



ICT

International Institute
for Counter-Terrorism
With the Support of Keren Daniel

ICT Incident and Activists Database

PERIODIC REVIEW

Summary of Terrorist Incidents and Counter-Terrorist Operations Worldwide April 2014

Highlights

- On April 5, Indian intelligence (ISI) claimed that they foiled a plot to attack the US and Israeli consulates in India. Indian authorities made the discovery during an interrogation of Sri Lankan militant, Sakir Hussain, who was arrested on April 29 in Southeast Asia.
- A series of attacks targeting police officers occurred throughout Egypt between April 2- 23. This was significant as it demonstrated a shift from high-profile suicide and car bombings against police installations towards low-level attacks on individual officers or small police posts. Ajnad Misr (Soldiers of Egypt), which formed in January, claimed responsibility for the majority of the attacks. However, attacks carried out on April 19 and 23 were claimed by Ansar Bait al-Maqdas militants.
- On April 14, Chief Superintendent Baruch Mizrahi was fatally shot by gunman near Hebron, West Bank. His wife and one of his five children were moderately injured in the attack. No group claimed responsibility for the incident but, as a result of a police investigation, two Hamas operatives identified as Ziad Awawde and his son, Iz-Adin Ziad Hassan Awawde, were later arrested and charged with the incident.
- On April 15, approximately 276 female students were kidnapped from a Government Secondary School in Chibok in Borno State, Nigeria. According to authorities, approximately 200 heavily armed militants arrived at the school during the night in 20 vehicles and kidnapped the students. Authorities said that 58 girls managed to escape into the Sambisa Forest, which bordered their school and was a known hideout of militants of the Boko Haram terrorist network. No group immediately claimed responsibility but several weeks after the attack Boko Haram said they had kidnapped the girls and threatened to sell them as slaves. At the time this report was published the girls had not been released. There has been worldwide condemnation and mass social media campaigns in protest.
- On April 17, Daud Farhat and Yousef Ayyad were arrested in Bangkok, accused of plotting to attack Israeli tourists and of having suspected ties to Hezbollah.
- On April 20, a series of suspected joint US-Yemeni air strikes in Bayda Province, southern Yemen, killed approximately 55 suspected Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) militants.

- On April 30, a bomb and knife attack at Urumqi's south railway station in China's western Xinjiang region killed three people and injured 79 others. The attack occurred as the Chinese President Xi Jinping was ending a rare visit to the troubled Xinjiang region. The Turkestan Islamic Party claimed responsibility for the attack.

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Europe

Spain

On April 30, Spanish authorities arrested Abdelmalek Tanem, 24, a French-Algerian man suspected of participating in terrorist activity in Syria.¹ The Spanish Interior Ministry said that Tanem acted as a "facilitator" on the Turkey-Syria border, helping integrate European jihadists into the armed groups.² Tanem was also charged with membership in the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS). Authorities claimed he was active with the group between October 2013 and January 2014. This was the second arrest made by Spain of an alleged extremist who arrived to the country from Syria. French authorities assisted Spain's Civil Guard with the investigation.³

Africa

Kenya

On April 1, Abubakar Shariff Ahmed (aka Makaburi), a radical Muslim cleric, was assassinated by unidentified gunmen near Mombasa. Authorities said Ahmed was shot dead along with another unidentified man near the Shimo la Tewa Prison in the coastal town of Mombasa.⁴ Shariff was listed by the UN as a recruiter for Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen. Authorities said he was the third Muslim cleric to be killed in Mombasa since 2012.⁵ No group claimed responsibility for the assassination.⁶

On April 23, authorities in Nairobi intercepted a suspicious car at a traffic light. While transporting the occupants to the police station in the Pangani neighborhood for questioning, the car exploded outside the station, killing four people, including two police officers. A grenade was also found at the scene but was detonated safely by bomb disposal officers shortly after the initial explosion.⁷ No group

¹ AFP, "Algerian jihadist arrested in Spain", May 1, 2014.

² Mahgrabia, "Algerian jihadist arrested in Spain", May 1, 2014.

³ AP, "Spain arrests terror suspect who fought in Syria", April 30, 2014.

⁴ Times of Israel, "Radical Muslim leader shot dead in Kenya", April 2, 2014.

⁵ BBC, "Kenyan 'al-Shabab recruiter' killed near Mombasa", April 1, 2014.

⁶ BBC, "Kenyan 'al-Shabab recruiter' killed near Mombasa", April 1, 2014.

⁷ Reuters, "Car bomb kills four in Kenyan capital", April 23, 2014.

claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militants, who oppose Kenya's military involvement in Somalia.⁸

Libya

On April 29, a suicide car bomber targeting a Libyan Special Forces barracks located on the road to the airport in Benghazi killed two soldiers and wounded two others.⁹ No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda linked militants.¹⁰ In a separate attack, several people were wounded by unidentified gunmen who stormed the seat of Libya's General National Congress in Tripoli. The attack came as parliamentarians were preparing to elect a new prime minister.¹¹ No group claimed responsibility for the incident.¹²

Nigeria

On April 1, 15 people were killed in a suicide car bombing in Maiduguri. Six of the attackers were killed in the explosion. Five soldiers were wounded during the incident but the number of civilians injured was not clear.¹³ The explosion took place as soldiers were trying to prevent the militants' attempt to drive several explosive-laden vehicles into a Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation facility. Authorities said three of the vehicles were demobilized by soldiers at the checkpoint. A fourth was remotely detonated one of the militants and exploded. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Boko Haram.¹⁴

On April 14, 71 people were killed and approximately 130 were injured, many seriously, when a parked vehicle exploded at a crowded bus station on the outskirts of Abuja.¹⁵ Authorities said the explosion, which occurred at 6:45am, targeted early morning commuters who were about to board

⁸ BBC, "Kenya car bomb kills four in Nairobi's Pangani quarter", April 23, 2014.

⁹ Reuters, "Bomb explodes at an army camp in Libya's eastern city of Benghazi, killing at least 2 people, wounding 2 others", April 29, 2014.

¹⁰ AFP, "Car bomb kills 2 soldiers in Libya's Benghazi: Officials", April 29, 2014.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Al-Jazeera, "Gunmen attack Libya's parliament", April 29, 2014.

¹³ AIL Africa, "Nigeria: Four Suicide Bombers Killed, Many Others Feared Dead in Multiple Explosions in Maiduguri", April 1, 2014.

¹⁴ BBC, "Nigeria suicide attack 'kills 21' near Maiduguri", April 1, 2014.

¹⁵ CNN, "Blast kills 71 people at bus station in Nigeria", April 14, 2014.

vehicles to go to work in central Abuja.¹⁶ The initial explosion, which security experts suspect took place inside a vehicle, destroyed more than 30 vehicles and caused secondary explosions as fuel tanks in nearby vehicles ignited and burned. Hundreds of people had packed into the bus station, which serves Nyanya - a poor, ethnically and religiously mixed satellite town whose residents commute to the city.¹⁷ The bomb caused a crater 1.2 meters deep.¹⁸ Boko Haram claimed responsibility via an online video on April 19.¹⁹

On April 15, during the early hours, approximately 276 female students were kidnapped from the Government Secondary School in the town of Chibok in Borno State, Nigeria. The students were preparing to take their final year exam and were mostly aged 16-18.²⁰ According to authorities, approximately 200 heavily armed militants arrived at the school during the night in 20 vehicles and kidnapped the students; 58 girls managed to jump off the trucks and escape into the Sambisa Forest, which bordered their school in Chibok town and was a known hideout of militants of the Boko Haram terrorist network.²¹ Authorities suspect the kidnapped girls were being held in the forest, but it was not clear whether all of them are in one place or if they are with different groups of militants, scattered across the forest.²² The group released a video on May 12²³ showing 136 of the girls and claiming responsibility for the incident.²⁴ It was also reported that the abductors are purchasing "brides" for less than \$20 and that the Christians among the victims are being forced to convert to Islam.²⁵ The Nigerian government vowed to rescue the girls and accepted assistance from the US, China, UK, France and Israel to manage the crisis. US drones based in neighboring Chad have flown

¹⁶ Reuters, "Nigeria bus station bombing kills 71 on edge of capital", April 14, 2014.

¹⁷ Guardian, "Nigerian bus station hit by deadly explosion", April 14, 2014.

¹⁸ New York Times, "Nigeria Bomb Blast Kills At Least 71", April 14, 2014.

¹⁹ AP, "Islamist Militants Boko Haram Claim Deadly Nigeria Blast", April 19, 2014.

²⁰ AP, "88 Nigerian schoolgirls abducted by Islamic extremists still missing", April 19, 2014.

²¹ CTC, "CTC Perspective: A Turning Point for Boko Haram" May 9, 2014.

²² Ibid.

²³ Boko Haram claimed responsibility for the kidnappings in a video released on May 5, 2014. Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau threatened to "sell" the schoolgirls as "slaves in the market," and on May 12 proposed that "if you want us to release your girls that we kidnapped, you must release our brethren that are held in Borno, Yobe, Kano, Kaduna, Enugu and Lagos states, as well as Abuja."

²⁴ BBC, "Will Nigeria's abducted schoolgirls ever be found?", May 12, 2014.

²⁵ Reuters, "Nigeria's Boko Haram threatens to sell kidnapped schoolgirls", May 12, 2014.

surveillance flights over the search area but to no avail.²⁶ Protests were organized over social media using the hashtag #BringBackOurGirls to bring awareness to the girl's fate.²⁷ (At the time this report was published the girls were still being held in captivity.)²⁸

Somalia

On April 21, MP Isaak Mohamed Rinoco, a Somali lawmaker, was assassinated when a bomb exploded through his vehicle in Mogadishu, near the port and close to the heavily fortified government district. Two people were injured in the attack including Mohamed Abdi, another MP. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.²⁹ The attack came as the government held a security conference, hoping to tackle continued attacks by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen militants.³⁰

Tunisia

On April 7, a group of Islamist militants were arrested after they accidentally detonated a bomb they were manufacturing as part of a planned attack against Tunisia's commercial center in Sfax. The eight suspected members, who belonged to the militant group Ansar al-Sharia, were arrested as part of a raid in Sfax, a Mediterranean port city around 270 km southeast of the capital Tunis. Two of those arrested were wounded in explosion. Authorities also seized a large amount of explosive devices.³¹

Middle East

Bahrain

On April 21, 12 militants (including six in absentia) were sentenced to 25 years in prison after being found guilty in February 2014 of membership in a terrorist cell that received explosives training in Syria, Iran and Iraq. Six of the accused confessed to the charges, while the other six denied the

²⁶ Reuters, "With 219 Girls Missing, Nigeria Kidnapping Inquiry Concludes", June 20, 2014.

²⁷ Guardian, "Hundreds march over Nigeria schoolgirl kidnappings", April 20, 2014.

²⁸ AllAfrica, "Nigeria: Chibok Girls - Committee Confirms 276 Girls Were Abducted", June 20, 2014.

²⁹ AFP, "Somali lawmaker killed in Mogadishu car bomb: PM", April 21, 2014.

³⁰ Reuters, "Somali lawmaker killed by car bomb: officials", April 21, 2014.

³¹ Al-Arabiya, "Tunisia arrests Islamist militants after bomb mishap", April 7, 2014.

charges.³² The group was also convicted of planning attacks and supplying foreign terrorist organizations with information about the country's military facilities.³³ Prosecutors claimed that the militants intended to set up an organization in Bahrain, inspired by Hezbollah, and planned to target civilians, property and police. Authorities claimed that the group met in Iran on February 14, 2011 and agreed to carry out terrorist attacks at key locations in Bahrain. They travelled to Iran and Iraq during 2011 and 2013, where they received weapons and explosives training.³⁴

Egypt

A series of attacks during April 2014 targeted police officers throughout Egypt, but the majority of incidents took place in Cairo. The modus operandi and target of the attacks were significant as it demonstrated a shift from recent high-profile suicide and car bombings against police installations toward lower-level attacks on individual officers or small police posts. The significant incidents included:

- On April 2, two bombs exploded adjacent to a police vehicle near Cairo University. A third bomb detonated approximately two hours later in the same location while a forensics team was investigating the initial bombings. A senior police officer was killed and five others were injured.³⁵ Ajnad Misr (Soldiers of Egypt), which formed in January, claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement released on its Facebook and Twitter accounts.³⁶
- On April 18, a bomb was detonated in Cairo's Lebanon Square, targeting a traffic police kiosk. One officer, Maj. Mohammed Gamal Eddin, was killed and at least three other people were injured, including a senior police officer. In a statement released the following day, Ajnad Misr (Soldiers of Egypt) claimed responsibility for the attack, claiming that the group had monitored the checkpoint closely before detonating the bomb.³⁷

³² Khaleej Times, "12 jailed for life over spying in Bahrain", April 22, 2014.

³³ Today's Zaman, "Bahrain sentences 12 people for life for spying, Iran links", April 23, 2014.

³⁴ Arabianbusiness.com, "12 Bahraini 'terrorists' sentenced to life in jail", April 21, 2014.

³⁵ Washington Post, "Blasts near Cairo University kill Egyptian police official, injure five", April 2, 2014.

³⁶ Long War Journal, "Ajnad Misr claims Cairo University bombings and 3 other attacks", April 2, 2014.

³⁷ Reuters, "New militant group claims responsibility for Friday blast in Cairo", April 19, 2014.

- On April 19, gunmen killed an intelligence officer and a policeman while patrolling a desert road linking Cairo to the canal city of Suez. In this incident, Ansar Bait al-Maqdas, a jihadist group inspired by Al-Qaeda, claimed responsibility for the attack.³⁸

On April 23, senior Egyptian police officer, Brigadier-General Ahmed Zaki, was killed in a bombing that specifically targeted police in Cairo. Brig-Gen. Zaki was in the leadership of the Central Security Forces, the riot police branch that takes the lead role in dealing with protests and general security. Also on April 23, in Alexandria, First Lieutenant Ahmed Saad was fatally shot during a raid on a militant hideout. Militants opened fire on the police as they moved on the hideout in a farm area in Borg al-Arab, a western district on the Alexandria's outskirts. Authorities said the militants belonged to Ansar Bait al-Maqdas. During the raid, militant Hassan Abdel Aal, 25, from the Nile Delta Province of Dakahlia, was killed and a second militant was arrested.³⁹ Police said the cell was planning attacks on security forces. Security forces seized weapons, including an explosive belt and two automatic weapons.⁴⁰

Iraq

On April 9, a series of 13 car bombs targeted Shi'ite neighborhoods of Baghdad, killing at least 34 people and wounding approximately 90 others.⁴¹ The most serious incident occurred in the town of Numaniyah, about 80 kilometers south of Baghdad, where a bomb detonated in a busy commercial area, followed by a car bomb that targeted people gathered to help the victims. In total, five people were killed and 17 were wounded. A car bomb in Baghdad's central Nidhal Street killed four people and wounded 11 others, while five more people were killed in a car bombing in the northern Kazimiyah district. Authorities also said car bombs exploded in the areas of Shaab, Shammaya, Karrada, Maamil and Sadr City, killing a total of 13 people and wounding 42 others. A car bomb targeted Baghdad's central upscale commercial area of Jadriyah, killing three people and wounding eight others. Mortars also fell on the village of Sabaa al-Bour, about 30 kilometers north of Baghdad, killing four civilians and wounding 13 others. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the

³⁸ AFP, "Two Egyptian police officers killed in attack", April 20, 2014.

³⁹ AlArabiya "Two policemen, militant killed in Egypt", April 23, 2014.

⁴⁰ AP, "Bomb, shooting in Egypt kills 2 police officers", April 23, 2014.

⁴¹ AP, "Car bombs in Baghdad, Iraqi town kill 34 people", April 9, 2014.

attacks but authorities blamed ISIS militants.⁴² The explosions coincided with the anniversary of the 2003 fall of Baghdad and came as Iraq approached a crucial election on April 30, its first vote since the 2011 US troop pullout, although both provincial elections and an election to the Kurdish regional parliament were held in 2013.⁴³

On April 26, a series of explosions killed 33 people and wounded 100 others at a Shi'ite political rally in Iraq.⁴⁴ The militant group, Asaib Ahl Haq (League of the Righteous), had been presenting its candidates for elections on April 30 at the rally in eastern Baghdad when three bombs exploded in succession as people were leaving the rally. A roadside bomb blew up near the main gate, followed by a suicide car bomb. The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham claimed responsibility for the incident.⁴⁵

On April 28, a suicide bomber detonated explosives in Khanaqin, Diyala Province, killing 25 people and wounded 50 others. The attack took place at a political gathering in the town, which has a large Kurdish population. Iraqis are voting in the country's first parliamentary election since the withdrawal of US troops almost three years ago, but it comes amid the worst unrest since 2008. People at the rally had gathered to watch television footage of Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, a Kurd, casting his vote in Germany. Talabani suffered a stroke in December 2012 and has been receiving treatment in Germany. Witnesses described how the attacker, who was on foot, mingled in the crowds near the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's [Mr Talabani's party] headquarters and then detonated his explosive vest.⁴⁶ The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham claimed responsibility for the attack.⁴⁷

Israel and the West Bank

On April 2, Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) and police officers made public that, on February 24, they had arrested six East Jerusalem lawyers on suspicion of relaying messages between Palestinian terrorist groups in Gaza and security detainees in Israeli prisons. The suspects allegedly took advantage of lawyer-client confidentiality permitted by Israeli authorities to act as couriers between

⁴² Agence France-Presse, "Iraq attacks kill 18 on anniversary of Baghdad fall", April 9, 2014.

⁴³ Reuters, "Iraqis vote as violence grips a divided country", April 30, 2014.

⁴⁴ AP, "Iraq Bomb Blasts Kill 30 and Wound Dozens, Officials Say", April 26, 2014.

⁴⁵ New York Times, "Iraqi Militants Stage Political Rally, Then Bombs Go Off", April 26, 2014.

⁴⁶ BBC, "Iraq suicide bomb at Kurdish political rally kills 30", April 28, 2014.

⁴⁷ AP, "Iraq: Suicide bomber kills 25 in Kurdish town", April 28, 2014.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad, and Palestinians incarcerated by Israel. The lawyers allegedly transmitted instructions for hunger strikes and details of prisoner releases, and were paid between NIS 500-700 (\$144-\$200) per message. Some of the communications were conveyed to Hamas and Islamic Jihad operatives abroad. The Shin Bet named Fares Abu Hassan, a Nablus lawyer who represents security prisoners in military courts and the head of International Solidarity for Human Rights in Nablus, as the main suspect. In addition, Muhammad Hassin Abad, a member of the Israel Bar Association, was also named a suspect for his role as Abu Hassan's partner. Three other suspects, including a Hamas operative who also works as a journalist, were involved in the plot. The investigation focused on a legal office in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Issawiya run by two brothers, Mudchat Issawi, 41, and Shirin Issawi, 36. The brothers allegedly hired another four Arab lawyers from East Jerusalem to visit prisoners and pass on the messages from Gaza. Both of the accused Issawi brothers have prior security-related convictions. Among the details contained in the messages were financial matters concerning the running of Gaza organizations, the logistics of hunger strikes, the identification of prisoners to be released in the Gilad Shalit deal, and attempts to organize support for Khaled Mashaal to lead Hamas. In addition, investigators also raided nine offices in East Jerusalem and confiscated computers and notes along with receipts for millions of shekels worth of transactions. The suspects were charged with involvement in terrorist activity and engaging in criminal activities for the purposes of terror.⁴⁸

On April 6, the Israel Air Force (IAF) targeted five targets in the Gaza strip in response to a Kassam rocket fired toward the coastal city of Ashkelon. The rocket landed south of Ashkelon but did not cause any damage and there were no casualties reported. The IDF said there have been 131 rockets that were launched from Gaza into Israel since March 2014.⁴⁹ Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the rocket fire.⁵⁰ In an IDF statement, Israeli authorities said that an IAF aircraft targeted five terrorist

⁴⁸ Jerusalem Post, "Israeli Arab, Palestinian lawyers arrested for organizing Hamas activities in prison", April 4, 2014.

⁴⁹ CNN, "Israel launches airstrikes against 'terror sites' in Gaza", April 6, 2014.

⁵⁰ Ynet News, "IAF attacks 5 terror targets in the Gaza Strip in response to rocket fire", April 6, 2014.

sites, four in the northern Gaza Strip and an additional site in the southern Gaza Strip. Direct hits were confirmed.⁵¹

On April 6, petrol bombs were hurled at a popular nightclub frequented by Hebrew University students in Jerusalem's French Hill neighborhood. One person was lightly wounded in the attack. Three suspects were arrested following an extensive search of the area by police and Border Police units. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.⁵²

On April 14, Chief Superintendent Baruch Mizrahi, 47, was fatally shot by an unidentified gunman near the Tarkumia checkpoint located near the village of Idhna, northeast of Hebron, West Bank. His wife and one of his five children were moderately injured in the attack.⁵³ The IDF's initial investigation of the attack found that the perpetrator approached Route 35, near Idhna, on foot, and fired dozens of rounds from a Kalashnikov automatic weapon at passing cars from a distance of several meters. No group claimed responsibility for the incident but, as a result of a police investigation, two Hamas operatives identified as Ziad Awawde, 42 and his son, Iz-Adin Ziad Hassan Awawde, 18, were arrested and charged with the attack.⁵⁴ Mizrahi had served in the IDF and the Israel Police for 25 years. His last post was as lieutenant colonel in the elite 8200 intelligence unit. After retiring from the army in June 2011, Mizrahi joined the Israel Police where he held a senior intelligence position for the last

⁵¹ Times of Israel, "Hours after air force strike, mortar fired from Gaza", April 6, 2014.

⁵² Jpost, "Nightclub near Hebrew University's Mt. Scopus campus firebombed", April 6 2014.

⁵³ <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Victims/Pages/Baruch-Mizrahi.aspx>

⁵⁴ On June 23, a gag order was lifted naming Hamas operative Ziad Awawde, 42, and his son, Iz-Adin Ziad Hassan Awawde, 18, as the suspects responsible for the incident. Ziad Awawde was arrested in May by the Shin Bet (Israel Security Service) and police commandos on suspicion that he had stood by the side of Route 35 shooting at passing vehicles. He was indicted on charges of first degree murder, attempted murder, and weapons charges and for membership in a banned organization. The Shin Bet said that during the investigation, Iz-Adin Ziad Hassan Awawde had turned in the weapon used in the attack – an AK 47 assault rifle – and also provided information about the crime that indicated his involvement in it. The Shin Bet said they also learned that Awawde acquired a motorcycle and the rifle in order to carry out the attack. A week before the shooting he scouted out the location to gather intelligence. Awawde had been sentenced to life in prison in 1993 for killing Palestinians he accused of collaborating with Israel. He was one of 1,027 prisoners released by Israel in exchange for captive IDF soldier Gilad Schalit in October 2011. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu ordered the IDF to demolish Awawde's home. See: Jpost, "Terrorist freed in Schalit deal charged with Passover shooting that killed policeman", June 23, 2014 and Times of Israel, "Hamas man arrested for Passover eve killing of Israeli father of five", June 23, 2014.

three years of his life was in charge of tracking organized crime. However, it was not believed that Mizrahi was intentionally targeted, rather this was a random act of terrorism. He was posthumously promoted to the rank of commander.⁵⁵

On April 30, Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) made public that, as a result of a series of raids in the West Bank conducted between December 2013 and March 2014, they had arrested members of a Hamas-affiliated terrorist cell in Kalkilya. The cell was accused of plotting a campaign of bombings and shootings against Israeli targets. According to the Shin Bet, the militants had begun the construction of homemade explosives. The suspects included six Palestinians, two of them brothers, and Salah Daoud, 30, a prominent Hamas member in Kalkilya. Also identified was Khaled Mahmoud Daoud, 21, an Israeli-Arab, who the Shin Bet claimed was planning to exploit his freedom of movement in Israel to obtain materials to assemble the bombs, as well as acquire high quality firearms. The suspects were indicted in court.⁵⁶

Lebanon

On April 5, 12 Lebanese militants, including Arab Democratic Party leader Rifaat Eid, were charged with belonging to an armed terrorist group, possessing arms and carrying out incitement.⁵⁷ Authorities said the suspects were involved in gun battles between the rival neighborhoods of Jabal Mohsen and Bab al-Tabbaneh in the northern city of Tripoli. Rifaat's father, Ali Eid, is wanted for questioning over an August twin car bomb attack against two Sunni mosques in Tripoli that killed 45 people.⁵⁸

Syria

On April 9, 25 people were killed and more than 100 others were wounded in two car bombings in Homs. Authorities said the first bomb exploded in a car that was parked near a candy store, and then a second car bomb detonated 30 minutes later. Many women and children were among the

⁵⁵ Times of Israel, “: West Bank shooting victim named as Baruch Mizrahi, 47”, April 15, 2014.

⁵⁶ Jerusalem Post, “IDF, Shin Bet thwart West Bank terror cell planning attacks against Israelis”, April 30, 2014.

⁵⁷ Al-Jazeera, “Lebanon Alawite leader charged for incitement”, April 5, 2014.

⁵⁸ AFP, “12 Lebanese, Including Rifaat Eid, Charged with Belonging to Armed Terrorist Group ”, April 5, 2014.

casualties.⁵⁹ No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities suspected the Al-Nusra Front.⁶⁰

On April 29, a car bomb exploded in a predominantly Alawite district of the central city of Homs, killing 40 people and wounding 116 others. On the same day, a mortar attack targeted the al-Shaghour neighborhood of Damascus, killing 14 people and injuring 85 others. Police said some of the shells landed near a religious school and one of the pupils was among the casualties. No group claimed responsibility for either attack but authorities blamed Al-Nusra Front militants.⁶¹

Yemen

On April 2, eight people, including six soldiers, were killed in a rocket and car bomb attack on an army headquarters in Aden.⁶² According to the army, a suicide bomber in a bomb-laden car tried to storm the main gate of the base in Aden. Militants in a second vehicle attacked the HQ with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons.⁶³ AQAP claimed responsibility for the attack.⁶⁴

On April 15, the deputy governor of Al-Baida Province, Hussein Mohammed Qahtan Dayyan, was assassinated by unidentified gunmen as he was driving to his workplace at a government compound. Dayyan lost control of his vehicle after he was shot and crashed into a wall. Authorities said the gunmen are believed to have fled towards the Al-Hujairah area. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities suspect Ansar Al-Sharia militants.⁶⁵

On April 20, a series of suspected joint US-Yemeni air strikes in Bayda Province, southern Yemen, killed approximately 55 suspected AQAP militants.⁶⁶ The strikes targeted a remote mountainous region of the south. Three civilians were also killed in the attack.⁶⁷ The pre-dawn strikes targeted a

⁵⁹ Al-Jazeera, "Car blasts kill dozens in Syria's Homs", April 9, 2014.

⁶⁰ BBC, "Syria conflict: Double car bombings in Homs 'kill 25'", April 10, 2014.

⁶¹ VOA, "Car Bombs, Mortar Attacks Kill 50 in Syria", April 29, 2014.

⁶² Al-Jazeera, "Security forces targeted in Yemen attack", April 2, 2014.

⁶³ BBC, "Yemen suicide attack on Aden army base leaves 11 dead", April 2, 2014.

⁶⁴ Al-Jazeera, "Security forces targeted in Yemen attack", April 2, 2014.

⁶⁵ Yemen Times, "Gunmen assassinate Al-Baida deputy governor", April 15, 2014.

⁶⁶ Reuters, "Lebanon Alawite leader charged for incitement", April 20, 2014.

⁶⁷ CNN, "Yemen strikes may target top al Qaeda leaders", April 20, 2014.

mountain ridge in the southern province of Abyan and three strikes targeted an AQAP training camp around 450 km south of the capital Sana'a.⁶⁸ One day earlier, a US air strike killed 10 AQAP militants and three civilians in central Yemen. Witnesses said another strike hit a car carrying militants in southern Shabwa Province, killing five of them.⁶⁹

North America

On April 8, El Mehdi Semlali Fahti, 27 a Moroccan national, was arrested in Connecticut and charged with immigration-related crimes, including making a false statement, falsely swearing under oath and falsifying declarations to a federal immigration judge. During the investigation, FBI agents claimed Fahti was plotting to fly bombs on drone-like devices made out of radio-controlled airplanes into a school and a federal building in Connecticut. Fahti was secretly recorded by an undercover FBI agent saying he studied the bomb attack operation for months. Fahti told the undercover agent that he could obtain items needed for the bomb plot in Southern California near the Mexico border and that funding would come from secret accounts filled with laundered money and drug-dealing profits. Authorities said they found wires and tools in his Bridgeport apartment but it was not confirmed if explosives were also found.⁷⁰

On April 29, Lawal Olaniyi Babafemi, 33, a Nigerian citizen pleaded guilty to providing material support to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). US authorities claimed that Babafemi had traveled to Yemen on two separate occasions in 2010 to help AQAP recruit English speakers for its media operations, including its online magazine '*Inspire*'.⁷¹ Babafemi was extradited in 2012 from Nigeria. If convicted, he faces up to 30 years in prison when he is sentenced in August 2014 in federal court in Brooklyn.⁷²

⁶⁸ Time, "Air Strikes Kill Dozens of al-Qaeda Members in Yemen", April 21, 2014.

⁶⁹ Reuters, "Air strikes in Yemen kill 40 al Qaeda militants in two days", April 20, 2014.

⁷⁰ CBS, "FBI: Drone-like toy planes in bomb plot", April 8, 2014.

⁷¹ Reuters, "Nigerian pleads guilty to U.S. charges of aiding al Qaeda group", April 29, 2014.

⁷² AP, "Nigerian, Lawal Olaniyi Babafemi Pleads Guilty To US Terror Charges", April 29, 2014.

On April 17, Mohammad Hassan Khalid, 20, a Pakistani immigrant, was sentenced to five years in prison on after pleading guilty to taking part in the 2009 plot to kill Swedish artist Lars Vilks, making him the youngest person ever convicted of US terror charges. He was held in custody for three years for his role in the "Jihad Jane" conspiracy. He will receive credit for that time and serve an additional two years in prison to complete his sentence. He was arrested in 2011 on charges that he provided material support to terrorists working with Colleen LaRose, a suburban Philadelphia housewife who went by the nickname "Jihad Jane". In January 2013, LaRose was sentenced to 10 years in prison for her role in the plot.⁷³

South America

On April 10, Peruvian security forces arrested 24 leaders of the political wing of the Shining Path rebel movement MOVADEF, including the lawyer of its imprisoned leader and the cousin of President Ollanta Humala, in Lima and Puno (a southern region bordering Bolivia).⁷⁴ The arrests were the culmination of a two-year investigation, which determined that members of MOVADEF were responsible for terrorism and financing terrorism through drug trafficking.⁷⁵ The investigation began with the 2012 arrest of one of the last remaining Shining Path commanders, Comrade Artemio, in Alto Huallaga valley. Among the arrested were Alfredo Crespo, attorney for Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman, and Walter Humala, a singer and guitarist who has called for Guzman's release. Interior Minister Walter Alban said the investigation that led to the arrests in five states involved wiretaps and undercover agents. He said six wanted MOVADEF members remained at large, one in a foreign country that he did not specify.⁷⁶

⁷³ Reuters, "Teen in 'Jihad Jane' case sentenced to five years in prison", April 17, 2014.

⁷⁴ Jamestown, "Peru's Shining Path in Decline as Its MOVADEF Political Arm Broadens Appeal", May 15, 2014.

⁷⁵ BBC, "Peru Shining Path arrests: 24 seized", April 10, 2014.

⁷⁶ Associated Press, "Peru arrests 24 in group tied to Shining Path", April 10, 2014.

Asia

Afghanistan

On April 2, a suicide bomber dressed as a military soldier detonated his vest at an Interior Ministry compound in Kabul, killing six police officers. The attack occurred several days before Afghanistan's presidential election. The Taliban threatened to disrupt the April 5 vote when Afghans elect a successor to the incumbent president, Hamid Karzai, who is barred by the constitution from running again. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.⁷⁷

China

On April 30, a bomb and knife attack at Urumqi's south railway station in China's western Xinjiang region killed three people and injured 79 others. Witnesses said that the explosion appeared to be centered on luggage left on the ground between a station exit and a bus stop.⁷⁸ One of the attackers was identified as Sedirdin Sawut, 39, from Aksu in southern Xinjiang. The attack occurred as the Chinese President Xi Jinping was ending a rare visit to the troubled Xinjiang region. Chinese authorities released few details about the incident but blamed a gang of knife-wielding separatists from Xinjiang for the attack.⁷⁹ It was reported that the Turkestan Islamic Party claimed responsibility for the attack.⁸⁰

India

On April 5, Indian intelligence (ISI) claimed to have foiled a plot to attack the US and Israeli consulates in India. Indian authorities made the discovery during an interrogation of Sri Lankan militant, Sakir Hussain, who was arrested on April 29 in Southeast Asia. During questioning, Hussain admitted to being paid by the ISI to spy and report on details of the structures and security forces of the Bangalore Israeli consulate and the US consulate in Chennai in southwest India. Hussain claimed that his handler

⁷⁷ Reuters, "Afghanistan: Suicide bombing strikes Kabul ahead of weekend elections", April 3, 2014.

⁷⁸ BBC, "Deadly China blast at Xinjiang railway station", April 30, 2014.

IANS, "Turkestan Islamic Party claims Chinese railway station attack", May 15, 2014.

⁷⁹ Time, "In China, Deadly Bomb and Knife Attack Rocks Xinjiang Capital", April 30 2014.

⁸⁰ IANS, "Turkestan Islamic Party claims Chinese railway station attack", May 15, 2014.

in the ISI had been Amir Zubair Siddiq, a counselor at the Pakistan high commission in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Siddiq was already under suspicion as an ISI operative accused of previous terrorism-related incidents. Indian investigators also found surveillance photographs apparently linked to Hussain, picturing roads leading to the two consulates as well as the gates at their entrances. Indian sources said that the photographs had been sent to supposed ISI elements in Pakistan as well as to the high commission in Colombo. Further cyber-investigations showed Indian Intelligence that the photos had been downloaded to a computer at the site of the high commission in Colombo.⁸¹

On April 12, during India's five week long general election polling, two bombs exploded killing 12 people and injuring ten others in the eastern Indian state of Chhattisgarh. The first explosion targeted a bus carrying election officials in Bijapur district, killing seven people and wounding four others. The second bomb exploded 30 minutes later, targeting an ambulance and killing five police in Kamanar. No group claimed responsibility for the incidents but authorities blamed Maoist rebels.⁸²

Malaysia

On April 3, suspected Filipino militants kidnapped a female Chinese tourist and hotel receptionist from a tourist resort in Malaysia. Six men armed with pistols raided the Singamata Reef resort before fleeing in a speedboat. A police report said the Chinese victim was a 28-year-old woman from Shanghai, while the receptionist was a 40-year-old woman from the Philippines. No group claimed responsibility but authorities blamed Abu-Sayaff militants who are known to carry out kidnappings for ransom.⁸³

On April 28, police arrested nine Malaysians in raids near the capital, Kuala Lumpur, and the northern state of Kedah. The group was believed to have links to terrorists abroad and were plotting attacks both targeting national and global interests. Another woman believed to be a member of the cell was detained on April 29 in Kuala Lumpur. Police provided no further details except that they were expected to make additional arrests.⁸⁴

⁸¹ Jpost, "Report: India foils Pakistani terror plot targeting Israeli, US consulates", April 5, 2014.

⁸² BBC, "Indian election: Bomb blasts kill 12 in Chhattisgarh", April 12, 2014.

⁸³ AP, "Chinese tourist and hotel receptionist kidnapped in Malaysia", April 3, 2014.

⁸⁴ AFP, "Malaysia police make fresh arrest in raid on terror cell", April 30, 2014.

Pakistan

On April 8, a bomb detonated on a railway car parked at a station while passengers were boarding the train in Sibi on route to Rawalpindi, killing 14 passengers and wounding at least 40 others. The bomb exploded in a train car reserved for men soon after the train pulled into Sibi, a small town east of the provincial capital, Quetta.⁸⁵ Federal Minister for Railways, Saad Rafiq, made a statement to the media said that initial investigations suggest a woman left explosives on the train car and then got off the train when it arrived at the station.⁸⁶ A little-known separatist group previously named the United Baloch Army and the United Baloch Liberation Army claimed responsibility for the incident and said it was in retaliation for a recent military operation.⁸⁷

On April 9, a bomb killed 21 people and injured 100 others, at a fruit and vegetable market in the Sabzi Mandi neighborhood, located on the outskirts of Islamabad.⁸⁸ The bombing targeted shoppers in the early morning during one of the busiest times for the wholesale marketplace. Authorities said the bomb contained five kilograms of explosives hidden in a fruit carton. The Pakistani Taliban denied involvement. No other group claimed responsibility.⁸⁹

Thailand

On April 17, Daud Farhat, a Lebanese-French citizen and Yousef Ayyad, a Lebanese-Philippine citizen, who were both on the Thai immigration watch list for possible Hezbollah ties, were arrested in Bangkok, accused of plotting to attack Israelis during the Jewish Passover holiday.⁹⁰ During interrogation, the suspects admitted that they were planning to launch a terrorist attack against Israeli tourists in Bangkok. The men arrived in the city on April 13. Thai police officials said they made the arrests after receiving information regarding the suspects' activities from the Israeli intelligence agency. The two suspects were arrested in different locations. Various materials that could be used

⁸⁵ NYT, "Bomb on Train in Pakistan Kills 14", April 8, 2014.

⁸⁶ AP, "Bomb hits train in southwest Pakistan, killing 16", April 8, 2014.

Reuters, "Twelve killed in bomb blast on Pakistani train", April 8, 2014.

Reuters, "Twelve killed in bomb blast on Pakistani train", April 8, 2014.

⁸⁸ BBC, "Pakistan market bomb 'kills at least 20' in Islamabad", April 9, 2014.

⁸⁹ AP, "Bomb blast in Pakistani capital kills 21", April 9, 2014.

⁹⁰ Times of Israel, "Two in Thai custody over possible Hezbollah ties", April 17, 2014.

to fabricate bombs were found in the Bangkok residence of one of the suspects. Police said that the two suspects will be extradited from Thailand upon the conclusion of the investigation. Thai authorities are searching for an additional suspect named Bilal Bahsoun whose whereabouts are unknown.⁹¹

⁹¹ Haaretz, “Hezbollah members arrested in Thailand admit to planning attack on Israeli tourists”, April 18, 2014.

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