



# ***ICT's Incidents Database Periodical Report***

## **Summary of Terrorist Incidents and Counter-Terrorist Operations Worldwide May 2013**



**International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT)**

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## Highlights

The following is a summary and analysis of the terrorist attacks and counter-terrorism operations that occurred during May 2013, researched and recorded by the ICT Database Team. The following are among the most important events occurring this month:

- On 2 May, Sefa Riano and Achmad Taufiq were charged with plotting to bomb the Myanmar embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia. Their arrest led to a large-scale, week-long counter-terrorism operation in which eight militants were killed and 20 others were arrested.
- On 11 May, Egyptian authorities foiled an attempted suicide bombing attack on Western embassies in Cairo and Alexandria.
- On 16 May, authorities dismantled a Hezbollah cell and uncovered a large cache of weapons in a compound in Kano, Nigeria.
- Between 15-30 May, violence escalated throughout Iraq. The worst day of violence was 27 May, when a coordinated series of car bombs in Baghdad killed 66 people and injured 200 others.
- On 22 May, a British Army soldier was beheaded in broad daylight near the Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich, southeast London, UK by two Muslim converts identified as Michael Adebowale, 22, and Michael Adebolajo, 28.
- On 11 May, a twin car bombing killed 51 people and wounded 140 others in Reyhanli on the Turkey-Syria border – part of the “spillover effect” of the Syrian conflict.
- On 23 May, suicide bombers attacked an army barracks in Agadez, Niger and a French-run uranium mine in Arlit, Niger, killing 21 people and injuring 30 others. The Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) and Mokhtar Belmokhtar, leader of Signed-in-Blood Battalion, both took responsibility for the attack. Reports surfaced in March 2013 that Belmokhtar was killed by Chadian forces. His whereabouts remain unknown.
- Throughout May, Taliban militants in Afghanistan increased their suicide attacks and bombings against civilians, government workers and Afghani security forces. Most notably, on 24 May militants attacked the office of the International Organization for Migration in Kabul, and on 29 May they attacked the International Committee of the Red Cross in Jalalabad.
- In the lead-up to 11 May elections in Pakistan, Taliban militants increased their attacks against major political parties. The worst violence came on 6 May, when a suicide bomber targeted an election rally organized by religious Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Party, killing 25 people and wounding 65 others. During voting on 11 May, a series of gun and bomb attacks around the country killed 29 people – candidates, party workers, and voters.

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## Europe

### France

On 7 May, six ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) militants were arrested in Blois, Brive-la-Gaillarde and Montpellier, charged with providing safe houses, stolen vehicles and false documents for other ETA members. Authorities identified the ringleaders of the cell who ran the safe houses as Antonio Goicoechea Gabirondo, 42, an explosives expert and Raul Aduna Vallinas, 32. They were detained in Brive-la-Gaillarde. Ekhine Eizaguirre Zubiarre and Kepa Arkuz Zubillaga, both age 29 were, arrested in Blois and charged with forging documents. The other two suspects, Igor Uriarte Lopez de *Acu'a*, 39, and Julen Mendizabal Elezcano, 33, were charged with stealing vehicles, which the militant group planned to use in future attacks.<sup>1</sup>

On 25 May, Cédric Cordier, 23, a French soldier who was patrolling a commercial district west of Paris, was stabbed in the neck by a man of North African origin. The attacker, identified only as Alexandre D., 22, initially fled the scene. Witnesses claimed that the attacker, who was described as wearing a white Arab-style tunic,<sup>2</sup> had said a Muslim prayer in a corner of a shopping mall 10 minutes before he carried out the attack. According to police, traces of DNA on an orange juice bottle and a surveillance video led to the arrest of Alexandre D. on 29 May. Reportedly, the suspect was known to authorities because of his ties to radical Islam.<sup>3</sup> On 31 May, anti-terrorism judges charged Alexandre D., who admitted to perpetrating the attack "in the name of Islam".<sup>4</sup> The attack occurred four days after the murder of British soldier Lee Rigby in London, and authorities suspected that it may have been a copycat attack.<sup>5</sup> (For more information see the section on the UK, below.)

### Russia

On 20 May, security forces foiled a planned terrorist attack in Moscow by engaging in a shootout, in which two of the alleged militants were killed<sup>6</sup> and a Russian federal security official was injured. A third suspect was arrested during a raid on a house in the town of Orekhovo-Zuyevo. Counter-terrorism officers gave no details of the alleged plot, but

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<sup>1</sup> AFP, "Arrests break up ETA 'logistical core': Spain", 7 May 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Reuters, "Attack on French soldier had religious motivation: prosecutor", 29 May 2013.

<sup>3</sup> AP, "DNA, video led to arrest in French soldier attack", 29 May 2013.

<sup>4</sup> Telegraph, "Police: 'radical' Muslim confesses to stabbing French soldier", 29 May 2013.

<sup>5</sup> BBC, "French soldier stabbing: Man on terrorism-linked charges", 31 May 2013.

<sup>6</sup> WSJ, "Russia Says It Killed Two Islamist Militants in Shootout", 20 May 2013.

claimed that the militants had attended training camps in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region.<sup>7</sup> All of the suspects were ethnic Russians.<sup>8</sup>

On 21 May, four people were killed and 52 wounded in a twin car bombing in Makhachkala, Dagestan.<sup>9</sup> The first bomb caused no deaths, but the second bomb, which exploded 15 minutes after the first and targeted the security forces who had come to examine the scene of the first explosion, killed eight people and wounded 40 others. Police believe that the bombs were remotely detonated.<sup>10</sup> No group claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>11</sup>

On 25 May, a female suicide bomber identified as Madina Aliyeva, 25, detonated her explosives in Makhachkala, Dagestan.<sup>12</sup> According to witnesses, Aliyeva exited a taxi<sup>13</sup> and approached traffic police near the Dagestan interior ministry building shortly before midday.<sup>14</sup> Madina Aliyeva had been married to an Islamist radical who was killed in 2009, and then wedded another Islamist radical who was killed in 2012. According to authorities, her bomb contained 500g of TNT explosives.<sup>15</sup>

## United Kingdom

On 22 May, a British Army soldier, Drummer (Private) Lee Rigby of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, was violently killed and beheaded in broad daylight near the Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich, southeast London.<sup>16</sup> Rigby was off duty and walking along Wellington Street when he was attacked. Witnesses initially said that a man, later identified as Rigby, was knocked over by a car in what appeared to be a traffic accident. However, the two men driving the car then used knives and a meat cleaver to stab and hack the victim to death. The attackers then dragged Rigby's body into the road. Video footage broadcast by international media outlets showed one of the attackers waving a butchers' knife, his hands bloodied, shouting political statements and ranting against the British government before police arrived on the scene.<sup>17</sup> The attackers told passers-by that they had killed a soldier to avenge the killing of Muslims by the British military. The

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<sup>7</sup> Sky News, "Moscow 'Terror Attack Foiled After Shootout", 20 May 2013.

<sup>8</sup> AFP, "Russia foils terror attack on Moscow: Official", 20 May 2013.

<sup>9</sup> RTE, "Four Killed In Russia Car Bomb Attacks", 21 May 2013.

<sup>10</sup> Moscow Times, "Clues Sought in Twin Car Bombings in Dagestan", 22 May 2013.

<sup>11</sup> AFP, "Twin car bombs kill three in Russia", 11 May 2013.

<sup>12</sup> AFP, "Female suicide bomber injures 18 in Russia", 25 May 2013.

<sup>13</sup> RiaNovotski, "Female Suicide Bomber Attacks Police in Russia's Dagestan", 25 May 2013.

<sup>14</sup> AP, "Suicide bomb widow injures 12 in Dagestan attack", 25 May 2013.

<sup>15</sup> BBC, "Black widow' bomber attacks Russia police", 25 May 2013

<sup>16</sup> BBC, "Woolwich attack: Lee Rigby named as victim", 23 May 2013.

<sup>17</sup> WSJ, "Second Suspect in London Attack Named", 25 May 2013.

men made no attempt to flee the crime scene, and in fact encouraged people to take pictures of them and the victim. Witness Ingrid Loyau-Kennett, who was trained in first aid, disembarked from a passing bus when she saw the body on the road. On discovering that a murder had apparently taken place, she engaged one of the assailants in conversation who said he was responsible for the attack.<sup>18</sup> She asked him to hand over his weapons, which included a gun as well as the meat cleaver, but he refused. She later told police and the media that she had kept the men talking to keep them calm and avoid further violence.<sup>19</sup> As police arrived on the scene, the assailants charged them; the police fired shots that wounded both men, who were then arrested and taken to separate hospitals in London.<sup>20</sup> Police identified the attackers as Michael Adebowale, 22, and Michael Adebolajo, 28, both British citizens of Nigerian descent who were raised as Christians and converted to Islam.<sup>21</sup> Authorities admitted that both suspects were known to police and MI5. The Foreign Office confirmed that Adebolajo had been arrested in Kenya in 2010, accused of having ties to Somalia's Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedeen, and deported.<sup>22</sup> Following the attack, authorities searched six homes: three in south London, one in east London, one in north London, and one in Lincoln.<sup>23</sup> A total of 10 people were arrested: In addition to the two murder suspects, eight others were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to murder.<sup>24</sup>

On 19 May, John Anthony Downey, 61, was arrested at Gatwick International Airport on charges of responsibility for a 1982 IRA terrorist attack in London.<sup>25</sup> Although named several times as a prime suspect in the case, Downey had managed to evade police until his arrest on 19 May.<sup>26</sup> According to Scotland Yard, Downey's travel arrangements had been monitored, and an operation planned to arrest him as he arrived at Gatwick on a flight from the Irish Republic.<sup>27</sup> On 22 May, Downey was charged with the murders of four members of the Royal Household Cavalry<sup>28</sup> who were killed in London's Hyde Park on 20 July 1982 as they rode from their barracks to Buckingham Palace. Seven horses

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<sup>18</sup> Guardian, "London attack: interview with Ingrid Loyau-Kennett", 23 May 2013.

<sup>19</sup> AP, "London attack suspect was arrested in 2010 in Kenya on terror charges: police", 26 May 2013.

<sup>20</sup> AP, "Brave woman tried to reason with London attackers", 23 May 2013.

<sup>21</sup> Guardian, "Woolwich attack suspect identified as Michael Adebolajo", 23 May 2013.

<sup>22</sup> BBC, "Woolwich: The investigation", 29 May 2013.

<sup>23</sup> BBC, "Woolwich murder probe: Three more arrests", 28 May 2013.

<sup>24</sup> BBC, "Woolwich: The investigation", 29 May 2013.

<sup>25</sup> Belfast Telegraph, "Man in court over 1982 IRA Hyde Park bomb", 22 May 2013.

<sup>26</sup> Mail Online, "31 years on, Hyde Park 'bomber' in dock over IRA atrocity that killed four soldiers and seven horses: Man charged after leaving remote Irish bolthole to go on holiday", 22 May 2013.

<sup>27</sup> Mail Online, "31 years on, Hyde Park 'bomber' in dock over IRA atrocity that killed four soldiers and seven horses: Man charged after leaving remote Irish bolthole to go on holiday", 22 May 2013.

<sup>28</sup> CNN, "Suspect charged in '82 London attack", 22 May 2013.

were also killed in the attack. Downey was also charged with intending to cause an explosion likely to endanger life.<sup>29</sup>

## Africa

### Kenya

On 2 May, Iranian nationals Ahmad Mohammad and Sayed Mousavi were found guilty of possessing 15kg of explosives and planning to carry out bombings in Kenya.<sup>30</sup> Initially arrested on 19 June 2012, the men were accused of planning attacks on Western and Israeli targets in Kenya. They led authorities to a stash of 15kg of explosives, which were meant to be used in the attacks.<sup>31</sup> They pleaded not guilty to the charges against them.<sup>32</sup> Following their arrest, Israel alleged that the men were part of an Iranian plot to attack Israeli targets in Kenya.<sup>33</sup> According to authorities, it was unclear whether the men had ties to Somalia's Al-Shabab Al Mujahedeen or another terrorist network. On 6 May, the men were sentenced to two life terms<sup>34</sup> and two additional sentences of 15 and 10 years in prison, respectively, on lesser charges. The sentences are to be served simultaneously.<sup>35</sup>

### Niger

On 23 May, in what appeared to be a coordinated assault, 21 people were killed and 30 others were wounded when suicide bombers attacked an army barracks in Agadez and a French-run uranium mine in Arlit. In Agadez, 20 soldiers were killed and 16 were injured in the attack on the army barracks, and three militants were killed in a firefight with security forces. Three cadets were also taken hostage but were later freed.<sup>36</sup> In Arlit, one person was killed and 14 others were injured in the car bomb attack at the Areva's Somair mine. Two of the militants were also killed in that attack.<sup>37</sup> According to authorities, the mine – one of two operated by the French Energy company Areva in the northwestern desert near the Niger-Mali border – was a particularly symbolic target whose selection was not coincidental. Approximately 75% of France's electric power is generated by nuclear plants that are in large part fuelled by uranium extracted from these mining sites. Fearing that the mines would be targeted in retaliation for French

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<sup>29</sup> BBC, "John Anthony Downey in court over 1982 IRA Hyde Park bombing", 22 May 2013.

<sup>30</sup> BBC, "Two Iranians found guilty of Kenya terror plot", 2 May 2013.

<sup>31</sup> BBC, "Iranians jailed for life in Kenya over terror charges", 6 May 2013.

<sup>32</sup> Reuters, "Kenya finds two Iranians guilty of planning attacks", 2 May 2013.

<sup>33</sup> Jerusalem Post, "Kenya finds 2 Iranians guilty of terror attack plot", 2 May 2013.

<sup>34</sup> AP, "Kenya: 2 Iranian Plotters Convicted", 2 May 2013.

<sup>35</sup> LATimes, "In Kenya, two Iranians get life in prison for plotting attacks", 6 May 2013.

<sup>36</sup> BBC, "Niger suicide bombers target Areva mine and barracks", 24 May 2013.

<sup>37</sup> Jerusalem Post, "Islamists kill 20 in suicide attacks in Niger", 23 May 2013.

intervention in Mali, French authorities had reportedly increased security at the sites.<sup>38</sup> Initially, the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) claimed responsibility for the attack. However, it was also reported that Mokhtar Belmokhtar, leader of the Signed-in-Blood Battalion, was responsible for the attacks – that is, that he had "supervised" them, although they were carried out by MUJAO militants.<sup>39</sup> In March 2013, it was reported that Mokhtar Belmokhtar had been killed by Chadian forces. Also known as "The Uncatchable" and "Mr. Marlboro", Belmokhtar was wanted for masterminding the Amenas BP gas plant siege in January 2013 and other attacks. His responsibility for this attack has not been verified, and his whereabouts remain unknown.<sup>40</sup>

## Nigeria

On 16 May, Nigerian Security Services reported dismantling a Hezbollah cell in Kano and arresting Mustafa Fawaz, whose confession led to the arrest of other cell members. A second suspect, Abdullah Tahini, was arrested several days later as he tried to board a flight from Kano to Beirut. On 26 May, Lebanese national Talal Roda was arrested at a home in Kano. Police claim a fourth suspect, identified as Fauzi Fawad, is still at large.<sup>41</sup> Also according to authorities, a raid on a residence uncovered 11 60mm anti-tank weapons, four anti-tank landmines, two rounds of ammunition for a 122mm artillery gun, 21 rocket-propelled grenades, seventeen AK-47s with more than 11,000 bullets, and some dynamite,<sup>42</sup> which were apparently being stockpiled for use in attacks on Israeli and Western targets in Nigeria. During interrogation, all of the suspects admitted to being members of Hezbollah.<sup>43</sup>

## Mauritania

On 20 May, Sanda Ould Boumana, spokesman for Ansar Dine, turned himself in to the Mauritanian army on the border between Mauritania and Mali,<sup>44</sup> which transferred him to Nouakchott for questioning. Boumana was closely involved in imposing shari'a [Islamic law] in Timbuktu, including overseeing the public amputation of the hand of an accused thief.<sup>45</sup> Beginning in late March 2012, Ansar Dine ruled the cities of Timbuktu and Kidal

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<sup>38</sup> IBT, "Back-from-Dead' Terrorist Mokhtar Belmokhtar Threatens More Attacks after Niger Bombings", 24 May 2013.

<sup>39</sup> BBC, "Mokhtar Belmokhtar 'masterminded' Niger suicide bombs", 24 May 2013.

<sup>40</sup> IBT, "Back-from-Dead' Terrorist Mokhtar Belmokhtar Threatens More Attacks after Niger Bombings", 24 May 2013.

<sup>41</sup> News24, "Nigeria discovers 'Hezbollah terrorist cell', weapons trove", 30 May 2013.

<sup>42</sup> Jerusalem Post, "Nigeria foils latest Hezbollah plot to attack Israelis", 30 May 2013.

<sup>43</sup> Ynet, "Nigeria arrests Lebanese suspected of Hezbollah ties", 30 May 2013.

<sup>44</sup> Sapa, "Al-Qaida-linked group spokesman arrested", 20 May 2013.

<sup>45</sup> AP, "Spokesman for Ansar Dine arrested in Mauritania", 20 May 2013.

in northern Mali for 10 months, until the group was dislodged by French forces who led an intervention in January 2013 to retake the area.<sup>46</sup>

## Somalia

On 5 May, a suicide car bomber exploded next to a government convoy en route to Mogadishu from Qatar, killing 8 people and injuring 18 others.<sup>47</sup> The four government officials who were targeted by the attack remained unhurt.<sup>48</sup> The explosion occurred at a busy intersection in the center of Mogadishu's commercial and administrative district, known as "Kilometer 4"; it damaged nearby buildings and destroyed power cables.<sup>49</sup> Al-Shabab Al-Mujahdeen claimed responsibility for the attack and threatened more attacks.<sup>50</sup>

## Tanzania

On 5 May, three people were killed and 60 others injured when a bomb exploded at the official dedication of a new Roman Catholic Church in Arusha. The attack happened despite a heavy security presence. Archbishop Francisco Montecillo Padilla, the Vatican's Ambassador to Tanzania, and Archbishop Josaphat Louis Lebulu of the Arusha Diocese who were attending the ceremony were unhurt in the attack.<sup>51</sup> Attacks are rare in Tanzania, and this was the first large-scale bombing there.<sup>52</sup> Authorities cited a recent rise in Christian-Muslim sectarian violence.<sup>53</sup> Six suspects – two Tanzanians and four Saudi Arabians – were arrested in connection with the bombing. No group has taken responsibility for the attack.<sup>54</sup>

## Middle East

### Bahrain

On 30 May, a homemade device exploded in Bani Jamra village<sup>55</sup> wounding seven policemen,<sup>56</sup> one of them critically. Police arrested ten suspects in connection with the

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<sup>46</sup> Sapa, "Al-Qaida-linked group spokesman arrested", 20 May 2013.

<sup>47</sup> Telegraph, "Mogadishu car bomb targets Qatari officials ", 5 May 2013.

<sup>48</sup> Reuters, "Bomb hits convoy carrying Qataris in Somalia, eight dead", 5 May 2013.

<sup>49</sup> Sabah, "Al-Shabaab suicide bomber kills 11 in Mogadishu", 5 May 2013.

<sup>50</sup> Telegraph, "Mogadishu car bomb targets Qatari officials ", 5 May 2013.

<sup>51</sup> Sabahi, "Tanzania investigates Arusha church attack, citizens on edge", 6 May 2013.

<sup>52</sup> AFP, "'Terrorist' attack on Tanzanian church leaves two dead", 6 May 2013.

<sup>53</sup> BBC, "Tanzania church hit by deadly explosion", 6 May 2013.

<sup>54</sup> AFP, "Terrorist' attack on Tanzanian church leaves two dead", 6 May 2013.

<sup>55</sup> BBC, "Bahrain police hurt in explosion near Manama", 30 May 2013.

<sup>56</sup> AFP, "Terrorist' bomb wounds Bahrain policemen", 31 May 2013.

attack.<sup>57</sup> Although this was not the first time that police had been targeted in Bahrain, it was the first time that so many police were wounded in one attack.<sup>58</sup>

## Egypt

On 11 May, authorities foiled suicide bombing attacks against Western embassies in Cairo and Alexandria. Authorities reported arresting three suspects with ties to Al-Qaeda – one of them to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), and another with ties to militants in the Sinai Peninsula. One of the suspects had apparently received training in Iran and Pakistan.<sup>59</sup> Authorities seized 10kg of ammonium nitrate, which they believe was intended to be used in improvised explosives; a computer containing files on bomb-making; and a flash memory stick with instructions on how to build rockets.<sup>60</sup> Authorities believed the suspects had ties to militants who were arrested in October 2012 and accused of setting up a terrorist cell in the Nasr City area of Cairo. The men admitted planning to attack the French Embassy as revenge for France's military intervention in Mali. The United States Embassy was also one of their targets.<sup>61</sup>

On 16 May, seven members of the Egyptian security forces were kidnapped in the Sinai Peninsula as they were traveling between El-Arish and Rafah in the early morning hours. One of the hostages, a policeman, was immediately released. The Egyptian government identified the kidnappers as members of Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, a militant Islamist group suspected of involvement in bomb attacks on tourist resorts in the Sinai between 2004 and 2006. The kidnappers, who were armed with SAM anti-aircraft missiles and heavy machine guns, demanded the release of Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad members convicted of carrying out attacks in the northern Sinai in 2011. According to the Egyptian Interior Ministry, the remaining six hostages were released on 22 May and taken to Cairo.<sup>62</sup> On 30 May, Egyptian authorities arrested Waleed Saleh el-Nekhlawy, 23, and detained him for questioning about his alleged role in the kidnapping.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> AL Jazeera, "Explosion in Bahrain wounds several police", 31 May 2013.

<sup>58</sup> AFP, "Bahrain explosion wounds seven policemen", 30 May 2013.

<sup>59</sup> BBC, "Egypt 'al-Qaeda linked plot on Western embassy' foiled", 11 May 2013.

<sup>60</sup> CNN, "State news: Detainees linked to al Qaeda targeted U.S., French embassies in Egypt", 16 May 2013.

<sup>61</sup> New York Times, "Egypt: Reports of Embassy Plots", 15 May 2013.

<sup>62</sup> AlArabiya, "Kidnapped Egyptian security men in Sinai released, confirms army", 22 May 2013.

<sup>63</sup> Reuters, "Islamist gunmen kidnap seven Egypt security personnel in Sinai", 16 May 2013.

## Iraq

On 15 May, a series of bombings in Baghdad and northern Iraq killed 35 people and wounded over 100 others.<sup>64</sup> Between 20:00 and 21:00, 11 explosions occurred in predominantly Shi'ite districts of Baghdad, killing 23 people. In Tarmiya, a suicide bomber on a motorcycle killed two policemen on patrol. In Kirkuk, a car bomb exploded near a government building in the city centre, killing eight people. An hour later, another car bomb exploded in the same area, killing two children.<sup>65</sup>

On 17 May, a series of attacks targeted Sunnis throughout Iraq.<sup>66</sup> In the first attack, a bomb exploded at the main Sunni mosque in Baquba as worshippers were attending morning prayers. As people gathered at the scene to help the wounded, a second explosion occurred, killing a total of 43 people and wounding 80 others.<sup>67</sup> Later in the day, eight people were killed and 25 were injured when a roadside bomb exploded as a funeral procession for a Sunni man killed the previous day passed by in Madain, south of Baghdad. In Baghdad, twin car bombs in Ghazaliya and Baladiyat killed eight people and wounded 33 others. Two roadside bombs exploded in a Sunni-majority area of west Baghdad, killing 14 people and wounding 35. Two more bombings that targeted a Sunni area in Baghdad killed two people and wounded seven others. In Fallujah, two people were killed and 12 were injured when a bomb exploded in a coffee shop.<sup>68</sup> In Kirkuk, gunmen killed a government employee and one of his relatives. Gunmen also killed a provincial elections candidate in Mosul.<sup>69</sup>

On 20 May, 70 people were killed and many others were injured in a series of explosions across Iraq.<sup>70</sup> In Baghdad, a car bomb exploded near a crowded market, killing 12 people and wounding more than 20 others. In Basra, 14 people were killed in a bombing outside a restaurant and the main bus station. In Samarra, three people were killed and 15 were wounded when a car bomb attack exploded near a gathering of pro-government Sunni militia, the Awakening Council. In Balad, eight pilgrims from Iran were killed when their bus was hit by a car bomb. In Hilla, 11 people were killed in bomb attacks on two

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<sup>64</sup> Reuters, "Bombs kill more than 35 people across Iraq", 15 May 2013.

<sup>65</sup> BBC, "Baghdad Shia districts targeted in deadly Iraq attacks", 16 May 2013.

<sup>66</sup> AFP, "Bombs targeting Iraqi Sunnis kill 67", 17 May 2013.

<sup>67</sup> AP, "At least 60 killed in Iraq bomb attacks", 18 May 2013.

<sup>68</sup> AP, "At least 60 killed in Iraq bomb attacks", 18 May 2013.

<sup>69</sup> AFP, "Bombs targeting Iraqi Sunnis kill 67", 17 May 2013.

<sup>70</sup> AP, "Deadliest attacks in Iraq since US troop pullout", 20 May 2013.

Shi'ite mosques during evening prayers. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks, but authorities suspected Al-Qaeda in Iraq.<sup>71</sup>

On 27 May, a coordinated series of car bombs killed at least 66 people and injured 200 others in Baghdad. The attacks started during the afternoon rush hour when a car bomb exploded at a public market, killing six people. Shortly thereafter, eight car bombs exploded in the Shi'ite neighborhoods Huriya, Sadr City, Baya, Zafaraniya and Kadhimiya. In the worst of the attacks, two bombs exploded in Habibiya, on the eastern edge of the sprawling Shi'ite district of Sadr City, killing 12 and wounding 35.<sup>72</sup> Although no group took responsibility for the attacks, authorities blamed Al-Qaeda in Iraq.<sup>73</sup>

On 30 May, a series of bombs exploded across Baghdad, killing 33 people and wounding many others. In the first incident, a car bomb exploded in a predominantly Sunni area of Baghdad. Several hours later, six subsequent bombs exploded, killing 20 people in Shi'ite and Sunni districts across the capital. In the northern city of Mosul, seven people, including three policemen, were killed in clashes between militants and security forces. Four people, some of them security personnel, were killed when two bombs exploded in the town of Tal Afar. In the country's Sunni-dominated west, a suicide bomber attempted to assassinate a provincial governor. No group took responsibility for the attack, but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda in Iraq.<sup>74</sup> Authorities reported foiling an Al-Qaeda plot to use tanker trucks filled with explosives to attack a key Baghdad oil facility. They reported arresting the unnamed local Al-Qaeda leader who had allegedly masterminded the plot.<sup>75</sup>

## Israel and the West Bank

On 8 May, the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) reported dismantling a Hamas terrorist cell based in Ramallah in the West Bank, which was plotting to kidnap and kill an IDF soldier<sup>76</sup> and to manufacture and fire rockets at Israeli towns. Although the plot was foiled in January-February 2013, it was only made public in May. Authorities made several arrests, including of the cell leader, Ahmed Fahida, 26, who claimed to have been recruited by Ahmed Uda, a Hamas member from the Gaza Strip. Fahida had been ordered to kidnap, kill and bury a soldier – but to use his identity card and mobile phone to negotiate with Israel. According to authorities, Fahida and an accomplice had begun

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<sup>71</sup> Reuters, "Bomb attacks kill more than 70 Shi'ites across Iraq", 20 May 2013.

<sup>72</sup> New York Times, "At Least 53 Are Killed in Bombings in Baghdad", 27 May 2013.

<sup>73</sup> AP, "Deadly attacks in Iraq since US troop pullout", 27 May 2013.

<sup>74</sup> AP, "Iraq Bomb Blasts Kill 30 And Wound Dozens, Officials Say", 30 May 2013.

<sup>75</sup> Reuters, "Iraq says it averted al Qaeda tanker truck attack on major oil site", 30 May 2013.

<sup>76</sup> Long War Journal, "Israel exposes new Hamas kidnapping cell near Ramallah", 8 May 2013.

preparing to carry out the kidnapping, and had gathered weapons and materials to build rockets.<sup>77</sup>

## Lebanon

On 9 May, four Syrian and Lebanese nationals with ties to Al-Qaeda were arrested in Ain El-Rummaneh for possession of explosives. In a statement to the media, the military reported that the suspects were being interrogated, and a search was being conducted to capture remaining terrorist cell members,<sup>78</sup> who were planning to target the Lebanese army, together with Syria's Al-Nusra Front.<sup>79</sup>

## Saudi Arabia

On 29 May, Australian national Shayden Thorne, 25, was convicted by a court in Jeddah on five counts of supporting and abetting terrorism and sentenced to four-and-a-half years in prison. Thorne, who was arrested because a laptop in his possession contained terrorist material, had been held in detention since 2011. Thorne claimed to have borrowed the computer from a mosque where he was staying; he only admitted to the charges against him after being tortured during interrogation.<sup>80</sup> His lawyer said he would appeal.<sup>81</sup>

## Turkey

On 11 May, a twin car bombing killed 51 people and wounded 140 others in Reyhanli, a Turkish town near the Syrian border. According to analysts, the death toll was one of the largest from a single attack in Turkey's history.<sup>82</sup> The first car bomb exploded outside Reyhanli town hall at approximately 13:00, leaving a large crater and destroying an adjacent row of buildings. Apparently, the second bomb was more powerful than the first.<sup>83</sup> Because of its position near the border with Syria, Reyhanli has become a center for aid, alleged weapons trafficking, and Syrian rebel activity. Syrians escaping the civil war inhabit refugee camps and rent houses in the town. On 12 May, nine Turkish citizens were arrested in connection with the attack,<sup>84</sup> and on 21 May, four more Turkish

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<sup>77</sup> Jerusalem Post, "Shin Bet stops plot to kidnap, kill soldiers", 8 May 2013.

<sup>78</sup> Daily Star, "Lebanon arrests cell with suspected links to Al-Qaeda", 9 May 2013.

<sup>79</sup> Naharnet, "Army Busts 'Terror' Cell, Confiscates Explosives", 9 May 2013.

<sup>80</sup> AFP, "Australian jailed on terror charges in Saudi Arabia", 29 May 2013.

<sup>81</sup> AAP, "Perth man Shayden Thorne to appeal Saudi jail sentence", 30 May 2013.

<sup>82</sup> AP, "Turkey Car Bombings: 9 Detained In Turkish Border Town Of Reyhanli", 12 May 2013

<sup>83</sup> New York Times, "Car Bombings Kill Dozens in Center of Turkish Town Near the Syrian Border", 12 May 2013.

<sup>84</sup> Bloomberg, "Turkey Holds Nine Suspects in Deadly Attack Blamed on Syria", 9 May 2013.

suspects were charged in the attack.<sup>85</sup> Authorities claimed to have identified the suspects as affiliates of an unnamed unit of Syrian President Assad's intelligence services; they did not name them or explain how they had been identified.<sup>86</sup> No group took responsibility for the attack.

On 30 May, raids in Istanbul and in Adana and Mersin Provinces led to the arrest of 12 people on suspicion of ties to Syria's Al-Nusra Front.<sup>87</sup> Six of the men were later released, but six are still in detention.<sup>88</sup> According to media reports, the militants apprehended in Adana were allegedly in possession of 2kg of Sarin gas and were planning an attack in Turkey.<sup>89</sup> However, authorities would only confirm that a chemical had been seized and was being tested by experts.<sup>90</sup>

## Yemen

On 18 May, four Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) militants were killed and two were injured when a US drone targeted their vehicle in the Al-Mahfad region of Abyan Governorate in southern Yemen.<sup>91</sup> The militants were heavily armed with weapons and explosive belts. According to authorities, one militant fled the scene after the strike.<sup>92</sup> The attack occurred soon after the US government formally admitted killing AQAP leader and US citizen Anwar al-Awlaki, along with three other US citizens, in drone attack in September 2011. The first-ever admission preceded an important speech by President Barack Obama about US counter-terrorism policy.<sup>93</sup>

## North America

### United States

Between 14 and 22 May, nine people were sentenced following a long-running federal investigation into terrorism recruiting and financing by the Somali militant group Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedeen.<sup>94</sup> On 14 May, Abdifatah Yusuf Isse, 29, and Salah Osman Ahmed, 30, were sentenced to three years in federal prison for providing material support to Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedeen. A fourth suspect, identified as Omer Mohamed,

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<sup>85</sup> DW, "Bomb attacks kill 40 in Turkish town on Syrian border", 12 May 2013.

<sup>86</sup> Reuters, "Car bombs kill at least 40 near Turkey-Syria border", 11 May 2013.

<sup>87</sup> AP, "Turkey questions 6 terror suspects after raids", 31 May 2013.

<sup>88</sup> BBC, "Turkish police 'arrest 12 terror suspects' in raids", 30 May 2013.

<sup>89</sup> Reuters, "Turkey arrests 12 in raids on 'terrorist' organization", 30 May 2013.

<sup>90</sup> AFP, "Turkey Police Detain Suspects on 'Terrorism' Links", 30 May 2013.

<sup>91</sup> AFP, "Drone strikes kills 'Qaeda militants' in Yemen", 18 May 2013.

<sup>92</sup> Reuters, "At least four suspected militants killed in Yemen drone strike", 18 May 2013.

<sup>93</sup> AFP, "US formally takes responsibility for killing Awlaki", 22 May 2013.

<sup>94</sup> AP, "Minnesota Somalis react to sentences in al-Shabab case with mix of outrage, relief", 19 May 2013.

was sentenced to 12 years in prison for conspiracy to provide the group with material support,<sup>95</sup> and for recruiting militants to the group.<sup>96</sup> Isse and Ahmed admitted traveling to Somalia in December 2007, where they attended a militant training camp. However, after having second thoughts, they left Somalia in the spring of 2008. Ahmed admitted to raising money and procuring plane tickets so that others could travel to Somalia.<sup>97</sup> On 17 May, two Minnesota women were convicted of conspiring to send money to Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedeen. Hawo Mohamed Hassan was sentenced to 10 years in prison on one terrorism-related count and two counts of lying to the FBI, and Amina Farah Ali was sentenced to 20 years in prison on 13 terrorism-related counts. Both women had raised money door-to-door, ostensibly for charity but really for Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedeen.<sup>98</sup> According to authorities, at least 22 young men have left Minnesota to join Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedeen since 2007.<sup>99</sup>

On 30 May, Sami Samir Hassoun, a Lebanese citizen living legally in the United States, was sentenced to 23 years in federal prison for attempting to detonate a bomb near the Chicago Cubs' Wrigley Field baseball stadium. An undercover FBI operation thwarted the plot.<sup>100</sup> Hassoun pleaded guilty in April 2012 to one count each of attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction and attempted use of an explosive device.<sup>101</sup> Authorities said he admitted telling an FBI agent that he wanted to "paralyze" Chicago commerce and undermine the city's political establishment. The undercover FBI agent posed as a terrorist who agreed to help him carry out the plot. After weeks of reconnaissance work and discussion of potential targets, the agent gave Hassoun a backpack that he said was filled with explosives powerful enough to destroy half a city block. Hassoun dropped the backpack in a trash bin near bars filled with patrons who had attended a concert at Wrigley Field, and activated the timer; he was then arrested. Hassoun faces deportation when he is released.<sup>102</sup>

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<sup>95</sup> Reuters, "Four men in Minnesota sentenced to prison for aiding Somali rebel group", 14 May 2013.

<sup>96</sup> AP, "Sentences continue in Minn. Somali terror case", 22 May 2013.

<sup>97</sup> BBC, "Four jailed in Minnesota over al-Shabab recruitment", 15 May 2013.

<sup>98</sup> AP, "Minn. woman gets 20 years for aiding al-Shabab", 16 May 2013.

<sup>99</sup> AP, "Minn. woman gets 20 years for aiding al-Shabab", 16 May 2013.

<sup>100</sup> US State Dept, "Chicago Man Sentenced to 23 Years in Prison for Attempted Bombing on Crowded Street Near Wrigley Field in September 2010", 30 May 2013.

<sup>101</sup> CNN, "Chicago man sentenced to 23 years in bomb plot", 31 May 2013.

<sup>102</sup> AFP, "Lebanese man gets 23 years for U.S. plot", 31 May 2013.

## Asia

### Afghanistan

On 16 May, a suicide bomber drove a booby-trapped Toyota Corolla into two armored cars carrying US troops and civilians through Kabul, killing 15 people, six of them Americans, and wounding 40 others.<sup>103</sup> The bomb also killed two NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) soldiers and four civilian contractors, and heavily damaged surrounding buildings.<sup>104</sup> The Hezb-e-Islami insurgent group, which is allied with the Taliban, took responsibility for the attack. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a former mujahedeen commander, and Haroon Zarghoon, a spokesman for Hizb-e-Islami, said a recently-formed suicide squad had tracked American advisers working in Kabul for days before launching the attack.<sup>105</sup> Zarghoon identified the bomber as a 24-year-old man from the vicinity of Kabul. He threatened further attacks against the US in retaliation for its negotiation of a long-term security deal with the Afghani government, which could leave thousands of American soldiers in Afghanistan for years to come.<sup>106</sup>

On 24 May, Taliban militants attacked the office of the International Organization for Migration in Kabul, killing three civilians and injuring four foreign aid workers.<sup>107</sup> The attack began with a car bomb. Two of the militants were killed instantly. Their remaining comrades barricaded themselves in an abandoned building across the road and engaged security guards in a five-hour firefight. The Taliban took responsibility for the attack.<sup>108</sup>

On 29 May, an Afghan security guard was killed when a suicide bomber and three other militants attacked the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Jalalabad. The attackers first threw a grenade into the ICRC compound, then forced their way in and engaged security forces in a firefight. Authorities claimed that this was the first attack to target the strictly neutral ICRC since it began operations in Afghanistan in 1987.<sup>109</sup> The head of the ICRC office was moderately injured in the attack, and seven foreign Red Cross workers were rescued.<sup>110</sup> Although no group claimed responsibility for the attack

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<sup>103</sup> New York Times, "Attack on U.S. Military Vehicles Kills at Least 16 in Kabul", 16 May 2013.

<sup>104</sup> Reuters, "Bomber in Afghanistan kills 15, including six Americans", 16 May 2013.

<sup>105</sup> Guardian, "Taliban suicide blast in Afghanistan 'targeted Nato advisers'", 16 May 2013.

<sup>106</sup> New York Times, "Attack on U.S. Military Vehicles Kills at Least 16 in Kabul", 16 May 2013.

<sup>107</sup> Reuters, "Taliban attack international compound in Afghan capital", 24 May 2013.

<sup>108</sup> Ibid.

<sup>109</sup> Reuters, "Attack on Red Cross in eastern Afghanistan kills one guard", 29 May 2013.

<sup>110</sup> BBC, "Afghanistan: Red Cross office in Jalalabad attacked", 29 May 2013.

and the Taliban denied playing any role in it, authorities said it was likely that the Taliban or their affiliates were responsible.<sup>111</sup>

## India

On 27 May, Maoist insurgents attacked the convoy of a political party in the Sukma district of Chhattisgarh in the Darbha Valley, killing 27 people and injuring 32 others. The militants first blocked the road by felling trees, then detonated a land mine and opened fire.<sup>112</sup> Senior member of the nationally dominant Indian National Congress Party Mahendra Karma was killed in the attack. Chhattisgarh Congress leader Nand Kumar Patel and his son Dinesh were kidnapped in the attack – and later killed by the militants.<sup>113</sup> Hundreds of police are reportedly scouring the forests for the rebels. Maoists took responsibility for the attack, which they claimed was a protest against the government's "anti-people policies".<sup>114</sup>

## Indonesia

On 2 May, anti-terrorist police arrested Sefa Riano, 28, and Achmad Taufiq, 21, and charged them with plotting to bomb the Myanmar embassy in Jakarta.<sup>115</sup> The attack was meant as revenge for the treatment of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, according to national police spokesman Brigadier General Boy Rafli.<sup>116</sup> The men were carrying five pipe bombs at the time of their arrest. Police also seized materials for making explosives, including sulfur powder, black powder, a glue gun, cables, and an iron pipe. A woman, believed to be the wife of one of the men, was also detained for questioning. Authorities said the men were part of a cell allegedly involved in recent attacks on Indonesian police.<sup>117</sup> On 23 May, police arrested two other suspects whom they believe to be the mastermind and bomb maker behind the failed plot.<sup>118</sup> The arrests came just hours after radical cleric Abu Bakar Bashir issued a call to fight jihad against Myanmar in retaliation for its treatment of Muslims.<sup>119</sup> The arrests of Riano and Taufiq led authorities to conduct a series of counter-terrorism raids in West Java, Banten, Central Java and Lampung Provinces to uncover further suspects in the embassy plot and suspected

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<sup>111</sup> New York Times, "Taliban Deny Responsibility for Attack on Red Cross", 16 May 2013.

<sup>112</sup> New York Times, "Questions Raised Over Intended Target of Maoist Attack", 29 May 2013. Sia says 2 arrested for Myanmar Embassy plot", 3 May 2013.

<sup>113</sup> UPI, "Maoists attack in India leaves 27 dead, 32 wounded", 26 May 2013.

<sup>114</sup> BBC, "India probes deadly Maoist ambush in Chhattisgarh", 28 May 2013.

<sup>115</sup> Straits Times, "Jakarta police foil plot to bomb Myanmar Embassy", 4 May 2013.

<sup>116</sup> AFP, "Indonesia radicals urge 'Myanmar jihad'", 3 May 2013.

<sup>117</sup> AP, "Indonesia says 2 arrested for Myanmar Embassy plot", 3 May 2013.

<sup>118</sup> WSJ, "Indonesian Police Arrest 2 Suspects in Alleged Bomb Plot", 23 May 2.

<sup>119</sup> AsiaNews.It, "Islamists preparing attack on Myanmar Embassy in Jakarta", 5 May 2013.

terrorist fundraisers.<sup>120</sup> As a result of these raids, between 8 and 14 May eight militants were killed and 17 were arrested. The suspects were reportedly part of a terrorist cell led by Abu Umar, a longtime jihadist, who was arrested in 2011 on charges of smuggling weapons into Indonesia from the Philippines. Other suspects are believed to be affiliated with the Mujahedeen in Eastern Indonesia led by Santoso (aka Abu Wardah) – Indonesia’s most wanted terrorism suspect.<sup>121</sup>

## Malaysia

On 27 May, two Malaysian men ages 33 and 49 were arrested on suspicion of having ties to Al-Qaeda. The suspects had been arrested in Lebanon in 2012, for attempting to travel to Syria to join the civil war there. They had also allegedly joined Tanzim Al-Qaeda Malaysia between August 2012 and February 2013. Both had also been arrested in Kuala Lumpur in February 2012, and charged with inciting terrorism in Syria. One of the men, a biochemist and former army captain named Yazid Sufaat, was imprisoned under Malaysia's internal security laws between 2001 and 2008 on suspicion of membership in the violent Jemaah Islamiah network. Malaysian and US authorities also suspected Sufaat of providing safe houses for two of the September 11, 2001, hijackers and providing money and references to convicted September 11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui.<sup>122</sup>

## Pakistan

Between 4 and 11 May, approximately 70 people were killed in attacks that targeted three major political parties and prevented many of the most prominent candidates from openly campaigning for the 11 May elections. On 4 May, three people were killed when two bombs exploded in Karachi, apparently targeting the secular Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM).<sup>123</sup> On 6 May, a suicide bomber targeted an election rally organized by the religious Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Party in the village of Sewak in the northwest Kurram tribal region, killing 25 people and wounding 65 others.<sup>124</sup> On 7 May, a suicide bomber killed at least nine people and wounded a candidate campaigning in Hangu.<sup>125</sup> On 9 May, Ali Haider, the son of former Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, was kidnapped by unidentified gunmen during an election rally in Multan. One person was reportedly

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<sup>120</sup> AP, "Indonesia says 2 arrested for Myanmar Embassy plot", 3 May 2013.

<sup>121</sup> New York Times, "Indonesian Police Kill Suspect in Attempted Bomb Attack", 14 May 2013

<sup>122</sup> Reuters, "Two Malaysians charged in court for al Qaeda links", 27 May 2013.

<sup>123</sup> BBC, "Pakistani political party office hit by deadly bombings", 4 May 2013.

<sup>124</sup> Reuters, "Pakistan election violence forces candidates behind high walls", 6 May 2013.

<sup>125</sup> AFP, "Bombs kill 15 on Pakistan campaign trail", 7 May 2013.

killed when the attackers opened fire at the rally.<sup>126</sup> According to initial reports by local news outlets, Gilani had just left a house in the Farrukh Town neighborhood when he was shot at by unidentified gunmen on a motorcycle and in a Honda car.<sup>127</sup> Gilani's personal secretary was killed in the attack, but it was unclear whether Gilani himself had been shot. Witnesses who saw Gilani being dragged into a vehicle by the kidnappers told reporters that his clothes appeared bloodstained.<sup>128</sup> Although no group took responsibility for the attack, authorities suspected the Taliban.<sup>129</sup> On 11 May, 29 people were killed in a series of gun and bomb attacks as voters went to the polls in cities across the country.<sup>130</sup>

On 29 May, it was reported that Taliban Deputy Emir Wali-ur-Rehman was killed along with some seven other suspected Taliban militants when two missiles were fired by a drone over Chashma village, near Miran Shah in North Waziristan. Rehman had had a \$5 million bounty on his head.<sup>131</sup> There was no immediate independent verification of his death, which the Taliban denied. US authorities accused Rehman of organizing attacks against US and NATO forces in Afghanistan. They also wanted him in connection with a 2009 suicide attack on a US base in Afghanistan that killed seven CIA agents. Rehman was a prominent member of the Taliban from its inception in 2007, and was second only to its Emir Hakimullah Mehsud. He also headed the Taliban in South Waziristan.<sup>132</sup>

## Philippines

On 13 May, approximately 10 militants affiliated with the New People's Army ambushed the convoy of Bukidnon town mayor Joelito Jacosalem Talaid as it traveled through Barangay Kibogtok, wounding him and killing four of his bodyguards. The militants reportedly demanded that Talaid hand over 7 million Philippine pesos as a payoff.<sup>133</sup>

On 27 May, militants affiliated with the New People's Army ambushed a truck carrying elite Special Action Forces of the Philippine National Police, who were traveling to a medical facility in Allacapan for treatment. After the vehicle hit a roadside land mine, some 30 militants opened fire. Although the police commandos returned fire, they were

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<sup>126</sup> BBC, "Gunmen abduct Pakistan ex-PM Gilani's son at election rally", 9 May 2013.

<sup>127</sup> BBC, "Gunmen abduct Pakistan ex-PM Gilani's son at election rally", 9 May 2013.

<sup>128</sup> New York Times, "Gunmen Abduct Pakistani Ex-Premier's Son as Former PM Gilani's son kidnapped in Multan", 9 May 2013.

<sup>129</sup> Ibid.

<sup>130</sup> AP, "Former Pakistan PM Sharif headed for 3rd term", 11 May 2013.

<sup>131</sup> Telegraph, "Pakistan Taliban number two 'killed by US drone strike'", 29 May 2013.

<sup>132</sup> Al-Jazeera, "Top Pakistan Taliban leader 'killed by drone'", 30 May 2013.

<sup>133</sup> AFP, "5 killed in ambushes on eve of midterm elections in Philippines", 13 May 2013.

overpowered by the rebels, who later fled with the slain officers' weapons. The wounded officers managed to escape on foot, and were rescued by government troops stationed at the Ballesteros Municipal Hospital. Troops later set up roadblocks and dispatched reinforcements to track down the assailants.<sup>134</sup>

## Thailand

On 1 May, four militants opened fire from M16 rifles in front of a grocery store in Pattani. The militants then escaped on two motorcycles, dropping nails on the road to prevent security forces from pursuing them.<sup>135</sup> The attack coincided with a second round of peace talks between Muslim separatists and the Thai government.<sup>136</sup> A note left at the scene did not identify the group behind the attack, but said the attack was in retaliation for the deaths of comrades.<sup>137</sup> The motive for choosing the specific target was unclear.

On 24 May, five paramilitary rangers were killed and one other was wounded in an ambush, when suspected rebels detonated a roadside bomb in Pattani. According to authorities, the rebels are using increasingly sophisticated bomb-making and detonation techniques to cause more casualties.<sup>138</sup>

On 25 May, 13 people, 10 of them security officers, were wounded in a series of bombings in Yala and Narathiwat Provinces. In Limud village in the Muang district of Yala Province, a bomb killed eight people, five of them police officers. The bomb, a 50kg gas cylinder hidden in a roadside water drainpipe, was detonated when two police vehicles passed through the area. A trip-wire was later discovered trailing off into the bushes. Several moments after the attack, militants again attacked police officers. A brief gun battle ensued, but the attackers escaped. In nearby Kabang district, three bombs exploded but caused no casualties. In Narathiwat Province, five soldiers were wounded, one seriously, in a roadside bombing attack. No one took responsibility for the attack.<sup>139</sup>

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<sup>134</sup> AP, "Communist rebels kill Philippine commandos", 27 May 2013.

<sup>135</sup> AP, "6 killed in shooting in Thailand's restive south", 1 May 2013.

<sup>136</sup> BBC, "Gun attack in Thailand's south leaves six dead", 2 May 2013.

<sup>137</sup> BBC, "Gun attack in Thailand's south leaves six dead", 2 May 2013.

<sup>138</sup> AFP, "Bomb kills five rangers in Thailand's restive south", 24 May 2013.

<sup>139</sup> Bangkok Post, "Wave of blasts injures 13 across Yala, Narathiwat", 25 May 2013.