



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

- On 1 January 2011, an explosion occurred shortly after Midnight Mass at the Egyptian Coptic Church in Alexandria, Egypt killing 23 people and injuring 70 people.
- On 7 January 2011, AQIM militants kidnapped and killed two French civilians in the capital city of Niger, Niamey.
- On 14 January 2011, nine men appeared via videolink in court in London, UK and were charged with plotting a terrorist attack aimed to target the British citizens.
- On 18 January 2011, 65 people were killed and 150 people were injured, when a suicide bomber detonated his explosives amongst a crowd of police recruits in Tikrit, Iraq.
- On 19 January 2011, militants from the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan claimed Bekkay Harrach, a German al Qa'ida militant, who had threatened attacks against Germany was killed.
- On 24 January 2011, a male suicide bomber detonated his explosives at the International Arrivals hall at Domodedovo airport, Moscow, Russia killing 35 people and injuring 168 people.
- On 25 January 2011, Ahmed Ghailani was sentenced to life in prison for his role in the 1998 bomb attacks on the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.



EUROPE

Russia

On 1 January 2011, a suicide bombing attack in Moscow failed because an unexpected text message ignited the explosive earlier than the attacker had planned.¹ Police believe that the female bomber intended to detonate her explosive belt in Moscow's Red Square as people gathered there to celebrate new year, but a 'Happy New Year's' message from the bomber's operator detonated the explosive belt, killing her and no one else. They also believed that a second bomb was planned to detonate as police would have arrived at the scene, once the first explosives were detonated.² Russian terrorists commonly use cheap cell phones as detonators. When the suicide bomber is set in place, an accomplice sends a text message to trigger the explosive. The phones are usually turned off until the suicide bomber approaches the target, but Russian security sources believe that in this case the attackers were careless. After the explosion, which was detonated at the terrorists' safe house, two of her accomplices were seen fleeing the area.³ Police initially believed the accomplices may have been involved in the Domodedovo airport bomb attack that happened on 24 January 2011,⁴ however, on 2 February 2011, Vladimir Markin, the spokesman for Russia's investigative committee, ruled out any connection between the planned New Year bombing and the Domodedovo airport attack⁵. The attacker was identified as the wife of a leading militant from the republic of Dagestan. Ten other suspects were arrested in connection with the attack. One of them was identified as Artur Magomedov, 35 who reportedly handed himself into the authorities.⁶

On 24 January 2011, 35 people were killed and 168 injured, when a male suicide bomber detonated his explosives at 1630 at the International Arrivals hall at Domodedovo airport, Moscow, Russia⁷. On 2 February 2011, one of the people, who was injured in the attack died of his injuries bringing the total casualties to 36 killed and 167 injured. The casualties

1. OneIndia, "New Year's suicide bomb plot in Moscow failed because of spam text message", 28 January 2011.

2. Moscow News, "Police uncover Red Square bomb plot", 2 February 2011.

3 One India, " New Year's suicide bomb plot in Moscow failed because of spam text message", 28 January 2011.

4 BBC, "Police uncover Red Square bomb plot", 2 February 2011 .

5 Moscow News, " Airport bomb: Deaths climb to 36", 2 February 2011.

6 BBC, "Police uncover Red Square bomb plot", 2 February 2011..

7 New York Times, "Deadly Blast Comes at Sensitive Time for Russia", 24 January 2011.



included two Austrian citizens, two Tajiks and one each from Britain, Germany, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.⁸

Domodedovo airport is located 40km south-east of central Moscow. As a result of the attack security across Russia's capital, its airports and other transport centers were increased.⁹ The explosion occurred in the international arrivals hall in a public area where people who were not passengers had free access. The hall was filled with people who had just landed from various countries including the UK and Italy. Footage from mobile phones illustrated that the hall was filled with smoke and shrapnel covered the floor. Witnesses stated that before the bomber detonated the explosives the bomber shouted: "I'll kill you all!" Some of the casualties were taxi drivers who were waiting to pick up their passengers. There was international condemnation of the attack, including from the US, Israel, NATO and UK. Police stated that a head of Arab descent believed to have from the North Caucasus region was found at the scene and thought to have belonged to the suicide bomber¹⁰. Although the identity of the bomber was not known, witness and taxi driver Artyom Zhilenkov who told police that he was standing just a few meters away from a man who he suspected was the suicide bomber. He stated that he saw an explosion on or near the man, whose suitcase was on fire. Police stated that a surveillance video from the airport showed an unaccompanied male, who they suspected was the suicide bomber. The man was wearing a black jacket and baseball cap and he was standing in the area for approximately 15 minutes before the explosion occurred.¹¹

Authorities believed the bomb was made up of 7kg of TNT and that it was made up of metal fragments including bolts, nuts, nails and ball bearings.¹² Russian President Dmitry Medvedev ordered a full security check to be conducted at all transport centers and for government officials to be held accountable for security lapses. Questions about the security lapses were raised, with blame being pointed at police, airport security and the government. The attack occurred just before President Medvedev was to fly to Davos, Switzerland to give the keynote speech at the World Economic Forum. The bombing also took place as Russia

8 AP, "Medvedev says security at bombed airport poor", 25 January 2011.

9 BBC, "Moscow bombing: Carnage at Russia's Domodedovo airport", 24 January 2011.

10 Telegraph, "Moscow airport attack: suicide bomber confirmed from North Caucasus", 29 January 2011.

11 Ibid.

12 Ibid



prepared the 2014 Winter Olympics¹³. Following the attack, President Medvedev dismissed a senior police official¹⁴.

Flights from the airport were initially re-routed, but within several hours the airport was back to normal working conditions. The mayor of Moscow Sergei Sobyenin announced a day of mourning in Moscow that was to be held on 26 January 2011. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev stated that the Russia would provide assistance to the families of the dead and those injured in the attack.¹⁵

No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities suspect Chechnyan militants. This attack was the first time that the militants had deliberately attacked foreign targets indicating a new strategy that the Chechen rebels took.¹⁶ The police also linked the attack to a militant Islamist group from the Russian republic of Dagestan, in particular to Ibrahim-Khalil Daudov, the group's leader.¹⁷

The identity of the actual bomber was not released to the public, but on 29 January 2011, the Federal Investigative Committee made an announcement in a statement on its website to reveal that the bomber was a male, in his 20s from Russia's North Caucasus region. There were also reports that he trained in a terrorist camp in Pakistan. Relatives of the suspect stated that the man had been missing since October 2010.¹⁸ On the same day police identified a man they believed was the mastermind behind the attack as Vitaly Razdobudko, 32. He is one of the growing number of ethnic Russians who were embracing radical Islam. Razdobudko was a native of the of Pyatigorsk 800 miles south of Moscow, he studied at a local technical university and then went tried to work at several businesses including tourism. He became influenced by a local imam who had connections to Islamist terror groups. The imam was himself an ethnic Russian and a Muslim convert. Police had found extremist literature in his flat including bomb-making manuals. Under his influence, Razdobudko embraced radical Islam. He first came to the attention of police in 2009 when a powerful car bomb exploded Pyatigorsk, close to his home, injuring thirty people. Razdobudko was brought in for questioning but released for lack of evidence. He and his

13 VOA, "Putin Vows Retribution for Moscow Airport Bombing", 25 January 2011.

14 AP, "Russian president fires police chief after bombing", 26 January 2011.

15 Examiner, "Russia's capital shakes after deadly terrorist attack at the Domodedovo Airport", 25 January 2011.

16 AP via New York Times, "Deadly Blast Comes at Sensitive Time for Russia", 24 January 2011.

17 SAPA, "Dagestan Islamists blamed for Moscow bomb", 31 January 2011.

18 Bloomberg, "Moscow Airport Suicide Bombing Carried Out by Caucasus Man, Officials Say", 29 January 2011.



wife shared a flat with a couple who shared his Wahhabi ideology. Both were taken into custody, the man for being part of an Islamist terror group and the woman for being part of the failed suicide attack on Moscow on New Year's Eve.¹⁹

United Kingdom

On 14 January 2011, nine men appeared at the Old Bailey in London by video link accused of plotting terror attacks in the UK before Christmas. The men were arrested in December 2010, as a result of dawn raids in London, Cardiff and Stoke-on-Trent by counter-terrorism officers. They were charged with conspiring to cause explosions likely to endanger life or damage property between 6 November and 21 December 2010. They were remanded to another hearing on 25 February 2011. The men were accused of plotting to target landmark sites such as the Stock Exchange, the Houses of Parliament and the US Embassy, as well as political and religious figure. The men from Cardiff were identified as: Gurukanth Desai, 28, Omar Sharif Latif, 26, and Abdul Malik Miah, 24, from three addresses in the Riverside area of the city. The men from London were identified as Mohammed Moksudur Rahman Chowdhury, 20, of Tower Hamlets, and Shah Mohammed Lutfar Rahman, 28, of Newham. The men from Stoke-on-Trent were Nazam Hussain, 25, Usman Khan, 19, Mohibur Rahman, 26, and Abdul Boshier Mohammed Shahjahan, 26.²⁰

On 31 January 2011, Rajib Karim, a former British Airways call centre worker pleaded guilty to offering to take part in terror training camps abroad and for transferring funds to terrorist groups. Karim denied working at BA in order to pass on information on how to attack the airline's computer systems. He also admitted in court to having been in contact with Anwar Al-Awlaki.²¹ He pleaded guilty at Woolwich Crown court, London, to being involved in producing and distributing of a video on behalf of Jammah-ul Mujahideen Bangladesh, a terror organization. He admitted funding associates in Yemen. His trial is continuing in London, UK.²²

Italy

On 19 January 2011, Italy deported Mohamed Larbi, an Algerian man who was convicted of providing false identity documents for an al- Qa'ida in North Africa. The deportment was

19 Telegraph, "Moscow airport attack: suicide bomber confirmed from North Caucasus", 29 January 2011.

20 BBC, "Nine on terror charges appear at Old Bailey", 14 January 2011.

21 BBC, "BA call centre worker Rajib Karim admits terror charges", 31 January 2011.

22 Evening Chronicle, "Former Tyneside BA worker admits terror charges", 31 January 2011.



part of a joint agreement between Italian police and Algerian diplomats in Italy. In January 2008 Larbi, had been convicted by a court in Naples, Italy and he was sentenced to six years in prison on charges that included criminal association aimed at international terrorism. He was accused of providing logistical support to members of the Salafist Group for Call and Combat.²³ Mohamed was a skilled passport forger and had with other Muslim extremists created a terrorism cell that operated in Naples and other areas of Italy. The cell had links to Al-Qa'ida's North African branch, al-Qa'ida the Base and al- Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb.²⁴

Spain

On 28 January 2011, police in Spain arrested, Malik Imtanan Sarwar, 30 a Pakistani man who they believe is linked to a cell that forged passports for al Qa'ida-linked groups in Spain. The rest of the cell was arrested in December 2010²⁵. Police had been searching for Sarwar since seven members of the cell were arrested in Spain in December 2010 and three more in Thailand. Sarwar had worked with other group members to send stolen passports to Thailand which were forged and then distributed to groups linked to al Qa'ida, mainly Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Tamil Tiger rebels. Police stated that the passports were stolen mostly from tourists who were visiting Barcelona, Spain.²⁶

AFRICA

Morocco

On 5 January 2010, police in Morocco arrested 27 people as a result of raids in the town of Amghala. The arrests included a member of Al-Qa'ida's branch in North Africa for planning terrorist attacks in the country. The leader of the cell was a Moroccan national who was believed to be a member of Al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb and who wanted to create a base in Morocco for terror attacks. His identity was not revealed to the public. The police stated the cell had planned to carry out terrorist attacks using explosive-laden belts and car bombings. The members of the alleged cell were also planning bank robberies to finance their terrorist activities.²⁷

23 AP "Italy deports Algerian convicted of providing ID documents to al-Qaida in North Africa", 19 January 2011.

24 AKI News, "Italy: Government deports convicted Algerian terrorist", 19 January 2011.

25 AP, "Spain arrests Pakistani for links to al-Qaida", 29 January 2011.

26 PTI, "Spain arrests Pakistani for links to al Qaeda", 28 January 2011.

27 AKI, "Morocco: Police arrest 27 as alleged Al-Qaeda cell uncovered ", 5 January 2010.



Nigeria

On 6 January 2011, the FBI stated that Al-Qa'ida was responsible for an attack on 31 December 2010 in Abuja, Nigeria and that they were the financier, the planner, and the executor of the bomb blasts. They stated that local affiliated terrorist cells carried out the actual attack. As a result of this investigation, U.S President Barack Obama approved a request by Nigeria for a permanent FBI counter-terrorism unit in the country, in order to try to prevent future attacks. The FBI agents will also train Nigerians on how to detect and deal with local terror groups.²⁸

Niger

On 7 January 2011, suspected Al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb militants kidnapped and killed two French civilians in the capital city of Niger, Niamey. The two citizens were identified as Antoine de Leocour and Vincent Delory; they were kidnapped randomly from a restaurant in the diplomatic neighborhood. Both hostages were killed and they were found with their hands tied behind their backs²⁹. On 13 January 2011, a rescue operation was conducted and as a result of the rescue mission, nine people were killed including the two hostages, three Niger policemen and four kidnappers³⁰. In addition two attackers were captured during the rescue mission and were brought to questioning³¹. According to French authorities, one hostage died of burns whilst the other died as a result of a close range shot to his head. Police believe there were more than four attackers, but specific numbers were unknown. The police believed the attackers were wearing Niger police uniforms and they were carrying weapons. According to French authorities the kidnapping was a response to French police actions against Muslims riots in Afghanistan.³² There were some inconsistencies regarding the death of the hostages. Whilst the French government claimed AQIM murdered the hostages, AQIM claimed that the hostages died during the rescue mission.³³ On 13 January 2011 Al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb sent an audiotape to Reuters that claimed responsibility for the kidnapping. The message was also broadcast on Al-Jazeera³⁴. The message stated: "A group of Mujahideen carried out on Friday, January 7, a

28 Daily independent, "FBI links Al-Qaeda to Abuja blasts", 6 January 2011.

29 Examiner.com, "Al-Qaeda admits role in abducting French citizens ", 16 January 2011.

30 Ibid.

31 VOA News, "Al-Qaida Claims Kidnapping of French Nationals in Niger", 13 January 2011.

32 Reuters, "Al Qaeda claims kidnapping of Frenchmen found dead", 13 January 2011.

33 VOA News, "Al-Qaida Claims Kidnapping of French Nationals in Niger", 13 January 2011.

34 Examiner.com, "Al-Qaeda admits role in abducting French citizens ", 16 January 2011.



brave operation in the heart of the Niger capital Niamey, where they broke into the secured diplomatic neighborhood and succeeded in kidnapping two Frenchmen”, in addition the message also said that the hostages died during the rescue mission and not by attackers³⁵.

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

On 18 January 2011, 65 people were killed and 150 people were injured, many seriously, when a suicide bomber detonated his explosives amongst a crowd of police recruits in Tikrit, Iraq³⁶. The police believed the bomber may have been carrying as much as 50kg of explosives³⁷. The suicide bomber stood amongst hundreds of recruits waiting outside a police station in Tikrit, Iraq to submit applications for 2,000 newly created jobs. Then at approximately 10:00 the bomber detonated his explosives-packed vest. A nearby car was damaged with shrapnel. Loudspeakers from the city's mosques asked people to donate blood for the wounded. Police discovered a grenade that had not exploded was found near the scene. There was some criticism of the security forces over what measures had been taken to prevent this attack. However, some recruits stated that the job applicants were frisked before they entered the station's yard. Militants from the Islamic State of Iraq, an al-Qa'ida front group, posted a statement on an Islamic website that praised the bombing as "suicide martyrdom" but they did not claim responsibility for the attack.³⁸

On 25 January 2011, two car bombs exploded in Karbarla, killing 18 people and injuring 50 people. The attack targeted people who were gathering for a religious ritual that marked the end of a 40-day mourning period observing the 7th century death of the Imam Hussein, the Prophet Muhammad's grandson.³⁹ The first car bomb exploded at 07:00 in a car park near busloads of pilgrims on the eastern outskirts of Karbala, Iraq. Six people were killed and 34 injured in the attack. Then police discovered second bomb nearby which they managed to dismantle before it could explode. However, several hours later a second explosion that

35 Reuters, "Al Qaeda claims kidnapping of Frenchmen found dead", 13 January 2011.

36 Saba News Agency, "60 killed, around 150 wounded in Iraq suicide bombing", 18 January 2011.

37 BBC, "Suicide bomb kills 50 at Iraqi police centre in Tikrit", 18 January 2011.

38 AP, "Death toll rises to 65 in Iraq bombing", 19 January 2011.

39 AP, "Car bombs targeting Shiite pilgrims kill 18 in Karbala", 25 January 2011.



targeted the pilgrims killed 12 people, including 10 pilgrims and two soldiers, and 21 people were wounded.⁴⁰

On 27 January 2011, 48 people were killed and 78 injured when a car bomb exploded at 1400 local time, by a funeral tent in north-western Shula district of Baghdad, Iraq. As a result of the bombing, young men threw stones at the Iraqi security forces, angry that they had failed to protect them. Police fired into the air to disperse the angry crowd, but then came under attack from gunmen and returned fire. It was unclear if anyone was hurt in the shooting.⁴¹ A large fire occurred and other cars in the area were damaged as a consequence of the attack. No group claimed responsibility for the attack⁴²

Israel including West Bank and Gaza Strip

On 2 January 2011, a gag order was released that stated Mussa Hamada and Basem Omri, two East Jerusalem residents were arrested in connection with a Hamas plot to fire rockets into Israeli soccer game at the Jerusalem Teddy stadium. The men, both Israeli citizens, were allegedly planning to carry out the attack on Teddy Stadium during a Premier League soccer game, but the plot was prevented from being carried out. Both suspects were allegedly affiliated with terrorist activities organized by Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood for a number of years. The Shin Bet stated that the suspects had already collected a number of pistols and working up to a cache of additional weapons and explosive materials to create the rocket device. Three other Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem were also suspected of taking part in the sale and purchase of these weapons.⁴³ The two men were employees of the British Consulate General in Jerusalem and were, according to the Shin Bet, aided by their employers in obtaining weapons. Authorities believe that Hamada apparently had met with other Islamist activists several times over the last few years in Saudi Arabia, where he acquired money and the pistols for his terror activities. Musa Hamada was from the Sur Baher neighborhood and Bassem Omeri was from Beit Safafa.⁴⁴

On 11 January 2011, Mohammed A-Najar, 25, a senior Islamic Jihad militant, was killed by an Israel Air Force missile while he was driving a motorcycle in the southern Gaza Strip. IDF

40 BBC, "Two bomb blasts strike pilgrims in Iraq city of Karbala", 25 January 2011.

41 BBC, "Bomb at Baghdad funeral in Shia Muslim area kills 48", 27 January 2011.

42 AP, "Bomb strikes funeral, killing 41 in Baghdad", 27 January 2011.

43 Haaretz, "Two East Jerusalem residents arrested over Hamas plot to fire rockets into Israeli soccer game", 2 January 2011.

44 Jerusalem Post, "Two arrested for Hamas plot to fire rockets at stadium", 2 January 2011.



sources confirmed the attack, stating that Najjar had been planning a terrorist attack within Israeli territory and with rocket-launching cells. The attack was the third IDF strike on Gaza in less than two days; early on 10 January 2011 the air force bombed two "terrorist sites", or locations used by radical groups to train militants or as outposts. The IDF described the strikes as retaliation against a rise in rocket and mortar attacks by Palestinian militants from the coastal enclave.⁴⁵ An Islamic Jihad spokesman threatened revenge.⁴⁶

On 20 January 2011, a man armed with Kalashnikov rifle attacked a fortified IDF post near Mevo Dotan, West Bank⁴⁷. There was an exchange of fire, but no soldiers were killed.⁴⁸ The attack occurred at approximately 1100. The attacker stood about 50 meters from the soldiers and shouted "Allah Akbar" before he opened fire. The terrorist was identified as Sami Samoudi, 23. The soldiers responded with a warning shot in the air, and when the gunman continued shooting, the soldiers returned fire, killing him. Authorities believed the motive behind the attack was to avenge a relative's death at checkpoint in the Jordan Valley in early January 2011. In this case the militant attempted to attack the soldiers with a pipe bomb. The attacker had been arrested twice before by Israel for suspected involvement in terrorist activity and was a known Islamic Jihad operative. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but the IDF stated the attacker was a known Islamic Jihad operative.⁴⁹

On 26 January 2011, four Palestinian men from villages near Hebron, West Bank were indicted for the murder of an American tourist that took place on 18 December 2010 in a forest near Beit Shemesh, Israel. In total 13 men were arrested in connection with the case. Police were aware of the terrorist cell operating in the area but were only able to arrest members after the attack on 18 December 2010. Shin Bet sources believed the suspects succeeded in entering Israel through gaps in the West Bank security barrier near the Betar Illit settlement, south of Jerusalem. The suspects were members of an independent terror cell in the West Bank responsible for two murders, two attempted murders and at least one rape as well as other incidents of theft and violence dating back to the summer of 2009. After interrogations with the Shin Bet, authorities believe the terrorist cell began as a group involved in petty crimes dating back to 1999 however the group became nationalistically

45 Haaretz, "Targeted IDF strike kills Islamic Jihad militant in Gaza", 11 January 2011.

46 Jerusalem Post, "Islamic Jihad threatens to avenge IAF killing of operative", 11 January 2011.

47 UPI, "Armed Palestinian killed by soldiers", 20 January 2011.

48 Ynet, "IDF kills terrorist who fired at soldiers near Jenin", 20 January 2011.

49 Jerusalem post, " Terrorist killed near Mevo Dotan ", 20 January 2011.



motivated following the assassination of Hamas commander Muhammad al-Mahbouh in Dubai in January 2010. The men were not believed to have been affiliated with an organized terrorist group.⁵⁰ Some of the members were identified as Iyad Patpata of Tarqumiya, Kifah Ghanimat, Muhammad Ghanimat and another man from the village of Surif – were indicted at the Jerusalem District Court. Kifah Ghanimat told his investigators that he had also tried to murder two Jews in Beit Shemesh in February 2010 to avenge Mabhoh's assassination.⁵¹

On 30 January 2011, Haifa District Court sentenced Amir Makhoul an Arab-Israeli political activist to nine years in prison. Makhoul was found guilty of espionage, assisting an enemy at a time of war and maintaining contact with an enemy agent. He admitted to the charges against him. In May 2010, Makhoul was discovered to have been recruited as a spy for Hizbollah. He transferred, via a specially-designed computer encryption system, strategic intelligence information on Israeli security services to Hizbollah militants. He was arrested in April 2010. As a result of a shin bet interrogation, Makhoul confessed to having met a Hizbollah operative during a trip to Denmark in 2008. During the meeting, Makhoul agreed to become an agent for Hizbollah in Israel and to begin collecting what was described as "strategic intelligence" on Israeli security services. He received an encryption system so he could transfer the information by computer to Hizbollah. He is also suspected of giving Hizbollah names of other people, male and female, who would act as spies against Israel.⁵² The State Prosecutor's Office removed the most serious charge – assisting an enemy in a time of war – as a result of the bargain plea, and charges against Makhoul carried a maximum prison sentence of seven to 10 years. Makhoul was also accused of trying to hand over videos of a terror attack attempted in a Haifa mall and in general attempting to enlighten the terror organization on the weaknesses of the Israeli home front.⁵³

Egypt

On 1 January 2011, shortly after Midnight Mass, 23 people were killed in an explosion at the Egyptian Coptic Church in Alexandria, Egypt⁵⁴. At the time of the attack, approximately 1,000 worshipers gathered at the church to attend the Midnight Mass. As the service was ending,

50 Jerusalem Post, "13 arrested in terror cell behind US hiker's death", 26 January 2011.

51 Ynet, "Police: Palestinian cell murdered US tourist", 26 January 2011.

52 Jerusalem Post, "Arab-Israeli activist Amir Makhoul sentenced to 9 years", 30 January 2011.

53 Ynet, "Makhoul gets 9 years in jail for espionage", 30 January 2011.

54 Reuters, "Egypt Church Bomber May Not Have Intended Suicide", 6 January 2011.



the explosion occurred. The international community condemned the attack.⁵⁵ Initially witnesses stated that the explosion was caused by a car bomb, however the Egyptian Interior Ministry stated it a suicide bomber who carried out the attack. Police stated that the bomb was assembled locally and it was filled with nails and ball bearings worn by the bomber.⁵⁶ According to forensic officials, the bomb was detonated prematurely and resulted in the bomber's death⁵⁷. Investigators examined two heads that were discovered at the site on suspicion that at least one was the bombers.⁵⁸

Forensic investigators found that the bomber used a backpack to carry the bomb that contained between 20-25 kg of explosives, including TNT mixed with a chemical substance. It also contained pieces of tin and iron.⁵⁹

The Egyptian Christian minority held protests in Cairo, Egypt where they claimed that Egypt had failed to provide them with necessary protection⁶⁰. Following the attack, Egypt's Christian minority protested against the lack of security and protection provided by government authorities. On 2 January 2011, 2,000 Egyptian security personnel were deployed in order to suppress riots and maintain order in Cairo. President Hosni Mubarak and Alexandria's governor immediately blamed the attack on foreign terrorists. According to security officials, 25 people were taken into custody for questioning. Most were owners of cars parked outside the church at the time, storekeepers and Muslim neighbors known to be Islamic fundamentalists. They were not suspects just questioned to help with the investigation. No charges were made.⁶¹ No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but the Egyptian authorities believed the attack was orchestrated by foreign al-Qa'ida operatives.

On 23 January 2011, the Egyptian Interior Minister Habib al-Adli stated that his government had "decisive proof" that the Gaza based militant the Army of Islam carried out the attack, however the group denied any involvement⁶².

55 BBC, "Egypt bomb kills 21 at Alexandria Coptic church", 1 January 2011.

56 New York Times, "Fatal Bomb Hits a Church in Egypt", 1 January 2011.

57 Reuters, "Egypt Church Bomber May Not Have Intended Suicide", 6 January 2011.

58 Washington Times, "Egypt Church Bombing Probe Focuses on Local Group", 2 January 2011.

59 Reuters, "Egypt Church Bomber May Not Have Intended Suicide", 6 January 2011.

60 Globe and Mail, "Canada's Coptic Christians ask for Protection in Wake of Egypt Bombing", 3 January 2011.

61 Washington Times, "Egypt Church Bombing Probe Focuses on Local Group", 2 January 2011.

62 BBC, "Egypt blames Gaza group for Alexandria church bombing", 23 January 2011.



Yemen

On 7 January 2011, al Qa'ida militants attacked three military vehicles in Lawdar, Yemen, killing 12 soldiers and wounding three.⁶³ Authorities believed that the attackers fired at the vehicles using rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles in the Um Eien area of the Loudar district in the southern Abyan province. Authorities also stated that two vehicles and a water tanker truck were burned in the attack⁶⁴.

SOUTH AMERICA

Columbia

On 14 January 2011, Iraitz Guesalag, an ETA member, was charged in connection with training members of the Colombian guerrilla group FARC in computer science Iraitz Guesalag who was arrested in France on 11 January 2011, was extradited to Spain for his role with the ETA and for collaborating with the terrorist organization FARC in whilst he had spent time in September 2008 in Venezuela. He is accused of instructing ETA refugees and FARC members in information encryption computer programs, in a camp based in the jungle. Guesalag and his girlfriend Itxaso Urteaga were also accused of having ties to Arturo Cubillas, a senior official in the Venezuelan Ministry of Agriculture and suspected member of ETA who is assumed to be responsible for coordinating the Spanish terrorist group with the FARC. Spain issued an extradition request for Cubillas in March 2010, charging the Venezuelan official for his ties to ETA, which the Venezuelan government denies.⁶⁵

NORTH AMERICA

Canada

On 20 January 2011, Faruq Khalil Muhammad Isa, 39, was accused of supporting a network of fighters responsible for the 2009 attack on US Military convoy in Iraq, which saw the death of five US soldiers. Isa was accused of funding the attack with the hope he would become a suicide bomber himself. He faced a life sentence in U.S. Prison if convicted for his role in the attack.⁶⁶

63 Reuters, "Al Qaeda hits Yemen army vehicles, 5 dead - official", 7 January 2011.

64 DPA, "Nine soldiers killed as al-Qaeda ambushes military convoy in Yemen", 7 January 2011.

65 Columbia Reports, "Alleged ETA member charged for training FARC", 14 January 2011.

66 BBC, "Canadian accused in US court on Iraq terror charges" 20 January 2011.



New York, USA

On 25 January 2011, Ahmed Ghailani, 36, was sentenced to life in prison for his role in the 1998 bomb attacks on the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania which killed 224 people, including 12 Americans, and injured thousands of people on 7 August 1998.⁶⁷ US District Judge Lewis Kaplan rejected requests by defense lawyers for leniency in recognition of Ghailani's alleged mistreatment during harsh US interrogations. Instead, the judge imposed on him the maximum sentence due to his involvement in the attack. The case was the first trial of a Guantanamo detainee in a US civilian court. It was viewed as a test case to determine whether other military prisoners at Guantanamo, including alleged 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, would be tried in a federal court rather than by a special military commission at Guantanamo. The case highlighted the challenges of affording full constitutional protections to terrorism suspects who were once held in secret detention overseas and subjected to harsh interrogation tactics by US intelligence officials.⁶⁸ Ghailani was the fifth person to be sentenced. Four others were sentenced to life in prison in a 2001 trial in Manhattan federal court. Osama bin Laden was also named in the indictment.⁶⁹

ASIA

Thailand

On 1 January 2011, a bomb exploded at 0745 in an open market of the Sungai Padi district in Narathiwat province, Thailand killing two policemen and injuring nine people. Witnesses stated that two teenagers on a motorcycle dropped a suspicious object on a roadside and fled the scene.⁷⁰ The attackers waited for the police to arrive to detonate the device, which police believed was done using a mobile phone and which was a five-kilogram homemade device, assembled in a metal box.⁷¹ No group claimed responsibility for the attack but police was suspect the Islamist Patani Separatist group were responsible.⁷²

On 26 January 2011, a roadside bomb exploded by a truck in Yaha district, Thailand, killing nine people and injuring two people.⁷³ The roadside device exploded at approximately 17:30

67 AP, "Gitmo Detainee Gets Life Sentence in Embassy Plot", 25 January 2011.

68 CSM Monitor, "Ahmed Ghailani gets life sentence for Al Qaeda bombing of US embassies", 25 January 2011.

69 AP, "Gitmo Detainee Gets Life Sentence in Embassy Plot", 25 January 2011.

70 UPI, "Bomb kills two policemen in Thailand", 02 January 2011.

Thailand news, "New Year's Day bomb kills two police in southern Thailand", 01 January 2011. . 71

72 Ibid

73 UPI, "Nine Thai villagers killed in blast", 26 January 2011.



local time⁷⁴. The passengers in the truck were villagers from Songkhla and they were returning from a hunting trip when their truck was hit as it passed along the Katong-Yaha road. Police believed the explosive device was set off by militants hiding nearby. However, no group claimed responsibility for the attack.⁷⁵

Azerbaijan

On 29 January 2011, the US State Department issued a warning to Americans of the potential terrorist threat to Western targets in Azerbaijan and they urged all U.S. citizens to be vigilant in the region. The U.S. Embassy in Baku stated there was a "potential for attacks in Azerbaijan, including against American interests", however, the alert did not disclose information about the nature of the threat or which terror organization was behind it⁷⁶. The British Foreign Office also issued a similar warning to its citizens.⁷⁷

Indonesia

On 7 January 2011, Tatang Mulyadi and Abdi Tunggal, two Indonesian police officers were jailed for selling firearms to al Qa'ida in Aceh militants who had been plotting a series of attacks on government leaders and Westerners in Jakarta, Indonesia. Mulyadi and Tunggal were guards at the national police warehouse in Jakarta, where the stolen weapons were kept. The policemen claimed they were unaware that the weapons they had seized would be given to militants but the judge in the trial stated that some of the guns had been used to kill fellow police officers during a raid on a terrorist training camp in Aceh in 2010.⁷⁸

Afghanistan

On 7 January 2011, at approximately 1200, 17 people were killed and 23 injured, when a suicide bomber detonated his explosives at a public bath in Spin Boldak, Afghanistan. Police believe that the target of the attack was a police officer, who was head of the local rapid reaction police border unit, called Ramazan. He was killed in the attack.⁷⁹ Qari Yousaf

74 AFP, "Deadly day for Asia as bomb blasts rock Philippines, Thailand and Pakistan", 26 January 2011.

75 UPI, "Nine Thai villagers killed in blast", 26 January 2011.

76 AP, "US warns of terrorist threat in Azerbaijan", 29 January 2011.

77 AzerNews, "U.S., Britain issue warning over Azerbaijan terror threat", 1 February 2011.

78 BBC, "Indonesian police jailed for 10 years in terror trial", 7 January 2011.

79 AFP, "Suicide attack kills 17 at Afghan public bath", 7 January 2011.



Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesperson claimed responsibility for the attack and confirmed that Ahmad Kham, a resident of Khandar carried out the attack that targeted the policemen.⁸⁰

On 19 January 2011, a statement was released by militants from the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan that stated German Bekkay Harrach was killed leading an attack on the US air base at Bagram. The statement did not say when he was killed, but authorities believed this was linked to an attack on 19 May 2010.⁸¹ In 2009, Harrach appeared in al-Qa'ida videos threatening to carry out attacks during the German general election. After posting his video threat Harrach became one of the most well known German jihadists known to be in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region.⁸²

Pakistan

On 17 January 2011, a minibus that was traveling in North-West Pakistan was destroyed in an explosion killing 19 people and injuring eleven people, two critically. The explosion killed all the people who were on the bus and two people, who were in vehicles nearby, were also killed. The people who were injured were in a second minibus nearby, which had the windows destroyed as a result of the explosion. The minibus was traveling between the Hangu and Kohat which are located close to Pakistan's lawless tribal region. Police originally suspected that the vehicle's gas cylinder had exploded due to malfunction but it was later discovered that the explosion, in which the gas cylinder did explode, was triggered by a timed explosive device planted on the vehicle. No group claimed responsibility for the attack⁸³. The police investigation team stated that a timed explosive that contained approximately 10 kilograms of explosive were used. The timer was placed near the gas cylinders which caused the explosion.⁸⁴

Philippines

On 25 January 2011, a bomb exploded at approximately 1400 on a bus in Manila, Philippines, killing four people and wounding 14 people. The attack occurred when the bus was on a highway in the main business district of Makati, as it was nearing a railway station. Police believe the explosive was placed underneath the passenger seat, because the effect of the

80 New York Times, "Kandahar Taliban Suicide Bomber Kills Police Official", 7 January 2011.

81 BBC, "Al-Qaeda fighter Bekkay Harrach 'killed in Afghanistan'", 20 January 2011.

82 Der Spiegel International, "Al-Qaida Fighter from Bonn Believed Dead", 19 January 2011.

83 AP, "Minibus bombing in NW Pakistan kills 19", 17 January 2011.

84 AFP, "Minibus Explosion That Killed 17 in Northwest Pakistan Was Terrorist Attack - Police", 17 January 2011.



explosion was massive in that area.⁸⁵ On 26 January 2011, one of the people who was injured, died of the injuries they sustained. No arrests had been made, but police were looking for two men who left the bus shortly before the attack occurred.⁸⁶ Police discovered an 81mm mortar shell that was used in the attack and they found a cellular phone that they believe was used to detonate the bomb.⁸⁷ No group claimed responsibility for the attack but police suspect Abu Sayaff militants.⁸⁸

85 Reuters, "Four dead in Manila bus bombing; investigation starts", 25 January 2011.

86 BBC, "Manila bus bombing death toll rises to five", 26 January 2011.

87 PNA, "81mm mortar shell used in bus explosion – NCRPO", 27 January 2011.

88 VOA, "Philippine Officials See Link to Islamic Militants in Bus Explosion", 26 January 2011.