



The following is a summary and analysis of the terrorist attacks and counter-terrorism operations that occurred during the month of July 2012, researched and recorded by the ICT database team. Important events this month included the following:

- On 1 July, 17 people were killed and 60 others injured when armed militants carried out a coordinated attack on two churches in Garissa, Kenya.
- On 5 July, six people were arrested on suspicion of planning a terrorist attack in London, UK.
- British traffic police discovered a car filled with explosives, leading to a major counter-terrorist operation between 3-5 July, resulting in the arrests of seven people in the UK.
- On 7 July, a Swedish Lebanese man, 24, was arrested in Limassol, Cyprus on suspicion of collecting information on Israeli flights to Cyprus and bus tours catering to Israeli tourists.
- On 11 July, six rubber plantation workers were killed and 27 others injured when suspected Abu Sayyaf gunmen ambushed a vehicle transporting them to work in Basilan, Philippines.
- On 12 July, nine police and prison trainee staff were killed and nine others injured by Tehrik-i-Taliban gunmen who attacked a police academy in Lahore, Pakistan.
- On 14 July, 23 people were killed and 60 wounded when a suicide bomber attacked the wedding reception of the daughter of a prominent politician in Samangan, Afghanistan.
- On 15 July, armed police in Edinburgh, UK arrested ETA militant Benat Atorrasagasti Ordonez, 36, more than 10 years after he went on the run.
- On 18 July, six people were killed and 32 others injured when a suspected suicide bomber detonated a bomb on a bus full of Israeli tourists at Burgas Airport, Bulgaria.
- On 18 July, an explosion in the National Security Building on Rawda Square in Damascus, Syria killed three of President Assad's senior aides and injured several of his advisors.
- On 23 July, 113 people were killed and 299 injured in a series of coordinated attacks in Iraq.
- On 27 July, the Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem posted a video online in which it again claimed responsibility for a cross-border attack on 18 June 2012.



EUROPE

Bulgaria

On 18 July, six people were killed and 32 others injured when a suspected suicide bomber detonated a bomb inside his rucksack on a bus full of Israeli tourists at Burgas Airport. Amongst the casualties was the Bulgarian bus driver. The bus was carrying 42 Israelis who had arrived on a flight from Tel Aviv from the airport to their hotels.¹ Bulgarian authorities initially said that the explosion was caused by a bomb in the bus's luggage compartment. However, further investigation determined that a male suicide bomber had carried out the attack. Some aspects of the attack seemed unusual for a suicide attack: the attacker was carrying false US documents and wearing a wig, which may have indicated that he wished to disguise his identity to evade being caught after escaping the scene of the attack, suggesting that he may not have intended this to be a suicide mission. It was also strange that he was carrying identification with his photograph, as suicide attackers do not usually carry identification.² CCTV footage showed the unidentified bomber, who had a Western appearance, wandering around the airport terminal building for over an hour before he boarded the bus. CCTV clearly showed the suspect carrying an oversized bag that, in hindsight, security officials believe contained three kilograms of TNT explosives. Police did not identify the suspect but said he was 36 years old, and had been in the country between four and seven days before the attack.³ Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu blamed Iran for the attack, and linked the attacker to Hezbollah. A senior Israeli official said that the attack was part of an intensive wave of terrorist attacks around the world carried out by the Iranian Quds Force, an elite international operations unit within Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards, and by Hezbollah.⁴ On 21 July, a previously-unknown terrorist group allegedly tied to global jihad and calling itself Base of Jihad [Qaedat Al-Jihad] sent a statement to local media claiming responsibility for the attack; this claim was not verified by the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry.⁵ Bulgarian security authorities were reportedly searching for additional suspects

¹Jerusalem Post, "7 dead in bombing of Israeli bus in Bulgaria", 18 July 2012.

²Jerusalem Post, "Questions and Lessons from the Burgas Bus Attack", 30 July 2012.

³New York Times, "Hezbollah Is Blamed for Attack on Israeli Tourists in Bulgaria", 19 July 2012.

⁴Telegraph, "Iran blamed after seven killed in bomb attack on Israeli bus in Bulgaria", 18 July 2012.



involved in the bombing.⁶ The explosion coincided with the 18th anniversary of an attack on a Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in which 85 people were killed.⁷

Cyprus

On 7 July, a 24-year-old Swedish citizen of Lebanese origin was arrested in the southern city of Limassol in connection with gathering information on Israeli flights to Cyprus and bus tours catering to Israeli tourists.⁸ Cyprus state television said the authorities had acted on an intelligence tip from Israeli agents. Police believe the suspect arrived on the island on 5 July to plan and orchestrate the blowing up of a plane or a bus. Cypriot security forces raided the suspect's hotel and arrested him in his room. According to local media, detailed notes about Israeli aircraft were found in the suspect's possession.⁹ Initially, the arrest was not made public; the suspect was brought before a local court in a closed hearing that extended his detention for five days. His detention was again extended in a second court hearing, this time for a week. According to local media, the suspect initially denied any involvement in terrorist activity, but after intensive questioning admitted to being a member of Hezbollah.¹⁰ Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu blamed Iran for the foiled attack.¹¹

France

On 4 July, ETA member Juan Maria Mugica was arrested as he was driving a car in the town of Mauleon, in southwest France. He was not armed and offered no resistance. He was allegedly linked to a planned missile attack on former Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar in 2001.¹² Mugica had previously escaped a police raid in 2010 in Lizarta, in Spain's Basque region, in which the ETA cell of which Murgica was a member was dismantled. The cell was suspected of transporting material for attacks, including a missile from France to the Spanish town of Hernani. According to the Spanish Interior Ministry, the cell's leaders had ordered Mugica to fire the missile at a plane carrying Prime Minister Aznar to Bilbao, but the

⁵ Jerusalem Post, "Previously unknown group claims Burgas attack", 21 July 2012.

⁶ Ynet, "Qaedat al-Jihad claims responsibility for Burgas attack", 21 July 2012.

⁷ CNN, "Israelis killed in Bulgaria bus terror attack, minister says", 19 July 2012.

⁸ Jerusalem Post, "Cyprus: Lebanese man planned attacks on Israelis", 14 July 2012.

⁹ AFP, "Swedish terror suspect detained in Cyprus", 14 July 2012.

¹⁰ Haaretz, "Man detained in Cyprus was planning attack on Israeli targets for Hezbollah", 14 July 2012.

¹¹ Jerusalem Post, "PM blames Iran for thwarted Cyprus terror attack", 16 July 2012.

¹² AFP, "Top ETA member arrested in France: Spain", 4 July 2012.



attack never took place. Since 2010, a European arrest warrant had been pending for Mugica for his membership in ETA and for possessing weapons and explosives.¹³

Kosovo

On 3 July, five people whose identities were not released to the public were arrested on terrorism charges. They were accused of attacking a Serbian police checkpoint at the eastern boundary between Kosovo and Serbia on 28 June 2012, wounding one Serbian policeman lightly. The suspects, all citizens of Kosovo, were arrested by European police. Two of the suspects remained in custody while the other three were divested of their travel documents and ordered to report regularly to police.¹⁴

United Kingdom

On 5 July, five men and a woman were arrested in London on suspicion of committing, preparing, or instigating acts of terrorism. Eight residences and one business were searched in the raid,¹⁵ which was carried out by counter-terrorism officers and MI5 agents investigating a suspected plot against targets in Britain (not threatening the Olympic or Paralympic Games).¹⁶ Three of the men, brothers named Jahangir Alom, 26, Mohammed Alomgir, 24, and Moybur Alom, 18 – were seized at an address in East London.¹⁷ The eldest, Jahangir, who also uses the alias Abu Khalid, was a Metropolitan community support officer between May 2007 and September 2009. In 2010, he appeared in a YouTube video to explain why he had stopped being a police officer and had become an Islamic fundamentalist. Mohammed Alomgir, 24, was zapped with a police Taser gun during the arrest, but did not require hospital treatment. Scotland Yard said armed officers had been deployed during the arrest, an unusual tactic indicative of the risk counter-terrorism chiefs thought officers faced in detaining the suspects.¹⁸ Another man, identified as Richard Dart, 29, a Muslim convert who uses the name Salahuddin Al-Britani, was arrested by police officers on the street in Ealing, West London – an atypical move. Dart had been radicalized by Muslim cleric Anjem Choudary, and was known to authorities for supporting the implementation of shari'a [Islamic law] in the UK. Dart was featured in a YouTube video

¹³ CNN, "Suspect in plot against Spanish leader arrested", 4 July 2012.

¹⁴ EUBusiness.com, "Five arrested on terrorism charges in Kosovo: EU", 3 July 2012.

¹⁵ BBC, "Six arrested in London anti-terror operation", 5 July 2012.

¹⁶ Guardian, "Guardian, "Six arrested in London over alleged terror plot", 5 July 2012.

¹⁷ New York Times, "Britain Arrests 7 More Terrorism Suspects", 6 July 2012.

¹⁸ BBC, "Six arrested in London anti-terror operation", 5 July 2012.



criticizing the Royal Family and British military action in Muslim countries.¹⁹ Police also arrested a 21-year-old man and a woman, 30, at separate residences.²⁰ On 6 July, a seventh suspect – a woman, 22, was arrested in East London under the Terrorism Act 2000 on suspicion of the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism.²¹

British traffic police routinely stopped a car on 30 June 2012 on the M1 motorway after becoming suspicious that it was being driven without insurance. The driver and passenger were released, but the vehicle was impounded and taken for investigation. Two days later, on 2 July, investigators discovered firearms and ammunition hidden inside the car; this led to a major anti-terrorism operation. On 3 July, three men in their 20s, the driver and passenger apparently among them, were arrested in Birmingham. Three further arrests were made across the West Midlands on 4 July. Finally, on 5 July, a seventh man, 43, was arrested in West Yorkshire. Police said they had recovered two non-automatic guns and a small amount of ammunition. It is not clear whether a terrorist attack was imminent, but police believe the plot had progressed beyond the planning stage. Police said the arrests were not connected to the Olympics, nor were they linked to the arrests made in London on the same day.²² On 10 July, the three men arrested in Birmingham were accused under the Terrorism Act 2006 in Westminster magistrates' court of preparing an act or acts of terrorism, including manufacturing an improvised explosive device and acquiring firearms, other weapons, and vehicles connected with an alleged plan to target the anti-Islamic group, the English Defense League.²³ The men were identified as Jewel Uddin, 26, Omar Mohammed Khan, 27, and Mohammed Hasseen, 23.²⁴ On 31 July, Uddin, Khan and Hasseen appeared along with Anzal Hussain, 24, and Mohammed Saud and Zohaib Ahmed, both 22, via video link for a preliminary hearing at the Old Bailey, at which they were charged under Section 5(1) of the Terrorism Act 2006 of preparing an act or acts of terrorism between 1 May and 4 July 2012, including the manufacture of an improvised explosive device, the acquisition of firearms and other weapons, and the purchase of motor vehicles connected with the charges. The men

¹⁹ BBC, "Anti-terror police arrest seventh person in London probe", 7 July 2012.

²⁰ Telegraph, "White Muslim one of six arrested over 'terror plot'", 5 July 2012.

²¹ Guardian, "Seventh person arrested in London anti-terror raids", 7 July 2012.

²² Telegraph, "Terrorism arrests: car carrying weapons stopped by chance", 6 July 2012.

²³ BBC, "Three men 'planned to attack English Defence League'", 10 July 2012.

²⁴ Guardian, "M1 terrorism suspects appear in court", 10 July 2012.



spoke only to confirm their identities and were remanded in custody ahead of a hearing in January 2013.²⁵

On 15 July, armed police in Edinburgh arrested ETA militant Benat Atorrasagasti Ordonez, 36, after more than 10 years as a fugitive. According to Spain's Interior Ministry, Atorrasagasti Ordonez, who had been on Spain's most-wanted list since 2008, had been living in a rented property in Edinburgh with his family for 'some time'. Authorities claimed that Atorrasagasti Ordonez, originally from San Sebastian, joined ETA in 1996, forging documents and smuggling people and weapons between France and Spain.²⁶ A statement from the Spanish Interior Ministry said Atorrasagasti Ordonez went on the run in 2001, after the Civil Guard broke up the cell with which he was affiliated. After escaping to France that year, he joined ETA there. His fingerprints have been found on material taken in several police raids; in 2008, he was sentenced *in absentia* to five years in prison by a court in Paris.²⁷ His arrest was a joint operation of Spain's Civil Guard and Lothian and Borders Police.²⁸

On 17 July, Shasta Khan, 38, was jailed for eight years after being convicted of conspiring with her husband Mohammed Sajid Khan to bomb Jewish targets in Manchester.²⁹ She appeared at Manchester Crown Court, where she was convicted of engaging in preparation for acts of terrorism and two counts of possessing a record of information likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism. She denied the charges. Her husband pleaded guilty to engaging in preparation for acts of terrorism, and was given an indeterminate sentence, of which he must serve a minimum of seven and a half years before he can be considered eligible for parole.³⁰ In July 2011, authorities discovered a cache of terrorism-related material after being called to a domestic dispute at the couple's home.³¹ The couple was allegedly radicalized in 2010-2011 by Al-Qaeda's Internet propaganda, such as the English-language *Inspire* magazine, which regularly prints instructions for bomb

²⁵ Press Association, "Six remanded on terror charges", 31 July 2012.

²⁶ BBC, "Eta' fugitive Ordonez held in Edinburgh", 15 July 2012.

²⁷ Telegraph, "Terrorist suspect arrested in Edinburgh police raid", 15 July 2012.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Telegraph, "'Homegrown' British terrorist bride jailed over Jewish plot", 17 July 2012.

³⁰ Press Association, "Terror Attack Couple Jailed For Planning Anti-Semitic Strike In Manchester", 19 July 2012.

³¹ Telegraph, "Couple charged with planning act of terrorism", 5 August 2011.



assembly. Police said the couple had carried out "multiple reconnaissance" trips to the Jewish community, but had yet to choose a specific target.³²

AFRICA

Kenya

On 1 July, masked militants armed with grenades and rifles carried out a coordinated attack on two churches in the northern city Garissa, killing 17 people and injuring 60 others.³³ Police said seven gunmen carried out the attack; all of them managed to escape arrest. In the first attack, two policemen were shot outside one of the churches, and grenades were then thrown inside. As the worshippers tried to escape the gunmen fired on them, killing at least ten people. Then, in the second attack, three people were injured when two grenades were thrown inside a second church. One grenade exploded, causing injuries, but the second grenade failed to explode. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but authorities suspect Boko Haram.³⁴

On 24 July, Ahmed Mohamed and Said Mausoud, two Iranian terrorism suspects accused of being in possession of 15kg of RDX explosives, went on trial in Nairobi. The men were arrested on 20 June 2012 in Mombasa on suspicion of planning to detonate as many as 30 different bombs targeting British, US, Israeli, and Saudi interests, including prominent commercial and government buildings across Kenya. Both men denied the charges against them. According to Kenyan authorities, the suspects did admit membership in the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Quds Force. Although it initially released the suspects on bail, the Nairobi court cancelled bail at the request of the state prosecutor; the suspects have been remanded pending the conclusion of their trial.³⁵

³² Jerusalem Post, "Couple built homemade bombs to attack UK Jews", 22 June 2012 .

³³ Reuters, "Attacks on Kenyan churches kill 17", 2 July 2012.

³⁴ BBC, "Kenya church attacks 'kill 15' in Garissa", 1 July 2012.

³⁵ Xinhua, "Somalia: Trial of Two Iranian Terror Suspects Begins in Nairobi", 24 July 2012.



MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

On 3 July, a string of deadly attacks occurred throughout Iraq.³⁶ In Diwaniyah, a truck with a powerful bomb hidden in its cargo of watermelons exploded near a Shiite mosque, killing 40 people and injuring more than 100 others. In Karbala, a holy Shiite city in the south, two homemade “sticky bombs” were attached to two parked vehicles and detonated separately in a vegetable market, killing six people and wounding more than 29 others. Authorities announced a partial curfew, and said they had blocked all entrances to the city as they searched for more explosives.³⁷ In Taji, north of Baghdad, explosions killed two and wounded more than 15 others. Near the city of Baquba, Diyala Province, gunmen killed a soldier and police officer; later, the bodies of two people who had been shot in the head were found in a field.³⁸

On 23 July, a series of deadly attacks occurred throughout Iraq, killing approximately 113 people and wounding 299 others. Authorities called this the worst violence since 2010.³⁹ One of the most terrible attacks occurred when insurgents charged an army post near Dhuluiya, 45 miles north of Baghdad, killing 16 soldiers. In Taji, seven bombs were detonated, killing a total of 48 and leaving scores injured. Explosions also occurred in Sadr City, as well as in Kirkuk, Mosul, Samarra, Dujail, Khan Bani Saad City, Tuz Khormato, and Diwaniyah. Militants also attacked various army checkpoints in Diyala Province.⁴⁰ On 25 July, The Islamic State of Iraq claimed responsibility for the attacks.⁴¹

On 31 July, 19 people were killed, at least five of them policemen, and 50 were wounded, ten of them police officers, in two explosions in Baghdad.⁴² The explosions occurred within minutes of each other in the central Shiite district of Karrada in the middle of afternoon rush hour. The first bomb exploded outside a restaurant and a bakery in Al-Andalus Square, and the second outside a court opposite a major police headquarters. Many cars in the area were destroyed. According to Iraq’s Interior Ministry, the first attack was carried out by a

³⁶ Telegraph, “Iraq rocked by string of bomb attacks”, 3 July 2012.

³⁷ Reuters, “Iraq Violence: Car Bomb Blast Kills 40 in Southern Iraq”, 3 July 2012.

³⁸ New York Times, “Dozens Killed in Rising Iraqi Violence, Including at Least 40 by Truck Bomb”, 3 July 2012.

³⁹ Telegraph, “Iraq rocked by string of bomb attacks”, 3 July 2012.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Telegraph, “23 dead in Iraq”, 31 July 2012.

⁴² Telegraph, “23 dead in Iraq”, 31 July 2012.



suicide bomber; however, local TV news channel Al-Sharqiya reported that both attacks were suicide bombings. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks, but authorities accused Al-Qaeda in Iraq and its affiliates.⁴³

Israel and the West Bank

On 27 July, the Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem posted a video online taking responsibility for an attack on 18 June 2012. The video featured Khalid Salah Abd Al-Hadi Jadallah (aka Abu Salah Al-Masri) and Adi Saleh Abdallah Al-Fudhayli Al-Hadhli (aka Abu Hudhayfa Al-Hudhali), who said they had carried out the attack. Dressed in military attire, they are shown choosing an Israeli security patrol and a border town as the targets of their attack, which they said was meant to avenge "Muslims' blood"; they dedicated the attack to Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahri. The video also showed the attackers planning their attack using a model of the Sinai Peninsula; receiving training in bomb-making; and learning how to use live ammunition in the desert. Egyptian security officials, who offered little information about the group, said it was unclear where this training had taken place.⁴⁴

Syria

On 18 July, three people were killed when a bomb exploded in the National Security Building in Damascus. Amongst those killed were three of President Assad's senior aides; several others were injured. The building housed a research center run by the National Security Agency, one of many overlapping intelligence agencies.⁴⁵

The attack occurred during a meeting of cabinet ministers and senior security officials. Syrian state media reported that Dawoud Rajiha, the Syrian Minister of Defense, was killed along with Deputy Vice President Hasan Turkmani and Assef Shawkat, Bashar al-Assad's brother-in-law and Deputy Defence Minister. Several other senior officials were seriously injured, including Interior Minister Mohammad Ibrahim Al-Shaar and the country's Intelligence Chief Hisham Bekhtyar, who died two days after the attack.⁴⁶ The government said the attack was perpetrated by a suicide bomber who had worked as a bodyguard for members of President Bashar al-Assad's inner circle. However, the Free Syrian Army, which claimed responsibility

⁴³ BBC, "Iraq car bombings kill 19 in central Baghdad", 31 July 2012.

⁴⁴ Haaretz, "Jihadi group in Egypt says responsible for attack killing Israeli on border", 28 July 2012.

⁴⁵ New York Times, "Syrian Rebels Land Deadly Blow to Assad's Inner Circle", 18 July 2012.

⁴⁶ Guardian, "Syria crisis: three members of Assad inner circle killed in Damascus", 18 July 2012.



for the attack, said it had involved a remotely-detonated explosive.⁴⁷ The group Liwa Al-Islam (Lord of the Martyrs Brigade) and the Free Syrian Army both claimed responsibility for the bombing.⁴⁸

Yemen

On 11 July, eight people were killed and 15 injured in a suicide bombing that targeted a police academy in Sanaa.⁴⁹ Authorities said the bomber detonated his explosives among a large crowd of cadets as they left the academy after classes had finished for the day. Initial reports put the death toll at 20, but it was later revised down. Local media said it was unclear whether the suicide bomber had been on a motorcycle or on foot, walking among the cadets. Reports added that the suicide bomber did not die immediately, but was evacuated to the hospital severely injured. According to authorities, before the bomber died he told medical staff he was affiliated with Al-Qaeda and came from Amran, a town 70 km north of Sanaa. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claimed responsibility for the attack.⁵⁰

On 22 July, the Yemen Interior Ministry said it had foiled a terrorist plot against military and security installations and checkpoints, which was to have been carried out by militants disguised in military uniforms.⁵¹ On 23 July, security forces discovered and defused a bomb at the entrance to an intelligence services building in Aden. The bomb was attached to a cell phone with an alarm timed to explode during a scheduled meeting of senior intelligence and anti-terrorism officers of the southern military region. There were no casualties, and no group took responsibility for the plot; the authorities blamed Al-Qaeda.⁵²

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ BBC, "Syria conflict: Ministers 'killed in suicide attack'", 18 July 2012.

⁴⁹ BBC, "Yemen attack: Deadly bombing at Sanaa police academy", 11 July 2012.

⁵⁰ Reuters, "Al Qaeda suicide bomber attacks Yemen police academy", 11 July 2012.

⁵¹ Yemen Times, "A terrorist plot detected", 23 July 2012.

⁵² Xinhua, "Yemeni police foil bomb attack in Aden", 23 July 2012.



North America

Canada

On 15 July, Quebec resident Mouna Diab, 26, renowned for fighting the stereotyping of Muslims, was charged with attempting to smuggle assault weapons to Hezbollah.⁵³ She was arrested on 19 May 2011, after firearm parts were found in her luggage at Montreal Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau Airport, and charged with violating a Canadian-backed international arms embargo on Lebanon. She was also charged under Canada's post-9/11 anti-terrorism laws with acting for "the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with a terrorist group".⁵⁴ Authorities alleged that Diab had been sending firearms parts with people from her community who were travelling to Lebanon; the victims were unaware of the contents of the parcels she had given them.⁵⁵ Diab is the first woman charged under Canada's anti-terrorism laws.⁵⁶

USA

On 31 July, Shaker Masri, 28, pleaded guilty in a New York court to membership in Somalia's Al-Shabab Al-Mujahdeen. Masri was arrested in August 2010 as he was preparing to leave for Somalia to join Al-Shabab. He admitted to FBI agents that he had been plotting to raise the funds he needed to engage in jihad in either Somalia or Afghanistan. He also allegedly told an informant that he admired Anwar Al-Awlaki, who was killed in a US drone attack in 2011 and who was credited with inspiring the Fort Hood, Texas, shootings and the failed Christmas Day bombing of a jetliner approaching Detroit.⁵⁷ Masri faced a maximum of 15 years in prison, but because of his guilty plea is likely to face only 10 years in prison if convicted. The full details of his plea bargain have not been made public. Shaker Masri will be formally sentenced on 16 October 2012.⁵⁸

South America

On 4 July, Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels attacked an oil well in the southern Putumayo Department near the border with Ecuador, killing five workers and

⁵³ National Post, "Quebec Muslim activist becomes first woman charged under 9/11 terror laws over Hezbollah gun-running plot", 15 July 2012.

⁵⁴ Examiner, "Canada: Muslim anti-stereotyping activist arrested for terrorism, gunrunning", 15 July 2012.

⁵⁵ Royal Canadian Mounted Police, "Terrorism Charge Laid for Exporting Firearms Parts", 13 July 2012.

⁵⁶ IPT News, "Former Muslim Stereotype Fighter Charged with Hizballah Support", 13 July 2012.

⁵⁷ AP, "Shaker Masri, Chicago Terror Suspect, To Plead Guilty In Deal", 12 July 2012.

⁵⁸ BBC, "US man admits plot to support al-Shabab in Somalia", 12 July 2012.



injuring three others. According to the Colombian Army, the five oil workers, who were contractors for the state oil company Ecopetrol, were killed by explosives and small arms fire.⁵⁹

ASIA

Afghanistan

On 8 July, Afghan authorities said roadside bombs and insurgent attacks killed 23 people in the Arghistan district near the Pakistani border. Amongst the casualties were 14 civilians, five policemen, and one member of the US-led international military coalition in southern Afghanistan. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. Authorities said one bomb exploded when a minivan drove over it during the morning, and a second bomb exploded when other civilians, who were riding on a tractor, arrived to help the dead and wounded. Five policemen were killed and three others were injured while responding to a gun battle against Taliban insurgents at a checkpoint in the Musa Qala district of Helmand Province. Afghan police called for reinforcements, but the five policemen were killed when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb. The bodies of 20 insurgents were recovered from the battlefield.⁶⁰

On 14 July, 23 people were killed and 60 were wounded when a suicide bomber detonated his explosive belt at a wedding reception in the northern province of Samangan for the daughter of Ahmad Khan Samangani, a prominent politician. Samangani was amongst the casualties. The Taliban denied responsibility for the attack.⁶¹

Pakistan

On 6 July, 18 people were killed and two wounded when a group of men on motorcycles opened fire on three vehicles filled with travelers attempting to cross the border into Iran from Turbat, in Baluchistan Province.⁶² Local media reported that the assailants forced the travelers to disembark before being shot. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.⁶³

⁵⁹ Colombia Reports, "Southern Colombia 'FARC attack' kills 5 oil workers", 4 July 2012.

⁶⁰ AP, "Bombs, attacks kill 23 in southern Afghanistan", 8 July 2012.

⁶¹ Reuters, "Afghan suicide bomber kills 23", 14 July 2012.

⁶² AFP, "Gunmen kill 18 at Turbat restaurant: officials", 7 July 2012.

⁶³ International Herald Tribune, "18 travellers killed in Turbat bus attack", 6 July 2012.



On 12 July, nine police and prison trainee staff were killed and nine others injured by Tehrik-i-Taliban gunmen who attacked a police academy in Lahore. The victims were mainly from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa near the Afghan border.⁶⁴ Approximately 10 masked gunmen reportedly arrived on motorcycles and stormed a rented building in the Rasool Park area where the trainees were staying. All those killed were training to be prison guards. The militants were armed with Kalashnikov rifles and hand grenades.⁶⁵ The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan claimed responsibility, and threatened further attacks, which they said were motivated by [a desire to avenge] the poor treatment of prison detainees.⁶⁶

Philippines

On 11 July, six rubber plantation workers were killed and 27 others were injured when gunmen ambushed a vehicle transporting them to work in Sumisip, Basilan. The militants demanded an initial bribery payment of P300,000 and a monthly protection fee of P100,000, which the plantation workers were unable to pay.⁶⁷ Although no group took responsibility for the attack, authorities suspected the Abu Sayyaf group.⁶⁸ On 27 July, clashes that erupted when Philippine troops attacked an Abu Sayyaf encampment on Basilan Island's Sumisip Township left 12 soldiers and four militants dead. The militants fired at an army outpost in the same township and ambushed two groups of troops sent to back up the forces there. No one was killed at the outpost, but four of the reinforcement troops were killed en route. The authorities said the militants belonged to the same group that had ambushed the workers on 11 July.⁶⁹

⁶⁴ AFP, "Gunmen kill 9 security personnel in Lahore", 12 July 2012.

⁶⁵ BBC, "Lahore ambush: Militants kill nine Pakistani police", 12 July 2012.

⁶⁶ AFP, "Gunmen kill 9 security personnel in Lahore", 12 July 2012.

⁶⁷ Philippine Daily Inquirer, "Abu Sayyaf attack kills 6 rubber plantation workers", 11 July 2012.

⁶⁸ AFP, "Suspected Islamist gunmen kill six in Philippines attack", 11 July 2012.

⁶⁹ Guardian, "Soldiers killed as Philippine army clashes with Abu Sayyaf", 27 July 2012.