UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

POLITICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST AMERICANS

2008

ON THE COVER:

September 17, 2008, Sana'a, Yemen—Militants linked to al-Qaida launched a brazen attack against the U.S. Embassy, firing automatic weapons, setting off grenades, and detonating a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in a furious fusillade that failed to breach the walls but was responsible for the deaths of 18 people. See page 25 for additional details and a diagram of the attack.

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THE BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

The Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) is the law enforcement and security arm of the U.S. Department of State, providing a secure environment for the conduct of American diplomacy. To advance American interests and foreign policy, DS protects people, property, and information at more than 285 State Department missions worldwide. As a leader in international investigations, threat analysis, cyber security, counterterrorism, and security technology, DS is the most widely represented U.S. security and law enforcement organization in the world.

Political Violence Against Americans is produced by the Bureau's Directorate of Threat Investigations and Analysis (DS/TIA), in order to provide readers with a comprehensive picture of the spectrum of politically motivated threats and violence that American citizens and interests encounter abroad on an annual basis. Created in May 2008, the Directorate of Threat Investigations and Analysis strives to improve Diplomatic Security's ability to detect and counter threats, and to upgrade the Bureau's capacity to rapidly disseminate threat and security information to our embassies, consulates, and the U.S. private sector.

INTRODUCTION

The global threat environment has increased dramatically in recent years. In an effort to advance political and ideological causes, for example, extremist groups and individuals of every stripe now utilize a broad array of methods and venues to terrorize, injure, and kill priority targets, while seeking to foment disturbances and chaos within society more generally.

Political Violence Against Americans is a report to the American people that focuses on major incidents of anti-U.S. violence and terrorism, with apparent political motivations, that occurred worldwide during 2008. The U.S. Department of State closely monitors and maintains information on threats to Americans overseas – from terrorism and organized violence, to street crimes and health hazards – and makes this information freely available. It is the policy of the U.S. Government that no double standard shall exist regarding the dissemination of threat information that affects U.S. citizens. Government employees may not benefit unfairly by access to, or possession of privileged information that applies equally to all Americans.

In view of the enormous number of hostile incidents that occur universally in the course of a year, the particular events cited in Political Violence Against Americans were selected based upon certain specific criteria in addition to their political nature, including one or more of the following: the presence of casualties, substantial property damage, or the use of unusual tactics and weapons, together with a perception of the targets as intentionally those of the United States, or representative of U.S. interests. The incidents included here were reported to Department of State Diplomatic Security personnel posted at U.S. missions worldwide, and comprise the best information (sometimes incomplete) that is available. Some incidents are never reported to U.S. officials, of course. A few unique incidents have been omitted due to their sensitive nature, as have the names of American citizens for privacy purposes.

A SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ

Compiling a comprehensive chronology of anti-American violence in the war zone environments of Afghanistan and Iraq presents unique challenges. Given the complex security context within both countries, it is understandably difficult to obtain detailed, reliable information on every incident involving Americans, and sometimes nearly impossible to distinguish acts of targeted political violence and terrorism from general war zone hazards. Recognizing this, we have limited our reports of incidents in Afghanistan and Iraq to those involving targets under U.S. Chief of Mission authority. In addition, instances of rocket and mortar attacks against U.S. diplomatic facilities are included only when they resulted in casualties or significant property damage. Although not a perfect method for distinguishing between violent incidents, these criteria provide a certain practical standard for listing assaults most relevant to this report.

LISTING OF ACRONYMS IN THIS REPORT

CDA	Charge D'Affaires
COM	Chief of Mission
CSF	Central Security Force
DAC	District Advisory Council
DS	Bureau of Diplomatic Security
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
IED	improvised explosive device
IID	improvised incendiary device
INL	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement
IRC	International Rescue Committee
IZ	International Zone
LES	locally employed staff
MEND	Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta
NGO	nongovernmental organization
PO	Principal Officer
PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
RSO	Regional Security Officer
SVBIED	suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VBIED	vehicle-borne improvised explosive device

A STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF 2008

Of the 44 incidents that involved U.S. citizens and interests, 36 are believed to have resulted from intentional targeting of Americans. The eight incidents where Americans apparently were not targeted due to their nationality are indicated with an asterisk at the beginning of each regional section.

AREAS OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING AMERICANS

Western Hemisphere	5
Europe	6
Sub-Saharan Africa	5
Near East	16
South and Central Asia	11
East Asia and the Pacific	1

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

U.S. Government	3
Other	1
Private	1

EUROPE

U.S. Business	1
U.S. Government	5

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

U.S. Business	1
U.S. Government	2
Missionary	1
Other	1

NEAR EAST

U.S. Government	13
U.S. Military	1
Other	1
Private	1

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

U.S. Business	2
U.S. Government	2
NGO	2
Other	5

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

U.S. Government	1

AMERICANS INJURED IN TERRORIST/POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

August 9 – Bogotá, Colombia
A bomb exploded in a butcher shop in Bogotá, Colombia. Eight people were injured, including one American. Police believe the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) was responsible.

NEAR EAST

January 15 – Beirut, Lebanon
A U.S. Embassy vehicle was damaged by a roadside explosion in Beirut, Lebanon. The explosion killed four Lebanese civilians and injured approximately 40 other persons, including an American tourist.

March 22-31 – Baghdad, Iraq
Suspected Jaysh al-Mahdi militants launched 42 separate indirect fire attacks against the International Zone in Baghdad, Iraq. The attacks injured 33 people, 15 of whom were Americans.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

March 15 – Islamabad, Pakistan
A bomb was tossed over a wall into the Luna Caprese Restaurant in Islamabad, Pakistan. The explosion killed one Turkish national and wounded 12 patrons, including five U.S. officials.

September 20 – Islamabad, Pakistan
A truck bearing an SVBIED rammed the drop arm and delta barrier at the entrance to the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan. While the truck was stopped at the gate, the SVBIED exploded, destroying the entire front section of the hotel. The blast injured 266 people including 22 Americans.

November 26-27 – Mumbai, India
Terrorists belonging to Lashkar-e Tayyiba launched a coordinated armed assault against a number of venues in Mumbai, India. Confrontations with police lasted over 60 hours and resulted in over 300 injuries, including three Americans.

December 26 – Herat Province, Afghanistan
One American and one third-country national were injured when a car bomb detonated near their motorcade in Herat Province, Afghanistan.

AMERICANS KILLED IN TERRORIST/POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

January 1 – Khartoum, Sudan
An American U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) employee and his locally employed staff (LES) driver were shot and killed en route to the employee's residence in western Khartoum, Sudan.

May 20 – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
A local transport mini-van exploded in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Four people were killed, including a dual national Israeli-American citizen, and at least five others were injured.

NEAR EAST

March 22-31 – Baghdad, Iraq
Suspected Jaysh al-Mahdi militants launched 42 separate indirect fire attacks against the International Zone in Baghdad, Iraq. The attacks killed three people, two of whom were U.S. Chief of Mission (COM) employees.

June 24 – Baghdad, Iraq
An improvised explosive device (IED) detonated inside a District Advisory Council (DAC) building in the southern neighborhood of Sadr City, Baghdad, where embedded members of the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) had arrived to attend a scheduled meeting. Four Americans were killed in the blast, one of whom was a Department of State employee.

September 17 – Sana'a, Yemen
An American citizen and her husband (non-U.S. citizen) were shot and killed by terrorists who attacked the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a, Yemen.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

January 14 – Kabul, Afghanistan
The Serena Hotel in Kabul, Afghanistan, was attacked by Taliban militants. Eight people were killed, one of whom was an American.

January 26 – Kandahar, Afghanistan
An American aid worker and her local driver were kidnapped in Kandahar, Afghanistan, and reported to have been killed afterward by militants.

August 13 – Logar, Afghanistan
Three International Rescue Committee (IRC) aid workers and their driver, under contract with USAID, were killed in an ambush in Logar Province, south of Kabul. Of the three victims killed, one was a dual national Trinidadian-American citizen, one was a Canadian citizen, and one was a dual national Canadian-British citizen.

September 20 – Islamabad, Pakistan
A truck bearing a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (SVBIED) rammed the drop arm and delta barrier at the entrance to the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan. While the truck was stopped at the gate, the SVBIED exploded, destroying the entire front section of the hotel. Of 53 people killed, three were Americans.

November 12 – Peshawar, Pakistan
An American USAID contractor and his Pakistani driver were shot and killed as he was en route to work in Peshawar, Pakistan.

November 26-27 – Mumbai, India
Terrorists belonging to Lashkar-e Tayyiba launched a coordinated armed assault against a number of venues in Mumbai, India. Confrontations with police lasted over 60 hours and resulted in at least 183 deaths, including 22 foreigners, six of whom were Americans.

April 7-10 – Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Violent protests, spurred by Haitian citizens' frustration regarding the increasing cost of living and lack of employment, occurred throughout the country. Protesters stoned the U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince's Consular Section and Public Diplomacy building, and crowds of several hundred marched past parliament and the U.S. mission. Demonstrators burned tires, damaged vehicles, created traffic disruptions, and discharged firearms in the vicinity of the U.S. Embassy.

COUNTRIES WITH ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Bolivia ----------1
Colombia ----------2
Haiti----------1
Mexico ----------1

TARGET OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Government----------3
Business ----------1 *
Private ----------1

TYPES OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Extortion ----------1 *
Hostage Rescue ----------1
Strafing----------1
Violent Demonstration----------2

* *August 9 – Bogotá, Colombia: An explosion took place inside a butcher shop. Eight people were injured including one American citizen. It is believed that the owner of the butcher shop was being extorted by the terrorist group, Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).*

June 9 – La Paz, Bolivia

A crowd of people marched on the U.S. Embassy demanding the extradition of former Bolivian Defense Minister Carlos Sanchez Berzain and calling for the expulsion of the U.S. Ambassador. The protesters became violent, pelted police with rocks and sticks, lobbed fireworks and dynamite over the wall of the Embassy, and attempted to break through the security forces protecting the facility. The police dispersed the crowd with tear gas and water cannons. There was no damage and no one was hurt.

October 11 – Monterrey, Mexico

At approximately 11:45 a.m., two unknown assailants fired six to ten shots and tossed a hand grenade (which did not detonate) at the U.S. Consulate General. No injuries or significant damage were reported. Drug cartels operating in the area are suspected of carrying out the attack.

August 9 – Bogotá, Colombia
At approximately 6:50 p.m., an explosion took place inside a butcher shop in the meat packing district, and eight people were injured including an American citizen. The American was taken to a local hospital and released. Owners of the butcher shop apparently were being extorted by the FARC.

July 2 – San Jose del Guaviare, Colombia
Colombian military forces rescued 15 hostages being held by the FARC south of San Jose del Guaviare. Among the freed hostages were three Americans, a dual national Colombian-French citizen, and a former Colombian presidential candidate along with 11 other hostages. The rescue operation incurred no deaths or injuries.

February 21 – Banja Luka, Bosnia
Rioters threw rocks at the U.S. Embassy Branch Office, causing minimal damage. The office closed early, and personnel were sent home.

February 17 – Belgrade, Serbia
In response to U.S. diplomatic recognition of an independent Kosovo, rioters threw rocks, trash cans, flares, bottles, and other objects at the U.S. Embassy's facade, breaking glass in windows and doors.

COUNTRIES WITH ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Bosnia	1
Czech Republic	1
Greece	1
Serbia	2
Turkey	1

TARGET OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Business	1
Government	5

TYPES OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Armed attack	1
Bomb	1
Violent Demonstration	4

February 21 – Belgrade, Serbia

Rioters broke into the U.S. Embassy, setting a fire and causing extensive property damage. One Serbian protester found dead inside the Embassy likely was killed by falling debris. Dozens of businesses (including three American businesses) also were targeted by rioters and looters, as were embassies of several other countries that had recognized Kosovo's independence. U.S. mission personnel were ordered to depart as a result.

January 22 – Athens, Greece

Unidentified perpetrators placed an improvised incendiary device (IID) in a branch office of Citibank in the Ano Patissia area of Athens at approximately 1:10 a.m. Police reported significant material damage, but no one was hurt in the attack.

July 8 – Prague, Czech Republic

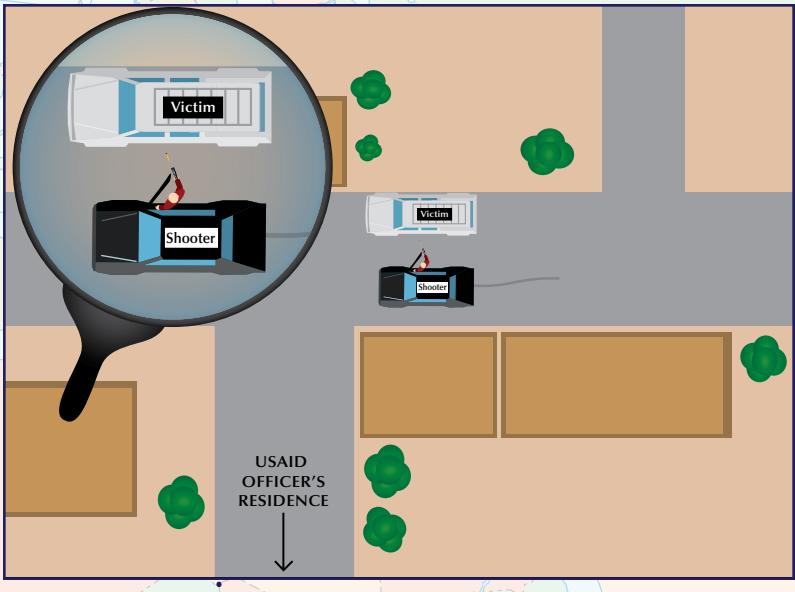
Thousands of protestors demonstrated against a missile defense agreement with the United States during Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's visit. Her motorcade was pelted with eggs as it drove through the capital en route to a meeting with the Czech Foreign Minister. No one was injured, and the suspect escaped.

July 9 – Istanbul, Turkey

At approximately 11:00 a.m., three men attacked the U.S. Consulate General in a shootout that resulted in the death of three Turkish National Police officers. The three gunmen who initiated the attack also were killed in the exchange. No Americans were injured in the attack.

January 1 – Khartoum, Sudan

At approximately 3:00 a.m., as an American USAID employee was being driven home from a New Year's Eve party in an unarmored vehicle with diplomatic license plates, the American and his locally employed staff driver were shot and killed. When the USAID vehicle pulled over to the side of the road, another vehicle pulled alongside. A passenger got out of the second vehicle and fired multiple rounds into the USAID vehicle, instantly killing the driver and fatally wounding the USAID officer, who later died at a local hospital. In August 2008, five suspects went on trial for the murder of the USAID employee and his driver. The trial was still underway at the end of the year.



May 20 – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

A small transport bus exploded adjacent to the Hilton Hotel and directly outside the Ethiopian Government Mapping Office at approximately 8:00 p.m. The incident occurred 1.5 miles from the U.S. Embassy on a heavily traveled street passing through a part of the capital primarily occupied by Government of Ethiopia offices and the Hilton and Sheraton Hotels. Four people were killed in the explosion and at least five others were injured. One of those killed was a dual national Israeli-American citizen.

COUNTRIES WITH ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Chad	1
Ethiopia	1
Nigeria	1
Sudan	1
Zimbabwe	1

TARGET OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Business	1
Government	2
Missionary	1
Private	1 *

TYPES OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Assassination	1
Bombing	1 *
Harassment	1
Kidnapping	1
Hostage Release	1

* *May 20 – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: A small transport bus exploded adjacent to the Hilton Hotel and directly outside the Ethiopian Government Mapping Office. Four people were killed in the explosion and five others were injured. One of the individuals killed was a dual national Israeli-American citizen.*

June 19 – Ijaw, Bayelsa, Nigeria

At approximately 5:45 a.m., a U.S.-flagged vessel on contract to Chevron was boarded by 15 armed gunmen belonging to the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND). At the time of the incident, the vessel was approximately 27 nautical miles off the Nigerian coastline. Among the crew were two expatriates, a Bangladeshi national, and the captain, who was a U.S. citizen. All crewmembers were released several hours later.

July 24 – Bardai, Chad

A kidnapped American missionary held since October 2007 was released by members of a Chadian rebel group, The Movement for Democracy and Justice in Chad. He was handed over to the custody of the governor of Bardai.

June 5 – Mazowe, Zimbabwe

While traveling in a vehicle north of Harare, three U.S. diplomats and one locally engaged staff (LES) member were detained, harassed, and threatened by government officials, members of the security forces, military, police, youth militia, and "war veterans," beginning at approximately 11:00 a.m. The diplomats were completing a human rights assessment trip to the town of Bindura. Two additional U.S. officials, both members of the U.S. Embassy's Regional Security Office, were dispatched to assist but were subsequently detained. Embassy staff were detained for more than five hours by police after their vehicle tires were deflated and other measures were taken to prohibit their movement. During the day-long incident, the lives of the travelers were threatened repeatedly and an LES was beaten. All Embassy staff members ultimately were released at the behest of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

June 18 – Nabatiye, Lebanon

More than 100 Shi'ite Hizballah supporters attacked the motorcade of the U.S. Charge D'Affaires (CDA) with sticks and stones. The CDA was having lunch at the home of the head of Nabitye's business organization when the demonstrators gathered outside the house protesting the visit. Several vehicles in the motorcade sustained minor damage, and two Embassy security personnel were slightly injured. The motorcade and Embassy personnel safely returned to the mission.

COUNTRIES WITH ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Iraq	9
Lebanon	2
Yemen	5

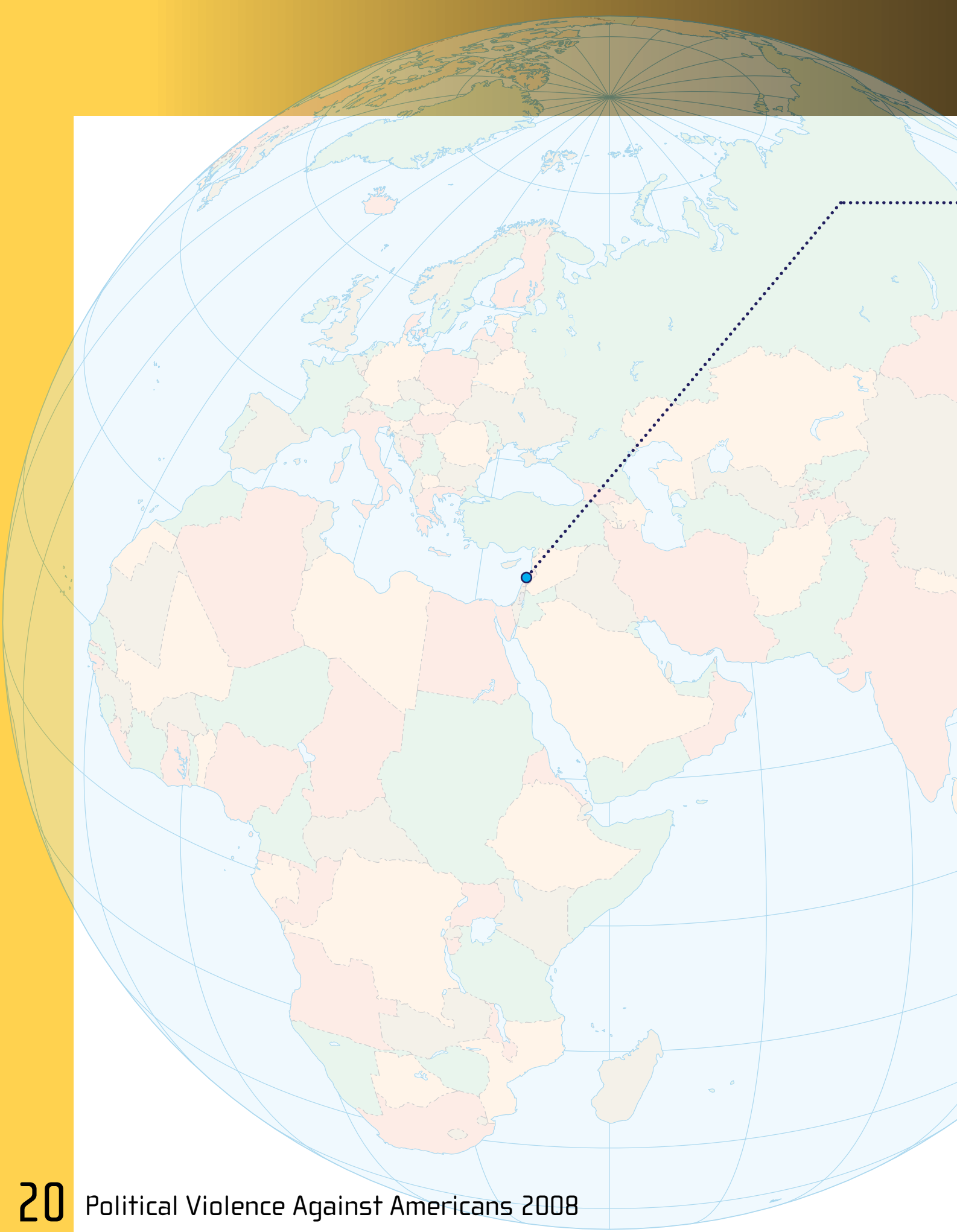
TARGET OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

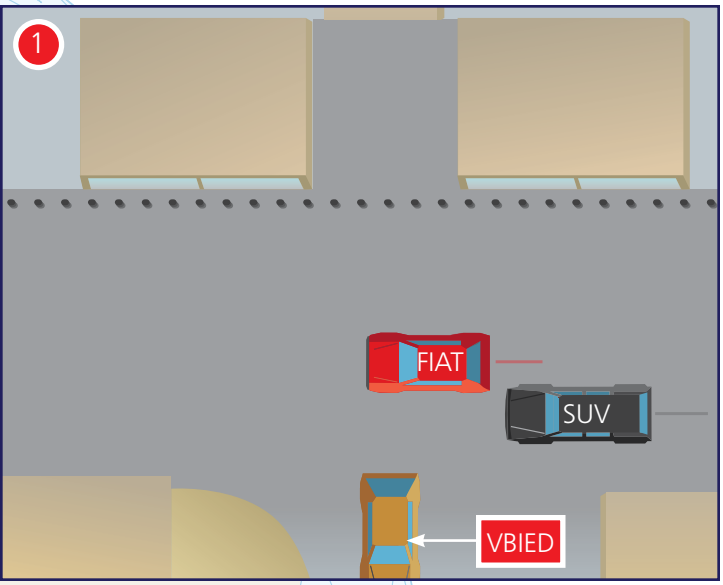
Government	13
Military	1
Other	1
Private	1 *

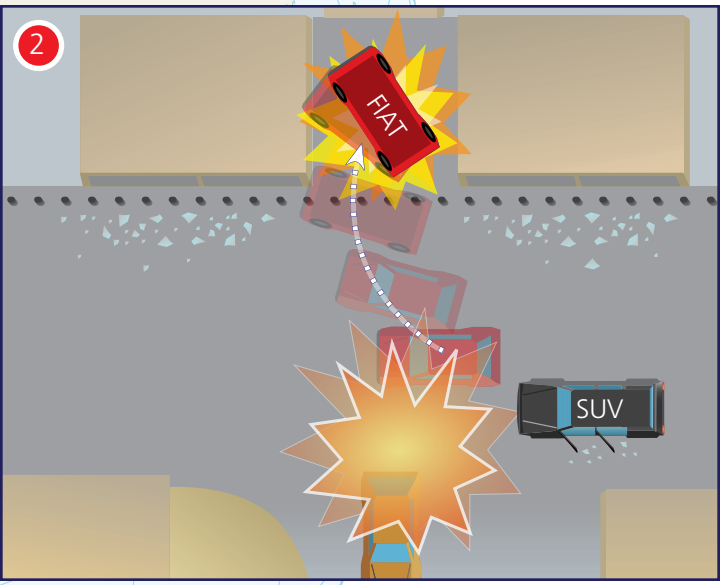
TYPES OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Armed Assault	1
Attempted Bombing	1
Bomb	5
Mortar	2
Kidnapping	1 *
Rocket Attack	4
Strafing	1
Violent Demonstration	1

* *September 29 – Dhamar, Yemen: An American couple and their three children were forced off the road by a vehicle with four armed men. Three of the gunmen got into the Americans' vehicle and drove off with the family. By nightfall, they were driving on rocky terrain and the left rear tire was flat. When the American could not change the tire, the three gunmen walked away to get help. At that point, the American family drove away on the flat tire. In due course they came upon a government checkpoint, where they were rescued. It is likely the victims were kidnapped because they were foreigners and not specifically because they were Americans.*







January 15 – Beirut, Lebanon

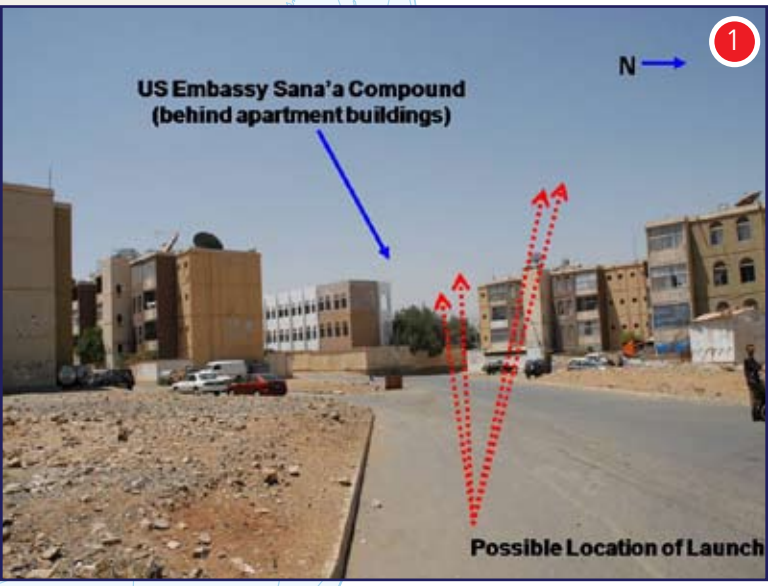
A U.S. Embassy vehicle was damaged by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) parked on the side of the road in the Karantina-Dora area of Beirut, at 4:25 p.m. The Embassy vehicle was returning to the Embassy from Beirut International Airport. The explosion caused massive damage to the surrounding buildings and vehicles. Four persons were killed in the explosion, and approximately 40 others were injured including two Embassy locally employed staff members and an American tourist. The four persons killed were riding in a red Fiat vehicle, which was hit with the full force of the blast. It was traveling directly in front of the Embassy vehicle. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

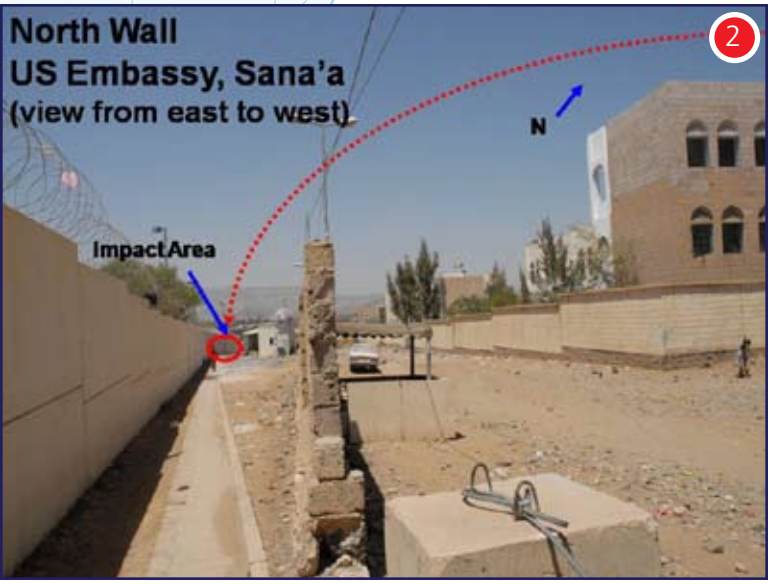
April 6 – Sana'a, Yemen

Three mortars were launched against the al-Hadda western residential compound. Many U.S. Embassy employees reside in al-Hadda, in addition to numerous others from the West. There were no reported injuries, and damage to buildings on the compound was minimal.

April 10 – Sana'a, Yemen

Two unexploded improvised explosive devices were discovered near the west wall of the al-Hadda residential complex. The configuration was similar to two IEDs found in the office compound of the Canadian oil company Nexen on the same day. One of the IEDs detonated, but no casualties resulted. Yemeni security forces made one arrest in connection with the planted explosives.





March 18 – Sana'a, Yemen

Four mortars were launched against the U.S. Embassy compound resulting in injuries to several Yemeni soldiers; U.S. facilities sustained little or no damage.

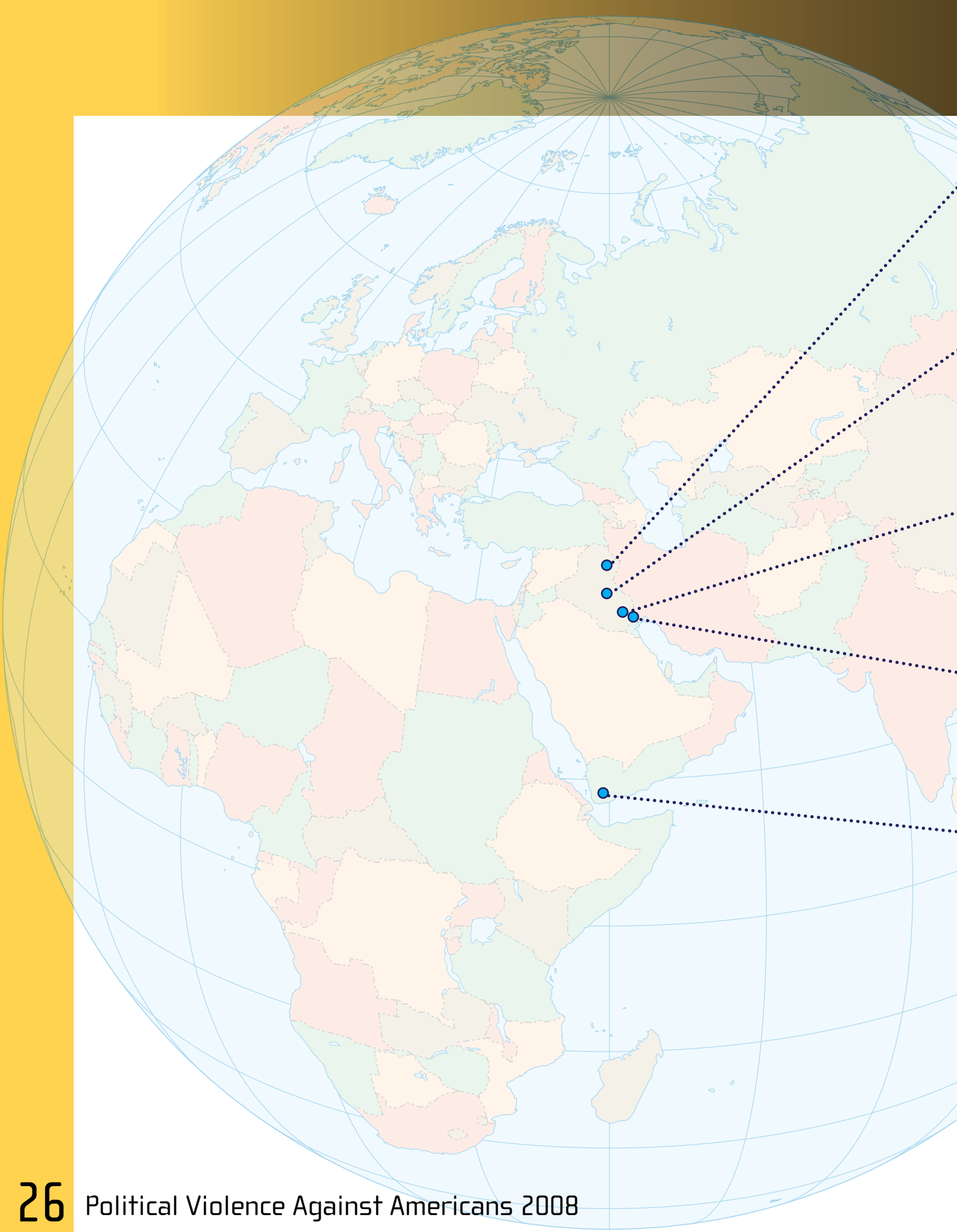
September 17 – Sana'a, Yemen

At approximately 9:13 a.m., a vehicle disguised as an official Yemeni Government vehicle approached the first entrance checkpoint at the U.S. Embassy. Inside the vehicle were three gunmen, a driver, and a passenger, all wearing Ministry of Interior Central Security Force (CSF) uniforms and explosive vests. At the vehicle entrance checkpoint, one of the gunmen stood up through the vehicle roof and shot and killed a Local Guard Force member who was manning the drop-arm barrier. Simultaneously, three other gunmen exited the vehicle and shot and killed a member of the CSF who stood nearby. Approximately 20 seconds later, a second vehicle containing a driver and passenger wearing CSF uniforms and explosive vests arrived on the scene. Both vehicles were rigged as vehicle-borne explosive devices.

The two vehicles then proceeded down the external Embassy access road, and three of the gunmen followed on foot. As the first vehicle drove toward the Embassy main entrance gate, its occupants opened fire on host-nation security forces stationed along the roadway, and then detonated. The second vehicle drove through the wreckage and proceeded towards the Embassy's main wall. Meanwhile, the three terrorists on foot had arrived at the same location along the post's main perimeter wall. One of the gunmen on foot then shot and killed an American woman and her husband.

After the second vehicle detonated approximately 50 yards from the Embassy's main entrance, the three terrorists on foot fired their weapons into the Embassy compound, and one of them detonated his explosive vest. The remaining two terrorists shot indiscriminately into the Embassy compound; no one was injured. A second terrorist then detonated his explosive vest. The bomber was killed but no one else was hurt. The remaining terrorist returned and detonated his suicide vest near the entrance checkpoint where the attack began. The attack resulted in the deaths of 18 persons, including one American. No Americans were among the injured.

Following the attack, a group called the Islamic Jihad Organization of Yemen claimed responsibility. The group is likely affiliated with al-Qaida. Al-Qaida-linked groups are believed responsible for previous terrorist attacks in Yemen, including a July 2007 attack in which eight Spanish tourists were killed in Ma'rib, as well as the January 2008 small arms attack against Belgian tourists in Hadhramawt Governate.



April 21 – Kirkuk, Iraq
A roadside improvised explosive device detonated on the left side of the road as a Chief of Mission motorcade passed by. The protective security car traveling behind the COM's vehicle sustained most of the damage; however there were no serious injuries to any personnel.

April 23 – Al-Hillah, Iraq
A roadside improvised explosive device detonated several yards in front of an Embassy security advance vehicle while en route to a local venue. The security vehicle was damaged, rendering the vehicle inoperative. Occupants left the vehicle and returned safely to the Regional Embassy Office in al-Hillah.

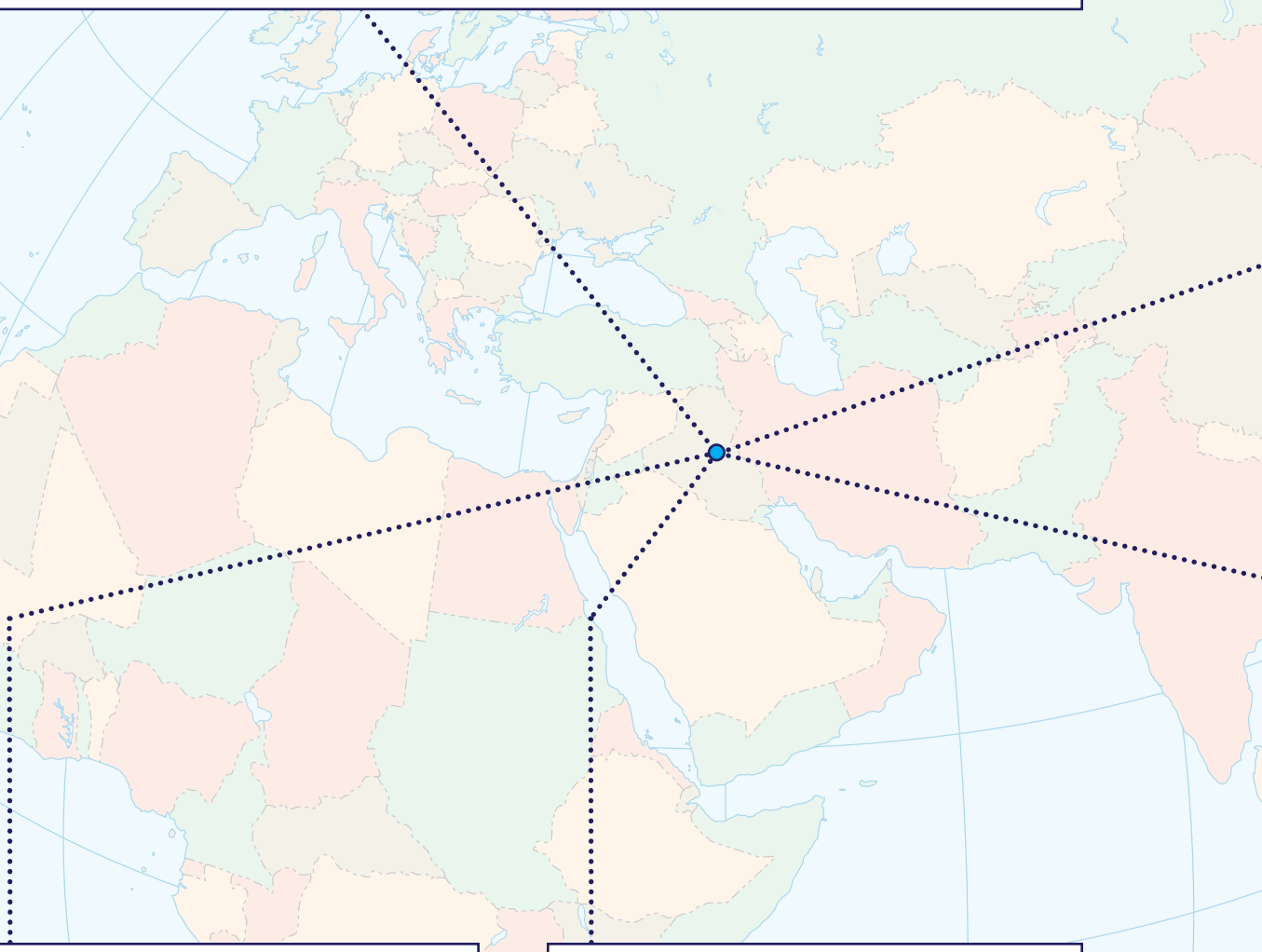
March 18 – Tallil, Iraq
U.S. Embassy helicopters were transporting USAID officials from Tallil to Baghdad when electronic countermeasures sounded an alarm and the pilots took evasive action. Crew members observed a spiral smoke trail. No personnel were injured and no damage to the helicopter was sustained.

August 28 – Basrah, Iraq
Two rockets were fired at Basrah Air Station at approximately 8:24 p.m. One rocket penetrated the overhead cover of the Regional Embassy Office located at the Station, and passed through two trailers before embedding in the ground. No one was injured in the attack.

September 29 – Dhamar, Yemen
As an American couple and their three children were traveling between the Sana'a security checkpoint and the city of Dhamar, a vehicle with four men pulled alongside their vehicle at approximately 3:00 p.m. and motioned for them to pull over. The American ignored them and continued driving. The vehicle then pulled alongside the American's car and attempted to force the Americans off the road. The men inside were brandishing weapons. The American pulled his vehicle over to the side of the road and three of the men got into the American's vehicle, driving off with the family in the car. The husband offered them money, but they indicated that they were not interested in money or the car. They said that they wanted something from the Yemeni government, but did not elaborate.

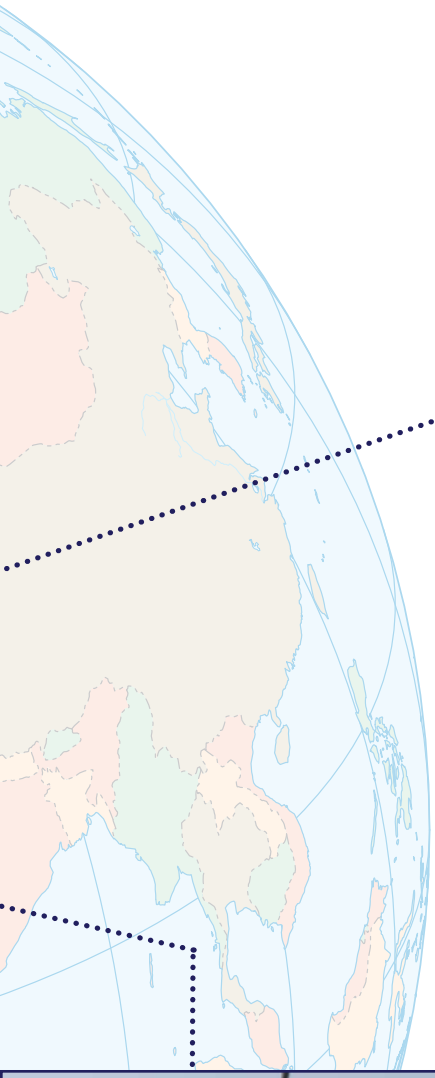
For the next several hours, the gunmen drove their kidnap victims past several villages. By nightfall, they were driving on rocky terrain and the left rear tire had a blowout. The men told the American to change the tire, but he did not know how to release the spare tire underneath the carriage. The kidnappers told the Americans to stay where they were and walked away to get help. The American family got back in the car and drove away on the flat tire. In due course, they came upon a government checkpoint outside Dhamar, where the Americans were rescued.

February 23 – Baghdad, Iraq
At approximately 6:18 a.m., six rockets were fired at the International Zone (IZ) over a 20-minute period. Two rounds damaged two U.S. Embassy helicopters and slightly damaged two other Embassy helicopters. Other rounds caused structural damage to various other facilities within the IZ.



March 5 – Baghdad, Iraq
During a visit by U.S. officials, one of three U.S. Embassy helicopters providing reconnaissance and escort service for a joint Embassy/military protective security detail received 15-20 rounds of ground fire. The helicopters were not hit, and they did not return fire. The helicopters returned to the mission without further incident.

May 26 – Baghdad, Iraq
An Embassy motorcade was hit by a roadside IED. One vehicle was destroyed, but there were no injuries. The motorcade carrying USAID personnel completed its mission to the Sadr City section of the capital and returned to the Embassy without incident.



March 22-31 – Baghdad, Iraq

Unidentified individuals launched 42 separate indirect fire attacks against the International Zone. The attacks resulted in the deaths of two U.S. Chief of Mission personnel and one local national; wounded 15 U.S. citizens, six third-country nationals, and 12 local nationals; and damaged several facilities, vehicles, and air assets.

June 24 – Baghdad, Iraq

An improvised explosive device detonated at approximately 9:30 a.m. inside a District Advisory Council (DAC) building in Sadr City, where embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) members had arrived to attend a scheduled meeting. The explosion killed four Americans (a U.S. Department of State employee, a U.S. Department of Defense contractor, and two U.S. military members) and one third-country national who was working for the PRT. One U.S. military officer and one Iraqi army officer sustained injuries. An Iraqi DAC member also was wounded in the attack. While it appears that the Chief of Mission and/or Department of Defense personnel were specifically targeted in this incident, there was speculation that the injured Iraqi DAC member may have been the intended target. Reports indicate that the member had received earlier death threats linked to his interaction with the U.S. Government and Coalition Forces in Iraq.

November 26-27 – Mumbai, India

At least 10 suspected Lashkar-e-Tayyiba terrorists, operating under the cover name Deccan Mujahidin, launched a coordinated attack using AK-47 assault weapons and grenades against various locals in southern Mumbai. The operatives arrived by boat from the coast and reportedly had access to information regarding the targeted locals, gathered from intense surveillance conducted at least a year in advance of the attack. The terrorists organized themselves into four teams, with one two-man team targeting the train station and hospital; another team targeting the Trident-Oberoi Hotel; and a third team striking a Jewish Center. The fourth team of four men targeted the Taj Mahal Hotel. Confrontations with police lasted 60 hours and resulted in at least 183 deaths, including 22 foreigners, six of whom were American. Three of the Americans were killed at the Trident-Oberoi Hotel, and three others were killed at the Jewish Center. Over 300 others were injured, including three Americans.

COUNTRIES WITH ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Afghanistan ----------5
India ----------1
Pakistan ----------5

TARGET OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Business ----------3 *
Nongovernmental Organization (NGO) ----------3
Other ----------3 **
Government----------2

TYPES OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Ambush ----------1
Assassination----------1
Armed Assault ----------4
Bomb ----------4
Kidnapping ----------1

* *January 14 – Kabul, Afghanistan: Two armed gunmen stormed the Serena Hotel. By the time the attack was over, eight people were killed and six others were injured. Among the dead were one American and one terrorist.*

* *March 15 – Islamabad, Pakistan: An unknown perpetrator tossed a black bag containing a bomb over the wall of the Luna Caprese Restaurant, an establishment popular with foreigners. The explosion wounded 12 people, including five U.S. officials, and killed one Turkish national female.*

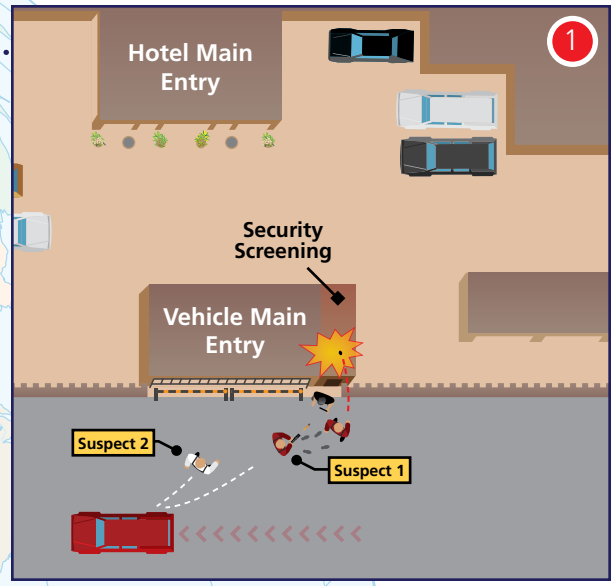
** *April 27 – Kabul, Afghanistan: Afghan President Hamid Karzai along with several other officials, including U.S. and foreign diplomats, attended Afghanistan's Victory Day parade. During the 21-cannon salute, Taliban militants opened fire on the grandstand and parade group from a hotel located nearby. Three people were killed in the attack and 12 others wounded (none of them Americans). During the counter-attack by government forces, one of the attackers was killed. When Afghan security forces stormed the hotel room, they found that two other terrorists had committed suicide.*

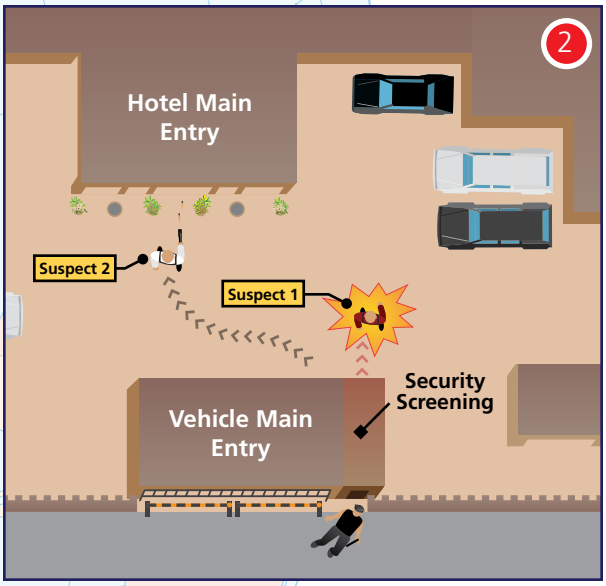
** *June 2 – Islamabad, Pakistan: A vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) detonated outside the residence of the Dutch Embassy. Ten people were reported killed and 30 wounded in the blast. No Americans were injured, but eight U.S. Embassy homes in the neighborhood were damaged by the explosion and flying debris.*

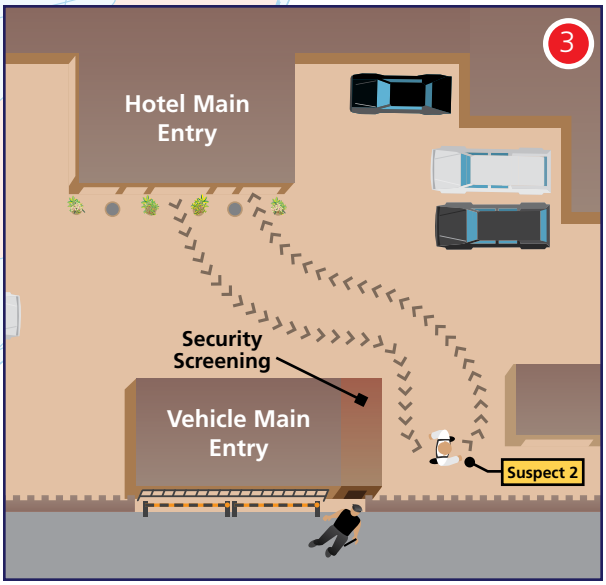
** *November 26-27 – Mumbai, India: At least 10 terrorists launched a coordinated attack against various locals in the Colaba-Nariman point area of southern Mumbai. Confrontations with police lasted 60 hours and resulted in at least 183 deaths, including 22 foreigners of whom six were Americans. Over 300 people were injured, including three Americans.*

April 27 – Kabul, Afghanistan

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, along with several hundred officials including U.S. and foreign diplomats, attended Afghanistan's Victory Day parade. During the event's opening 21-cannon salute, Taliban militants armed with machine guns and grenade launchers opened fire on the grandstand and parade grounds from inside the nearby Aqcha Hotel. Three persons were killed in the attack and 12 others wounded (none were American). During the response by government forces, one of the attackers was shot and fatally wounded. When Afghan security forces stormed the hotel room, they found that two other terrorists had committed suicide.







January 14 – Kabul, Afghanistan

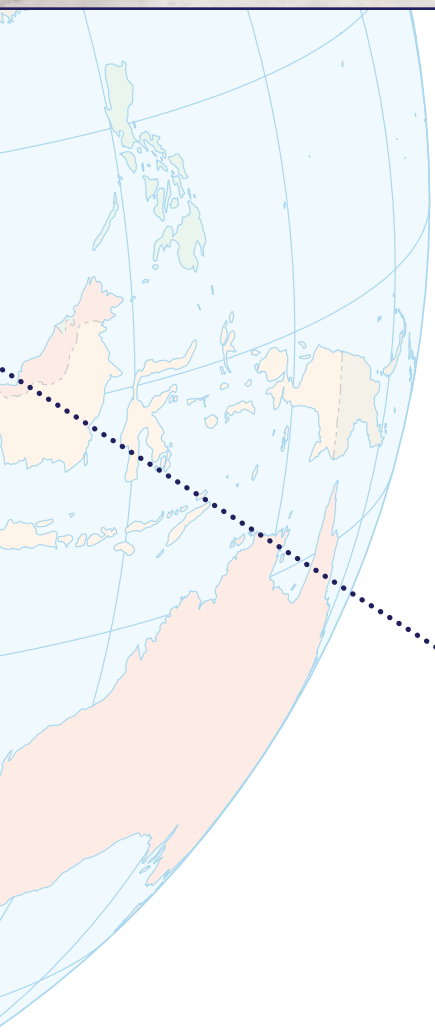
At approximately 6:25 p.m., two gunmen armed with AK-47 assault rifles and hand grenades, wearing explosive vests, were driven to the Serena Hotel by a third terrorist. They ran towards the front gate of the hotel, opened fire with their assault rifles, and threw a hand grenade, killing a guard on the street. The two gunmen then ran through the security screening room and towards the hotel entrance. One gunman's explosive vest detonated and killed him. The other opened fire in the main lobby of the hotel. During the attack, the remaining gunman ran down a hotel hallway and then downstairs to the spa and gym area. There he killed an American contractor with USAID and a hotel employee of Filipino nationality. Upon returning upstairs, the gunman discarded his weapon and explosive vest, and tried to walk out of the hotel with the other guests and employees, but was apprehended by Afghan authorities.

Eight people were killed and six others were injured during the attack. Afterwards, a spokesman for the Taliban claimed responsibility.

December 26 – Herat Province, Afghanistan
A vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near a two-vehicle International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) motorcade in Herat City. One American and one third-country national INL worker were injured when their vehicle was badly damaged in the blast.

August 13 – Logar, Afghanistan

Three International Rescue Committee (IRC) aid workers and their driver, under contract with USAID, were killed in an ambush in Logar Province, south of Kabul. One of the victims was a dual national Trinidadian-American citizen. They were traveling on a major highway in a vehicle clearly marked with the IRC logo when five men opened small-arms fire on their convoy. Afterward, a Taliban spokesman accused the IRC employees of being spies.



January 26 – Kandahar, Afghanistan

At approximately 7:47 a.m., an American aid worker for the Asian Rural Life Development Foundation and her driver were kidnapped at gunpoint in a residential area in Kandahar while en route to work. The aid worker, who was fluent in Dari and wore a burqa, had lived in Kandahar since 2005. Her driver had been working for the Foundation for two years. Three days later, approximately 500 Afghan women protested the kidnapping and called for the release of the aid worker and her driver. The aid worker is reported to have been killed later by militants.

September 20 – Islamabad, Pakistan

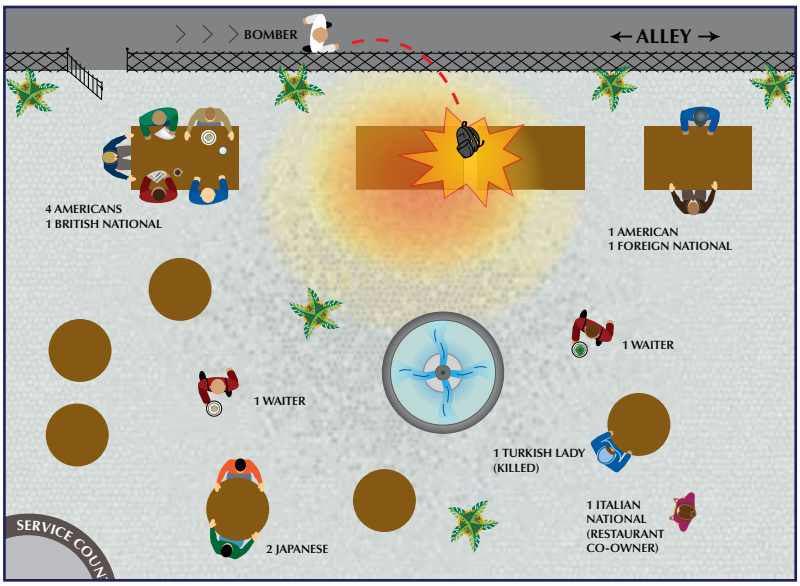
At approximately 8:02 p.m., a dump truck bearing a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device rammed the drop arm and delta barrier at the public entrance to the Marriott Hotel. While stopped at the gate, a medium-sized explosion occurred inside the cab of the truck. Seven minutes after the initial explosion, a larger explosion took place that was felt well over a mile from the hotel. The second explosion destroyed the entire front section of the hotel. The blast killed 53 people, including three Americans and the Czech Ambassador to Pakistan. Another 266 people, including 22 Americans, were injured. The explosion created a crater measuring 51 by 48 feet in diameter, and approximately 25 feet deep. It is believed that the truck contained 800 to 1000 kilos of explosives. Following the attack, a previously unknown group calling itself Fedayeen of Islam claimed responsibility in a telephone call to al Arabiya television in Islamabad.

June 2 – Islamabad, Pakistan

A vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated outside the residence of the Danish Embassy at approximately 1:00 p.m. The vehicle had falsified diplomatic license plates that enabled it to pass through the security checkpoint. Ten persons were killed and 30 wounded in the blast. No Americans were injured, but eight U.S. Embassy homes in the neighborhood were damaged by the explosion and flying debris. An internet posting three days later, attributed to al-Qaida, claimed responsibility for the attack.

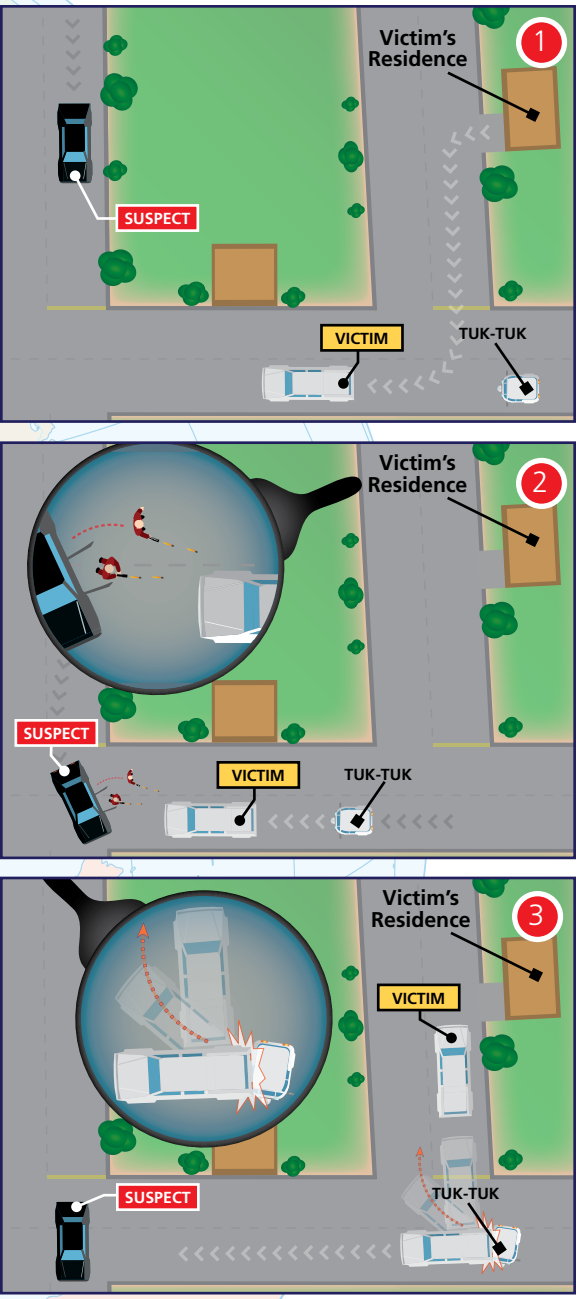
March 15 – Islamabad, Pakistan

At approximately 8:30 p.m., an unknown perpetrator tossed a black bag containing a bomb over the wall of the Luna Caprese Restaurant, an establishment popular with foreigners. The bomb contained five to ten pounds of explosives, and landed only a few feet from where U.S. officials were seated. The explosion wounded 12 people, including five U.S. officials, and killed one Turkish national.



November 12 – Peshawar, Pakistan

Unknown gunmen shot and killed an American USAID contractor and his Pakistani driver in the upscale University Town section of Peshawar, at approximately 8:13 a.m. Four attackers in a vehicle blocked the American's unarmored vehicle, shot and killed the driver, and then shot the contractor. The attack occurred as the employee was heading to work and was within two blocks of his office. No group or individual claimed responsibility for the attack.



August 26 – Peshawar, Pakistan

At approximately 8:20 a.m., the U.S. Consulate's Principal Officer (PO) departed her residence en route to U.S. Embassy Islamabad in her fully armored vehicle. Inside the vehicle were the driver, an armed Pakistani bodyguard, and the PO. A short distance from the residence, another vehicle traveling in the opposite direction pulled in front of the PO's vehicle to block its forward movement. Two gunmen with AK-47 rifles got out of their vehicle while it was still moving and began shooting at the Embassy vehicle's engine and tires, firing into the driver's side with five bullet impact points and firing one round in the right rear tire. The PO's driver immediately put the vehicle in reverse, striking and pushing a motorized tuk-tuk which was behind it. The PO's vehicle returned safely to the PO's residence, and no one in the vehicle was injured. The only injury was sustained by the tuk-tuk driver.

COUNTRIES WITH ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS
Japan ----------1

TARGET OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS
Government----------1

TYPES OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS
Molotov cocktail ----------1

July 14 – Naha, Japan

At approximately 1:18 p.m., an unknown individual riding a motorcycle threw a Molotov cocktail over the wall of the U.S. Consulate General. The device landed in an open area inside the wall, far from the Consulate General building. Upon impact, the bottle shattered, ignited, and burned out, inflicting no injuries or damage. No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but Japan had just hosted the 34th Group of Eight (G-8) summit.

CONCLUSION

Evidence indicates that the overseas security environment generally remains hazardous, with many extremist groups and individuals intent on promoting political and ideological causes through violence and social disruptions. In many instances, Americans and U.S. interests appear to be targeted intentionally, while in other cases Americans are victimized randomly along with other nationalities. In any case, the need for constant vigilance, awareness of surroundings, and avoidance of potentially dangerous situations should be obvious.

Reasonable precautions can significantly minimize vulnerability. Information regarding the incidence of violence, and the nature of assaults, can be useful for this purpose. Towards this end, it is hoped that Political Violence Against Americans will prove to be a valuable resource.

PHOTO CREDITS:

AP WIDEWORLD: Pages 6–13, 18, 29–31, 35–37

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