 bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.⁵²

Babar Ahmad, 38, and Seyla Talha Ahsan, 33, appeared in court in New Haven, where they pleaded not guilty to charges that included conspiring to recruit fighters, raise money and gather equipment for terrorists on Web sites hosted from Connecticut.⁵³ Ahmad faced four counts, including providing material support to terrorists; conspiring to kill persons in a foreign country; and money laundering. Ahsan faced three counts, including providing material support to terrorists; and conspiring to kill persons in a foreign country.⁵⁴

On 17 October, Quazi Mohammad Rezwanaul Ahsan Nafis, 21, a Bangladeshi man suspected of plotting to blow up the Federal Reserve building in Manhattan, was arrested in an FBI sting operation.⁵⁵ According to authorities, Nafis had parked a van filled with what he believed were explosives outside the building, and tried to detonate it in a suicide mission. Earlier in the day, he had gone to a warehouse and assembled what he believed to be a 453-

⁴⁸ Washington Post, "Five accused al-Qaeda backers arrive in U.S. for trial", 6 October 2012.

⁴⁹ BBC, "Abu Hamza extradition: US court hears terror suspects", 7 October 2012.

⁵⁰ York Times, "Extradited Muslim Cleric and 4 Other Terrorism Suspects Appear in American Courts", 6 October 2012.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Independent, "Abu Hamza faces Manhattan court over terror charges", 7 October 2012.

⁵³ New York Times, "Extradited Muslim Cleric and 4 Other Terrorism Suspects Appear in American Courts", 6 October 2012.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Independent, "How the FBI got its man: the New York terror plot which was a trap", 18 October 2012,



kilogram bomb using inert explosives provided by federal agents. He also recorded a videotaped statement in which he said, "We will not stop until we attain victory or martyrdom," and proposed several targets for his attack, including the New York Stock Exchange. In a written letter, he took responsibility for the attack on the Federal Reserve that he was about to carry out.⁵⁶ Authorities said Nafis had overseas ties to Al-Qaeda. In his conversations with an undercover FBI agent, he had said he wanted to "destroy America" by attacking its economy, and spoke of "beloved Sheikh Osama bin Laden". Authorities said he had travelled to the US in January 2012, under the pretense of studying cyber security at Missouri State University, but with the real intention of perpetrating an attack.⁵⁷ At that time, on his posts on Facebook had shown signs of radicalization, such as, "It is You (Allah) we worship and You (Allah) we ask for help. (Lord), guide us to the right path."⁵⁸ In July 2012, he contacted a confidential informant, telling him he wanted to recruit people to form a terrorist cell. However, the man was an undercover FBI agent; thereafter, Nafis was closely monitored as he tried to enact his plot. Federal authorities said the public had not been in danger at any point during the investigation. If convicted, Nafis could receive a life sentence.⁵⁹

On 18 October, a US federal jury convicted Mahamud Said Omar, 46, of conspiring to recruit young men from Minnesota to join Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedeen in Somalia. Omar was found guilty on all five counts of giving material support to terrorists and conspiring to kill, kidnap and injure people overseas. Omar faces a possible sentence of life in prison.⁶⁰ The 2009 indictment accused Omar of financially helping 20 young men travel to east Africa from Minnesota to receive militant training from Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedeen. US authorities were first alerted to Omar in 2007, when they began investigating the disappearance of young men from the large Somali community in the Minneapolis area. Omar later fled the US, but was extradited to it from the Netherlands in August 2012 to stand trial.⁶¹

On 24 October, Algerian Ahmed Ressay, aka the "Millennium bomber", was re-sentenced to 37 years in prison for plotting a bomb attack on Los Angeles International Airport on the eve

⁵⁶ In July, he contacted a confidential informant, telling him he wanted to form a terror cell,

⁵⁷ Telegraph, "New York Fed bomb plot: how Quazi Ahsan Nafis became radicalised", 18 October 2012.

⁵⁸ CBS, "Alleged Federal Reserve bomb plotter Quazi Mohammad Rezwanul Ahsan Nafis' ties probed", 18 October 2012.

⁵⁹ Associated Press, "NYC: 1 arrested in plot to attack Federal Reserve", 17 October 2012.

⁶⁰ AP, "Mahamud Said Omar Convicted Of Helping Somalian Terrorist Group Al-Shabab", 19 October 2012.

⁶¹ VOA, "US Jury Convicts Somali National of Supporting Al-Shabab Terrorists ", 18 October 2012.



of the millennium. Ressam was arrested in December 1999 as he crossed the US-Canadian border near Seattle with explosives in the trunk of his car.⁶² He was convicted in 2001 of conspiracy to commit a terrorist act and smuggling explosives. Initially, Ressam was not sentenced because he co-operated with investigators, providing them with information on Al-Qaeda training camps the names of over 100 people who had links to Al-Qaeda. However, in 2003, after being placed in solitary confinement, he stopped co-operating with the authorities. In 2005, he was sentenced to 22 years in jail. However, in 2010, this sentence was appealed as being too short; prosecutors pushed for a life sentence because Ressam he had ceased cooperating with the authorities. However, Ressam's ultimate sentence was based on his lawyers' argument of a term of up to 34 years.⁶³

ASIA

Afghanistan

On 1 October, 19 people were killed including and 59 were wounded when a suicide bomber detonated his explosive belt on a crowded street in Khost. Security forces patrolling the city were the suspected target of the attack. Witnesses said the suicide bomber approached a security patrol at approximately 9:00 a.m.; his was followed by gunfire. Among the 16 Afghan dead were six police officers, at least three of them from the Khost Quick Reaction Force. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, stating that the suicide attacker was Shoiab Kunduzi.⁶⁴

On 24 October, 36 people were killed and 23 others were injured in a suicide attack on a mosque in the town of Maymana, in Faryab Province. Senior provincial officials, including the governor and the police chief, were inside the mosque when the bomber detonated his explosives outside it, where a large crowd had gathered. The attack came as worshipers gathered to celebrate Eid Al-Adha. The officials, believed to have been the target of attack, were not hurt; the majority of casualties were police officers and soldiers. Afghan President

⁶² AP, "Ahmad Ressam, a terrorist with B.C. ties, sentenced to 37 years for plotting to bomb LA airport", 24 October 2012.

⁶³ BBC, "'Millennium bomber' Ahmed Ressam given longer sentence", 24 October 2012.

⁶⁴ New York Times, "Suicide Bomber on Foot Attacks Joint Patrol in Eastern Afghanistan, Killing 19", 1 October 2012.



Hamid Karzai strongly condemned the attack. Although no group has taken responsibility for it, authorities suspect the Taliban.⁶⁵

Pakistan

On 9 October, Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai, 14, was shot in the head and neck in an assassination attempt by Taliban gunmen while travelling on a school bus in the Swat Valley. One other child was also injured in the attack.⁶⁶ Since 2009, Yousafzai had been writing a journal for the BBC about life under the Taliban. She wrote the blog using the pseudonym "Gul Makai", meaning "grief stricken". At that time, she also began speaking publicly about the need for girls' education, which the Taliban strongly opposed.⁶⁷ In the days immediately following the attack, she remained unconscious and in critical condition, but later her condition improved enough for her to be sent to a hospital in the United Kingdom for intensive rehabilitation.⁶⁸ Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan claimed responsibility for the attack, and said Yousafzai had been targeted because she had spoken against the group.⁶⁹ On 12 October, a group of 50 Islamic clerics in Pakistan issued a fatwā against those who had tried to kill Yousafzai; however, the Taliban reiterated its intent to kill her and her father, Ziauddin.⁷⁰

On 13 October, 17 people were killed and 40 injured when a car bomb exploded in a crowded bazaar near an office for anti-Taliban tribal elders in the town of Darra Adam Khel. Although no group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, the Pakistani Taliban have staged similar attacks in the tribal region of Darra Adam Khel to punish elders for backing security forces in offensives against militants. The explosives-laden car, which was parked near the office of one of the so-called peace committees that have been formed by local elders trying to rid the area of militants, destroyed 35 shops and eight vehicles.⁷¹

⁶⁵ thejournal.ie, "Suicide bomber kills 36 in Afghanistan", 26 October 2012.

⁶⁶ CSM Monitor, "My conversations with Malala Yousafzai, the girl who stood up to the Taliban", 9 October 2012.

⁶⁷ AL- Jazeera, "Profile: Malala Yousafzai", 10 October 2012.

⁶⁸ BBC, "Malala Yousafzai, schoolgirl shot by Taliban, now in UK", 15 October 2012.

⁶⁹ AL- Jazeera, "Profile: Malala Yousafzai", 10 October 2012.

⁷⁰ AP, "Pakistani schools protest after shooting of young girl", 10 October 2012.

⁷¹ AP, "Car bomb kills 17 people in northwestern Pakistan", 13 October 2012.



Indonesia

On 27 October, Indonesia's anti-terrorism squad arrested 11 militants in four provinces, on suspicion of planning a range of attacks on domestic and foreign targets.⁷² The militants are members of the Harakah Sunni Movement for Indonesian Society (HASMI), a new group with possible ties to Jamiyyah Islamiyyah.⁷³ Police seized a number of bombs, explosive materials, a bomb-making manual and ammunition, a 6.6-pound gas cylinder filled with highly explosive material, and videos and images of attacks on Muslims in various parts of the world. Authorities said the group had been planning to attack the US Embassy in Jakarta, a plaza near the Australian Embassy, and the local office of the American mining corporation Freeport-McMoRan. It had also planned to attack the US Consulate in Surabaya, and the headquarters of police special forces in Central Java.⁷⁴

⁷² New York Times, "U.S. Embassy a target in suspected terror plot", 28 October 2012.

⁷³ AFP, "Indonesia Foils Plot to Attack US Missions: Police", 28 October 2012.

⁷⁴ AP, "Indonesia Arrests 11 It Says Were Plotting Attack on U.S. Embassy", 27 October 2012.