



ICT Incidents Database Periodical Report

May 2012

The following is a summary and analysis of terrorist attacks and counter-terrorism operations that occurred during the month of May 2012, researched and recorded by the ICT database team. Among the highlights:

- On 1 May, Adis Medunjanin was convicted in New York, NY of plotting to carry out a suicide attack on the New York City subway system in 2009.
- On 1 May, four people were killed and 20 injured when a booby-trapped motorcycle exploded near a political rally in Janakpur, Nepal.
- On 3 May, former ETA leader Felix Alberto Lopez de la Calle Gauna was sentenced in Madrid, Spain to 81 years in jail. He was convicted of killing three police officers on 4 October 1980.
- On 3 May, 13 people were killed and 130 injured when two bombs exploded at a police checkpoint in Makhachkala, Dagestan.
- On 4 May, 20 people were killed and 45 others were injured in a suicide bombing at a police checkpoint in Bajaur, Pakistan.
- On 4 May, Adlene Hicheur was sentenced in Paris, France to four years in prison for plotting terrorist attacks on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).
- On 7 May, Fahd Al-Quso, who was on the FBI's most-wanted list for his role in the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole, was killed in an alleged US airstrike in Shabwa Governorate, Yemen.
- On 10 May, 55 people were killed and 372 injured in a two-car suicide bombing in Damascus, Syria.
- On 15 May, former Colombian interior minister Fernando Londoño Hoyos, 68, was injured and two of his bodyguards were killed when their convoy was attacked in Bogota, Colombia.
- On 20 May, Israel's internal security agency, the Shin Bet, reported intercepting a Palestinian cell that had planned to kidnap Israeli civilians in the West Bank, with the aim of using them to negotiate the release of Palestinians from Israeli prisons.
- On 21 May, 101 people were killed and 220 injured in a suicide bombing in Sana'a, Yemen.
- On 22 May, Ahmad Wali Siddiqui, 37, was sentenced to six years in prison for membership in Al-Qaeda.
- On 27 May, ETA's military leader Oroitz Gurruchaga Gogorza, 30, and his deputy Xabier Aramburu, were arrested in Cauna, France.
- On 29 May, Sakhr Al-Taifi, Al-Qaeda's second-in-command in Afghanistan, was killed in an airstrike in the Watahpur district of Kunar Province, Afghanistan.



EUROPE

Belgium

On 3 May, Abdelkader Ayachine, an Algerian militant, was arrested by police in Belgium, accused of financing an Al-Qaeda-linked cell responsible for several attacks in Casablanca, Morocco in 2003. Ayachine was also the leader of a terrorist cell in northern Spain, which was disbanded in 2007. He fled to Belgium in 2011, when an arrest warrant was issued for him. Authorities did not clarify whether he would be extradited from Belgium.¹

France

On 4 May, Adlene Hicheur was sentenced to four years in prison for plotting terrorist attacks on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).² Hicheur, who had previously worked as a researcher at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland, was arrested in October 2009 in southeastern France after police intercepted email messages from him to an alleged contact suspected of having ties to AQIM. Court documents indicated that the emails cited potential targets, and that Hicheur was willing to play an active role in the attacks. Hicheur's trial started on 29 March 2012, in Paris.³

On 27 May, the military leader of the Basque nationalist-separatist group ETA, Oroitx Gurruchaga Gogorza, 30, and his deputy Xabier Aramburu, 32, were arrested in Cauna as part of a joint operation of French and Spanish counter-terrorism police units. The militants, who were armed with a pistol and a revolver, were arrested while traveling in a stolen vehicle with counterfeit license plates. Gogorza, who joined ETA in 2008, was also in charge of recruitment for the group. Aramburu had fled to France in 2010 after being accused of carrying out several terrorist attacks, including the 2008 car bombing of a police station in which dozens of people were wounded.⁴

Germany

On 22 May, Ahmad Wali Siddiqui, 37, was sentenced in Koblenz State Court to six years in prison for membership in Al-Qaeda. The court did not impose the 10-year maximum sentence, as it determined that although Siddiqui had trained in terrorist camps on the

1 Associated Press (AP), "Spain: Terror suspect arrested in Belgium", 3 May 2012.

2 Agence France-Presse (AFP), "France jails scientist for terror plot", 5 May 2012.

3 BBC, "France jails Cern physicist Adlene Hicheur for terror plot", 4 May 2012.

4 AFP, "French police arrest ETA military commander and accomplice", 27 May 2012.



Pakistan-Afghanistan border, there was no evidence he was involved in plans to stage an attack.⁵ Siddiqui was initially captured by US troops in Afghanistan in 2010. During interrogation, he provided US authorities with information on alleged Al-Qaeda plots to target European cities, prompting worldwide security alerts. However, no such attacks materialized.⁶

Russia

On 3 May, 13 people were killed and 130 injured when two bombs exploded at a police checkpoint in Makhachkala, Dagestan. In the first attack, a suicide bomber detonated his explosives at a checkpoint while police were searching a vehicle. Ten minutes later, a car laden with approximately 100 kg of TNT exploded near the checkpoint, targeting rescue workers.⁷ Authorities said that the bombers may have been transporting the explosives to a downtown location, with the intent of attacking the annual May Day parade, scheduled for 9 May 2012.⁸ No group claimed responsibility for the attacks.⁹

On 10 May, Russia's National Anti-Terrorist Committee announced that it had seized 10 caches of weapons and ammunition in Abkhazia between 4-5 May. The caches included portable surface-to-air missiles, grenades and grenade launchers, flame throwers, rifles, explosives and maps. Authorities said they suspected Chechen militants were planning to smuggle the weapons into Sochi and use them to launch an attack either during the preparations for the 2014 Winter Olympic Games, or during the Games themselves.¹⁰

Spain

On 3 May, former ETA leader Felix Alberto Lopez de la Calle Gauna, known as “Mobutu”, was sentenced to 81 years in prison for killing three police officers on 4 October 1980.¹¹ To stand trial at the National Court in Madrid, Lopez de la Calle Gauna had been temporarily released from a prison in France where he had been serving a 12-year sentence on terrorism-related charges. According to the court, Lopez de la Calle Gauna shot and killed the three police officers without warning, as they were preparing security for a cycle race in the Basque town

5 AP, “Terrorism suspect convicted in Germany”, 22 May 2012.

6 Ibid.

7 Ria Novosti, “Deadly blasts rock North Caucasus city”, 3 May 2012.

8 AP, “Dagestan bombs shadow Putin's return to presidency”, 4 May 2012.

9 The Moscow News, “Double explosion rocks Dagestan”, 4 May 2012.

10 AP, “Russia says it foiled terrorist plot against Sochi”, 10 May 2012.

11 Reuters, “Former ETA chief jailed for 81 years”, 3 May 2012.



ICT Incidents Database Periodical Report

May 2012

of Salvatierra. Although his lawyer claimed that he had not been at the scene of the crime, police claimed that fingerprints found on the getaway car matched those of Lopez de la Calle Gauna. In November 2011, two other ETA members were convicted for their role in the attack: Ignacio Aracama Mendia was sentenced to 61 years in prison, and his accomplice Ismael Arrieta Perez de Mendiola was sentenced to 30 years.¹²

United Kingdom

On 1 May, seven people were arrested at four separate residences in London, Coventry and Wales. The suspects were accused of financing the Somali group Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen by illegally smuggling the stimulant plant khat into the US and Canada. A substance used by many people in East Africa, khat is not banned in the UK but is considered a controlled substance in North America.¹³ The arrests were coordinated by the Counter Terrorism Command of London's Metropolitan Police and the US Department of Homeland Security.¹⁴

On 19 May, seven people were detained on terrorism-related charges in Northern Ireland. Four of the suspects, including a woman age 37, were charged with attending a militant training camp and firing range near the town of Omagh. The other three were relatives of prominent Lurgan nationalist Colin Duffy, who was acquitted earlier this year of charges related to a 2009 attack by the militant group Real IRA (RIRA) on the UK Army's Massereene Barracks in Antrim.¹⁵ The arrests were part of a major anti-terrorist operation led by the Police Service of Northern Ireland and MI5 against RIRA and Continuity IRA.¹⁶

AFRICA

Ethiopia

On 17 May, 11 people faced terrorism-related charges for training recruits on behalf of Somali group Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen. Five of the suspects were placed in custody, and the other six were to be tried in absentia. Prosecutors at Ethiopia's federal court in Addis Ababa

¹² AFP, "Spain sentences former ETA chief to 81 years", 3 May 2012.

¹³ BBC, "Khat terror funding probe: More time to quiz suspects", 3 May 2012.

¹⁴ AP, "UK arrests 7 on suspicion of funding terror", 1 May 2012.

¹⁵ AP, "3 charged with terror offences in N. Ireland court", 19 May 2012.

¹⁶ Guardian, "Seven in court after Northern Ireland swoop on alleged dissident republicans", 19 May 2012.



said the suspects had been training recruits to attack Ethiopia's political, economic and public establishments.¹⁷

Nigeria

On 31 May, Edgar Raupach, who had been kidnapped by Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) on 26 January 2012, was killed by his captors in Kano during a military raid meant to rescue him. Raupach, a German citizen, was an engineer employed by the Dantata and Sawoe Construction Company. The military said that the raid was ordered based on intelligence that senior AQIM militants would be meeting at a hideout in Kano. The military also said that they seized two AK-47 rifles, a large quantity of ammunition, and 36 hand grenades and IEDs. According to local residents, explosions and gunfire began at around 6:00 a.m. and lasted for more than 30 minutes; they also said it appeared that several hundred soldiers, along with trucks and armored vehicles, were involved in the raid.¹⁸

Somalia

On 1 May, seven people were killed and 12 injured in a suicide attack in Dhusamareb. Witnesses said the attacker was a young man who was seen chewing the stimulant khat. Shouting "Allahu Akbar" in Arabic [God is Great], the attacker detonated his explosive vest after insinuating himself into a crowd of some 20 politicians gathered at an outdoor cafe.¹⁹ Two politicians were among the dead, and former Security Minister Ahmed Abdi Salam and some MPs were among the wounded. The politicians had been meeting in Dhusamareb to promote national reconciliation and the formation of a local government.²⁰ Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack.²¹

On 11 May, Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri released a video clip urging its Somali affiliate Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen not to be deterred by US drone attacks. This was the second time Al-Zawahiri had addressed Al-Shabab since the group swore allegiance to Al-Qaeda in February 2012.²²

¹⁷ AP, "Ethiopian court says 11 will face terror charges", 17 May 2012.

¹⁸ AFP, "German hostage killed in Nigeria during rescue bid", 31 May 2012.

¹⁹ BBC, "Somalia MPs killed in al-Shabab suicide attack", 1 May 2012.

²⁰ AP, "Two Somali MPs killed and six hurt in suicide attack", 2 May 2012.

²¹ BBC, "Somalia MPs killed in al-Shabab suicide attack", 1 May 2012.

²² AP, "Al-Qaida leader releases second video for Somali militants, urges them to fight on", 11 May 2012.



On 18 May, Al-Zawahiri released a video clip to jihadist Web sites urging Saudis to emulate the Arab Spring and rise up against their leaders. Analysts believe that the six-minute video was produced in February or March 2012. The video begins with footage of Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah meeting Pope Benedict XVI, former US President George W. Bush, and current US President Barack Obama. Although the majority of US troops withdrew from Saudi Arabia in 2003, Al-Zawahiri criticizes Saudi leaders for continuing to allow them to operate in the country. He also accuses Saudi leaders of spreading immorality through the media, and criticizes the imprisonment of violent extremists.²³

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

On 15 May, 12 people were killed and 50 injured in a series of attacks throughout Iraq. In Mosul, a suicide bomber drove an explosives-laden vehicle into an Iraqi military base, killing six soldiers and injuring 28 others. In separate attacks, a member of the city's municipal council and his bodyguard were shot, and a car bomb exploded near a police patrol, injuring nine people.²⁴

On 31 May, 18 people were killed and 53 injured in a series of explosions throughout Iraq. In Baghdad, a parked car exploded outside a busy restaurant in the Shiite neighborhood of Shula, killing 13 people and wounding 37. A second parked car exploded near the home of Jamal-Din Mohammed, an adviser to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, killing one person and wounding four others. A third explosion targeted the homes of police officers in the predominantly Sunni neighborhood of Amariyah, killing two people and wounding nine others. A fifth attack targeted a police patrol, killing one officer and wounding three others. In Mosul, a police major was killed when he was targeted in a drive-by-shooting.²⁵

Israel, West Bank and Gaza Strip

On 20 May, Israel's internal security agency, the Shin Bet, reported having intercepted a Palestinian cell that had planned to kidnap Israeli civilians in the West Bank, with the aim of using them to negotiate the release of Palestinians from Israeli prisons. Although the arrests

²³ Telegraph, "Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri calls on Saudi Arabia to rise up", 18 May 2012.

²⁴ Xinhua, "12 Killed, 55 Injured in Attacks in Iraq", 15 May 2012.

²⁵ AP, "Bomb Attacks Kill 18 in Iraq", 31 May 2012.



were made several months ago, the Shin Bet only recently released this information.²⁶ Israeli authorities said the cell, led by Muhammad Ramadan, 22, comprised nine members. According to an indictment in an Israeli military court in the West Bank, the cell attempted to kidnap Israelis on three different occasions in March 2012, using a rental car loaded with tear gas, clubs and a fake gun. The militants intended to render the Israeli drivers unconscious, and then hold them in a cave or safe house. They then planned to film their victims and upload the video to the Internet, in order to negotiate with Israeli authorities for the release of Palestinian prisoners. The Israeli drivers targeted in all three attempts managed to drive away, although two of them had their windshields shattered.²⁷

Syria

On 10 May, a two-car suicide attack in front of a military intelligence building in the Al-Qazaz neighborhood of Damascus killed 55 people and wounded 372. The near-simultaneous explosions occurred just before 08:00 as residents were going to work. According to the Syrian interior ministry, the two vehicles contained more than 1,000 kg of explosives.²⁸ On 12 May, the Al-Nusra Front published an announcement on the Internet in which it claimed responsibility for the attack, purportedly in retaliation for attacks on residential areas by the regime of President Bashar Al-Assad. The announcement's authenticity was not independently verified.²⁹

Turkey

On 25 May, a car bomb exploded outside a police station in Pinarbasi, central Turkey, killing one policeman and wounding 17 civilians. Authorities believe the car was driven by two suicide bombers – suspected members of the Kurdish PKK. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.³⁰

Yemen

On 7 May, Fahd Al-Quso, 37, who had been on the FBI's most-wanted list for his role in the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole, was killed in a suspected US airstrike in Shabwa Governorate. Previously, the US government had offered a \$5 million reward for information leading to Al-

26 UPI, "Alleged Palestinian kidnap crew indicted", 20 May 2012.

27 Haaretz, "Shin Bet uncovers Palestinian squad bent on kidnapping Israelis in West Bank", 20 May 2012.

28 BBC, "Syria unrest: Damascus 'suicide blasts' kill dozens", 10 May 2012.

29 AP, "Syria suicide bombings: Al Nusra Front claims deadly attacks online", 12 May 2012.

30 AP, "Turkey: 1 Policeman Killed in Suicide Attack", 25 May 2012;



Quso's capture. Along with another Al-Qaeda operative, Al-Quso was targeted as he stepped out of his vehicle. The drone strike was authorized by the Yemeni government, which announced the operation's success. Al-Quso's death was corroborated by a text message apparently from Al-Qaeda's media arm. A senior Al-Qaeda operative, Al-Quso was also publicly linked to Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, the so-called "underwear bomber", who attempted to blow up an airplane over Detroit, Michigan on Christmas 2009. Authorities believe he met with Abdulmutallab in Yemen before the latter left to carry out the failed attack.³¹ Yemeni officials also reported that, only hours after the drone attack, Al-Qaeda militants ambushed an Army base in southern Yemen. The militants approached the base by sea and by land, killing 22 soldiers, capturing 25 others, and seizing weapons. The officials did not confirm that the ambush was in retaliation for the drone attack.³²

On 8 May, US authorities reported having seized an improved "underwear bomb", which was intended to be used to attack a US-bound jet. They linked the planned attack to the drone strike that killed Fahd Al-Quso (see above), saying that the drone strike had been part of a larger effort to intercept a more sophisticated "underwear bomb" than that used by Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab in the failed 2009 Christmas bombing of Northwest Airlines Flight 253. As the new "underwear bomb plot" was detected early, officials claimed that no US airplane was actually at risk.³³

On 21 May, 101 people were killed and 220 injured when a suicide bomber wearing a military uniform detonated himself in Al-Sabin Square in Sana'a. The attack occurred during a rehearsal for Yemen's annual National Day of Unification parade, in which soldiers and civilians commemorate the unification of South Yemen and North Yemen on 22 May 1990. Preliminary investigations suggested that the suicide bomber was a rogue soldier, and not a militant in disguise.³⁴ In a statement posted on the jihadist Web site Ansar al-Sharia, a group affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) took responsibility for the attack.³⁵

31 AP, "US air strike kills top al-Qaida leader in Yemen", 7 May 2012.

32 AP, "Al Qaeda surprise attack kills 22 Yemeni soldiers", 7 May 2012.

33 Guardian, "Thwarted al-Qaida bomb plot linked to US drone strike operation in Yemen", 8 May 2012.

34 BBC, "Al-Qaeda attack on Yemen army parade causes carnage", 21 May 2012.

35 CNN, "Yemen: Al Qaeda affiliate behind blast that killed 101 soldiers", 22 May 2012.



NORTH AMERICA

USA

On 1 May, Adis Medunjanin, 28, was convicted of conspiracy and terrorism charges in connection with a plot to carry out a suicide attack on the New York City subway system in 2009. Among the proposed targets were the subway stations at the New York Stock Exchange, Times Square and Grand Central Terminal.³⁶ Originally arrested on 1 August 2010, Medunjanin will face a life sentence at his sentencing on 7 September 2012.³⁷ The prosecution's case was founded on the testimony of four men: Najibullah Zazi and Zarein Ahmedzay, both of whom were former classmates of Medunjanin; Saajid Badat, the British would-be "shoe bomber"; and a man originally from Long Island, who was not identified but who is known to have provided Al-Qaeda with information on how to attack a Walmart store. Zazi and Ahmedzay testified that they had travelled with Medunjanin to South Waziristan, Pakistan, in 2008, where they attended Al-Qaeda training camps. It was during that time that the plot was hatched. However, as Zazi believed they were being followed by FBI agents, the men abandoned their plans when they returned to New York. Zazi claimed he had learned to distill the combustible elements of products such as nail polish remover, which is sold at any pharmacy. Zazi also told the jury that the plot had been partly paid for by credit card, in the sum of \$50,000.³⁸ Saajid Badat, the alleged "shoe bomber", testified at the trial to the internal workings of Al-Qaeda. In exchange for cooperating with prosecutors, he was released two years before the end of his 13-year jail term.³⁹

On 24 May, the US Department of State, together with the US Departments of Justice and the Treasury, designated the Abdallah Azzam Brigades (AAB) a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO). The AAB, which was formed in 2009, is based in both Lebanon and the Arabian Peninsula. It was held responsible for attacking a Japanese-owned oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz in 2010, and has been responsible for numerous rocket attacks on Israeli civilians. The consequences of the FTO designation include a prohibition against knowingly providing material support to the AAB, and the freezing of its assets.⁴⁰

36 AP, "Queens man turned terrorist convicted of plotting to wage jihad on city subways in 2009", 1 May 2012.

37 BBC, "Adis Medunjanin guilty over New York subway bomb plot", 1 May 2012.

38 LA Times, "Adis Medunjanin convicted in terror plot to bomb NYC subways", 2 May 2012.

39 BBC, "Adis Medunjanin guilty over New York subway bomb plot", 1 May 2012.

40 US State Department, "Terrorist Designations of the Abdallah Azzam Brigades", 24 May 2012;



On 25 May, Barry Walter Bujol, Jr., 30, was sentenced to 20 years in prison. He was convicted in November 2011 of attempting to provide material support to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), as well as of aggravated identity theft. Bujol was arrested on 30 May 2010 for using a fake identity card to enter the port of Houston, where he had hoped to stow away on a ship he thought was bound for Algeria, from which he would then have made his way to Yemen, to fight for AQAP. According to prosecutors, Bujol had coordinated his plans with a man he thought was a recruiter for AQAP, but who was really a confidential source for law enforcement. Prosecutors said that Bujol had also corresponded by email with the late Anwar al-Awlaki.⁴¹

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

On 22 May, police in Argentina found explosives at the Gran Rex Theatre in Buenos Aires, where former Colombian President Alvaro Uribe was due to make a speech. Officials said the bomb, which was hidden in a lamp, would have been triggered by a mobile phone. The device was found during a routine inspection.⁴²

Colombia

On 15 May, former Colombian Interior Minister Fernando Londoño Hoyos, 68, was injured and two of his bodyguards were killed when their convoy was attacked in Bogota's commercial district. Thirty-nine bystanders were also injured in the attack. Londoño Hoyos had served as both interior and justice minister in 2002-2003, under former President Alvaro Uribe. Bogota Mayor Gustavo Petro said that although no arrests had been made, police had video evidence of a pedestrian attaching an explosive device to the door of Londoño Hoyos' armored SUV. Authorities said the device was detonated remotely. Police also said that a wig of long black hair and a hat were found near the site of the explosion. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but authorities suspected FARC rebels. The government announced a 500 million peso (\$277,000) award for any information about the perpetrators.⁴³

41 CNN, "Texas man gets 20 years for trying to contact al Qaeda", 25 May 2012;

42 BBC, "Argentina bomb found ahead of Alvaro Uribe talk", 22 May 2012;

43 AP, "Explosion in Colombian capital kills 2, injures at least 31", 15 May 2012.



ASIA

Afghanistan

On 29 May, Sakhr Al-Taifi, Al-Qaeda's second-in-command in Afghanistan, was killed in an airstrike in the Watahpur district of Kunar Province. NATO forces said that Al-Taifi, aka "Musthaq" and "Nasim", had overseen attacks against Coalition and Afghan forces, and travelled frequently between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Al-Taifi was also suspected of supplying weapons and equipment to insurgents in eastern Afghanistan. A second, unidentified militant was also killed in the strike. No civilians were harmed in the attack.⁴⁴

Indonesia

On 7 May, Indonesian police reported arresting 12 people in connection with a suicide attack against a church in Solo, Central Java in September 2011. In an operation conducted over several days, police arrested seven suspected terrorists in Central Jakarta on 3 May, four others in North Sumatra on 4 May, and another suspect in South Sumatra on 5 May, seizing firearms and other weapons in the process. The identity of the militants was not disclosed.⁴⁵

Nepal

On 1 May, four people were killed and 20 injured when a booby-trapped motorcycle exploded near a political rally in Janakpur.⁴⁶ Authorities said a bomb had been fitted to the motorcycle's tail box. According to Nepali State Television, one person was arrested on suspicion of involvement in the attack; however, according to local police, no arrests have been made.⁴⁷ Although no group has taken responsibility for the attack, authorities suspect the Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha (the Democratic Terai Liberation Front): Local media have received a text message, allegedly from this group, demanding that regional parties in southern Nepal stand up for residents' rights.⁴⁸

Pakistan

On 4 May, 20 people were killed and 45 others were injured when a suicide attacker detonated his explosives at a police checkpoint near a market in Bajaur. Witnesses said the

44 Telegraph, "Senior al-Qaeda militant killed in Afghanistan", 29 May 2012.

45 Jakarta Globe, "Indonesian police arrested a dozen alleged terrorists", 7 May 2012.

46 AFP, "Nepal bomb blast kills four", 1 May 2012.

47 Ibid.

48 CNN, "At least four killed in bombing in southeastern Nepal", 1 May 2012.



bomber arrived at the market on foot, and detonated his explosive vest when he reached the police checkpoint.⁴⁹ The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan claimed responsibility for the attack.⁵⁰

On 30 May, Dr Shakil Afridi was sentenced to 33 years in prison for having ties to Lashkar-e-Islam and its leader Mangal Bagh. He was also charged with using his position as head of a government hospital to channel nearly £14,000 to the group, and to provide medical care to militant commanders.⁵¹ Afridi was also accused of running a CIA-sponsored fake vaccine program in Abbottabad, where Osama Bin Laden was killed, to try to extract DNA samples. He was arrested shortly after the US raid that killed Osama bin Laden on 2 May 2011.⁵² Initially, Pakistani authorities said he had been arrested for helping the CIA to find bin Laden – a charge of treason – but later admitted that he had been arrested for his ties with Mangal Bagh.⁵³

49 BBC, "Pakistan bomb 'kills 20' in Bajaur district market", 4 May 2012.

50 Reuters, "Suicide bomber kills 20 in northwest Pakistan", 4 May 2012.

51 Guardian, "Pakistani doctor jailed after bin Laden hunt found guilty of Islamist", 30 May 2012.

52 BBC, "Bin Laden death: 'CIA doctor' accused of treason", 6 October 2011.

53 Reuters, "Dr Shakil Afridi jailed for ties with Lashkar-e-Islam: court", 30 May 2012.