



The following is a summary and analysis of terrorist attacks and counter-terrorism operations that occurred during the month of September 2011, researched and recorded by the ICT database team. Among others:

- On 7 September 2011, two people were arrested in Helsinki, Finland on suspicion of funding and recruiting for al-Shabaab. This was the first terror related arrests carried out in Finland.
- On 8 September 2011, Munir Farooqi and Matthew Newton were jailed in Manchester, UK, convicted of attempting to recruit young men to join the Taliban in Afghanistan.
- On 9 September 2011, hundreds of Egyptian infiltrated the Israeli embassy in Cairo, Egypt.. Six embassy staff were evacuated by Egyptian commandos, following the personal intervention of US President Barack Obama.
- On 11 September 2011, police evacuated the Roda Sten arts center in Gothenburg, Sweden and arrested four people on suspicion of preparing a terror attack.
- On 12 September 2011, 22 Shiite pilgrims were killed, when the bus they were traveling on was ambushed by a group of gunmen in Anbar Province, Iraq.
- On 15 September 2011, a gag order was lifted announcing the arrest of five Israeli Arabs suspected of planning several attacks targeting police stations and the abduction of policemen and soldiers.
- On 15 September 2011, 31 people were killed and 75 injured when a suicide bomber detonated his explosives at a funeral service of Bakhat Khan, a Pakistani tribesman opposed to the Taliban
- On 16 September 2011, Arnaldo Otegi was found guilty of terrorism and sentenced to 10 years in prison for trying to revive the banned political wing of the militant group ETA.
- On 16 September 2011, Edris Nsubuga was sentenced in Uganda to 25 years in prison and Muhamoud Mugisha, to five years in prison, for their roles in the July 2010 Kampala attacks.
- On 19 September 2011, seven people were arrested in Birmingham, UK on suspicion of the commission, preparation, instigation and withholding information about an act of terrorism.
- On 20 September 2011, Burhanuddin Rabbani, former Afghan President, was killed by a suicide bomber.
- On 23 September 2011, police in Morocco dismantled a three man terror cell linked to AQIM,.
- On 29 September 2011, Anwar al-Awlaki, was killed by a joint US and Yemeni drone attack that targeted his convoy outside the town of Khashef in Jawf province, Yemen. Four other suspected al-Qa'ida militants were also killed, including Samir Khan, editor of al-Qa'ida's "Inspire" magazine.



EUROPE

United Kingdom

On 8 September 2011, as a result of a three-month trial at Manchester Crown Court, Munir, Farooqi, 54 and Matthew Newton, 29, were jailed after being convicted of attempting to recruit vulnerable men to fight British soldiers in Afghanistan.¹ Farooqi, who was considered the group leader, was given four life sentences for the preparation of terror acts, soliciting to murder and distributing terrorist publications. Newton, a British Muslim convert, was sentenced of six years in prison for preparing for acts of terrorism and distributing terrorist literature.² Farooqi's son, Harris, 28, was cleared of one count of engaging in conduct for the preparation of terrorism. A fourth man, Israr Malik, 23, was found guilty of preparing for acts of terrorism and two counts of soliciting to murder. He was given an unspecified sentence for the public protection with a recommendation that he serve five years in prison. The suspect's lawyers said they were considering making an appeal.³

In 2002, Farooqi, who was known to British authorities for his connections to the Taliban, set up a "dawah stall" at Longsight market in Manchester. In 2008, two undercover police officers approached Farooqi's stall on several occasions. For nearly a year, the undercover officers pretended they were becoming radicalized by the group and adopted Muslim names. In bugged conversations, Farooqi was recorded describing his time in Afghanistan. Israr Malik described how he wanted to die for jihad. Both men promoted terrorist publications, including lectures on DVDS by Anwar al-Awlaki and by Imans at several mosques in Manchester. When police raided Farooqi's home they found 50,000 books and pamphlets and 5,000 DVDs that contained jihadi propaganda.⁴

On 19 September 2011, police in Birmingham raided six residential properties and one commercial property and arrested six men and a woman, aged between 25 and 32, held on suspicion of the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism in the UK. The woman, 22, who was accused of failing to disclose information acting against the Terrorism Act 2000.⁵ Two of the suspects identified as Irfan Nasser, 30, and Irfan Khalid, 26, were

¹ Guardian, "Jihad recruiters jailed after anti-terror trial", 9 September 2011;

² Telegraph, "Former Taliban jailed for recruiting young men on streets of Britain", 9 September 2011;

³ Manchester Evening News, "Extremists jailed for trying to recruit Taliban fighters from Longsight market stall 'plan to appeal', 20 September 2011;

⁴ Telegraph, "Former Taliban jailed for recruiting young men on streets of Britain", 9 September 2011;

⁵ AP, "UK police arrest 7 in anti-terror operation", 19 September 2011;



accused of attending terrorist training camps in Pakistan and making a martyrdom video affirming their intention to become a suicide bomber. They were accused of constructing a home-made explosive device. Ashik Ali, 26, was accused of preparing for an act of terrorism and providing a location for the preparation of the attack. He was also accused of expressing his desire to become a suicide bomber. Rahin Ahmed, 25, was accused of funding the terror operation. Mohammed Rizwan, 32, and Bahader Ali, 28, were charged with failing to disclose information about potential acts of terrorism. A seventh man aged 20, was also arrested and was being questioned. The arrests were made at the same time a political conference for the Liberal Democrats' that was being held in the city, however, police confirmed the arrests were not linked to the conference.⁶

Finland

On 7 September 2011, a man and a woman were arrested in Helsinki, on suspicion of funding and recruiting for al-Shabaab in Somalia. The Finnish Security Intelligence Service said the arrests were a result of an investigation that began in 2009 and were the first time Finnish authorities had carried out a terror related arrest. They also said that the terrorists were not planning an attack that would target Finland and therefore the threat level of the country would not change. The suspects admitted to sending small amounts of money to Somalia and recruiting at least one individual.⁷ Authorities said the male suspect lived in Finland since 2005 and applied for Finnish citizenship. He has held a number of jobs in Finland and had also been self-employed. The female suspect, 28 was a student who arrived in the country in 2008.⁸ The maximum charged they faced were eight years in prison.⁹

Spain

On 16 September 2011, Arnaldo Otegi, former leader of the outlawed Batasuna party linked to ETA, was found guilty of terrorism and sentenced to 10 years in prison for trying to revive the banned political wing of the militant group ETA. Otegi was charged with trying to form an organization that would replace Batasuna. During the trial, which ended in July 2011, he argued that it was this group which persuaded the pro-ETA Basque separatist community to

⁶ BBC, "Seven held in Birmingham anti-terror operation", 19 September 2011;

⁷ AP, "Two Arrests in Finland Are Linked to Terrorism", 17 September 2011;

⁸ YLE.fi, "Police: terrorist suspects linked to al-Shabab", 17 September 2011;

⁹ VOA, "Finland Arrests 2 In Its First Ever Terror Case", 16 September 2011;



reject violence. The court ruled that Otegi was acting on orders from ETA to regroup pro-independence forces into a new political tool for ETA.¹⁰

Sweden

On 11 September 2011, just after midnight, Swedish police evacuated the RodaSten arts center, located beneath the Alvsborg Bridge in Gothenburg and arrested four people on suspicion of preparing a terror attack. Gothenburg's International Biennial for Contemporary Art's opening party was taking place at the gallery, with over 400 people attending. Media reports said the men had ties to al-Shaabab and that they were trying to acquire, firearms, explosives and hand grenades.¹¹ Other media reports suggested the target of the foiled attack was a plot to kill Swedish artist Lars Vilks, who was expected to attend the festival but was not present at the time of the arrests. Local media also claimed that one of the suspects had bought a pocketknife to be used in the attack.¹² The suspects identified in the media as Salar Sami Mahamood 23, Abdi Aziz Mahamud, 26 AbdiWeli Mohamud, 25 and Mohamed Adel Kulan, 24. Three of the suspects were Swedish nationals, one was a Somali citizen; all of them lived in Gothenburg.¹³ Police initially said the four were suspected of plotting a terrorist attack, but when the prosecutor asked the court to remand them in custody it was on suspicion of planning a murder. The court remanded three of the men in custody, and released the fourth due to lack of evidence.¹⁴

Germany

On 8 September 2011, two men were arrested as a result of a two month police investigation in Berlin. Police said that the two men had obtained chemical substances which they suspect were intended to be used to make explosives. Police said the suspects were a German of Lebanese origin, 24 and a Palestinian from Gaza, 28, but they did not release their identity to the public.¹⁵ Police searched the suspect's homes and an Islamic cultural centre and mosque they attended in Berlin's Wedding district.¹⁶ The arrests were made after police tracked their purchases of bomb-making materials. A newspaper, Berliner

¹⁰ Associated Press, "Spain court convicts Basque leader of terrorism", 16 September 2011;

¹¹ AP, "Swedish terror suspects from Somalia, Iraq", 12 September 2011;

¹² Telegraph, "Swedish cartoonist target of foiled attack", 21 September 2011;

¹³ AP, "Swedish terror suspects from Somalia, Iraq", 12 September 2011;

¹⁴ Telegraph, "Swedish police arrest four over suspected terror attack day before 9/11 anniversary", 11 September 2011;

¹⁵ AFP, "Berlin police detain two terror suspects in bomb plot", 8 September 2011;

¹⁶ BBC, "German police arrest pair in Berlin over 'bomb plot'", 8 September 2011;



Morgenpost, reported that the chemicals were a coolant and an acid used in agriculture. The police said the suppliers of the chemicals had alerted the police to the unusual quantities that the men bought.¹⁷

Russia

On 22 September 2011, six people were killed, including a Russian policeman and 60 injured, when three car bombs exploded in the capital of Dagestan. The first bomb exploded in Makhachkala at 1930 local time, killing four people and injuring five. Police said the bomb contained three kilograms of TNT. When police arrived at the scene, a second bomb then exploded which was about 12 times more powerful, causing the majority of injuries. A third car bomb also exploded, killing two people. Authorities said several hours before the car bombs exploded, four suspected Islamic insurgents died when the explosives they were carrying in their car detonated on a capital street. Police suspect the two were linked.¹⁸

On 28 September 2011, eight people including a policeman and a child were killed and six injured, when a car bomb exploded in Khadzalmakhi, Dagestan.¹⁹ The attacker detonated the bomb, as police were approaching the vehicle to inspect it. The policeman who was killed was identified as Abdulmazhid Mirzaev. Some reports claimed that the bombing may have been an attempt to assassinate the head of the Gergebilsky district administration, Magomed Magomeov, who was driving in a convoy of vehicles close to the site of the explosion. He received only minor injuries in the blast. The authorities differed on the amount of explosives used in the attack. The Dagestani Interior Ministry source who said it 40 kilograms of TNT however police sources said 20 kilograms of TNT were used.²⁰ No group claimed responsibility for the attack.²¹

AFRICA

Morocco

On 23 September 2011, police in Morocco arrested three men who they suspect ran a terrorist cell known as the Al-Battar Brigade, or "The Cutting Squadron". Authorities believe

¹⁷ New York Times, "Two Men Arrested in German Bomb Plot", 8 September 2011;

¹⁸ Moscow Times, "Blasts Kill 6, Injure 60 in Makhachkala", 23 September 2011;

¹⁹ VOA, "Eight Killed in Dagestan Car Bomb Attack", 28 September 2011;

²⁰ Jamestown Foundation, "Eight Killed In Dagestan Car Bombing", 30 September 2011;

²¹ VOA, "Eight Killed in Dagestan Car Bomb Attack", 28 September 2011;



the cell had links to al-Qa'ida in the Islamic and that the militants were planning attacks intended to assassinate security agents to obtain their weapons and then carry out attacks on western targets in Morocco. The authorities did not say where the arrests were made.²² The authorities said that the leader of the cell was active in the online jihadist community and was in touch with militant organizations in Yemen, Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya and Iraq. Another member of the group had previously been detained under the anti-terrorism law.²³

Uganda

On 16 September 2011, two men were sentenced for their role in the July 2010 Kampala attacks. Edris Nsubuga, who admitted planting the explosives was spared the death sentence after pleading guilty but was sentenced to 25 years in prison on terrorism charges. Muhamoud Mugisha, who also pleaded guilty, received a five-year sentence for conspiracy to commit terrorism.²⁴

MIDDLE EAST

Egypt

On 9 September 2011, hundreds of Egyptian demonstrators infiltrated the Israeli embassy in Cairo. Initially the Egyptian police forces stationed at the site did not attempt to stop the protesters. However when the protesters broke into a police station and stole weapons, the police fired tear gas. The demonstrators eventually broke through the security wall and entered the offices of the embassy. The demonstrators threw stones and tear-gas canisters at the security forces shouting against Egypt's ruling military council with denunciation of Israel. Six embassy staff members were evacuated from the Embassy's safe room by Egyptian commandos, following the personal intervention of US President Barack Obama. Following the attack, the Israeli deputy ambassador remained in Cairo but 85 staff members and their families returned to Israel. The Egyptian army declared a state of alert. The incident caused diplomatic tensions between Israel and Egypt. In a statement to the press, Israeli President Netanyahu, thanked the Egyptian commandos for rescuing the Israeli

²² AP, "Morocco dismantles cell linked to al-Qaida", 23 September 2011;

²³ Reuters, "Morocco says thwarts "assassination cell", 23 September 2011;

²⁴ UPI, "Uganda Sentences 2 For Al-Shabab Bombings", 16 September 2011;



embassy staff however he also stated that the protesters had imposed a "severe injury to the fabric of peace".²⁵

Iraq

On 12 September 2011, 22 Shiite pilgrims were killed, when the bus they were traveling on was ambushed by a group of gunmen. The attackers ordered all the women and children to exit the bus and then they killed all of the male passengers. The attack occurred on the main highway in Anbar Province between Baghdad and the border with Jordan. An Iraqi Army patrol discovered the women by the side of the highway, emotionally traumatized by the attack. The Iraqi soldiers escorted the woman and children back to Karbala, where the pilgrimage had begun. The pilgrims were on a trip to the Sayyida Zainab shrine in Damascus, Syria. Officials gave conflicting accounts about whether they were headed to Syria or returning from there. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but police suspect they were linked to al-Qa'ida.²⁶

Yemen

On 27 September 2011, Yemen's defense minister, Mohammed Nasser Ahmed escaped unhurt when his convoy was attacked by a suicide car bomber and a group of militants who threw hand grenades towards him. Witnesses said the explosion occurred in the Tuwahi district of the city as the convoy was leaving a hotel.²⁷ Three soldiers were killed and nine others wounded. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.²⁸

On 29 September 2011, Anwar al-Awlaki, 40, was killed by a joint US and Yemeni drone attack that targeted his convoy, at approximately 09:55, outside the town of Khashef in Jawf province, 140 km east of Sanaa. Four other suspected al-Qa'ida militants were also killed, including Samir Khan, editor of al-Qa'ida's "Inspire" magazine. Yemen's Defense Ministry and US officials confirmed the deaths. In 2010, the Obama administration authorized the targeted killing of Anwar al-Awlaki and he was the first US citizen placed on the CIA's "kill or capture list". This led al-Awlaki's father to file a lawsuit challenging the government's authority to carry out targeted killings; however he lost the law suit.²⁹ US President Obama

²⁵ AP, "Egypt commandos save 6 Israelis in embassy attack", 10 September 2011;

²⁶ AP, "Gunmen in Iraq Take Over Bus Filled With Shiite Pilgrims and Kill 22 Men", 12 September 2011;

²⁷ New York Times, "Official Survives Attack in Yemen", 27 September 2011;

²⁸ BBC, "Yemen Defence Minister Ali 'survives attack", 27 October 2011;

²⁹ New York Times, "U.S.-Born Qaeda Leader Killed in Yemen", 30 September 2011;



defended the targeting killing of al-Awlaki, as Obama said he had directly taken a lead to kill innocent Americans and Yemeni citizens and he was a global threat.³⁰

The operation to kill Anwar al-Awlaki was known as "Operation Troy". Three weeks prior to the assassination, CIA officials arrested al-Awlaki's courier, who during interrogation provided the authorities with information to his whereabouts. The CIA and Joint Special Operations Command unit then spent two weeks observing al-Awlaki's movements.³¹ Anwar al-Awlaki had been in hiding in Yemen since December 2007. He was fluent in both English and Arabic. Although al-Awlaki did not actually physically carry out the attacks, he guided the perpetrators through messages of ideology or actual techniques. He used the internet and social media, such as YouTube and Facebook to strongly influence the perpetrators on both an operational-level and strategic-level guidance.³² He illustrated the increasing global threat of homegrown extremists who "self-radicalize" based on what they read on the internet.³³ Anwar al-Awlaki was blamed for inspiring US army major Nidal Hassan to kill his fellow soldiers in Ford Hood, Texas in 2009 and for inspiring the British woman Roshonara Choudhry to stab MP Stephen Timms because he had supported the invasion of Iraq. Al-Awlaki was also suspected of having a significant role in the Christmas 2009 Detroit airline bomb attempt and in the plot which sent two bombs in printer cartridges on US-bound cargo planes in 2010. He was associated with the failed bombing in New York's Times Square on 1 May 2010. The US government suspects she wanted to use poisons including cyanide and ricin in attacks. When he was imam of a San Diego mosque in the 1990s, he influenced through his sermons Khalid al-Midhar and Nawaf al-Hazmi, both were 9/11 bombers. He also lived in the UK from 2002-04, where he spent several months giving lectures to Muslim youth.³⁴

Israel including West Bank and Gaza Strip

On 15 September 2011, a gag order was lifted that announced the arrest of five Israeli Arabs from the village of Daburiya in northern Israel suspected of planning several attacks targeting police stations and the abduction of policemen and soldiers. The suspects had allegedly identified potential targets and tried to find work in Israeli government offices and

³⁰ BBC, "Islamist cleric Anwar al-Awlaki killed in Yemen", 30 September 2011;

³¹ Telegraph, "How America finally caught up with Anwar al-Awlaki", 2 October 2011;

³² ABC, "How Anwar Al-Awlaki Inspired Terror From Across the Globe", 30 September 2011;

³³ Fox News, "Two U.S.-Born Terrorists Killed in CIA-Led Drone Strike", 30 September 2011;

³⁴ BBC, "Islamist cleric Anwar al-Awlaki killed in Yemen", 30 September 2011;



strategic facilities from where they were to carry out their attacks.³⁵ All five men, aged between 19-24, were charged at the Nazareth Magistrate's Court with a range of offenses, including plotting to commit a crime, plotting to set up an illegal association, and plotting to carry out violent and armed offenses. The police identified the militants as; Asalam Abdelqader Khalil Atrash, who was a student at Haifa University and the suspected leader of the cell; Shadi Ali Fuad Ibrahim; a student at the Israel Institute of Technology; Mahdi Khaled Saadi Maslaha; , Ibrahim Suheel Mahmoud Akatilat; and Ismail Ibrahim Amin Akatilat. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said the cell was linked to Salfiya Jihadiya whose members urge followers to launch armed attacks on Israel, the West, and Arab-Muslim countries deemed as being insufficiently religious. Aslam Atrash, one of the cells members had allegedly set up an internet forum where he published articles supporting Salafiya Jihadiya and its extremist ideology. He was also suspected of being in contact with Sheikh Nathm Sakafa of Nazareth, leader of the Ansar Allah organization in the area.³⁶ One of the cell members had downloaded pictures of electric circuits used for assembling bombs as part of the preparations for the planned attack.³⁷

On 23 September 2011, Hillel Palmer, 25 and his infant son Yonatan, 1, were killed when their car overturned on Route 60 between Kiryat Arba and Karmeit Zzur in the West Bank. Initially the authorities reported this was a traffic accident however after further investigation, police confirmed it was a terror attack. A blood stained rock was discovered in the car, together with evidence from the position of the steering wheel and a wound on the victim's face supported the casualties were a victim of a stoning attack by a Palestinian attacker. Palmer's pistol had also been removed from the car No group claimed responsibility for the attack but Hebron District police force said that several weeks leading up to this attack there had been 18 cases of stone throwing from Palestinian militants. The case caused conflict between Israeli settlers and the police; the police were accused of covering up the attack in an effort to maintain public order.³⁸

³⁵ Haaretz, "Five Israeli Arabs arrested for allegedly planning terror attacks", 15 September 2011;

³⁶ Ynet, "5 Arab-Israelis arrest on suspicion of plotting terror", 15 September 2011;

³⁷ Jerusalem Post, "5 Arab-Israelis arrest on suspicion of plotting terror", 15 September 2011;

³⁸ Haaretz, "Fatal West Bank car crash caused by Palestinian stone-throwing", September 2011;



Turkey

On 20 September 2011, a car bomb exploded in downtown Ankara, killing three people and wounding 34 others.³⁹ The attack began in a car equipped with a tank of liquefied petroleum gas and this caused other parked cars with similar tanks, to set alight. Witnesses claimed that they saw a burning gasoline can being thrown out of a window of a nearby building and landing on a car which triggered the explosion. Video images of the scene showed at least four cars on fire, shop windows broken and smoke rising above the neighborhood. A high school nearby was evacuated.⁴⁰ Police detained a woman at the scene who shouted "long live our struggle!" as she was escorted away by police. Her identity and role in the attack was not released to the public. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but police suspect PKK rebels.⁴¹

NORTH AMERICA

USA

On 12 September 2011, Irfan UIHaq, 37; Qasim Ali, 32; and Zahid Yousaf, 43, pleaded guilty at a hearing before US District Judge John Bates in the District of Columbia, to one count each of conspiracy to provide material support to the TTP. Their sentencing was scheduled for 9 December 2011, where they each face a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. As part of their plea agreements, they agreed to a stipulated order of removal to Pakistan upon the completion of their criminal sentences. According to court documents, UIHaq, Ali and Yousaf conducted a human smuggling operation in Quito, Ecuador. They were accused of attempting to smuggle an individual they believed to be a member of the TTP from Pakistan into the United States.⁴²

On 22 September 2011, a new multilateral organization was launched dedicated to fighting terrorism. The United States and Turkey will be the initial co-chairs of the group's committee. Major nations from Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe are members of the group, which includes leading Muslim nations like Egypt and Pakistan as well as emerging economic powers like China. The GCTF will initially have five working groups, one focusing on

³⁹ AP, "Footage shows aftermath of deadly terror attack in Turkey's capital", 20 September 2011;

⁴⁰ New York Times, "Explosions in Turkish Capital Are Believed to Be Terrorism", 20 September 2011;

⁴¹ AP, "Footage shows aftermath of deadly terror attack in Turkey's capital", 20 September 2011;

⁴² State Department of Justice, "Three Plead Guilty to Conspiracy to Provide Material Support to the Pakistani Taliban", 12 September 2011;



criminal justice and rule of law; one on countering violent extremism; and three aimed at building counter-terrorism capacity in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and Southeast Asia.⁴³

ASIA

Indonesia

On 25 September 2011, one person was killed and injured 20, when a suicide bomber attacked the Bethel Injil Sepuluh church in Keputon, Solo as people were leaving the Sunday service. The bomb was a small device with relatively low-powered explosives.⁴⁴ The explosion damaged parts of the church, was heard as far as 500 meters from the church.⁴⁵ Authorities identified the attacker as Ahmad Yosepa Hayat, one of the most-wanted fugitives from a group behind a similar blast at a police mosque in April 2011. Hayat, also known as Pino Damayanto, had links to Jema'ah Ansharut Tauhid (JAT), a group founded by Abu Bakar Bashir.⁴⁶

China

On 8 September 2011, the Turkestan Islamic Party released a ten minute video claiming responsibility for attacks that occurred in July and August 2011. The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Weimin however said he had no information on the video and claims. The video featured Turkistan Islamic Party leader Abdul Shakoor Damla, who spoke in the Turkic language of the Uighurs. The video also showed a brief biography and footage of what Damla claimed was Memtieli Tiliwaldi wrestling with other fighters in a TIP training camp. Xinjiang police identified Tiliwaldi as a suspect in the July 2011 attacks and fatally shot him in August 2011.⁴⁷

Afghanistan

On 11 September 2011, 77 US troops were moderately injured and two Afghan civilians killed by a suicide truck bomber on a military base in the eastern Wardak province. Rockets were also fired at the US military base in Bagram.⁴⁸ The explosion occurred at 17:30 local time. The suicide bomber was driving truck carrying firewood when he rammed into the outpost's

⁴³ AFP, "New anti-terror group launched", 22 September 2011;

⁴⁴ ABC, "Suicide bomber hits Indonesian church", 26 September 2011;

⁴⁵ AP via Jakarta Globe, "Suicide Bomb Attack at Indonesia Church Injures 20", 25 September 2011;

⁴⁶ Reuters, "Indonesian church bomber linked to radical Islamic group", 27 September 2011;

⁴⁷ AP, "Muslim militant group claims western China attacks", 8 September 2011.

⁴⁸ BBC, "Afghan truck bomb hits US troops in Wardak", 11 September 2011;



entrance. The explosion left a 20-foot hole in the wall and the broke windows in government offices nearby.⁴⁹ The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.⁵⁰

On 13 September 2011, seven people were killed and 17 wounded as a result of a coordinated attack lasting 19 hours, by a team of Taliban militants in Kabul. All of the attackers inside the building were killed, as were at least three suicide bombers who hit targets elsewhere in the city. Initially a team of five attackers stormed a shopping center under construction on the outskirts of Kabul's diplomatic district armed with rocket-propelled grenade launchers, AK-47s and suicide vests. Explosions were combined with gunfire and several rockets were fired and landed in the Wazir Akbar Khan district, near the British and other embassies. One hit a school bus but it appeared to have been empty at the time. A gun battle pursued around Abdul Haq square; three militants were killed. A suicide bomber detonated explosives at a police building in Western Kabul, killing a policeman and wounding two. A second bomber killed a civilian at a regional police center and wounded four. Finally a suicide bomber was killed by police near the Kabul airport. The police seized seven kilograms of explosives. Authorities said the attackers were all young men around 25 years old. The attackers wore sandals and the traditional Afghan clothing. The Interior Ministry said authorities had found burqas at the scene suspecting that the militants had tried to avoid detection by dressing as woman.⁵¹ Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attacks via a phone call from an undisclosed location.⁵² Following the attack, a senior US military officer accused Pakistan's spy agency of supporting the Haqqani group in planning and conducting the attack. The Pakistani government denied any involvement.⁵³

On 20 September 2011, Burhanuddin Rabbani, former Afghan President was killed by a suicide bomber who allegedly had explosives concealed in his turban. The attacker entered Rabbani's home in Kabul on the pretext of visiting him and then detonated his explosives. Rabbani was the head of a government panel set up in 2010 to try to begin negotiations with the Taliban.⁵⁴ Police said four people were wounded, including Masoom Stanikzai, a senior

⁴⁹ MSNBC, "77 US troops wounded in attack on Afghan base", 11 September 2011;

⁵⁰ BBC, "Afghan truck bomb hits US troops in Wardak", 11 September 2011;

⁵¹ New York Times, "U.S. Blames Pakistan-Based Group for Attack on Embassy in Kabul", 14 September 2011;

⁵² Reuters, "Taliban attack across Kabul, target U.S. Embassy", 13 September 2011;

⁵³ BBC, "Pakistan 'supported Kabul embassy attack' - Mike Mullen", 22 September 2011;

⁵⁴ Reuters, "Rabbani death shuts Afghan 'door of stability' - colleague", 25 September 2011;



adviser to Rabbani.⁵⁵ Although there was no immediate claim of responsibility from the Taliban or other insurgent groups, the killing was likely to heighten ethnic tensions.⁵⁶

On 26 September 2011, an Afghan working for the US government killed two people, including a CIA contractor in an attack on the CIA's office in Kabul at approximately 2000 local time. The attacker was killed. Authorities were unclear whether he was part of an insurgent group or was acting alone and were unclear of his motives. The US Embassy confirmed the perpetrator of the attack was an Afghan employee of the complex.⁵⁷

Pakistan

On 7 September 2011, a double suicide bombing at the home of a senior paramilitary official, killed 23 people and 50 injured in Quetta.⁵⁸ Police believe the target was Frontier Corps chief Farrukh Shahzad, to avenge his role in the killing of five Chechens in May 2011 by Pakistani forces in Quetta's Khrotabad area.⁵⁹ The attack began when a suicide bomber in a sport's car packed with explosives struck a convoy of Frontier Corps officers outside Shahzad's house, triggering a large explosion. Moments later, a second militant attacked Shahzad's house with grenades before detonating his suicide bomb vest. Shahzad was seriously injured in the attack and his wife was killed. Several senior Frontier Corps officers were killed or injured. Police identified the second attacker as Ahmad Gul, 21, as his identification card was found amid severed body parts at the blast site. He was an Afghan refugee living in Peshawar. The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.⁶⁰

On 15 September 2011, 31 people were killed and 75 injured when a suicide bomber detonated his explosives at a funeral service of Bakhat Khan, a Pakistani tribesman opposed to the Taliban. The attack occurred in the Shina Samar Bagh village in the Lower Dir region of Pakistan. Police suspect the attacker hid in a nearby field and then ran toward the graveyard shouting "Allah Akbar!" before detonating the bomb. Witness described the attacker as a man with a long beard.⁶¹ Saleem Murrawat, the police chief of the Lower Dir district of

⁵⁵ CNN, "Turban bomb kills key Afghan political leader", 20 September 2011;

⁵⁶ Reuters, "Rabbani death shuts Afghan 'door of stability' - colleague", 25 September 2011;

⁵⁷ AP, "Attack on Kabul CIA office kills 1 agency employee", 26 September 2011;

⁵⁸ LA Times, "Pakistan bombing kills 23, may be tied to Al Qaeda arrests", 8 September 2011;

⁵⁹ BBC, "Pakistan unrest: Quetta troops hit by suicide attacks", 7 September 2011;

⁶⁰ LA Times, "Pakistan bombing kills 23, may be tied to Al Qaeda arrests", 8 September 2011;

⁶¹ AP, "Suicide bomber kills 31 at funeral in Pakistan", 15 September 2011;



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, said the attacker was 18 years old.⁶² No group claimed responsibility for the attack.⁶³

⁶² Telegraph, "Suicide bomber kills 20 at Pakistan funeral", 15 September 2011.

⁶³ BBC, "Pakistan attack: Bomb 'kills 20' at Lower Dir funeral", 15 September 2011;