



# ICT Incidents Database Periodical Report

April 2012

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

- On 4 April, twin brothers Mohammed Shabir Ali and Mohammed Shafiq Ali, 24, were arrested in London, UK. The men were charged with funding al-Shabaab in Somalia.
- On 6 April, the Chinese Ministry of Public Security published a list of six Uyghur men, along with their photographs, accused of being members of the East Turkistan Islamic Movement.
- On 13 April, four men went on trial in Denmark on suspicion of plotting an armed attack on the offices of newspaper Jyllands-Posten. The four pleaded not guilty.
- On 13 April, Abdullah Abdul Majid aka Abul was arrested in connection with a grenade attack that killed six people and wounded 68 others in Nairobi, Kenya on 10 March 2012.
- On 15 April, armed Taliban militants and suicide bombers launched a coordinated attack against foreign embassies in Kabul, Logar, Paktia, and Nangarhar, Afghanistan.
- On 19 April, a series of coordinated bombings throughout Iraq, killed 38 people and injured 160 others.
- On 20 April, three men from Birmingham, UK were arrested at London Heathrow airport on suspicion of possessing documents intended to be used for terrorist purposes.
- On 23 April, Mevlid Jasarevic, 23, was charged by Bosnian authorities with attempted murder concerning his alleged role in an attack on the US Embassy in Bosnia on 28 October 2011.
- On 23 April, Andrea Campione, 28, was arrested in Pesaro, Italy, on suspicion of training Islamic militants.
- On 24 April, it was reported that Abdel-Ghani Jawhar, head of Fatah-al-Islam, was killed assisting Syrian rebels in Qusayr, Syria.
- On 24 April, two people were killed and 27 injured when a bomb exploded in the waiting area of the Business Express, a new luxury train service linking Lahore to Karachi, Pakistan.
- On 26 April, six people were killed in two separate but coordinated attacks against the offices of three national newspapers in Abuja and Kaduna, Nigeria.
- On 27 April, a series of explosions at tram stations in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine injured 27 people. No group claimed responsibility and the motives were unclear.
- On 28 April, Michael Green, 48, was arrested in Central London, UK and charged with possession of a weapon, false imprisonment and carrying out a bomb hoax.
- On 29 April, 16 people were killed and six injured when gunmen opened fire at the Bayero University campus in Kano, Nigeria.



## **EUROPE**

### **Bosnia-Herzegovina**

On 23 April, Bosnian authorities charged Mevlid Jasarevic, 23, with attempted murder and other violations concerning his alleged role in an attack on the US Embassy in Bosnia on 28 October 2011, which injured a police officer.<sup>1</sup> Emrah Fojnica, 20, and Munib Ahmetspahic, 22, were also indicted for assisting Jasarevic. The three men were also charged with membership in an organized terrorist cell operating in the village of Gornja Maoca in northeast Bosnia. Jasarevic faces a minimum sentence of 20 years if found guilty.<sup>2</sup> On 24 April, US authorities announced that a federal grand jury in the District of Columbia had also indicted Jasarevic on the same charges.<sup>3</sup> The indictment claimed that Jasarevic recorded a DVD message explaining his motivations for the intended attack. He then traveled to Sarajevo where he opened fire on the US Embassy using an automatic rifle. The attack lasted nearly an hour before Jasarevic was shot and wounded by a sniper.<sup>4</sup>

### **Greece**

A series of low intensity attacks targeting businesses and politicians occurred in Athens throughout April 2012. An incendiary device made of gas canisters exploded outside the office of former socialist Prime Minister Costas Simitis on 3 April, causing minor damage. There were no reported casualties and police said they received no prior warning.<sup>5</sup> A similar device exploded on 9 April outside a branch of the reform ministry also causing damage but no casualties.<sup>6</sup> Following these incidents, a small homemade bomb exploded on 14 April outside Eurobank in central Athens. Police said the device consisted of two gas canisters but only one of them exploded. There were no casualties or serious damage.<sup>7</sup> On 1 April, a group calling themselves February 12 claimed responsibility for a similar attack in February 2012. The groups name is a reference to the date that the Greek government imposed new laws providing for severe austerity measures under the terms of two successive EU/IMF bailouts.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Reuters, "Bosnia charges three with attack on U.S. embassy", 23 April 2012;

<sup>2</sup> FBI, "Individual Indicted in Connection with Machine Gun Attack on U.S. Embassy in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2011", 24 April 2012;

<sup>3</sup> AP, "Charges Filed Against US Embassy Shooter in Bosnia", 23 April 2012;

<sup>4</sup> Reuters, "Bosnia charges three with attack on U.S. embassy", 23 April 2012;

<sup>5</sup> Reuters, "Small bomb explodes outside former Greek PM's office", 3 April 2012;

<sup>6</sup> AFP, "Home-Made Bomb Explodes at Greek Government Office", 9 April 2012;

<sup>7</sup> Reuters, "Bomb explodes outside Athens bank", 14 April 2012;

<sup>8</sup> Xinhua, "Second Greek Guerrilla Group Claims Responsibility for Gas Canister Scare", 1 April 2012;



Although there were no claims of responsibility for the April incidents, authorities said it was possible that February 12 were involved.<sup>9</sup>

### Italy

On 23 April, Andrea Campione, 28, was arrested in Pesaro on suspicion of training Islamic extremists. Police were given a tip about Campione following the arrest of a man in Brescia on 15 March 2012 on suspicion of plotting an attack against a Milan synagogue. Police were also searching for several suspects, including a Cagliari high school teacher, who allegedly translated al-Qa'ida-inspired texts on the Internet.<sup>10</sup>

### Norway

On 13 April, four men went on trial in Denmark for allegedly plotting an armed attack on the offices of newspaper Jyllands-Posten. The plot was foiled by Swedish and Danish intelligence services, which had been monitoring the men for several months. Munir Awad, Omar Abdalla Aboelazm, and Mounir Ben Mohamed Dhahri were charged with terrorism offenses. The fourth suspect, Sahbi Ben Mohamed Zalouti, was charged with preparing to commit a terrorist act.<sup>11</sup> The men were arrested in December 2010, in Denmark and Sweden and had in their possession a machine-gun with a silencer, a revolver with 108 bullets, and reams of duct tape. The four pleaded not guilty. The trial is due to end mid June 2012. The men faced between 14 and 16 years in prison, if found guilty.<sup>12</sup> In 2006, Jyllands-Posten published a series of cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad, provoking protests against Danish interests abroad and sparked global riots in which at least 50 people were killed.<sup>13</sup>

### Ukraine

On 27 April, a series of co-ordinated explosions at local transport stations in Dnipropetrovsk injured 27 people. The bombs were planted in dustbins at the stations along the same tram line. At 11:50, the first bomb injured 13 people as the tram was slowing to pick up passengers near the Opera House station. The second device detonated, 30 minutes later, injuring 11 people, including nine children. Several minutes later, a third device wounded three people near the city centre station. A fourth bomb exploded in the same station as the

<sup>9</sup> Xinhua, "Gas canisters attack at Greek former PM office in Athens, no injuries: report", 4 April 2012;

<sup>10</sup> AP, "Charges Filed Against US Embassy Shooter in Bosnia", 23 April 2012;

<sup>11</sup> BBC, "Four deny Denmark Jyllands Posten attack plot", 13 April 2012;

<sup>12</sup> New York Times, "Trial Starts in Plot Against Danish Paper Over Cartoons of Prophet", 13 April 2012;

<sup>13</sup> BBC, "Not guilty pleas at Danish newspaper 'massacre' trial", 13 April 2012;



initial bomb, but there were no reported casualties.<sup>14</sup> The attacks occurred ahead of the Euro June 2012 football championship, which Ukraine is co-hosting with Poland, raising concerns about security.<sup>15</sup> No group claimed responsibility for the attacks and local police offered a substantial reward to anyone who provided investigators with valuable information.<sup>16</sup> Ukrainian authorities said the explosions were acts of terrorism, but the motives behind the attacks were unclear.<sup>17</sup> The opposition party led by the jailed former Prime Minister, Yulia Tymoshenko, accused the government of staging the attacks in order to deflect the world's attention from Tymoshenko's imprisonment and reported abuse in prison.<sup>18</sup>

### United Kingdom

On 4 April, twin brothers Mohammed Shabir Ali and Mohammed Shafiq Ali, 24, were arrested in London and charged with funding terror related activities in Somalia. The men were also charged with possessing a terrorism manual written by the late Anwar al-Awlaki.<sup>19</sup> Prosecutors claimed that the men raised funds through a “Darwar” religious stall in the UK. They were accused of using the funds to finance their older brother, Mohammed Shamim, to commit acts of terrorism in Somalia on behalf of al-Shabaab.<sup>20</sup> Authorities claimed that the offences occurred between August 2008 and June 2011. Their trial is due to take place in London, in October 2012.<sup>21</sup>

Following an investigation by the North West Counter-Terrorism Unit, Craig Slee, 41, from Preston, was charged on 18 April under the 2006 Terrorism Act with encouraging terrorism and distributing terrorist publications. He was also accused of possessing a prohibited weapon. He faced a court hearing at the Westminster Magistrates' Court on 8 May 2012.<sup>22</sup>

On 20 April, three men from Birmingham were arrested at London Heathrow International Airport, on suspicion of possessing documents intended for terrorist purposes in a foreign

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<sup>14</sup> AP, “Ukraine Attacks: 4 Blasts Rock Dnipropetrovsk”, 27 April 2012;

<sup>15</sup> Telegraph, “Dozens injured in Ukraine bomb blasts just weeks before start of Euro 2012 Championships”, 27 April 2012;

<sup>16</sup> Euro News, “Police probe Ukraine bomb blasts”, 28 April 2012;

<sup>17</sup> BBC, “Ukraine blasts injure at least 27”, 27 April 2012;

<sup>18</sup> AP, “Ukraine Attacks: 4 Blasts Rock Dnipropetrovsk”, 27 April 2012;

<sup>19</sup> Associated Press, “UK police charge twins over Somalia terror funds”, 4 April 2012;

<sup>20</sup> SomaliLandPress, “Two charged in Somalia terror probe”, 4 April 2012;

<sup>21</sup> BBC, “Twins appear in court to face terror charges”, 20 April 2012;

<sup>22</sup> BBC, “Preston man charged with two terrorism offences”, 18 April 2012;



country. British Police said that the men were on their way back from Oman when they were arrested upon arrival in the UK on an intelligence tip.<sup>23</sup> The arrests were carried out by officers from the West Midlands counter-terrorism unit, under the Terrorism Act 2000 and may have been assisted by intelligence from Oman.<sup>24</sup>

On 24 April, five men aged between 21 and 35 were arrested at separate residential addresses in Luton, as part of a Metropolitan Police anti-terrorism operation codenamed Nimrod.<sup>25</sup> The men were detained for questioning at a Central London police station. Authorities said the men were charged with commission, preparation, or initiation of acts of terrorism.<sup>26</sup>

On 28 April, Michael Green, 48, was arrested in Central London on suspicion of possession of a weapon, false imprisonment, and carrying out a bomb hoax. Witnesses claimed that Green entered an office building in the vicinity of Tottenham Court Road and threatened staff. He then threw computers and other office equipment out of windows. Police closed off Tottenham Court Road, Goodge Street and Warren Street Tube stations for several hours until the suspect was arrested. His motivation was unclear and he was detained for questioning.<sup>27</sup>

On 28 April, a bomb containing 600 pounds of explosives was discovered by police on a routine patrol, near the border town of Newry, Northern Ireland. A bomb disposal squad safely defused the bomb, which had been fully primed and planted in an abandoned van.<sup>28</sup> Irish authorities said the police patrol was the target of the intended attack. No group claimed responsibility for the foiled attack but authorities suspected dissident republicans.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Telegraph, "Three men arrested by anti-terror police at Heathrow", 21 June 2012;

<sup>24</sup> AP, "3 Arrested at Heathrow on Suspicions of Terrorism", 20 April 2012;

<sup>25</sup> BBC, "Five men arrested in Luton anti-terror raid", 24 April 2012;

<sup>26</sup> Wall Street Journal, "U.K. Police Detain 5 Terrorism Suspects", 27 April 2012;

<sup>27</sup> AP, "Multiple charges in London bomb hoax incident", 29 April 2012;

<sup>28</sup> BBC, "Newry bomb had 600 pounds of explosives and was fully primed", 28 April 2012;

<sup>29</sup> Guardian, "Northern Ireland police find two car bombs", 28 April 2012;



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## **AFRICA**

### **Kenya**

On 13 April, Abdullah Abdul Majid aka Abul was arrested in Nairobi, in connection with a grenade attack that killed six people and wounded 68 others on 10 March 2012.<sup>30</sup> During a series of interrogations, Majid confessed to police that he had traveled to Somalia to train with al-Shabaab, after being radicalized by Sheikhs Shamir and Aboud Rogo. He also admitted he had been trained in how to use grenades, pistols, and AK47 rifles, at a three month al-Shabaab training course in Somalia, attended by 300 people. After graduation, the recruits were divided into two groups; one remained in Mogadishu and another was sent to the Kenya-Ethiopia border. When interrogated, Abdul said he was born in Saudi Arabia and was a resident of Mombasa. However, he was unable to provide legal documents to verify his identify. Authorities suspect that al-Shabaab sent him to Nairobi to carry out the attack.<sup>31</sup>

### **Nigeria**

On 8 April, a suicide car bomber detonated explosives by a busy road in Kaduna, killing 38 people. The explosion damaged the nearby All Nations Christian Assembly Church and the ECWA Good News Church, which authorities believe was the intended target of the attack. Authorities said the number of casualties could have been greater but security officers managed to prevent the bomber from entering the church, where a special Easter service was being held.<sup>32</sup>

On 26 April, Boko Haram militants attacked the offices of the Nigerian newspaper, ThisDay, in Abuja and Kaduna, killing nine people and injuring 26 others. The first attack was carried out by a suicide car bomber, who detonated explosives at the newspapers' offices in Abuja, killing three people and causing extensive damage. The attacker was arrested as the bomb failed to detonate fully.<sup>33</sup> Shortly afterwards, four people were killed when a second suicide car bomber attacked the newspaper's offices in Kaduna, which it shares with two other national newspapers, The Moment and The Daily Sun.<sup>34</sup> Boko Haram claimed responsibility

<sup>30</sup> Capital FM, "Kenya captures Al Shabaab recruit", 13 April 2012;

<sup>31</sup> Shabelle Media Network, "Kenya police captures Al Shabaab recruit", 14 April 2012;

<sup>32</sup> Sky News, "Car Bomb Kills 38 Outside Easter Service", 8 April 2012;

<sup>33</sup> AFP, "Bomb attacks kill nine at Nigerian newspaper offices", 26 April 2012;

<sup>34</sup> BBC, "Nigeria's ThisDay newspaper hit by Abuja and Kaduna blasts", 26 April 2012;



for the attack. This was the first time the group targeted media outlets. They threatened to carry out further attacks in retaliation for what they said was inaccurate reporting.<sup>35</sup>

On 29 April, 16 people were killed and six injured when gunmen opened fire at the Bayero University campus in Kano.<sup>36</sup> Witnesses reported hearing multiple explosions and gunfire. The gunmen specifically targeted Christians who were attending a Sunday church service that was being held in a lecture theatre.<sup>37</sup> Authorities said the bombs were homemade devices produced using drinks cans filled with explosives. Further casualties were caused when gunmen hiding outside the lecture hall opened fire on those who tried to escape.<sup>38</sup> No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities suspected Boko Haram.<sup>39</sup>

### Somalia

On 4 April, a suspected female suicide bomber detonated explosives at the National Theatre in Mogadishu as dignitaries gathered to mark the first anniversary of the launch of Somalia's national television station. The theatre opened for the first time in more than 20 years in March 2012. Three people were killed and 20 wounded, including the secretary of Somalia's soccer federation and the president of Somalia's Olympic committee.<sup>40</sup> Authorities believe the intended target was Somalia's Prime Minister, Abdiweli Mohamed Ali, who was about to deliver a speech when the bomb exploded. He was, however, unharmed in the attack.<sup>41</sup> Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility in a message released via social media site Twitter, but denied it was a suicide attack carried out by a female operative. They claimed the bombs were planted in the theatre before it became crowded with people.<sup>42</sup>

On 9 April, 12 people were killed and 35 wounded, when a remote controlled bomb exploded in a marketplace in Baidoa. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack and

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<sup>35</sup> Guardian, "Seven killed in bomb attacks on Nigerian newspapers", 26 April 2012;

<sup>36</sup> Channel News Asia, "Nigeria attack on church services kills around 20", 29 April 2012;

<sup>37</sup> Telegraph, "Nigerian Christian worshippers targeted by Islamic terrorists", 29 April 2012;

<sup>38</sup> CNN, "Witness: Gunmen attack Nigeria university campus", 29 April 2012;

<sup>39</sup> BBC, "Deadly attack on Nigeria's Bayero university in Kano", 29 April 2012;

<sup>40</sup> BBC, "Somalia theatre bombing kills top sports officials", 4 April 2012;

<sup>41</sup> Guardian, "Somalia theatre suicide bombing kills top sports officials", 4 April 2012;

<sup>42</sup> ABC, "Theater Explosion Kills Several in Mogadishu", 4 April 2012;



said they targeted Ethiopian and Somali troops.<sup>43</sup> The explosives were planted in a small basket at a market stall.<sup>44</sup>

## **MIDDLE EAST**

### **Iraq**

A series of coordinated bombings took place throughout Iraq on 19 April, killing at least 37 people and wounding approximately 160 others. Authorities said the exact number of casualties was unclear. The bombs mainly targeted security forces and government officials. Authorities reported that explosions were reported in the following cities:

- In Baghdad, three car bombs, two roadside bombs and one suicide car bomb killed 15 people and wounded 61 others. The convoy of Iraqi Health Minister Majeed Hamad Amin was targeted as he was on his way to his office. Two passers-by were killed and six people were wounded, but the minister was unharmed.<sup>45</sup>
- In Kirkuk, two car bombs and three roadside bombs targeted police and army patrols, killing eight people and wounding 26 others.
- In Baquba, a police officer was killed when a suicide bomber detonated explosives.
- In Samarra, two car bombs exploded near checkpoints of anti-Qa'ida militiamen, killing three people and wounding six others. Two car bombs targeted security forces in Samarra.
- In Dibil, a bomb exploded in a parked car killing six passers-by and wounding four.<sup>46</sup>
- In Taji, a roadside bomb exploded as a security patrol drove by, killing one civilian. Three policemen were among six people wounded in the attack. Roadside devices were also reported to have exploded in Mosul.<sup>47</sup>
- In Tarmiyah, a suicide bomber detonated explosives by an army base, killing one soldier and wounding six others.<sup>48</sup>
- In Beiji and Tikrit, mortars were reportedly fired but there were no casualties.<sup>49</sup>

No group claimed responsibility, but authorities blamed al-Qa'ida in Iraq.<sup>50</sup>

<sup>43</sup> Reuters, "Blast kills 12 in southern Somalia market-official", 9 April 2012;

<sup>44</sup> BBC, "Market bombing in central Somalia kills 12", 9 April 2012;

<sup>45</sup> Reuters, "Wave of bombings kill 36 in Iraq", 19 April 2012;

<sup>46</sup> AP, "Blasts across Iraq kill 30", 20 April 2012;

<sup>47</sup> BBC, "Deadly blasts hit Baghdad, Kirkuk and other Iraq cities", 19 April 2012;

<sup>48</sup> AFP, "Iraq attacks kills at least 35", 19 April 2012;

<sup>49</sup> AP, "Blasts across Iraq kill 30", 20 April 2012;

<sup>50</sup> AP, "Iraq: Explosions In Baghdad, Kirkuk Claim Dozen Of Lives", 19 April 2012;



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## Israel, West Bank and Gaza Strip

On 21 April, Israeli border police foiled an attack by two Palestinian men, who were suspected of planning to attack a hitchhikers' post used by Israeli civilians and soldiers in the West Bank. The police, who were on a routine patrol at the Tapuah Junction in the northern West Bank, became suspicious of two Palestinian men who had disembarked from a taxi close to the hitchhikers' post. Police carried out a search of the suspects and discovered the men had in their possession four pipe bombs, two knives, and a home-made gun. A bomb squad unit safely defused the pipe bombs and the suspects were arrested. During initial questioning, each suspect blamed the other. Both men were from the Balata region of Nablus.<sup>51</sup>

On 24 April, an Israeli taxi driver was stabbed and moderately wounded by a male Palestinian attacker, who managed to flee the scene. Police carried out a massive search and a suspect was later arrested.<sup>52</sup> The suspect was working in Israel illegally and police believe that he acted on his own initiative, without backing from terrorist organizations. A gag order was put in place regarding additional details of the incident.<sup>53</sup>

On 28 April, IDF troops arrested a Palestinian man in possession of two explosive devices near the Hawara roadblock in the West Bank, south of Nablus. The bombs were safely destroyed by military experts.<sup>54</sup>

## Syria

On 24 April, Abdel-Ghani Jawhar, head of Fatah-al-Islam, Lebanon's most wanted militant Islamist terrorist, was reportedly killed while assisting Syrian rebels in Qusayr, close to the embattled city of Homs.<sup>55</sup> Jawhar allegedly detonated himself accidentally whilst preparing an explosive device for the rebel groups to be used against the Syrian Army.<sup>56</sup> Authorities believed Jawhar arrived in Qusayr in mid April, along with a group of 30 Lebanese fighters, calling themselves mujahedeen and seeking to help fellow Muslims under attack by the Syrian regime. Jawhar, who was wanted by Lebanese authorities for masterminding multiple

<sup>51</sup> Jerusalem post, "Security forces avert major terror attack in W. Bank", 21 April 2012;

<sup>52</sup> Haaretz, "Israeli taxi driver stabbed in suspected terrorist attack", 24 April 2012;

<sup>53</sup> Jerusalem Post, "Palestinian stabs taxi driver in Kfar Saba", 24 April 2012;

<sup>54</sup> Ynet, "IDF nabs Palestinian carrying 2 bombs", 28 April 2012;

<sup>55</sup> AFP, "Lebanese Islamist killed in Syria: reports", 24 April 2012;

<sup>56</sup> Telegraph. "Lebanon's most wanted Islamist terrorist 'killed planting bombs for Syrian rebels'", 24 April 2012;



bomb attacks against UN security forces in Lebanon, was an expert bomb-maker and was implicated in over 20 other unsolved cases connected to attacks on the Lebanese army.<sup>57</sup> His presence in Syria raises questions about who is training the rebels in their armed struggle.

## **NORTH AMERICA**

### **USA**

On 3 April, the United States announced a bounty of up to \$10 million for information leading to the capture of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), founder Hafiz Mohammad Saeed, wanted in connection to the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. Saeed is the leader of the Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) group, which according to US and Indian authorities, is a front for the LeT. The bounty was one of the highest offered by the US reward program. Interpol also issued an arrest notice against Saeed for his role in the Mumbai attacks.<sup>58</sup> The US government, together with Indian authorities, said that the bounty demonstrated their commitment to bring the perpetrators of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks to justice. The US also posted a \$2 million reward for Hafiz Abdul Rahman Makki, described as LeT's second-in-command, also wanted in connection to the attacks.<sup>59</sup>

Pakistan has been heavily criticized by the US for supporting Saeed.<sup>60</sup> In February 2012, Saeed evaded police to address an anti-US rally in Islamabad. The US State Department urged Pakistan to prevent Saeed from moving freely in the country, following his release from house arrest in 2009. They also urged Pakistan to freeze the assets of the groups and charities he is associated with and to prevent the LeT from acquiring weapons. The Pakistani Foreign Ministry responded that the US government needs to provide solid evidence to confirm Saeed's role in the Mumbai attacks before they will take any action against Saeed.<sup>61</sup> For his part, Saeed denied any role in the Mumbai attacks.<sup>62</sup>

On 4 April, US Attorney General Eric Holder announced that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, along with four alleged co-conspirators, faced trial in a military court at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, rather than in a civilian court in New York, as

<sup>57</sup> Time, "In Syria, Lebanon's Most Wanted Sunni Terrorist Blows Himself Up", 24 April 2012;

<sup>58</sup> BBC, "US puts \$10m bounty on Lashkar-e-Taiba's Hafiz Saeed", 3 April 2012;

<sup>59</sup> Reuters, "U.S. puts \$10 mln bounty on LeT founder Hafiz Saeed", 4 April 2012;

<sup>60</sup> CNN, "Pakistan wants 'concrete evidence' on Mumbai suspect sought by U.S.", 7 April 2012;

<sup>61</sup> Ibid;

<sup>62</sup> The International news, "Hafiz Saeed responds to US bounty", 3 April 2012;



initially proposed by the Obama administration.<sup>63</sup> The men were charged with terrorism, hijacking aircraft, conspiracy, murder in violation of the law of war, and other counts.<sup>64</sup> If found guilty, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, Walid bin Attash, Ramzi bin al-Shibh, Ali Abdul Aziz Ali, and Mustafa Ahmed al-Hawsawi, all faced the death sentence. The trial was set to commence on 6 May 2012.<sup>65</sup>

On 6 April, Viktor Bout, an international arms dealer known as the “Merchant of Death”, was sentenced to 25 years in jail by a US judge. Bout was convicted of conspiracy to kill Americans and US officials, delivery of anti-aircraft missiles, and aiding the Revolutionary forces of Colombia (FARC). He was also fined \$15m.<sup>66</sup> Bout was arrested in Thailand in 2010, as a result of an FBI sting operation by agents who posed as Colombian militants seeking to buy £20 million of weapons, including surface to air missiles to shoot down American helicopters.<sup>67</sup> In addition to the charges for which he was convicted, Bout was suspected of supplying weapons to al-Qa’ida, the Taliban, and African warlords. A United Nations report in 2000 said Bout had supplied military equipment and other necessities to all conflict areas in Africa.<sup>68</sup>

On 16 April, Saajid Badat had his prison sentence reduced to 11 years from the original sentence of 13 years, after he agreed to testify at a forthcoming trial in the US for Adis Medunjanin. Badat was convicted on 22 April 2005 of plotting to detonate explosives on an aircraft bound for the US. During his detention, Badat assisted British and US authorities with information concerning Adis Medunjanin, suspected of taking part in a 2009 plot to attack the New York Subway.<sup>69</sup> This was the first time a convicted British terrorist had entered into an agreement with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to provide evidence in a trial against other alleged terrorists.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>63</sup> BBC, “Khalid Sheikh Mohammed faces Guantanamo trial for 9/11”, 5 April 2012;

<sup>64</sup> al-Jazeera, “US to try five 9/11 suspects at Guantanamo”, 5 April 2012;

<sup>65</sup> CNN, “ Accused 9/11 terror suspects to face military trials”, 5 April 2012;

<sup>66</sup> BBC, “‘Merchant of Death’ Viktor Bout sentenced to 25 years”, 6 April 2012;

<sup>67</sup> Telegraph, “‘Merchant of Death’ Viktor Bout sentenced to 25 years in prison”, 5 April 2012;

<sup>68</sup> ABC, “Viktor Bout, ‘Merchant of Death,’ Sentenced to 25 Years”, 5 April 2012;

<sup>69</sup> BBC, “Would-be plane bomber has sentence cut”, 16 April 2012;

<sup>70</sup> Guardian, “Shoe-bomb plotter sentence cut in terror evidence deal”, 16 April 2012;



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## **SOUTH AMERICA**

### **Colombia**

On 27 April, suspected Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels fired homemade mortars into a police station in Puerto Rico in Caqueta state, but missed their target and hit a local house instead, killing two adults and an infant. Several hours later, an army patrol was ambushed in the southern Caquetá Department, killing five soldiers.<sup>71</sup>

## **ASIA**

### **Afghanistan**

On 15 April, militants armed with suicide vests, assault rifles, and rocket-propelled grenades staged coordinated attacks throughout Afghanistan. In Kabul, seven sites were targeted, including parliament, Nato HQ, and foreign embassies, including the US, British, German and Japanese embassy. Witnesses at the British embassy said that two rockets hit a guard tower and a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at a house used by British diplomats, but there were no reported casualties. The assault lasted approximately 15 hours and Afghan authorities said all 39 attackers were killed.<sup>72</sup> The casualty figures varied, however, with the Afghan Interior Ministry saying that eight soldiers had been killed, while the president's office said 11 were killed and 42 wounded. Only five civilians were killed; a relatively low number, which authorities said was due to the improved operational procedures of Afghan security forces, which made special efforts to avoid civilian casualties.<sup>73</sup> The attackers also staged attacks in the provinces of Logar, Paktia, and Nangarhar. The Afghan Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement to the media, and said it was the start of their spring offensive. Some authorities, however, said they believed the Haqqani network was to blame.<sup>74</sup>

### **China**

On 6 April, the Chinese Ministry of Public Security published photographs of six Uyghur men who were accused of inciting violent attacks in East Turkestan. The men were identified as Nurmemet Memetmin, Abdulkyum Kurban, Paruh Tursun, Tursunjan Ebibla, Nurmemet

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<sup>71</sup> BBC, "Farc rebels kill eight in Colombia attacks", 27 April 2012;

<sup>72</sup> BBC, "Taliban strike across Afghanistan in 'spring offensive'", 16 April 2012;

<sup>73</sup> New York Times, "Afghan Forces Quell Attack; Few Civilians Are Killed", 15 April 2012;

<sup>74</sup> LA Times, "19 killed in Afghan assaults; attackers reportedly surrounded", 15 April 2012;



Raxit, and Mamat Imin Nurmamat. According to the Ministry of Public Security, the men had recruited and trained other militants on behalf of the terrorist group the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM). The suspects were also accused of attending terrorist training camps in Pakistan.<sup>75</sup>

### Indonesia

On 13 April, police in eastern Indonesia arrested two men suspected of killing a police officer during in a bank robbery in Medan in 2010. Police said the suspects were part of a cell that carried out several robberies to fund terror related activities. The suspects, who were both doctors, were identified only by their initials YNI and KN. The latter was allegedly involved in both the above activities, and YNI provided him with assistance, including helping him to evade police.<sup>76</sup> They were also linked to a militant training camp in Aceh province, which was funded by Jemaah Islamiah leader Abu Bakar Bashir. Bashir was sentenced in June 2011 for funding the training camp, and is currently serving a 15 year sentence in Indonesia.<sup>77</sup>

### Pakistan

On 24 April, two people were killed and 27 injured when a bomb detonated in the waiting area of the Business Express, a new luxury train service linking Lahore to Karachi. A train carrying hundreds of people had just pulled in when the explosion occurred.<sup>78</sup> Police said the bomb was left in a bag and contained six to eight kilograms of explosives; ball bearings recovered from the site suggested that the bomb was a timed device.<sup>79</sup> Pakistani news channel Geo reported that Lashkar-e-Baluchistan, also known as the Army of Baluchistan, claimed responsibility for the attack. In a statement sent to the media, the group said the attack was in response to killings in Baluchistan and Karachi. The group threatened to stage more attacks in the near future in Islamabad and Rawalpindi.<sup>80</sup> On 25 April, Pakistani authorities foiled a second bomb attack targeting the same train. A 20 kg bomb was discovered and safely defused by the police. Authorities said the strength of the disposed bomb was greater than that of the previous one and could have caused more damage.<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> AP, "China Adds 6 Uighurs to Terrorist List", 5 April 2012;

<sup>76</sup> WCR, "Weekly Country Report Indonesia", 9-15 April 2012;

<sup>77</sup> AFP, "Indonesia arrests two suspected terrorists", 15 April 2012;

<sup>78</sup> New York Times, "Bomb at Train Station Kills 2 and Injures 27 in Pakistan", 24 April 2012;

<sup>79</sup> Reuters, "Pakistan Bomb Explodes At Main Railway Station In Lahore, At Least 2 Killed", 24 April 2012;

<sup>80</sup> BBC "Pakistan bomb: 'Two killed' at Lahore railway station", 24 April 2012;

<sup>81</sup> Central Asia Online, "Pakistan Railways foils bomb plot", 25 April 2012.