



# ICT Incidents Database Periodical Report

February 2012

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

- On 1 February, Boko Haram spokesman Abu Qaqa was arrested in Kaduna, Nigeria.
- On 6 February, Raja Lahrasib Khan, 58, pleaded guilty to financing the Harakat ul-Jihad-I-Islami (HuJI).
- On 6 February, Ahmed Hussein Mahamud, 27, pleaded guilty to raising money to recruit young men from Minnesota to join al-Shabaab in Somalia.
- On 9 February, nine British nationals of Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin were convicted of plotting Mumbai-style terror attacks on high-profile targets in the UK.
- On 9 February 2012, Ayman al-Zawahri and al-Shabaab leader Shaykh Ahmad Abdi Godane declared al-Shabaab had formally joined al-Qa'ida.
- On 10 February, 28 people were killed and 235 wounded, in a twin car bombing attack that targeted security compounds in Aleppo, Syria.
- On 12 February, "Comrade Artemio," leader of the Sendero Luminoso, was captured and wounded in the Upper Huallaga Valley, Peru by the Peruvian military.
- A series of explosions using magnetic devices targeted Israeli diplomats between 13-14 February in Georgia, India, and Thailand. Israel blamed Iran for the coordinated events.
- On 16 February, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was sentenced to life in prison without parole, for his role in the attempted Christmas Day 2009 bombing of Northwest Airlines flight 253 from Yemen to Amsterdam.
- On 17 February, Assem Hammoud was sentenced to two years in prison in Beirut, Lebanon, for his role in an al-Qa'ida plot in 2006 to destroy the New York City commuter tunnels.
- On 17 February, Amine El Khalifi, 29, was arrested near the US Capitol building in Washington, USA on suspicion of planning to launch a suicide bombing attack.
- On 20 February, Boko Haram gunmen targeted traders at the Baga market in Maiduguri, Nigeria, killing 30 people.
- On 23 February, a series of coordinated bombings and shootings killed 44 people throughout Iraq, and injured approximately 200 others.
- On 26 February, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) announced they would abandon their decades-long policy of kidnapping for ransom and free all military and police hostages held in jungle camps.



## **EUROPE**

### **France**

On 27 February, a special court in Paris tried in absentia Adnan Sojod, Samir Khaidir, and Abdul Hamid Amoud for their roles in the deaths of three French citizens killed in a gun and grenade attack on a Greek cruise ship on 11 July 1988. Nine people were killed in total and the attack was attributed to Abu Nidal's radical Palestinian faction. The court issued arrest warrants for the three suspects, whose whereabouts were unknown, and it was unclear whether they were alive. They were suspected of being members of the Fatah Revolutionary Council.<sup>1</sup> Sojod was charged with voluntary homicide. Khaidir and Amoud were both charged with attempted voluntary homicide linked to terrorist activities.<sup>2</sup> Initially the Greek authorities suspected the three French citizens were the perpetrators of the attack rather than the victims; their families hoped this trial would verify that their family members had no role in carrying out the attacks.<sup>3</sup>

### **United Kingdom**

Muslim converts Christian Emde, 28, and Robert Baum, 23, pleaded guilty on 6 February to possessing documents useful to terrorism, including al-Qa'ida's "Inspire" online magazine. Emde admitted to four offenses under Britain's Terrorism Act and was sentenced to 16 months. Baum received a 12-month sentence for possessing an article from Inspire magazine entitled, '39 Ways of Participating or Serving in Jihad.' The men were arrested on 15 July 2011, as they tried to enter the UK from Germany via Dover. They had a computer and hard drive with material that was linked to key trials related to online radicalization.<sup>4</sup>

On 9 February, nine British nationals of Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin were convicted of plotting Mumbai-style terror attacks on high-profile targets in the UK. The men had plotted to send mail bombs to several prominent public figures, including London mayor Boris

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<sup>1</sup> AP, "France tries terror suspects in absentia", 27 February 2012;

<sup>2</sup> Washington Post, "France tries 3, in absentia, nearly 24 years after deadly Greek cruise ship attack", 27 February 2012;

<sup>3</sup> AP, "France tries terror suspects in absentia", 27 February 2012;

<sup>4</sup> BBC, "Germans jailed over UK terror offences", 6 February 2012;



Johnson and two rabbis whose identity was not released to the public. They also planned to bomb the US embassy in London and the London Stock Exchange. The police said the men were in the advanced stage of planning the attack when they were arrested on 20 December 2010.<sup>5</sup>

Mohammed Chowdhury, 21, Shah Rahman, 28, Gurukanth Desai, 30, and Abdul Miah, 25, pleaded guilty to engaging in conduct in preparation for acts of terrorism. Chowdhury was sentenced to 13 years, eight months. Rahman and Desai were both sentenced to 12 years. Miah was sentenced to 16 years and 10 months. Mohammed Shahjahan, Usman Khan and Nazam Hussain were ordered to serve a minimum of eight years for planning to raise funds for a terrorist camp in Pakistan and recruiting Britons for “terrorist training”. Omar Latif was sentenced to 10 years, four months, and Mohibur Rahman to five years. The men possessed copies of al-Qa’ida’s Inspire magazine and other jihadi publications. Authorities said the suspects were not al-Qa’ida members but had been radicalized by the late AQIM leader Anwar al-Awlaki. At the time of sentencing the men had spent 408 days on remand and that was deducted from their sentences.<sup>6</sup>

## **AFRICA**

### **Nigeria**

Nigeria’s secret service arrested Boko Haram spokesman Abu Qaqa and two other militants in Kaduna on 1 February.<sup>7</sup> Police said that Qaqa had been evading arrest for several weeks and was arrested after the authorities tracked his telephone calls and followed him from Maiduguri to Kaduna. Boko Haram made no statement regarding the arrest. Abu Qaqa had frequently made statements to the media regarding attacks attributed to Boko Haram. Police believe Qaqa was connected to June 2011 bombings of the Police Force headquarters building and the January 2012 attacks in Kano.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Wall Street Journal, “Four Britons Admit to London Stock Exchange Bomb Plot”, 2 February 2012;

<sup>6</sup> Telegraph, “Terrorists admit plot to bomb London Stock Exchange and US Embassy”, 1 February 2012;

<sup>7</sup> Reuters, “Report: Boko Haram spokesman Abu Qaqa arrested”, 1 February 2012;

<sup>8</sup> AllAfrica.com, “Nigeria: How Qaqa, Boko Haram Spokesman, Was Arrested”, 4 February 2012;



On 20 February, Boko Haram gunmen attacked the Baga market in Maiduguri, targeting specific vendors.<sup>9</sup> The Nigerian military said they killed all eight attackers and neutralized three improvised explosive devices planted in the area.<sup>10</sup> However, Boko Haram denied that any of their members had been killed.<sup>11</sup> There were also some other conflicting details concerning the casualty figures, as the military claimed there were no civilian casualties while witnesses and medics claimed 30 civilians had been killed.<sup>12</sup> Boko Haram militants claimed responsibility for the attack as a retaliation for the arrest of a Boko Haram member several days earlier. Boko Haram accused the traders of collaborating with the military that led to the arrest.<sup>13</sup>

### Somalia

A suicide car bomb exploded by a café located next to the Muna hotel in Mogadishu on 8 February, killing 15 people and wounding 20 others. Authorities said the attacker opened fire on the people in the café before detonating the car bomb.<sup>14</sup> Al-shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack but denied it was carried out by a suicide attacker.<sup>15</sup>

In a 15 minute video released on the internet on 9 February 2012, Ayman al-Zawahri and al-Shabaab leader Shaykh Ahmad Abdi Godane “Abu Zubayr” declared al-Shabaab had formally joined al-Qa’ida. In 2009, the two groups had pledged alliance to one another, however this new statement was the first formal welcoming of al-Shabaab by al-Zawahri, in his role as leader of al-Qa’ida.<sup>16</sup> Western officials said that Zawahiri’s announcement was a propaganda strategy by the al-Qa’ida leadership who had been weakened by drone strikes and had failed to carry out a major successful attack in the West since 2005.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> BBC, “Nigeria forces ‘kill Islamist Boko Haram militants’”, 20 February 2012;

<sup>10</sup> AFP, “Nigeria Islamist sect claims market attack that killed 30”, 21 February 2012;

<sup>11</sup> AFP, “Nigeria Islamist sect claims market attack that killed 30”, 21 February 2012;

<sup>12</sup> BBC, “Nigeria forces ‘kill Islamist Boko Haram militants’”, 20 February 2012;

<sup>13</sup> AFP, “Nigeria Islamist sect claims market attack that killed 30”, 21 February 2012;

<sup>14</sup> AFP, “Islamist Bomb Attack Toll in Somalia Rises to 15”, 9 February 2012;

<sup>15</sup> BBC, “Somalia: Al-Shabaab bombs Mogadishu café”, 9 February 2012;

<sup>16</sup> AP, “Somalia’s Al-Shabab Joins Al-Qaida, Leader Says”, 9 February 2012;

<sup>17</sup> Telegraph, “Al Qaeda’s ‘morale boost’ as it formally joins with Somalia’s al Shabaab”, 10 February 2012;



On 24 February, three al-Shabaab militants including Sheik Abu Ibrahim, a Moroccan militant, were killed when their convoy was targeted in a suspected US drone attack in the K60 area, approximately 60km south of Mogadishu.<sup>18</sup> Somali officials identified the other militants killed in the attack as Kenyan citizens.<sup>19</sup>

## **MIDDLE EAST**

### **Iraq**

On 23 February, a series of coordinated attacks throughout Iraq killed 44 people and injured approximately 200 others. The attacks in Baghdad mainly targeted Shiite neighborhoods and included an attack by gunmen targeting a police patrol checkpoint, a car bombing, and a shooting attack at a marketplace. In Mosul, two suspected suicide bombers were shot dead by Iraqi security forces as they attempted to stage an attack. Roadside and car bombings occurred in Hilla, Baiji, Kirkuk and Dujail.<sup>20</sup> Al-Qa'ida in Iraq claimed responsibility for the attacks. In a statement released via the Internet, the group said they targeted security forces and government officials in "revenge for the elimination and torture campaigns that Sunni men and women face in the prisons of Baghdad and other cities."<sup>21</sup>

### **Lebanon**

On 17 February, Assem Hammoud was sentenced to two years in prison, in Beirut, for his role in an al-Qa'ida plot in 2006 to destroy the New York City commuter tunnels. Hammoud was arrested in April 2006 in Lebanon, where he served three years in prison before being released on bail. Two of his accomplices, a Syrian and a Lebanese man, were sentenced in absentia to life in prison. The FBI said the men planned to bomb and flood the Hudson River train tunnels that carry tens of thousands of commuters between New York and New Jersey, USA. They had planned to stage the attack in October or November 2006, but the FBI foiled

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<sup>18</sup> BBC, "Somalia air strike 'kills foreign al-Shabab militants'", 24 February 2012;

<sup>19</sup> AP, "Al-Shabaab: Moroccan militant killed by US drone", 25 February 2012;

<sup>20</sup> CNN, "Dozens killed in wave of attacks across Iraq", 23 February 2012;

<sup>21</sup> AP, "Iraq's al Qaeda claims responsibility for wave of attacks", 23 February 2012;



the attack before it could be executed. There was never an issue of Hammoud's extradition to the US since there is no extradition treaty between Lebanon and the US.<sup>22</sup>

### Israel, West Bank and Gaza Strip

On 21 February, IDF and Israel police forces thwarted an attempted terror attack on Israeli forces stationed along the Israel-Egypt border. The soldiers spotted a man smuggling a bag containing a large explosive device across the border. The man fled before he could be apprehended, and the device was safely detonated by a bomb disposal squad.<sup>23</sup> On 27 February, a routine patrol in the same area discovered another bag containing a similar device, which again was safely defused. The suspect again managed to escape back into the Sinai Peninsula. The IDF said that the incidents proved that smuggling routes were being exploited by terrorist groups to carry out attacks on Israeli civilians and IDF forces.<sup>24</sup>

### Syria

On 10 February, 28 people were killed and 235 wounded in a twin car bombing attack against security compounds in Aleppo. The bombings severely damaged the Military Security Branch headquarters and a police station in the al-Orkoub area. The bombs were suspected to have contained 500-1,000 pounds of explosives, based on the damage caused. The explosions left a crater several meters wide in the road and blew a lorry onto its side. One of the bombs flattened a steel-reinforced concrete perimeter wall and significantly damaged the facade of one of the targeted security headquarters roughly 100 feet away.<sup>25</sup> Amongst the casualties were both civilians and members of the security forces. The Syrian state media website blamed opposition forces for the attacks and aired images of the carnage caused by the bombings. The Free Syrian Army (FSA) rebels denied any role in the bombings, and claimed that the government itself had staged the bombings to undermine support for

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<sup>22</sup> AP, "Lebanese Man Convicted in NY Train Tunnels Plot", 17 February 2012;

<sup>23</sup> Haaretz, "IDF forces find powerful explosive device on Israel-Egypt border", 21 February 2012;

<sup>24</sup> Jerusalem Post, "IDF discovers second large bomb on Egypt-Israeli border", 27 February 2012;

<sup>25</sup> Strafor, "Syrian Rebels Likely Behind Aleppo Bombings", 10 February 2012;



the opposition. Since November 2011, attacks in Syria have become increasingly more sophisticated, mainly targeting the Syrian regime’s military and police infrastructure.<sup>26</sup>

On 29 February, a previously unknown jihadist group, calling themselves the Al Nusra Front to Protect the Levant, claimed responsibility for the Aleppo bombing and for the 6 January 2012 car bomb in Damascus. They claimed their motivation for the attacks was “to avenge the people of Homs,” besieged by regime forces. The group released a 45-minute video on the Internet, in which the group’s leader, Abu Mohamed al-Julani, called for jihad against the Syrian authorities and accused Syrian President Bashar al-Assad of criminal activity in the city of Homs. Some US analysts, however, attributed the attacks to al-Qa’ida affiliates in Iraq, due to the type of explosives used and modus operandi.<sup>27</sup>

## Yemen

A suicide car bomb exploded outside the gate of a presidential compound in Mukalla, Hadramout province on 25 February, killing 25 people and injuring 30 others. The majority of the casualties were members of the elite Republican Guard. The attack occurred several hours after Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi was sworn in as president to replace longtime leader Ali Abdullah Saleh. Al-Qa’ida claimed responsibility for the attack saying that the bombing was “in retaliation for the Republican Guards’ crimes”.<sup>28</sup>

## **NORTH AMERICA**

### USA

On 6 February, Raja Lahrasib Khan, 58, pleaded guilty to financing the Harakat ul-Jihad-I-Islami (HuJI). Khan admitted he had met with Ilyas Kashmiri, the leader of the HuJI in Kashmir in 2008. Khan said he gave Kashmiri approximately \$250, intended to fund attacks by the HuJI against India however, he was also aware Kashmiri was working with al-Qa’ida. In 2009, Khan allegedly sent the equivalent of \$930 from Chicago to an individual in Pakistan,

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<sup>26</sup> BBC, “Syria unrest: Aleppo bomb attacks ‘kill 28’”, 10 February 2012;

<sup>27</sup> AFP, “Islamist group claims Syria attacks”, 29 February 2012;

<sup>28</sup> BBC, “Yemen bomb attack ‘kills at least 26 people’ in Mukalla”, 25 February 2012;



with instructions to give \$300 to Kashmiri. In 2010, Khan met with an undercover FBI agent who posed as someone also interested in sending money to Kashmiri, which led to Khan's arrest on 26 March 2012.<sup>29</sup> Khan was recorded telling the agent that he was going to ask Kashmiri to teach him how to plot an attack on a sports stadium but did not specify the location. The FBI suspected Khan was recruiting operatives in the US to carry out his plot.<sup>30</sup> Sentencing was set for 30 May 2012, where Khan faced a maximum of 15 years in prison, but under his plea agreement the sentence was likely to be between five and eight years in jail.<sup>31</sup>

On 6 February, Ahmed Hussein Mahamud, 27, a Somali-American man, pleaded guilty to raising money to recruit young men from Minnesota to join al-Shabaab in Somalia. Mahamud admitted that in the summer of 2008, he told members of Minnesota's Somali-American community that he was raising money for a local mosque and for orphans in Somalia. Instead, Mahamud said that \$1,500 went toward airline tickets for young men who intended to fight for al-Shabaab in Somalia. After these men joined al-Shabaab, on two separate occasions in 2009 they contacted him again requesting money and Mahmud transferred \$50 to help the men purchase a weapon. In 2010, Mahamud asked a woman in the US to send \$100 to the same man in Somalia, again for the purchase of a weapon. Mahmud, who faced a potential maximum sentence of 15 years in prison, was the seventh man to plead guilty in an ongoing federal investigation in Minnesota into the recruitment of fighters for al-Shabaab. A total of 18 Somali-Americans have been charged in connection with the investigation.<sup>32</sup>

On 10 February, Ulugbek Kodirov, 22, pleaded guilty to providing material support to terrorist activity, threatening to kill US president Obama and to possessing a firearm by an illegal alien. Kodirov's plot was thwarted before his plans were executed. Kodirov faced maximum prison sentences of 15 years on the terrorism charge, five years on the charge of threatening the president and 10 years on the charge of being an illegal alien in possession

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<sup>29</sup> AFP, "US taxi driver pleads guilty to aiding Al-Qaeda", 7 February 2012;

<sup>30</sup> ADL, "Chicago Taxi Driver Arrested for Planning to Bomb U.S. Stadium", 2 April 2010;

<sup>31</sup> AP, "Chicago Cabbie Pleads Guilty in Terror Case", 6 February 2012;

<sup>32</sup> FBI, "Ohio Man Pleads Guilty to Conspiracy to Provide Material Support to Somali-Based Terror Group", 6 February 2012;



of a firearm. Each charge also carried a maximum fine of \$250,000. Kodirov admitted that he had communicated with an individual whom he believed to be a member of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), and that Kodirov interpreted these conversations to mean that he should kill President Obama. In July 2011, Kodirov met with another individual in Birmingham, where he discussed his desire to kill US President Obama. Kodirov was then introduced to another man who was introduced as an al Qa’ida operative but was in fact an undercover FBI agent. The three men met again on 13 July 2011, at a motel in Leeds, Alabama. In that meeting, the agent presented a fully automatic Sendra Corporation Model M15-A1 machine gun, a sniper rifle with a telescopic sight and four disassembled hand grenades and asked Kodirov if he would like to use any of them for his attack to kill the President. Kodirov chose the M15-A1 machine gun and the hand grenades and left the meeting with the weapons. Agents arrested Kodirov before he left the motel.<sup>33</sup> The FBI said that Kodirov entered the US from Uzbekistan on a student visa in June 2009. His visa was revoked in 2010 when he failed to enroll in school. He was living in an extended-stay Alabama motel at the time of his arrest.<sup>34</sup>

On 10 February 2012, Mohammed Wali Zazi, 56, the father of convicted al-Qa’ida militant Najibullah Zazi, was sentenced to four and a-half years in prison, for trying to block a federal investigation of his son. In July 2011, Mohammed Wali Zazi was found guilty of obstructing justice and conspiring to obstruct justice. Prosecutors said he had lied to agents, encouraged others to lie, and formed and carried out a plan to destroy evidence that his son had left behind in a relative’s garage.<sup>35</sup>

On 16 February, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, alias “the Underwear Bomber”, was sentenced to life in prison without parole, for his role in the attempted Christmas Day 2009 bombing of Northwest Airlines flight 253 from Yemen to Amsterdam.<sup>36</sup> According to the indictment, Abdulmutallab pleaded guilty on 12 October 2011 to eight counts, including; conspiracy to

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<sup>33</sup> FBI, “Uzbek National Pleads Guilty to Charges of Threatening to Kill the President and Providing Material Support to Terrorist Activity”, 10 February 2012;

<sup>34</sup> Sky News, “Uzbek Man Admits Plot To Kill Barack Obama”, 11 February 2012;

<sup>35</sup> AP, “Prison for Father Who Lied About Terror Plot”, 10 February 2012;

<sup>36</sup> AP, “Unrepentant would-be mass murderer’: Underwear bomber jailed for life without parole for failed Christmas Day plane attack”, 17 February 2012;



commit an act of terrorism transcending national boundaries; attempted murder within the special aircraft jurisdiction of the United States; willfully placing a destructive device on an aircraft, which was likely to have endangered the safety of the aircraft; attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction; willfully attempting to destroy and wreck a civil aircraft; and three counts of possession of a destructive device in furtherance of a crime of violence.<sup>37</sup> During the court hearing, a 52-second videotape from the FBI was aired showing the effect of 200 grams of PETN exploding on a sheet of aluminum; the US government said they estimated Abdulmutallab's bomb contained the same amount of PETN. Abdulmutallab said in court that he was "proud to kill in the name of God" and shouted "Allah Akbar" twice as the video was being shown.<sup>38</sup>

On 17 February, Amine El Khalifi, 29, was arrested near the US Capitol building in Washington, as part of an FBI sting operation.<sup>39</sup> El Khalifi had been under FBI surveillance for several weeks prior to his arrest and although the FBI believed he held extremist views they did not believe he was linked to al-Qa'ida. Officials said that Khalifi had conducted surveillance on the Capitol building and was accused of planning to carry out a suicide bombing attack. He was also planning to attack a building in Alexandria and a restaurant, a synagogue, and a military building in Washington.<sup>40</sup> The FBI said El Khalifi had detonated a test bomb in a quarry in West Virginia in January 2012. El Khalifi was charged with knowingly and unlawfully attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction against property. El Khalifi faced life in prison if found guilty.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> US Department of Justice, "Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab Sentenced to Life in Prison for Attempted Bombing of Flight 253 on Christmas Day 2009", 16 February 2012;

<sup>38</sup> BBC, "Underwear bomber Abdulmutallab sentenced to life", 16 February 2012;

<sup>40</sup> Washington Post, "Federal agents arrest Amine El Khalifi; he allegedly planned to bomb Capitol", 18 February 2012;

<sup>41</sup> BBC, "FBI 'anti-terror' arrest near US Capitol", 18 February 2012;



## **South America**

### **Colombia**

On 1 February, a motorcycle bomb exploded outside a police station in Tumaco, killing six people and wounding 71 others. Police officials said they believe the intended target of the attack was regional police commander Gen Jorge Nieto Rojas, however he escaped unharmed. A \$55,000 police reward was offered for information leading to the perpetrators of the attack.<sup>42</sup> No group claimed responsibility, but police blamed the Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC). Following police investigations, five suspected FARC members were arrested on 16 February in connection with the attack.<sup>43</sup>

On 26 February, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) announced they would abandon their decades-long policy of kidnapping for ransom. The FARC said that in addition to six uniformed captives they had promised to free in December 2011, they would liberate the remaining four. However no date was set for the release. In total, the FARC were holding six police officials, four members of the military and hundreds of civilians.<sup>44</sup> The statement was one of a series of messages posted by the FARC's leadership that indicated steps by the group towards peace negotiations with the Colombian government. Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos said that while the announcement was a positive sign, it was not enough to start peace talks, as no reference was made to the FARC's intention to abandon extortion—another source of funding for the group.<sup>45</sup>

### **Peru**

On 12 February, Florindo Eleuterio Flores alias "Comrade Artemio," the leader of Peru's Shining Path Guerilla group was captured and seriously wounded by Peruvian security forces, in a remote jungle in the Upper Huallaga Valley.<sup>46</sup> Peruvian President Ollanta Humala said the capture marked an end to the Shining Path group which killed thousands of people

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<sup>42</sup> BBC, "Deadly attack on Colombia police station kills seven", 1 February 2012;

<sup>43</sup> Reuters, "COLOMBIA: Authorities arrest FARC members behind police bomb attack", 18 February 2012;

<sup>44</sup> AFP, "Colombia's FARC to free captives, stop kidnapping for ransom", 27 February 2012;

<sup>45</sup> Guardian, "Colombia's Farc rebels to free all captives", 26 February 2012;

<sup>46</sup> Reuters, "Peru captures wounded Shining Path rebel leader", 12 February 2012;



during the 1980s and 1990s and used the cocaine trade to fund its activities. Initial reports said that Artemio had been killed, however Defence Minister Alberto Otarola said he had been found alive but seriously injured. Artemio commanded about 150 rebels; about half of what remains of the Shining Path, the remaining rebels was involved in the drug trade. The United States had offered a \$5 million reward for information leading to Artemio's arrest.<sup>47</sup>

## **ASIA**

### **Georgia**

On 13 February, an attempted attack on the Israeli embassy in Tbilisi was foiled, when an embassy employee heard an unusual noise and alerted police, who discovered a car fitted with an explosive device near the diplomatic mission. The bomb was safely defused. This incident was part of a coordinated attack on Israeli diplomats in February 2012 in which militants used a magnetic strip to attach bombs to cars. The magnetic bombs were similar to those used to assassinate Iranian scientists in recent months. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks but Israel blamed Iran. The incident occurred several days after the fourth anniversary of the assassination of Hizballah's deputy leader, Imad Mughniyah. Hizballah had accused Israel of the assassination, though no one has officially taken responsibility for the attack.<sup>48</sup>

### **India**

On 11 February, a court in Bombay upheld the death sentences for Ashrat Ansari, Hanif Sayed Anees, and his wife Fehmida Sayed, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives who were convicted for their role in two bomb attacks in Mumbai in August 2003. The three militants were found guilty of planting bombs in two taxis which exploded at the Gateway of India and Zaveri Bazaar in South Mumbai, killing 52 people. The militants were found guilty in July 2009.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> AP, "Peru Shining Path leader Comrade Artemio captured and badly wounded", 12 February 2012;

<sup>48</sup> Jerusalem Post, "Netanyahu: Iran is behind attacks on Israeli embassies", 13 February 2012;

<sup>49</sup> AFP, "3 accused get death for 2003 Mumbai blasts", 11 February 2012;

<sup>50</sup> Ynet, "Israeli hero: Envoy's wife spotted terrorist", 14 February 2012;



On 13 February 2012, Tal Yehoshua Koren, the wife of the Israeli defense attaché to India, was injured, when a magnetic device attached to the Israeli Embassy car, exploded in Delhi, as she was on her way to collect her children from school. Delhi's police commissioner, B. K. Gupta, said a witness reported a person on a motorcycle attaching the device to the back of the car when Koren stopped at a red light. Seconds after the motorcycle moved away, the bomb exploded. Koren managed to report the incident to the embassy and escape from the car. Her driver Manoj Sharma and two bystanders suffered minor injuries.<sup>50</sup> India's Home Minister P Chidambaram described the perpetrator of the attack as "a well-trained person".<sup>51</sup> Authorities believe the bomb, once attached to the car, was detonated by remote control. This method enabled the attackers to avoid the precautions taken by the victim, such as close surveillance of the car prior to getting into it.<sup>52</sup> Authorities believed the attack was connected to a foiled car bomb attack outside the Israeli Embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia. The modus operandi was the same in both cases, and Israel blamed Iran for both attacks. There were no claims of responsibility for either attack.<sup>53</sup>

## Indonesia

Hisyam Bin Alizein alias Umar Patek, 45, went on trial on 13 February for his role in the 2002 Bali Bombings. Authorities believed he masterminded the attacks that killed 202 people. In 2008, Imam Samudra, Amrozi Nurhasyim, and Ali Ghufron (Mukhlas), were executed by firing squad for their role in the attack and if found guilty Patek faces the same fate. Patek had a \$1m bounty on his head. Patek's trial was expected to last over four months as prosecutors presented evidence from 86 witnesses. Patek was also accused of being involved in terror-related activities in Aceh province.<sup>54</sup> He was arrested in January 2011, in Abbottabad, Pakistan. Patek claimed he had no contact with Bin Laden, who was killed in

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<sup>51</sup> PTI, "Well-trained person carried out the terror attack: Chidambaram", 14 February 2012;

<sup>52</sup> ICT commentaries: Boaz Ganor, "The Writing on the Wall", 16 February 2012;

<sup>53</sup> Ynet, "Terror Barak on India car blast: Iran targeting Israelis worldwide", 14 February 2012;

<sup>54</sup> Sky News, "Suspected Bali Bomb Mastermind Goes On Trial", 13 February 2012;



Abbottabad on 1 May 2012 and it was purely a coincidence they were captured in the same town.<sup>55</sup>

## Nepal

On 27 February, three people were killed and seven wounded, when a remote controlled device exploded at 13:11 near government offices in Kathmandu. The explosion damaged the front gate of the Nepal Oil Corporation, which had been criticized for increasing prices of gasoline, diesel and cooking gas.<sup>56</sup> A little-known organization calling itself the Samyukta Jatiya Mukti Morcha (United Ethnic Liberation Front) claimed responsibility for the attack saying they were protesting against increase in the price of fuel.<sup>57</sup>

## Pakistan

On 17 February, a suicide bomber on a motorcycle killed 26 people and injured 50 others, near a mosque by a market in Parachinar, a town located close to the Pakistan-Afghan border. Three others were killed when security forces fired on crowds who were protesting against the attack. The bomb destroyed eight shops in the market. Fazal Saeed, the leader of a breakaway faction of the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>58</sup>

On 28 February, 18 people were killed and seven injured, by a group of gunmen who opened fire on a bus in Kohistan province. The bus was carrying mostly Shiite passengers to the northern town of Gilgit. It came under attack in the mountainous Kohistan district of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Province. Police said that the passengers were ordered to disembark from the bus, where they shot after being identified as Shiites. The attack was condemned by President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani. Jundullah claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> Telegraph, "Bali bomb 'mastermind': it was just 'coincidence' bin Laden and I lived in same town ", 20 February 2012;

<sup>56</sup> AP, "Bomb explosion in Nepal kills 3", 27 February 2012;

<sup>57</sup> The Hindu, "Bomb explosion kills three in Kathmandu", 27 February 2012;

<sup>58</sup> BBC, "Blast at Pakistan town 'kills 26'", 17 February 2012;

<sup>59</sup> New York Times, "Gunmen Ambush Bus in Pakistan, Killing at Least 18", 28 February 2012;



## Philippines

It was reported on the 2 February, that a joint Philippine and US air strike targeting a terrorist training camp in Jolo island, killed fifteen militants. A US official confirmed the incident and said the camp was totally destroyed. Approximately 30 militants were at the camp when the strike took place at 0300. Some militants escaped but no one was captured. Authorities said that Abu Sayyaf leaders Abu Pula and Uma Jumdail were killed in the attack. It was also reported that Singaporean Jemaah Islamiyah leader, Abdullah Ali alias Muawiyah was killed. The military initially said that Zulkifli Abdul Hir alias Marwan, who had a \$5 million reward for his capture, was killed but later the military retracted their comments after ground troops combed the area and found no evidence of his death.<sup>60</sup>

## Thailand

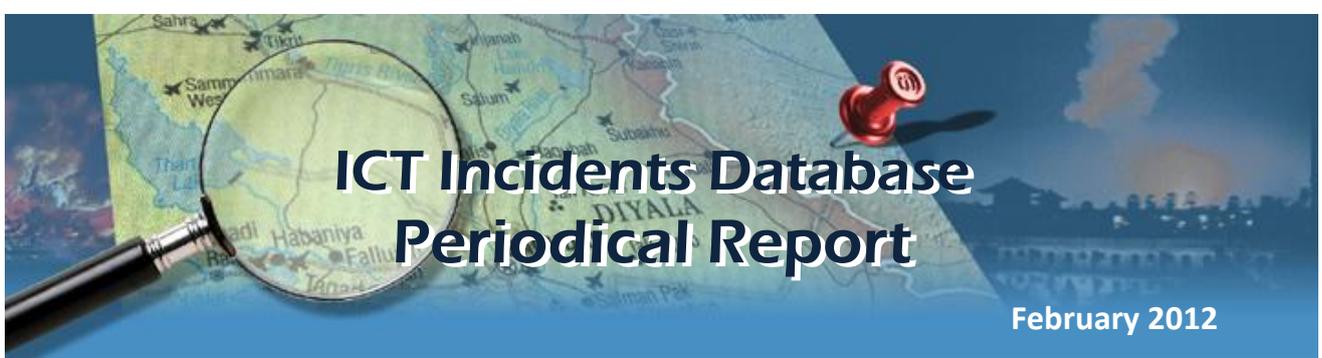
On 14 February, Iranian national Saeid Moradi attempted to flee from a house in Bangkok, after a large explosion destroyed the roof and structure of the building. Moradi, who was badly injured, attempted to summon a taxi. When the driver refused to take him, he responded by throwing a grenade at the taxi, damaging the vehicle and injuring the driver. Police officers who responded to the explosion, attempted to stop Moradi but he threw a second grenade at them. However, this grenade hit a tree and then bounced back onto Moradi exploding and severing both his legs. Four Thai nationals were also injured. Moradi was charged with illegal possession of explosives, causing explosions, attempted murder and assaulting a police officer. Thai authorities said that the incident was a failed attempt by Iranian nationals to assassinate Israeli diplomats. The attacks occurred a day after Israeli diplomats were targeted in India and Georgia and authorities believed these attacks were linked.<sup>61</sup>

Following the incident, police arrested two men suspected in involvement in the plot. Masoud Sedaghat Zadeh, 31, was arrested on 15 February at Kuala Lumpur airport,

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<sup>60</sup> Jakarta Globe, "Jemaah Islamiyah Terrorist Not Confirmed Killed: Philippine Military Now Say", 3 February 2012;

<sup>61</sup> Jerusalem Post, "Bangkok: Iranian man throws bomb at police; 5 hurt", 15 February 2012



Malyasia, as he attempted to board a plane to Tehran. Mohammad Khazaei, 42, was arrested on 16 February at Suvarnabhumi Airport near Bangkok.<sup>62</sup>

Police said they were searching for Rohani Leila who suspected rented the house where the suspects stayed. She was believed to have escaped to Iran. Thai police issued an arrest warrant for Nikkahfard Javad, 52, who they believe was the bomb specialist in the group. Javad was seen on closed circuit camera footage as he left the house shortly after the explosion took place. Police were also looking for an additional suspect who had links to an Iranian woman believed have escaped to Tehran.<sup>63</sup> Finally a search warrant was issued for Norouzi Shaya Ali Alkbar, 57 who police believed also escaped to Iran and was accused of possessing and making explosives.<sup>64</sup> No group claimed responsibility but the Israeli authorities blamed Iran for the attacks. Tehran denied any role.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> Wall Street Journal, "Thai Police Widen Search for Iranian", 16 February 2012

<sup>63</sup> Reuters, "Thai police seek fifth suspect in Iranian bombers case", 17 February 2012;

<sup>64</sup> Reuters, "Thailand police detains another Iranian suspect in Bangkok bombing", 27 February 2012;

<sup>65</sup> ABC, "Israelis: Iran Behind Bangkok Bombings, 'Coordinated Attacks' Around the World", 14 February 2012.