



# AFRICA SECURITY BRIEF

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## A Chronology of Terrorism in South Africa\*

\* This timeline is meant to accompany Africa Security Brief No. 9: "Playing Ostrich: Lessons Learned from South Africa's Response to Terrorism," the full text of which can be found at <http://africacenter.org/acss-publications/>

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- 2010** *December* - Pretoria police sergeant narrowly escapes death in shootout with six gunmen thought to be members of a larger al Qaeda cell
- October* - South African Police Service (SAPS) raids home of Mogamat Munier Martin – arms, ammunition and chemicals which could be used to make explosives were confiscated
- July* - Interpol and SAPS net suspects in Pretoria attempting to sell radioactive material used in "dirty bomb"
- July* - al Shabaab detonates two bombs in Kampala, Uganda
- June* - Zimbabwe police arrest two Pakistani men heading to South Africa (SA), one allegedly under international arrest warrant for terrorism
- June* - Reports of terror training camps in SA from journalists in possession of correspondence from former and current trainees
- May* - Pakistani and Somali militants operate training camps in northern Mozambique; trainees being infiltrated across the border into SA
- April* - Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb threaten to attack the 2010 World Cup tournament in SA
- January* - Jamaican cleric Sheikh Faisal deported from Kenya where authorities accuse him of recruiting suicide bombers to target the 2010 World Cup
- 2009** *October* - National Intelligence Agency (NIA), SAPS, and U.S. agents launch joint operation to foil plot to attack 2010 World Cup; arrests made and links to extremists in Somalia and Mozambique found
- September* - United States closes all Embassies and consulate offices in SA following terror threat from al Shabaab
- 2008** *March* - SA Intelligence Minister Ronnie Kasrils warns al Qaeda members seeking refuge in SA and possibly attempting to set up networks
- August* - Two South Africans detained at Entebbe Airport in Uganda by Uganda Joint Anti-Terrorism Task
- 2007** *March* - Reports of terrorists with links to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq spending time in SA
- March* - Concern expressed by SA government official of terrorists using SA banks and identity documents
- March* - Report of a paramilitary training facility in Port Elizabeth
- January* - United States lists two South African cousins on United Nations Security Council list of terror suspects and on U.S. Treasury Department's list of al Qaeda supporters
- Alleged al Qaeda financier Ibrahim Ali Tantouche given asylum in SA
- 2006** *December* - Witnesses in People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (PAGAD) terrorism case killed whilst under witness protection
- July* - Alleged ringleader of plot to down seven trans-Atlantic flights from Britain arrives in London via SA
- 2005** *August* - SA and U.S. joint operation discover clandestine cell in Cape Town that specializes in shipping al Qaeda operatives from Afghanistan and Pakistan to the United Kingdom

- 2004** *December* - Reports that SA has become an important operational and logistical hub for pan-Islamist terror networks appear
- Nov./Dec.* - South Africans arrested in Pakistan and southern Afghanistan for links with al Qaeda
- October* - Ringleader of al Qaeda cell in SA evades capture and is on the run in Africa
- October* - Media reports point to local militants having contact with Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda
- October* - Central Intelligence Agency reports that second and third tier of al Qaeda leadership hiding in Pakistan, Iraq, and SA
- August* - SA government expresses fear that al Qaeda operatives may be hiding in local Muslim theological schools
- August* - Influx of theological students to SA from countries such as Pakistan where some theological schools were closed down from fears that they were a breeding ground for terrorists
- July* - Two Pretoria residents, Zubeir Ismail and Dr. Feroz Ganchi, arrested in Pakistan at al Qaeda safehouse with senior al Qaeda commander
- June* - Alleged al Qaeda banker and Libyan national, Ibrahim Tantouche, fights his extradition from SA to Libya
- June* - SA Department of Home Affairs confirms al Qaeda operatives captured in London have SA links
- June* - SA Minister of Home Affairs confirms al Qaeda operatives using SA passports
- May* - SA police capture suspected al Qaeda operatives from Jordan and Syria
- May* - British Select Committee on Foreign Affairs recommends that greater assistance be provided to SA to combat international terrorism
- Reports of active terrorist camps in Mozambique surface
- 2003** *July* - Israeli Security Service declares that there is “recognizable Hamas activity” in SA
- March* - Tunisian Ihsan Garnaoui arrested in Germany for attempting terror attacks; planning for attacks done while
- 2002** NIA and Federal Bureau of Investigation warn that SA being used to raise funds and as safe haven for international terrorist organizations
- 2001** PAGAD officially designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the U.S. State Department
- 2000** *November* - Faizel Waggie and Naziem Davids arrested just after they allegedly planted a bomb in front restaurant in Durbanville, Cape Town; 7 years later case closed
- February* - Abduction and later killing of state witness Ebrahim Gallie in PAGAD trial
- 1999** *October* - Khalfan Khamis Mohamed, part of al Qaeda cell that attacked U.S. Embassies in East Africa, arrested in Cape Town
- 1998** PAGAD blamed for a series of bombings over two years, including the August 25, 1998, Planet Hollywood blast in Cape Town
- 1997** Hamas representatives visit SA assessing paramilitary camps
- 1996** Israel lodges a formal complaint to the SA government of the existence of five Hezbollah training camps
- 1995** *December* - PAGAD established