



ICT's Incidents Database Periodical Report for the Month of April 2013



International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT)

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The following is a summary and analysis of the terrorist attacks and counter-terrorism operations that occurred during the month of April 2013, researched and recorded by the ICT database team. Important events this month included the following:

- On 3 April, Waal Al-Arjeh was convicted at a military court in Judea of killing Asher Palmer and his son in September 2011. Al-Arjeh was sentenced to two life terms and almost 60 years in prison.
- On 3 April, 46 people were killed and 100 others injured when nine Taliban suicide bombers attacked the courthouse in Farah, Afghanistan in an attempt to free Taliban fighters standing trial.
- On 6 April, 22 people were killed and 60 others injured when a suicide bomber attacked a crowded election campaign tent for Sunni candidate Muthanna al-Jorani in Baquba, Iraq.
- On 8 April a suicide car bomber detonated his explosives in the main business district of Damascus, Syria killing 15 people and wounding 53 others.
- On 9 April, Jack Tytell was sentenced in Jerusalem, Israel to two life sentences and an additional 30 years in prison, for the murder of two Palestinians in 1997, two attempted murders, assault and other crimes.
- On 13 April, Iranian national Mohsin Khosravian was arrested by Israeli Embassy personnel in Kathmandu, Nepal suspected of plotting a series of attacks against Israeli interests in the country.
- On 14 April, 26 people were killed and 60 others wounded when a team of armed Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedin militants ambushed the Supreme Court complex in Mogadishu, Somalia.
- On 15 April, 33 people were killed and approximately 160 others injured in a series of explosions that included car bombings and roadside bombings throughout Iraq.
- On 16 April, 17 people including policemen were killed and 60 others injured in a suicide bombing in Peshawar, Pakistan.
- On 17 April, AQAP leader Hamed Radman and four fighters were killed in a US drone attack in the Oussab al Ali area, Yemen.
- On 18 April, four men were sentenced for planning to detonate a bomb at a Territorial Army (TA) base in Luton, UK.
- On 18 April, five Israeli Arabs were charged with attempted kidnapping, attempted murder, aiding the enemy at a time of war, contact with a foreign agent and weapons charges.
- On 19 April, former Pakistani president Pervez Musharraf was arrested on terrorism related charges relating to the unlawful detention of judges in 2007. He appeared court in Rawalpindi on 26 April and was ordered a three-day house arrest in connection with the murder of ex-Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in December 2007.
- On 21 April, a US drone strike on a site allegedly used for training members of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, killed two militants and wounded three others.
- On 23 April, Raed Jaser, 35, and Chiheb Esseghaier, 30 were charged with conspiring to plot to derail a train that runs between New York City, USA and Montreal, Canada.
- On 25 April, Mikel Kabikoitz Karrera Sarobe was sentenced to life in jail for the 2007 murder of two Spanish policemen in the French town of Capbreton.
- On 25 April, Richard Dart, Jahangir Alom and Imran Mahmood, were sentenced at the Old Bailey, UK for engaging in conduct in preparation of acts of terrorism between July 2010 and July 2012.

- On 26 April, Mohamed Mamdouh, 22, a Moroccan-born US citizen, was sentenced to five years in prison for plotting to blow up synagogues in New York, US.
- On 26 April, Spanish police arrested two North African men suspected of ties to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.
- On 26 April, Irfan Naseer, 31, was jailed for life and ordered to serve a minimum of 18 years for masterminding a plot to send up to eight armed suicide bombers with rucksacks full of explosives into crowds of people in Birmingham, UK.
- On 29 April, 36 people were killed and 93 others were killed when five car bombs exploded in central and southern Iraq.
- On 29 April, Syrian Prime Minister Wael al-Halki survived a bomb attack on his convoy in Damascus. Six other people were killed in the explosion.
- On 30 April, police arrested four suspected of being members of an Islamist militant cell based Andria, Italy. Authorities said the militants were planning attacks in the United States, Israel and Italy.
- On 30 April six British men, pleaded guilty to planning to bomb an English Defense League rally in Dewsbury, UK on 30 June 2012.
- On 30 April, Evyatar Borovsky was fatally stabbed in the chest and stomach in Samaria, West Bank by Palestinian Salem Zaal (Salam Azal). A Border Police officer who witnessed the attack opened fire on the terrorist and moderately wounded him.
- On 30 April, Israeli Air Force killed Hitham Mashal, 24, a rocket manufacturing expert and member of jihadist group operating in Gaza and Sinai, in what was the first targeted assassination since Operation Pillar of Defence in November 2012.

Europe

France

On 25 April, Mikel Kabikoitz Karrera Sarobe was sentenced to life in jail for murdering two Spanish policemen in Capbreton, near the Spanish border in 2007. Authorities said the policemen were attacked while travelling in their vehicle on assignment in France. Saioa Sanchez Iturregui, a co-defendant, was sentenced to 28 years for her role in the attack. However, a third member of the cell identified as Asier Bengoa Lopez de Armentia 37, was acquitted of his role in the murder but was sentenced to 15 years in jail on other charges.¹ Four other alleged ETA members received sentences of five to nine years, one in absentia.²

Italy

On 30 April, police arrested four suspected members of an Islamist militant cell based in Andria. Authorities said the militants were planning attacks in the United States, Israel and Italy. Authorities said that the cell members used audio and video tapes to indoctrinate recruits and urge them to carry out jihad including suicide attacks. The arrests followed an investigation that began in 2007 of a number of migrants to Italy and which monitored their use of internet cafes and phone-centres.³ Authorities said the suspects were planning on sending recruits to overseas militant training camps. The suspects included a Tunisian man who was the former imam at a mosque in Andria, were arrested in Andria, Milan, Brussels, Sicily and Catania. Authorities said the cell consisted of six men but two remained at large. They did not reveal if specific targets had been chosen. They were suspected of conspiracy to commit international terrorism and inciting racial hatred.⁴

Spain

On 26 April, Spanish police arrested two North African men suspected of ties to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.⁵ The first suspect was identified as Algerian Nouh Mediouni, 23, who was arrested in Zaragoza and detained in jail in Madrid. The second suspect was identified as Hassan El Jaouani, 52, from Morocco, who was arrested in Murcia. El Jaouani was later released due to lack of evidence but he had to surrender his passport and report twice a month to authorities.⁶ The Spanish Interior ministry said the arrests were the result of a joint operation between Spain, France and Morocco.⁷ Authorities said they had placed the men under surveillance for more than a year. The arrests were made several days before

¹ BBC, "Eta 'top commander' gets life sentence in France", 25 April 2013.

² AFP, "ETA killer sentenced to life in France", 25 April 2013.

³ AKI, "Italy: Police arrest six suspected North African jihadists", 30 April 2013.

⁴ Reuters, "Italian police arrest four suspected Islamist militants", 30 April 2013.

⁵ Bloomberg, "Spain Arrests Two Terror Suspects Days Before Madrid Marathon", 23 April 2013.

⁶ CNN, "2 men face charges of membership in terror group", 26 April 2013

⁷ Reuters, "Two men linked to al Qaeda in Mali arrested in Spain", 26 April 2013.

the Madrid Marathon in which 26,000 runners were due to participate and security was increased following the Boston Marathon bombing on 15 April. (see USA Section).⁸ Authorities declined to say whether the men arrested were planning an attack at the sporting event but they said that the men were lone wolves and had a similar profile to the Boston bombers. (See profile on page)⁹. Authorities said both men had suspected ties to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and were allegedly radicalised by visiting online forums and chat rooms and pulling information on bomb-making from the Internet. One of the men had posted content on radical online- forums and expressed wishes to “die as a martyr”. He had praised the Boston Marathon attack.¹⁰

United Kingdom

On 18 April, four men were sentenced for planning to detonate a bomb at a Territorial Army (TA) base in Luton. Zahid Iqbal, 31, and Mohammed Sharfaraz Ahmed, 25, were found guilty of discussing how to send a remote-controlled toy car carrying a home-made explosive device under the gates of the Territorial Army centre.¹¹ They were sentenced to 16 years and three months in prison. Umar Arshad, 24, was jailed for six years and nine months. Syed Farhan Hussain, 22, was jailed for five years and three months. The men were arrested following a series of anti-terror raids in Luton in 2012.¹² At a court hearing on 1 March 2013, both men admitted one count of engaging in conduct in preparation for acts of terrorism between 1 January 2011 and 25 April 2012. They were found guilty of facilitating, planning and encouraging travel overseas contrary to Section 5 of Terrorism Act 2006. The cell had purchased survival equipment and collected funds for terrorist purposes. The offenses took place between January 2011 and April 2012. The judge said a further 13 counts relating to the possession of information contrary to the Terrorism Act 2000 should be left on the file.¹³

On 25 April, Richard Dart, Jahangir Alom and Imran Mahmood, were sentenced at the Old Bailey for engaging in conduct in preparation of acts of terrorism between July 2010 and July 2012. They were arrested as a result of police raids on 5 July 2012. They pleaded guilty at a court hearing in March 2013.¹⁴ Dart was jailed for 11 years, Alom for four years and six months and Mahmood for nine years and nine months. Mahmood and Dart were both given extended sentences, meaning that they will serve two-thirds of their prison terms rather than half, and they will spend five years on license.¹⁵ Authorities said Dart and Alom

8 EuroNews, “Spain arrests two for suspected al Qaeda links”, 23 April 2013.

9 Bloomberg, “Spain Arrests Two Terror Suspects Days Before Madrid Marathon”, 23 April 2013.

10 Euronews, “Spain arrests two for suspected al Qaeda links”, 23 April 2013.

11 SKY News, “Bomb Plot: Four Jailed For Planning TA Attack”, 23 April 2013.

12 BBC, “Four men admit discussing UK terror plot”, 1 March 2013.

13 Guardian, “Luton terror plot: four jailed over plan to bomb army centre”, 18 April 2013.

14 BBC, “UK trio jailed for preparing acts of terrorism”, 26 April 2013.

15 Telegraph, “Former BBC security guard jailed for terrorism offences”, 25 April 2013.

travelled to Pakistan where they attended terrorist training camps and took advice from Mahmood who had already visited the country. Dart also discussed bomb making with Mahmood, and they discussed Wootton Bassett, a military town, as a potential target.¹⁶ Police discovered fragments of text on Dart's laptop that revealed that the pair had used the computer to have a "silent conversation" to avoid possible surveillance bugs.¹⁷

On 26 April, Irfan Naseer, 31, was jailed for life and ordered to serve a minimum of 18 years for masterminding a plot to send up to eight armed suicide bombers with rucksacks full of explosives into crowds of people in Birmingham.¹⁸ Naseer, a pharmacy graduate and bomb-maker, who was trained by Al-Qaeda linked militants in Pakistan, allegedly sent four aspiring militants to receive training in Pakistan so they could join him in the plot. However, the plot was foiled as the militants were preparing to build a bomb in their kitchen. Police, who had placed the men under surveillance and placed a hidden bugging device in their car, arrested them in September 2013.¹⁹ Authorities claimed that Naseer and Irfan Khalid, 28, recorded martyrdom videos in Pakistan, which were intended to be released after the attack. A third cell member was identified as Ashik Ali, 28. Irfan Khalid and Ashik Ali, both 28, were handed jail terms of 18 years and 15 years respectively. Khalid was ordered to serve a minimum of 12 years, while Ali will serve 10 years before he can be considered for parole. Ashik Ali, 28, another member of the cell who supplied the premises for the bomb-making factory, was jailed for 15 years. The cell's chief financier, Rahin Ahmed, 26, from Moseley, pleaded guilty to collecting, investing and managing money for terrorism, and assisting others to travel to Pakistan for training in terrorism. He was sentenced to 12 years in jail and will serve at least six before he can be released on license. Seven other men were sentenced in connection with the plot. Bahader Ali was jailed for six years and Mohammed Rizwan and Mujahid Hussain both received four year jail terms. Shahid Khan, 21, Khobaib Hussain, 21, Ishaq Hussain, 21, and Naweed Ali, 25, were sentenced to 40 months each in jail. The cell was inspired by the late AQIM leader Anwar al-Awlaki, who was killed in a drone strike in Yemen several weeks after the men were arrested.²⁰

On 30 April six British men, pleaded guilty to planning to bomb an English Defense League rally. Omar Mohammed Khan, Mohammed Hasseen, Anzal Hussain, Mohammed Saud, Zohaib Ahmed and Jewel Uddin admitted preparing an act of terrorism. All the defendants, except Hasseen, had travelled in two cars from Birmingham to Dewsbury on the afternoon of 30 June 2012 with an arsenal of weapons hidden in holdalls in the boot of one of the cars.

¹⁶ BBC, "UK trio jailed for preparing acts of terrorism", 26 April 2013.

¹⁷ AP, "British Muslim convert jailed for preparing acts of terrorism", 25 April 2013.

¹⁸ Independent, "Bomb plot: Life sentence for Irfan Naseer, ringleader of Birmingham men planning wave of UK suicide attacks", 26 April 2013.

¹⁹ Telegraph, "Birmingham terror plot ringleader jailed for minimum of 18 years", 26 April 2013.

²⁰ BBC, "Terror plot: Jail terms for Birmingham bomb plotters", 26 April 2013.

All six faced sentencing on 6 June 2013.²¹ Authorities said the five of the men took a homemade bomb to an EDL rally in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, in June 2012 but arrived after it ended. They were caught after their car was stopped and found to have no insurance. Police and security services had no intelligence about the planned attack, although one of the would-be killers, Jewel Uddin, was under surveillance for links to other identified extremists.²² On 30 June 2012, the EDL, an anti-Islamic group that says it supports peaceful protests, held a rally in Dewsbury despite attempts by the Muslim community in the town to have it stopped. Police estimated there could have been as many as 750 EDL supporters in attendance, as well as dozens of police officers and passers-by. As the rally was taking place, the five men travelled to Dewsbury in two cars, one of which was carrying a homemade bomb constructed out of a modified firework and containing 359 nails and 93 ball bearings.²³ They also had two shot guns, parts of other explosive devices, knives and a long printed message, describing their motivation and calling the Queen a "female devil". However, the men arrived after the EDL rally had ended because the EDL group had insufficient speakers to carry on later into the afternoon.²⁴ Authorities said it was likely that EDL leader Tommy Robinson was the main intended target as the plotters' computers show they had specifically searched for him online.²⁵ A second member of the group, Ahmed, had been separately charged with possession of jihadist magazines that included bomb-making instructions. He was on bail at the time of the failed bombing. Five of the men were from Birmingham - Uddin, 27, and Khan, 28, both from Sparkhill, Ahmed, 22 from Saltley, Hasseen, 23 from Tyseley, and Hussain, 24, from Moseley - and one, Saud, 22, was from Smethwick. All changed their pleas from not guilty via video link, admitting preparing an act of terrorism between 1 May and 4 July 2012.²⁶ Police said the men refused to answer questions during interrogation and detectives say they cannot rule out the possibility they had been planning a suicide attack. The men, who sat impassively together, changed their pleas and admitted their involvement via video link.²⁷

AFRICA

Libya

On 23 April, a car bomb exploded outside the French Embassy in Tripoli at approximately 0700, wounding three people and partially setting the building on fire. Libyan authorities said the incident took place when the Libyan guards who stand outside were changing shift.

²¹ Guardian, "Six plead guilty to plotting attack on EDL rally", 30 April 2013.

²² Reuters, "Six plead guilty to terrorism charges in UK", 30 April 2013.

²³ BBC, "Six admit planning to bomb English Defence League rally", 30 April 2013.

²⁴ AP, "6 men plead guilty in UK over terror plot targeting far-right rally", 30 April 2013.

²⁵ Yahoo news, "EDL Terror Attack Plot: Six Men Plead Guilty", 30 April 2013.

²⁶ BBC "Six admit planning to bomb English Defence League rally", 30 April 2013.

²⁷ Guardian, "Six plead guilty to plotting attack on EDL rally", 30 April 2013.

The explosion broke the windows and damaged the facades of more than two dozen buildings in the vicinity of the embassy. Authorities said explosives were packed in a Renault car which was destroyed in the attack.²⁸ No group claimed responsibility for the attack.²⁹

Somalia

On 14 April, 26 people were killed and 60 others wounded when a team of armed Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedin militants ambushed the Hamarweyne Courthouse Supreme Court complex in Mogadishu.³⁰ Some of the attackers detonated explosives before others exchanged fire with government security. Three of the gunmen were killed by security forces the others escaped. The Supreme Court Judge, Banadir Court Judge and Attorney General who were present during the attack escaped unharmed.³¹ Following the attack, a car bomb exploded near the airport killing two Turkish nationals from a passing aid convoy and two Somali civilians.³² Al-Shabab Al Mujahedeen claimed responsibility for the attack.³³

Tunisia

On 3 April, Abu Zaid Al-Tounsi was arrested and charged with incitement to terrorism for claiming alliance with the Syrian rebels for the past eight months.³⁴ Authorities said that in March 2013, after returning from Syria, Al-Tounsi appeared on Tunisian television channel 'Attounsiya'. His statements sparked nationwide controversy, with media reports claiming that he one of thousands of Tunisians who had taken part in the Syrian war. He confessed to having participated in jihad in Syria and killing several people. He also said he would participate in Jihad in Tunisia if such a fatwa would be launched.³⁵ Tunisian authorities launched an investigation into networks that were recruiting young men to join militants in Syria. Tunisia also imposed a curb on travel to neighbouring Libya by men under 20 years of age due to concern they were continuing on to Syria to join Islamist insurgents.³⁶

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

On 6 April, 22 people were killed and 60 others injured when a suicide bomber detonated himself at a crowded election campaign tent for Sunni candidate Muthanna al-Jorani in Baquba. Jorani escaped unscathed.³⁷ Candidates in Iraq frequently put up tents during

²⁸ AP, "Car bomb at French Embassy in Libya wounds 3", 23 April 2013

²⁹ Reuters, "Car Explodes Outside French Embassy in Libya", 23 April 2013.

³⁰ CNN, "Dozens dead in Somali courthouse attack", 15 April 2013.

³¹ Garowe Online, "Somalia: Over 25 Dead and 40 Injured in Mogadishu Courthouse Siege", 15 April 2013.

³² CNN, "Dozens dead in Somali courthouse attack", 15 April 2013.

³³ BBC, "Gunmen launch deadly attack on Somalia courthouse", 14 April 2013.

³⁴ Reuters, "Tunisia jails jihadist over call to join rebels in Syria", 3 April 2013.

³⁵ Middle East Online, "Tunisia seeks to deter 'Jihad in Syria' with first arrest warrant", 3 April 2013.

³⁶ Al-arabiya, "Tunisia jails jihadist over call to join rebels in Syria", 3 April 2013.

³⁷ Reuters, "Suicide bomber kills 22 in Iraq election attack", 6 April 2013.

campaigning as a venue to meet potential voters and explain their policies. Witnesses said that initially a hand grenade was thrown into one of the tents where the rally was taking place. Several seconds later, an explosion occurred in the same tent. Sadiq al-Huseini, a local councilman said the bomber detonated his explosives as Muthana al-Jourani, was hosting lunch for supporters.³⁸ No group claimed responsibility for the attacks but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda in Iraq.³⁹ Authorities said that violence during the election campaign resulted in the death of 10 candidates who had planned to run in the local elections. The majority of those killed belonged to the Sunni-backed Iraqiya bloc led by former Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, a secular Shi'ite politician.⁴⁰

On 15 April, 33 people were killed and approximately 160 others injured in a series of explosions that included car bombings and roadside bombings throughout Iraq.⁴¹ The coordinated attacks took place during the morning rush hour and occurred in Baghdad, Fallujah, Tikrit, Samarra, Hilla, Tuz Khurmatu, Kirkuk and Nasariyah. The attacks coincided with the country's first elections since the 2011 US troop withdrawal.⁴² Three car bombs exploded minutes apart in Tuz Khurmatu, killing six people and wounding more than 60 others. In Baghdad, two car bombs exploded killing two people and wounding 17 others at a checkpoint at the airport; the first time that the attackers had managed to infiltrate the airport. In Nasiriyah one of the car bombs detonated in a market and the other exploded in an area filled with vehicle repair shops.⁴³ In Kirkuk, nine people were killed when six car bombs detonated simultaneously. Three of the bombs exploded in Kirkuk's city centre - one in an Arab district, one in a Kurdish area, and a third in a Turkomen district. Other explosions were reported elsewhere in the city.⁴⁴

On 29 April, 36 people were killed and 93 others were killed when five car bombs exploded in central and southern Iraq. The most serious incident occurred in Amarah, where two parked car bombs simultaneously exploded killing 18 people and wounding 42 others. That attack was followed by a car bomb near a restaurant in the city of Diwaniyah, which killed nine people and wounded 23 others. Several hours later a car bomb exploded in Karbala, killing three civilians and wounding 14. In Mahmoudiya, about 20 miles south of Baghdad, a

³⁸ Guardian, "Suicide attack in Iraqi city leaves at least 22 people dead", 6 April 2013.

³⁹ BBC, "Iraq unrest: Deadly blast at Baquba political rally", 6 April 2013.

⁴⁰ Reuters, "Suicide bomber kills 22 in Iraq election attack", 6 April 2013.

⁴¹ Al-Jazeera, "Many dead in serial blasts in Iraq", 15 April 2013.

⁴² BBC, "Iraq deadly bombings hit Nasariyah, Kirkuk and Baghdad", 15 April 2013.

⁴³ Al-Jazeera, "Many dead in serial blasts in Iraq", 15 April 2013.

⁴⁴ Reuters, "Bombs kill more than 30 across Iraq before local poll", 15 April 2013.

car bomb killed six people and wounded 14 others. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda in Iraq.⁴⁵

Israel and the West Bank

On 3 April, Waal Al-Arjeh was found guilty at the Judea military court of manslaughter for killing Asher Palmer, 25, and his infant son Yonatan, on 23 September 2011. Palmer and his son were driving near the Kiryat Arba settlement on Route 60, when Arjeh and an accomplice Ali Saadeh, drove next to them in a taxi and threw a large stone at Palmer's car from their moving taxi. The stone damaged Palmer's windshield and caused his vehicle to overturn.⁴⁶ The IDF said that Arjeh was also convicted of 25 incidents of attempted manslaughter for similarly throwing stones at other moving Israeli vehicles.⁴⁷ On 24 April, Waal al-Araja was sentenced to two life terms and almost another 60 years in prison.⁴⁸ The court ruling was unique as it was the first time a person has been convicted of murder for stone throwing and this could set the precedent for cases in the future.⁴⁹

On 9 April, Milad Khatib, 26, an Israeli Arab, was convicted of conspiracy to commit a crime and sentenced in the Haifa District Court to seven years in prison and one year of probation for espionage, contact with a foreign agent and conspiracy to aid an enemy in a time of war.⁵⁰ He was initially charged with aiding an enemy in a time of war but this was reduced to conspiracy as a result of a plea bargain.⁵¹ Khatib was arrested in September 2012 and confessed to having conveyed information about IDF bases, armaments and arms caches, and the facilities of arms manufacturer Rafael to a Hizballah agent.⁵² Khatib admitted that he met with a Hezbollah agent several times in Turkey and Denmark over the past five years. According to their instructions, he then shared intelligence regarding the locations of rocket explosion sites in the north during the Second Lebanon War and was asked to provide information about additional strategic installations. During one of these meetings the Hezbollah representative even asked Khatib to take photos of the strategic installations but he refused for fear of being caught by Israeli authorities. In 2012, he was asked to provide information about the security arrangements in place for President Shimon Peres' visit to his town.⁵³

⁴⁵ AP, "36 dead, dozens wounded in Iraq car bomb attackss on Shiite cities", 29 April 2013.

⁴⁶ Jpost, "Palestinian convicted of killing Asher Palmer", 3 April 2013.

⁴⁷ IDF, "When Rocks Kill", 4 April 2013.

⁴⁸ Ynet, "Palestinian stone-thrower gets life for killings", 24 April 2013.

⁴⁹ Haaretz, "Palestinian convicted of murdering Asher Palmer and son receives 98 year prison sentence", 24 April 2013.

⁵⁰ Times of Israel, "7 years in jail for Israeli Arab who spied for Hezbollah", 9 April 2013.

⁵¹ Ynet, "7 years in prison for man who shared intel with Hezbollah", 9 April 2013.

⁵² Times of Israel, "7 years in jail for Israeli Arab who spied for Hezbollah", 9 April 2013.

⁵³ AP, "Milad Khatib, Israeli Arab, Gets 7 Year Sentence For Spying For Hezbollah", 9 April 2013.

On 9 April, the Jerusalem District Court sentenced Jack Tytell to two life sentences and an additional 30 years in prison for the murder of two Palestinians in 1997, two attempted murders, assault and other crimes.⁵⁴ He was also ordered to pay NIS 180,000 to the family of each murder victim and NIS 150,000 to each attempted murder victim.⁵⁵ In November 2010 Tytell was charged with murdering two Palestinians and attempting to murder more, including Hebrew University Professor Zeev Sternhell and Ariel teenager Ami Ortiz. Ortiz, a member of a family of Messianic Jews, was seriously wounded by a bomb packaged inside a gift in March 2008.⁵⁶ After receiving two contradicting psychiatric evaluations, the court determined in 2012 that he was fit to go on trial for murder.⁵⁷ Teitel, a US immigrant who received the nickname the "Jewish terrorist", confessed to the killings and was convicted in January 2013 of the crimes. Teitel was charged with 10 different offences, the most severe of which were two counts of murder in the first degree, two counts of attempted murder, illegal possession and assembling of a firearm and incitement to violence.⁵⁸

On 10 April, Israeli authorities announced that on 19 March 2013, they arrested Hichmat Masarwa, 23, an Israeli Arab, on suspicion of joining the Syrian rebels. He was charged with contacting a foreign agent, unlawful military training and leaving the country illegally. According to the indictment, Masarwa flew from Israel to Turkey on 3 March 2013, with the goal of joining the rebels. Masarwa then crossed from Turkey into Syria illegally on 11 March 2013.⁵⁹ Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) claimed that Masarwa underwent military training with rebel forces in Syria that included weapons training. He was offered the possibility of carrying out a suicide bombing against the army of the Assad regime, but he says he refused. Rebel forces frequently questioned Masarwa about Israel and its armed forces, and he was asked about weapons in use by the IDF, as well as the nuclear power plant in Dimona adding that he was asked to carry out an attack in Israel, but refused this offer as well. Masarwa also allegedly received email, Skype and Facebook information from several rebels in order to maintain contact with them.⁶⁰ He faced imprisonment of up to 15 years.⁶¹ Masarawa's family denied he was a terrorist and said he had gone to Syria to search for his brother who had gone missing. They claimed that the Shin Bet was using him to deter Israeli Arabs from travelling to enemy states where the turmoil of the Arab Spring is raging and where they could be recruited to carry out attacks against Israel. Israeli media reported that a number of Druse citizens in the Golan Heights, have attempted to enter Syria illegally to

⁵⁴ Haaretz, "Jewish terrorist Jack Tytell gets two life sentences for murder of Palestinians", 9 April 2013.

⁵⁵ Jerusalem Post, "Jewish Terrorist' sentenced to life for murder", 9 April 2013.

⁵⁶ Haaretz, "Jewish terrorist Jack Tytell gets two life sentences for murder of Palestinians", 9 April 2013.

⁵⁷ Haaretz, "Jewish terrorist Jack Tytell gets two life sentences for murder of Palestinians", 9 April 2013.

⁵⁸ Ynet, "Jewish terrorist' Jack Teitel gets 2 life sentences", 9 April 2013.

⁵⁹ Jerusalem Post, "Israeli-Arab on trial for joining Syrian rebels", 10 April 2013.

⁶⁰ Jerusalem Post, "My son is not a terrorist", 11 April 2013.

⁶¹ JTA, "Israeli-Arab arrested for fighting alongside Syrian rebels", 10 April 2013.

join the civil war on behalf of the Assad regime. There is also fear among authorities that Israeli Arabs could travel there to join the rebels, who by now include a large contingent of Al-Qaeda linked militants.⁶²

On 17 April, two Grad rockets were fired from the Sinai Peninsula towards Eilat. There were no casualties or damage as the rockets exploded in open territory. One projectile fell in a building site on the outskirts of the city. The Eilat Airport closed for several hours as a security measure.⁶³ The lions of the Mujahedeen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem, a Salafi jihadist group based in Sinai claimed responsibility for the attacks.⁶⁴

On 18 April, five Israeli Arabs from east Jerusalem aged between 20-25, were charged with conspiring to carry out shooting and kidnapping attacks against Jews praying on the Temple Mount and security personnel posted in east Jerusalem.⁶⁵ The Shin Bet said the leader of the cell was Nor Hamdan, 24, from Ras el-Amud. During interrogation, he confessed to the charges and admitted that he had been radicalized by videos of terrorist attacks that he saw on YouTube, particularly the 2008 Merkaz Harav yeshiva attack in which eight Israelis were murdered and 15 others were wounded.⁶⁶ According to the indictment, Hamdan recruited four cell members in February 2013 and had made contact with several terrorist organizations, both in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, to receive training, guidance and weaponry. The cell met several times in early 2013. Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) set the cell kidnapped a Jewish hitchhiker near Givat Zee'ev but when they found that he was unarmed, they allowed him to exit the vehicle.⁶⁷ They also planned to steal weapons from police officers in E-Tur, and went on to manufacture pipe bombs. They attempted to ambush a police vehicle, but were caught off guard by police and abandoned their plan.⁶⁸

On 30 April, Evyatar Borovsky was fatally stabbed in the chest and stomach at the Tapuah Junction in Samaria by Palestinian Salem Zaal (Salam Azal), 24, who then snatched Borovsky's weapon. A Border Police officer who witnessed the attack opened fire on the terrorist and moderately wounded him. He was taken into police custody. This was the first fatal terrorist attack in the West Bank since 2011. Authorities said Zaal was released six months ago from an Israeli prison after serving a sentence for rock-throwing. According to IDF evaluations, Zaal, a Fatah operative from the village of Shucha near Tulkarem, had executed the terror attack in order to clear his family name after his brother was sent to

⁶² Jerusalem Post, "My son is not a terrorist", 11 April 2013.

⁶³ Jerusalem Post, "Code Red' sounds in Eilat, two Grads fired at city", 17 April 2013.

⁶⁴ AP, "Two Grad rockets fired at Eilat", 17 April 2013.

⁶⁵ Ynet, "5 indicted for planning Temple Mount shooting attack", 18 April 2013.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Jerusalem Post, " 5 charged for plot to kill Jews praying at Temple Mt', 18 April 2013.

⁶⁸ Israel Today, "Palestinian gang planned to kill Jewish worshippers at Temple Mount ", 18 April 2013.

prison for collaborating with Israel.⁶⁹ Following the attack settlers rioted and attacked both Palestinians and Israeli security forces in the West Bank. Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, Fatah's military wing, has taken responsibility for the attack.⁷⁰

On 30 April, Israeli Air Force killed Hitham Mashal, 24, a rocket manufacturing expert and member of jihadist group operating in Gaza and Sinai, in what was the first targeted assassination since Operation Pillar of Defence in November 2012. Israeli authorities said he was linked to a rocket attack on Eilat earlier in April and was killed as he drove his motorcycle in the northern Gaza Strip.⁷¹ Mashal provided arms to the Shura Council of the Mujahedeen in the Environs of Jerusalem, an organization said to be linked to Al-Qaeda and operating in the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula. Another militant was injured in the strike.⁷²

Syria

On 8 April a suicide car bomber detonated his explosives in the main business district of Damascus killing 15 people and wounding 53 others. The explosion set cars alight and damaged nearby buildings.⁷³ Authorities said the attack occurred in an area which houses the country's central bank, the finance ministry, a state-run investment agency, mosques and schools.⁷⁴ Authorities said the bomb exploded inside the Central Bank's parking lot, destroying an outer structure and destroying windows of two large office buildings. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda linked rebels.⁷⁵

On 29 April, Wael al-Halki, the Syrian prime minister survived a bomb attack on his convoy in Damascus.⁷⁶ Six other people were killed in the explosion. The attack occurred in Mezzeh, an upscale area with many state offices and residences there as well as an important military airport, on the west side of Damascus. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda linked rebels.⁷⁷

On 30 April, 13 people were killed and 70 others wounded when a car bomb exploded in central Damascus in front of the old headquarters of Syria's Interior Ministry.⁷⁸ Witnesses reported they heard sporadic gunfire in the area following the explosion. The attack took

⁶⁹ Ynet, "Eviatar Borovsky laid to rest", 30 April 2013.

⁷⁰ Ynet, "Palestinian terrorist murders Israeli in West Bank", 30 April 2013.

⁷¹ Jerusalem Post, "IAF kills Gaza terrorist linked to rocket fire on Eilat", 30 April 2013.

⁷² Ynet, "IDF airstrike kills top terrorist in north Gaza", 30 April 2013.

⁷³ Reuters, "Deadly suicide car bomb strikes central Damascus", 8 April 2013.

⁷⁴ BBC, "Syria crisis: Damascus car bomb 'kills 15'", 8 April 2013.

⁷⁵ New York Times, "Wider Use of Car Bombs Angers Both Sides in Syrian Conflict", 8 April 2013.

⁷⁶ Reuters, "Syrian prime minister survives Damascus bomb attack", 29 April 2013.

⁷⁷ BBC, "Syria crisis: PM Halqi survives Damascus car bombing", 29 April 2013.

⁷⁸ Reuters, "Bomb blast kills 13 in center of Syrian capital", 30 April 2013.

place near a hotel, shopping centre and interior ministry building in Marjeh. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda linked rebels.⁷⁹

Yemen

On 17 April, an AQAP leader known as Hamed Radman and four fighters were killed in a US drone attack in the Oussab al Ali area, a mountainous region located between the provinces of Damar, Ibb, and Hodeida.⁸⁰ Following this strike, on 21 April, a US drone strike on a site allegedly used for training members of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, killed two militants and wounded three others. The raid targeted a house in Wadi Abida, in the central province of Marib, where the two unnamed militants were killed and a weapons cache was destroyed.⁸¹ Several hours later, Al-Qaeda militants attacked a military checkpoint in the same area, killing two soldiers. A militant was killed in the shootout.⁸²

On 23 April, 11 Al-Qaeda militants were sentenced up to 10 years in prison for forming armed gangs to destabilize the country and planning attacks on foreign embassies and security forces. During the hearing one of the militants, Ahmed al-Hababi threatened to kill the judge, shouting, "we will teach you a lesson and we will drag you on the ground." Two raised an Al-Qaeda flag inside the defendants' cage. Others shouted "Allah Akbar" - God is great" in Arabic.⁸³

United Arab Emirates

Authorities in the United Arab Emirates arrested seven people suspected of belonging to an Al-Qaeda linked militant cell.⁸⁴ The cell were allegedly planning to recruit new members, promote the work of Al-Qaeda and raise funds to help the network extend its activities to other countries in the region. They had also sought to expand their activities to other countries in the region.⁸⁵

NORTH AMERICA

Canada

On 23 April, Raed Jaser, 35, and Chiheb Esseghaier, 30 were charged with conspiring to plotting to carry out an attack to derail a train that runs between New York City and

⁷⁹ BBC, "Central Damascus 'hit by bomb explosion", 13 April 2013.

⁸⁰ Long War Journal, "US drones strike again in Yemen, kill 2 AQAP operatives", 21 April 2013.

⁸¹ AFP, "US drone strike kills two alleged al-Qaeda members in Yemen", 21 April 2013.

⁸² AP, "US drone strike kills 2 Al Qaeda militants, Yemeni officials say", 21 April 2013.

⁸³ AP, "Yemen court sentences 11 convicted al-Qaida militants to up to 10 years in prison", 23 April 2013.

⁸⁴ CNN, "7 terror cell suspects arrested in UAE", 18 April 2013.

⁸⁵ Bahrain News Agency, "UAE security authorities arrest a 7-member terror cell linked to al-Qaeda ", 18 April 2013.

Montreal. Authorities said it was not clear if they had set a date to carry out the attack.⁸⁶ Police said that Esseghaier was a resident of Montreal and Raed Jaser, of Toronto. Police said the men were not Canadian citizens, but declined to identify their nationalities or to describe their immigration status in Canada.⁸⁷ Canadian authorities alleged that the men received guidance from members of Al-Qaeda in Iran. Iranian government officials however denied any links to the plot.⁸⁸ Chief Superintendent Jennifer Strachan said both men had studied train movements and rail lines in and around Toronto and intended to carry out the attack on a train operated Via Rail Trains, a government-owned rail system within Canada. The police did not reveal specific detail however of which train or how the men intended to carry out the attack.⁸⁹ The investigation was part of a cross-border operation involving Canadian law enforcement agencies, the FBI and the US Department of Homeland Security. Authorities said the suspects were in the planning stages of the attack when the plot was foiled and the public were not immediate danger.⁹⁰

USA

On 15 April, two pressure bombs were detonated near the finish line of the 2013 Boston Marathon, killing three people and wounding 264 others, many seriously. The attackers escaped.⁹¹ The victims were identified as spectators Krystle Marie Campbell, 29 from Boston; Lü Lingzi 23, a Chinese national and Boston University graduate student and Martin William Richard, 8, from Boston, who was killed when the second bomb exploded.⁹² Following the attack, the FBI released images and videos of two suspects identified as Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev who were suspected of carrying out the attack. According to FBI interrogators, Dzhokhar and his brother were motivated by extremist Islamic beliefs and had been inspired by online Al-Qaeda magazine "Inspire" where they learned how to construct a bomb using a pressure cooker.⁹³ They were however lone wolves and not officially connected to any militant group. At the time of the attack, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was a student at the University of Massachusetts.⁹⁴

On 18 April, shortly after the FBI released the images, Sean Collier, 27, an MIT police officer was killed and a civilian was carjacked by the suspects. It was also reported that several

⁸⁶ BBC, "Canada foils 'al-Qaeda linked' terror attack on train", 23 April 2013.

⁸⁷ New York Times, "Two Are Accused in Canada of Plotting Train Derailment", 22 April 2013.

⁸⁸ The Seattle Times, "Canada terror suspect grew more radical", 25 April 2013.

⁸⁹ New York Times, "Two Are Accused in Canada of Plotting Train Derailment", 22 April 2013.

⁹⁰ Telegraph, "Canada foils al-Qaeda linked terror plot to derail train", 22 April 2013.

⁹¹ CNN, "What we know about the Boston bombing and its aftermath", 18 April 2013.

⁹² Boston.com, "Victims of the Marathon bombings", 16 April 2013.

⁹³ Telegraph, "Boston bombs suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev: Afghanistan and Iraq wars inspired us", 23 April 2013.

⁹⁴ Mail Online, "Revealed: 'Relaxed Boston 'bomber' partied with college friends two days AFTER marathon massacre", 19 April 2013.

hours earlier the Tsarnaev brothers robbed a convenience store in Cambridge, Massachusetts, three miles from Boston. The two suspects later hijacked an SUV at gunpoint, releasing the driver unharmed. Authorities later caught up to the suspects, and a car chase ensued. Just after midnight, the car chase ended with a gunfight in Watertown, Mass. The suspects reportedly threw explosive devices at police, though it is not yet confirmed what types of explosives allegedly were used. During the firefight, Tamerlan Tsarnaev was wounded, taken into custody and later reported dead. Dzhokhar escaped by driving the stolen SUV through the police barricade and escaped.⁹⁵ An unprecedented manhunt ensued, with thousands of police searching a 20-block area of Watertown.⁹⁶

On 19 April, following a lockdown of the area, a Watertown resident helped police find the suspect who was hiding in his boat in his back yard. Dzhokhar was arrested and taken to a hospital with injuries to the throat.⁹⁷ On 22 April, Dzhokhar was charged while still in the hospital, with use of a weapon of mass destruction and malicious destruction of property resulting in death.⁹⁸

During an initial interrogation in the hospital, Dzhokhar said his brother was the mastermind. He said they were motivated by extremist Islamist beliefs and the US Iraq War and War in Afghanistan, and that they were self-radicalized and unconnected to any outside terrorist groups. He said that he and his brother had decided after the Boston bombings to travel to New York City to bomb Times Square. It was reported that the two suspects were from Chechnya. Authorities said the brothers' mother, Zubeidat Tsarnaeva, was a radical extremist and supporter of jihad, who influenced her sons' behavior. The Russian government had previously warned the US government about the family's behavior, on two separate occasions. Both Tamerlan and his mother were placed on a terrorism watch list about 18 months before the bombing took place.⁹⁹ Their family also reportedly lived briefly in Makhachkala, the capital of Dagestan, before moving to the United States in 2002. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's profile on VKontakte, a Russian social media website, said he attended school at the School No. 1 of Makhachkala, spoke English, Russian and Chechen and listed his worldview as Islam. A school administrator from the School No. 1 said the two suspects and their family had previously lived in Kyrgyzstan before moving to Dagestan.¹⁰⁰

As part of the investigation, police arrested Azamat Tazhayakov and Dias Kadyrbaev in connection with the attack. They were charged with conspiracy to obstruct justice by

⁹⁵ Strafor, "Boston Bombing Suspects: Grassroots Militants from Chechnya", 19 April 2013.

⁹⁶ Wall Street Journal, "Deadly Blasts Rock Boston", 16 April 2013.

⁹⁷ Bloomberg, "Boston Bombing Suspect Apprehended at Watertown Home", 20 April 2013.

⁹⁸ FBI, "F.B.I. Posts Images of Pair Suspected in Boston Attack", 18 April 2013.

⁹⁹ AP, "Zubeidat Tsarnaeva, Bombing Suspect's Mom, Also On Terror List", 26 April 2013.

¹⁰⁰ Strafor, "Boston Bombing Suspects: Grassroots Militants from Chechnya", 19 April 2013.

plotting to dispose of a laptop computer and a backpack containing fireworks belonging to bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. A third man, Robel Phillipos, 19, of Cambridge was charged with making false statements to law enforcement officials in a terrorism investigation. All three were, or had been, students at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, where Tsarnaev, 19, was also a student. Tazhayakov and Kadyrbayev faced maximum sentences of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Phillipos faces a maximum sentence of eight years and a \$250,000 fine.¹⁰¹

On 19 April, Randy Lamar Wilson, alias "Rasheed" pleaded guilty in a US District Court to a charge of conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists. Under a plea agreement with prosecutors, he could face 15 years in federal prison, contingent on the information he provides about co-conspirators. He was arrested in December 2012 at the Atlanta airport while boarding a flight with his family to Mauritania.¹⁰² FBI agents claimed that Wilson is a radical Islamist militant who wanted to reunite with Omar Hammami, an American who also grew up in Alabama and became one of the most well-known jihadists in Somalia. US District Judge Kristi DuBose set a sentencing date for Wilson on 18 October 2013.¹⁰³

On 24 April, Wadih El-Hage, 52, a Lebanese-born US citizen and former personal secretary to Osama bin Laden, was sentenced to life in prison for the second time, for participating in a conspiracy to kill Americans that included the 1998 US Embassy attacks in Africa. In 2001 he was one of four people convicted for their roles in bombings of embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that killed 224 people and injured thousands. He was re-sentenced after a prior life term was reversed in 2008 and sent back to the district court. His lawyers sought leniency. As part of his new sentence El-Hage was also ordered to pay \$33.8 million in restitution.¹⁰⁴ US District Judge Leonard Sand, had previously sentenced El-Hage to life in prison in October 2001. However, the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals, while upholding his conviction, reversed his sentence in 2008, citing a 2005 US Supreme Court case that struck down the mandatory application of federal sentencing guidelines used in his case.¹⁰⁵

On 26 April, Mohamed Mamdouh, 22, a Moroccan-born US citizen, was sentenced in New York State Supreme Court to five years in prison for plotting to blow up synagogues in New York City. He appeared in a state court in Manhattan after previously pleading guilty to conspiracy as a crime of terrorism and two related weapons charges. Prosecutors accused him of planning to bomb various synagogues with a co-conspirator, Ahmed Ferhani, 28 who

¹⁰¹ Boston.com, "Two Kazakh men, Cambridge man, face charges in disposal of backpack owned by Boston Marathon bombing suspect", 1 May 2013.

¹⁰² Reuters, "Alabama jihadist pleads guilty in Africa plot", 15 April 2013.

¹⁰³ AP, "Ala. man accused of planning to wage jihad in Africa pleads guilty to supporting terrorism", 19 April 2013.

¹⁰⁴ AP, "Former bin Laden aid resentenced to life in prison", 24 April 2013.

¹⁰⁵ Reuters, "Ex-bin Laden secretary gets life for 1998 embassy bombings role", 24 April 2013.

was considered the mastermind behind the plot and was sentenced to 10 years in prison in March 2013.¹⁰⁶ Algerian Ahmed Ferhani, was sentenced to 10 years in prison in March 2013 faced and deportment after his release. Ferhani and Mamdouh were arrested after they bought three firearms and what they believed was a live grenade from an undercover police detective. They reportedly had planned to disguise themselves as Hasidic Jews in order to get into the synagogues. They are the first people to be convicted under a state antiterrorism law passed following the 9/11 2001 attacks on the USA.¹⁰⁷

ASIA

Afghanistan=

On 3 April, 46 people were killed and 100 others injured when nine Taliban suicide bombers attacked the courthouse in Farah in an attempt to free Taliban fighters standing trial.¹⁰⁸ The militants stormed the governor's compound in the capital of Farah province, where the trial was taking place. The Taliban said all 10 of its fighters who were on trial were freed.¹⁰⁹ Authorities said that the attack began around 0800 when military police stopped a suspicious army vehicle approaching the road that leads to Farah city's appeals court and the attorney general's office. The back of the truck, loaded with explosives, was covered with a tarpaulin. The assailants in the truck opened fire on the first guard who tried to stop it and they drove on. When two other guards blocked their way, the vehicle detonated. The accounts about what happened next are conflicting. Some say that nine assailants, dressed in Afghan army uniforms, had already made their way toward the appeals court and the attorney general's office. Others suggest the heavily armed Taliban arrived after the explosion and split between the attorney general's office and the court — both were packed with visitors. Either way, a gun battle lasted for eight hours. Among the victims were 10 police personnel and army soldiers. The rest were judges, attorneys and other civilians.¹¹⁰ Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousef Ahmadi, claimed responsibility for the incident saying the aim of the attack was to free the militants on trial.¹¹¹

On 5 April, a bomb hidden on the back of a donkey, was remotely detonated as the animal walked close to a police post in Laghman province . One policeman was killed and three civilians wounded. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed

¹⁰⁶ Reuters, "Man sentenced to five years for role in NYC synagogue bomb plot", 26 April 2013.

¹⁰⁷ Haaretz, "N.Y.C. synagogue bomber accomplice sentenced to five years prison", 29 April 2013.

¹⁰⁸ Al-Jazeera, "Dozens die in attack on court in Afghanistan", 3 April 2013.

¹⁰⁹ Bloomberg, "Taliban Bomb Attack on Provincial Court Kills 44, Wounds 91", 3 April 2013.

¹¹⁰ Time, "As Fighting Season Begins, a Gruesome Terrorist Attack Shakes Afghanistan", 18 April 2013.

¹¹¹ DW, "Dozens die as Taliban militants storm Afghan court" 3 April 2013.

Taliban militants. Donkey bombs are rare in Afghanistan. Authorities said militants use this method to get close to targets.¹¹²

India

On 17 April, 16 people were injured when a bomb exploded close to the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) Karnataka New State Office Jagannath Bhawan in Bangalore.¹¹³ Authorities said the bomb was placed on a motorcycle parked about 100 yards from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) headquarters, and half of the casualties were policemen on duty. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.¹¹⁴

On 18 April, Mirza Himayat Inayat Baig was sentenced to death by a session's court in Pune. Baig was found guilty of carrying out a bombing at a German Bakery in Pune on 13 February 2010 that killed 17 people and wounded 60 others. He was found guilty of five counts, including murder and criminal conspiracy. Baig was arrested on 7 September 2010 in Pune. According to authorities, he had ties with Indian Mujahedin and Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba but also assembled the bomb with the help of two IM men at his cyber cafe. The court also sentenced him to life imprisonment on five other counts. The death penalty will have to be confirmed by the Bombay high court. Indian Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack. Its founding members Riyaz Bhatkal, Iqbal Bhatkal (both brothers) and Yasin Bhatkal are among the five named in the charge sheet. All of them are at large. Seventh suspect Zabiuddin Ansari is yet to be tried.¹¹⁵

Nepal

On 13 April, Mohsin Khosravian, an Iranian national carrying a forged Israeli passport, was arrested by Israeli Embassy personnel in Kathmandu, suspected of planning to carry out a series of attacks against Israeli institutions and tourists in Nepal.¹¹⁶ Kesh Bahadur Shahi of Nepal's Central Investigation Bureau said Khosravian was being held in a detention centre in Katmandu.¹¹⁷ Authorities in Nepal said they believed that the man entered Nepal on 3 April on a false Israeli passport while concealing his genuine Iranian documents in his luggage. Khosravian, was carrying a tourist map of the neighbourhood when he was detained, initially told police he had been looking for a computer shop to repair his laptop. He later admitted travelling from Iran to the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, where he had been given the forged passport that named him as "Alexander". Subsequently, he flew to Sri

¹¹² AFP, "Afghan donkey bomb kills policeman", 5 April 2013.

¹¹³ CSM, "Bomb blast in southern India raises concern about rising terrorism in Bangalore", 17 April 2013.

¹¹⁴ Yahoo News India, "Blast outside Bangalore BJP office leaves 16 injured; probe ordered", 17 April 2013.

¹¹⁵ Hindustan Times, "Pune bakery blast convict Himayat Baig to hang", 18 April 2013.

¹¹⁶ Telegraph, "Iranian travelling on fake Israeli passport 'arrested in Nepal'", 23 April 2013.

¹¹⁷ AP, "Iranian man using fake Israeli passport arrested in Nepal and being questioned, police say", 24 April 2013.

Lanka, and from there to Kathmandu.¹¹⁸ He claimed that after facing loss in his garment business, he arrived in Nepal intending to go to Europe to seek asylum. He was discovered when his Thai wife and two of his Iranian relatives arrived in Kathmandu from Bangkok, where Mohsin has been residing for five years.¹¹⁹

Pakistan

On 16 April, 17 people including policemen were killed and 60 others injured in a suicide bombing in Peshawar. The bomb blast took place in Yakatoot, a congested neighbourhood of Peshawar, just after the arrival of senior ANP leader Ghulam Ahmed Bilour. The Awami National Party (ANP), which governed the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, had called the political rally ahead of next month's elections.¹²⁰ Authorities said six kilograms of explosives along with splinters and ball bearings were used in the bombing. Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan claimed responsibility for the attack.¹²¹

On 19 April, former Pakistani president Pervez Musharraf was arrested on terrorism related charges relating to the unlawful detention of judges in 2007. Initially he was placed under house arrest at his home in Islamabad but later transferred to the police headquarters in the city.¹²² On 26 April he appeared in court in Rawalpindi and was further ordered a three-day house arrest in connection with the murder of ex-Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in December 2007. Musharraf's government blamed Bhutto's killing on Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud, who denied any involvement. Mehsud was killed in a US drone attack in August 2009.¹²³ The Bhutto case is the second of three cases dating back to his 1999-2008 rule for which Musharraf was arrested. He was placed on house arrest in his villa on the edge of Islamabad, where he is already under a two-week house arrest over his decision to sack judges when he imposed emergency rule in 2007.¹²⁴ The Pakistani Taliban vowed to assassinate the former president, who seized power in a 1999 coup.¹²⁵

On 29 April, eight people were killed in two coordinated bomb attacks that targeted the offices of election candidates in northwest Pakistan. Authorities said the explosion damaged shops and vehicles nearby and also hit an office of the Awami National Party (ANP), which has been targeted repeatedly by the Taliban.¹²⁶

¹¹⁸ Times of Israel, "Iranian on fake Israeli passport held in Nepal for possible terror plot", 22 April 2013.

¹¹⁹ Jerusalem Post "Iranian using fake Israeli passport arrested in Nepal", 23 April 2013.

¹²⁰ BBC, "Pakistan election rally hit by deadly bomb attack", 16 April 2013.

¹²¹ Dawn, "Blast at ANP rally kills 16 in Peshawar", 16 April 2013.

¹²² Guardian, "Pervez Musharraf taken into custody on charges of terrorism", 19 April 2013.

¹²³ Reuters, "Pakistani police arrest former president Musharraf", 19 April 2013.

¹²⁴ BBC, "Pakistani police arrest Pervez Musharraf in Islamabad", 19 April 2013.

¹²⁵ AFP, "Pervez Musharraf arrested in Benazir Bhutto case", 27 April 2013.

¹²⁶ AFP, "Deadly twin bomb attacks hit Pakistan election offices", 29 April 2013.

Thailand

On 5 April, Yala deputy governor Issara Thongthawat and Chavalit Krairisk, Yala's security secretary, were killed and their driver critically injured in a roadside bomb attack in Bannang Sata district. The deputy governor's team was on its way to a food fair in Betong district when the bomb exploded. His car was being escorted by security forces from Yala Taskforce 15. Authorities said the explosion left a one-metre deep crater and the bomb was estimated to weigh about 20 kilograms. It was planted underneath the road.¹²⁷ The deputy governor appeared to have been targeted by militants while on his way to attend a local food fair. Thailand held its first official peace talks with southern insurgents in April 2013 with a one-day meeting with representatives of the Barisan Revolusi Nasional in Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur. Little is known about the various militant groups' identities, structures or aims, and questions remain over the ability of older militant leaders to rein in attacks by a younger generation of insurgents.¹²⁸ No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities suspect a militant group led by Makata Alimamah which is active in the province and seek to derail peace talks.¹²⁹

¹²⁷ Bangkok Post, "Deputy governor killed", 6 April 2013.

¹²⁸ AAP, "Bomb kills 2 top Thai provincial officials", 7 April 2013.

¹²⁹ AP, "2 Thai officials, including a deputy governor, killed in bombing in insurgency-plagued south", 5 April 2013.