



National Counterterrorism Center

2008 Report on Terrorism

30 April 2009





The National Counterterrorism Center publishes the *NCTC Report on Terrorism* in electronic format. US Government officials and the public may access the report via the Internet at:

<http://www.nctc.gov/>

Information available as of March 20, 2009 was used for this edition of the report. For updated information on attacks, consult the Worldwide Incidents Tracking System on the Internet at the NCTC public web site.

Office of the Director of National Intelligence
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2008 NCTC Report on Terrorism

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Academic Letter: *Challenges and Recommendations for Measuring Terrorism*



United To Protect

FOREWORD

Developing Statistical Information

Consistent with its statutory mission to serve as the United States (US) government's knowledge bank on international terrorism, the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) is providing the Department of State with required statistical information to assist in the satisfaction of its reporting requirements under Section 2656f of title 22 of the US Code (USC). The statistical information included in this Annex to the 2008 Country Reports on Terrorism is drawn from the data that NCTC maintains on the www.nctc.gov website.

Section 2656f(b) of Title 22 of the USC requires the State Department to include in its annual report on terrorism "to the extent practicable, complete statistical information on the number of individuals, including United States citizens and dual nationals, killed, injured, or kidnapped by each terrorist group during the preceding calendar year." While NCTC keeps statistics on the annual number of incidents of "terrorism," its ability to track the specific groups responsible for each incident involving killings, kidnappings, and injuries is significantly limited by the availability of reliable open source information, particularly for events involving small numbers of casualties or occurring in remote regions of the world. Moreover, specific details about victims, damage, perpetrators, and other incident elements are frequently not fully reported in open source information.

- Therefore, the statistical material in this report is drawn from the incidents of "terrorism" that occurred in 2008 as reported in open source media. This information is the most comprehensive body of information available to NCTC for compiling data to satisfy the above-referenced statistical requirements.

In deriving its figures for incidents of terrorism, NCTC in 2005 adopted the definition of "terrorism" that appears in 22 USC § 2656f(d)(2), i.e., "premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents."

- Through 2004, NCTC compiled statistical data on the basis of a more limited methodology tied to the definition of "international terrorism," which is also contained in 22 USC § 2656f.
- Because of the change in methodology, the NCTC data is only comparable starting with the 2005 calendar year data, the highlights of which are contained in the 2005 *Country Reports on Terrorism*.
- Subject to changes in reporting statutes, NCTC anticipates that its future statistics will continue to be tied to the broader definition of "terrorism."

To record and update attack records, NCTC continues to post information in the Worldwide Incidents Tracking System (WITS), the repository for the US government's authoritative database on terror attacks, which was unveiled in 2005. A data management system with a more comprehensive dataset than those used in years prior to 2004, WITS is accessible on the NCTC website at www.nctc.gov, offering the public an open and transparent view of the NCTC data. NCTC will ensure that the data posted to the website is updated as often as necessary by regularly posting information about new or prior attacks.

Considerations for Interpreting the Data

Tracking and analyzing terrorist incidents can help us understand some important characteristics about terrorism, including the geographic distribution of attacks and information about the perpetrators, their victims, and other details. Year-to-year changes in the gross number of attacks across the globe, however, may tell us little about the international community's effectiveness either for preventing these incidents, or for reducing the capacity of terrorists to advance their agenda through violence against the innocent.

NCTC cautions against placing too much emphasis on the use of attack data to gauge success or failure against the forces of terrorism. Furthermore, NCTC does not believe that a simple comparison of the total number of attacks from year to year provides a meaningful measure.

- Tallying attack data necessarily involves relying exclusively on frequently incomplete and ambiguous information—information for these statistics is not derived from federal government collection programs created or operated specifically to obtain attack data. The quality, accuracy, and volume of open source reporting can vary greatly from country to country. As a result, determining whether an attack meets the statutory criteria for a terror attack is often difficult and highly subjective. This is particularly true if the attack does not involve mass casualties because detailed information is not typically available on these events since they are not usually subject to heavy media coverage. Furthermore, in the parts of the world where there is little press coverage and sparse non-governmental organization presence, terror attacks often go unreported.
- Attack tallies do not exclusively provide a complete picture of the magnitude or seriousness of the terrorism challenge confronting a country or region. For example, the fact that 50 percent of the attacks in the NCTC database involve no loss of life would be only one factor for assessing the danger of terrorism globally. Moreover, different factors weigh more heavily than others in assessing the dangers posed by terrorism. For example, an attack that kills 100 civilians is likely to be considered

more alarming than an attack that damages a pipeline but harms no one; however, each attack is simply tallied as one incident.

- Counting protocols are necessary and inevitably require judgment calls that may have an impact on results. For example, NCTC protocols dictate that events identified as simultaneous and coordinated would be recorded as one attack, as would be secondary attacks that targeted first responders. For instance, on the morning of August 17, 2005, there were approximately 450 small bomb attacks in Bangladesh¹, and because they were coordinated according to a central plan, NCTC counted them as a single event. Other valid counting protocols would register these attacks as 450 separate attacks.
- Analyzing attack data from year to year to identify patterns and notable deviations or trends in the data is problematic, and may not be meaningful in some cases. The availability, quality, and depth of open source reporting vary, making it hard to isolate whether a rise or fall of a particular data element from one year to the next is due to an increase or decrease of this open source reporting or whether actual events are behind the change in the data.

Despite these limitations, WITS can be a valuable tool for facilitating empirical research on terrorism.

¹ “ICN 200574834.” Online posting. Worldwide Incidents Tracking System. Last updated, 12/31/2008. National Counterterrorism Center. 3/20/2009 <<http://wits.nctc.gov/>>.

Methodology Utilized to Compile NCTC's Database of Attacks

The data provided in WITS consist of incidents in which subnational or clandestine groups or individuals deliberately or recklessly attacked civilians or noncombatants (including military personnel and assets outside war zones and war-like settings).² Determination of what constitutes a terrorist act, however, can be more art than science; information is often incomplete, fact patterns may be open to interpretation, and perpetrators' intent is rarely clear. Moreover, information may become available over time, changing initial judgments about attacks. Users of this database should therefore recognize that reasonable people may differ on whether a particular attack actually constitutes terrorism or if it reflects some other form of political violence. NCTC has made every effort to limit the degree of subjectivity involved in the judgments, and in the interests of transparency, has adopted a set of counting rules that are delineated below.

Terrorists must have initiated and executed the attack for it to be included in the database; failed or foiled attacks, as well as hoaxes, are not included in the database. Spontaneous hate crimes without intent to cause mass casualties are excluded, though it should be understood that often there is insufficient information to judge whether an attack was planned or spontaneous. While genocidal events can be interpreted as the most extreme form of politically motivated violence against civilians, attacks in this category are excluded, in part because of the inherent difficulty in counting such events and because the inevitable undercount does not do justice to the scope and depth of such atrocities. Moreover, the question of whether or not acts of genocide should be included in the WITS database was posed to a panel of academics at the 2008 Brain Trust on Terrorism Metrics. The panel suggested that acts that meet the criteria for genocide should be excluded from the database.

Determining when perpetrators have targeted noncombatants can also be difficult. Military personnel and assets outside war zones and war-like settings pose one challenge to the noncombatant provision of the definition, while police under military command and control, and organized groups of armed civilians inside war zones and war-like settings pose another challenge. With the endorsement of the 2007 Brain Trust on Terrorism Metrics, NCTC developed a combatant matrix which details the various areas of war-like settings and the common actors, such as military police, militias, soldiers and other combatant-like actors. The analysts use the matrix in complex cases to determine when an act targeting combatant-like actors should be included in WITS. The combatant matrix is adjusted as the circumstances in world conflicts change or evolve. The distinction between terrorism and insurgency in Iraq was especially challenging in previous years, as Iraqis participated in both the Sunni terrorist networks and the former-regime-elements' insurgency, targeting both civilians and combatants, and often affecting both populaces. Terrorist attacks against combatants count as

² For the precise wording of the statutory definition, see Title 22 US Code § 2656f (d) (2).

reckless and indiscriminate when terrorists could have reasonably foreseen that their attack would result in civilian casualties. Therefore, combatants may be included as victims in some attacks when their presence was incidental to an attack aimed at noncombatants, and some attacks may be deemed terrorism when they recklessly affect civilians when targeting combatants.

The WITS database contains a field that allows analysts to categorize an incident by "event type." Event types are coded in the database as one or more of the following: armed attack, arson/firebombing, assassination, assault, barricade/hostage, bombing, CBRN, crime, firebombing, hijacking, hoax, kidnapping, near miss/non-attack, other, theft, unknown, and vandalism. While some incidents can clearly be coded using this taxonomy, other kinds of attacks are more difficult to define. When it can be determined, incidents that involve multiple types of attacks are coded with multiple event types. Incidents involving mortars, rocket-propelled grenades or missiles generally fall under armed attack, although improvised explosive devices (IED), including vehicle-borne IEDs (VBIED), fall under bombing. VBIEDs include any IED built into or made a part of a vehicle including cars, trucks, bicycles, and motorcycles. Suicide events are also captured, but the perpetrator must have died in the attack for the event type "suicide" to be included.

The WITS database categorizes victims of an incident. Civilians, business, students, military and police are some of the several dozen victim types captured in WITS. Additionally, the nationalities are recorded in WITS where open source reports such information. The methodology presumes most victims to be local nationals unless otherwise reported in the press.

In the cases of Iraq and Afghanistan, it is particularly difficult to gather comprehensive information about all attacks and to distinguish terrorism from the numerous other forms of violence, including crime and sectarian attacks. During the past twelve months, analysts have noted a decline in open source reporting in some provinces in Afghanistan that have deteriorating security. Thus, WITS has limited attack information for these provinces; this is symptomatic of the general difficulty of collecting data in a war zone and reinforces our view that the WITS data undercount attacks in Iraq and Afghanistan. Finally, separating crime from terrorism can be difficult, particularly when the criminal act is used to support future terrorist operations. During the 2007 Brain Trust on Terrorism Metrics, outside academics endorsed a decision tree used by analysts to determine when a crime committed in support of terrorism would be included in WITS. For instance, a kidnapping for ransom by a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) would be included in WITS, but a bank robbery to fund future operations would not.

In an effort to provide greater granularity and analytic service, in 2007 NCTC introduced to the database the concept of "targeting characteristics." The purpose was to capture,

where possible, the underlying motivating factors for attacks. Victims and facilities are coded to enable searching for violence against specific targets and incidents in which Westerners, Christians, and other groups were targeted because of their cultural, ethnic, or religious identities. The intent of this field is not to identify all victims who happened to be Muslims, Christians, etc., but rather to categorize victims who appeared to be targeted because they were Muslims, Christians, etc.

Traditionally, NCTC has only attributed attacks to perpetrators when a claim of responsibility was made or if reporting indicated a belief that a particular perpetrator was responsible. Those groups that have already been designated as foreign terrorist organizations by the State Department, that have themselves claimed responsibility for terrorist actions or status as a terrorist group, or that have been repeatedly and reliably suspected of involvement in specific terrorist activities are included in WITS. As noted, we often get neither piece of information and as a result, many of the attacks list an unknown perpetrator. For instance in 2007, over 60 percent of all attacks were listed as having unknown perpetrators. Where the analysts had information, they provided a confidence level of likely, plausible or unlikely. In an effort to improve analytic capability, and at the request of a panel of outside academics, NCTC added a new confidence level in the 2008 data that is associated with perpetrators to assist researchers. The new value is "Inferred."

In instances where available information provides neither a claim of responsibility nor a belief that a particular perpetrator was responsible, NCTC may now infer a perpetrator. Such inferences are based on an evaluation of the characteristics of the attack and other factors. In cases where the attack characteristics match the modus operandi of a single group, or a group is known to be the only one operating in the region, for example, an inference is made that associates a group with the attack. If desired, these inferences may be filtered out of the result set by excluding the confidence level of "Inferred" in the Advanced Search facility of WITS as shown below.

The screenshot shows a search interface with several filter sections. At the top, there are input fields for 'TOTAL:', 'EXACT', 'MIN', and 'MAX'. Below this is a 'DAMAGE:' section with radio buttons for 'ANY OF' (selected), 'ALL OF', and 'EXCLUDE', and a dropdown menu with options: None, Light, Moderate, and Heavy. The 'PERPETRATOR' section is partially visible. The 'CONFIDENCE:' section is highlighted with a red circle and contains radio buttons for 'ANY OF' (selected), 'ALL OF', and 'EXCLUDE', along with a dropdown menu showing options: Unknown, Inferred (highlighted), Likely, and Plausible. A 'SELECT NATIONALITIES' button is also visible.

Thus far, this data value is being utilized largely for the inference of “Sunni extremist” attacks in some countries and only applies to the 2008 data. Such an inference is based upon specific parts of the country in which the attack occurred, the attack method used, or both factors.

NOTE: Users must be aware that such an analytic inference has not been applied to earlier years and as such queries must be carefully constructed to avoid fallacious conclusions about the change in the number of attacks conducted by Sunni extremists. If users do not wish to use this additional analytic inference they can maintain consistency across time-series data by filtering out the value as described above. Moreover, perpetrator characteristics may change over time. For instance, the Chechen rebels were previously categorized as secular/political, but are now categorized Sunni extremists because they declared themselves to be the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus in October of 2007 and claimed attacks under this name.

The database also enables greater granularity with respect to the impact of attacks. Killed, wounded, and kidnapped figures are provided. Kidnapped victims who were later killed are counted as killed; and kidnapped victims either liberated or still in captivity are counted as kidnapped. Any attack hitting a facility is now coded with a damage estimate of Light (\$1 to \$500 thousand), Moderate (\$500 thousand to \$20 million), or Heavy (over \$20 million). While it is inherently difficult to make damage assessments for attacks in different countries with different economic circumstances, these estimates allow users to garner a general sense of the overall level of attacks.

Representative 2008 Events Judged Not Terrorism

- On 2 February: In Baghdad, Iraq, families of the Air Force soccer club were given poisoned cakes which later killed two children and an adult. Not terrorism – Iraqi police arrested a recently fired soccer coach after confirming he had delivered the cakes to the club.
- 7 February: In Baghdad, Iraq, assailants detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device parked in front of a house as Sahwa paramilitary members were conducting a counterterrorism raid. Not terrorism – a counterterrorism operation; attack not started by the terrorists, and the militia men were in combatant status at the time of the raid.
- 14 February: In Sadr City, Baghdad, Iraq, a minibus exploded in a crowded market place, killing four civilians and a child, and injuring between 24 and 30 other civilians. Not terrorism – an accident, explosives are often sold on the black market, and this event was likely unintentional and lacks premeditation.
- 25 March: In Al Basrah, Baghdad, al Kut, Al Hillah, An Najaf, and Ad Diwaniyah cities in Iraq, Iraqi police and security forces launched a series of counterterrorism operations, resulting in a series of retaliatory attacks, killing at least 40 people including children, and wounding 200 others including children. Not terrorism – a counterterrorism operation; attack not started by the terrorists, and attack targeted combatants.
- 5 October: In Mosul, Iraq, militants attacked US soldiers raiding a house and a suicide bomber detonated his vest to avoid capture, killing three civilians and three children, and injuring one other child. Not terrorism – a counterterrorism operation; attack not started by the terrorists, and attack targeted combatants.
- 13 November: In Bangkok, Thailand, an explosive was detonated in the early morning hours at a market place where vendors were sleeping. Not terrorism – no political motivation; vendors were protesting with a sleep-in against the new owners of a market charging higher prices.
- 29 November: In Bangkok, Thailand, a grenade was thrown into a crowded market place, injuring between 17 and 19 people. Not terrorism – no political motivation; it is believed that 13 Nov. victims who were evicted from the market to make room for higher paying vendors were behind the retaliatory attack.

Because terrorism is a tactic used on many fronts by diverse perpetrators in different circumstances and with different aims, NCTC cautions against using attack data alone to gauge success against the forces of terrorism. NCTC does not believe that a simple comparison of the total number of attacks from year to year provides a meaningful metric for the following reasons:

* We continue to refine our counting rules as the study of terrorism evolves. Interaction with academics and outside terrorism experts convinces us that there will never be a "bright red line" around terrorist attacks, but instead, the definition of terrorism will always be a point of thoughtful debate. This evolution in our methodology for counting attacks is reflected in WITS and means that some types of year-to-year comparisons may be misleading.

* A quarter of the attacks in the database actually involve no loss of life whatsoever; while an attack against a pipeline and a VBIED attack that kills 100 civilians each count as one attack in the database, such a comparison hardly seems meaningful.

* The nature of this exercise necessarily involves incomplete and ambiguous information. The motivation behind attacks, specifically those that do not involve mass casualties, can be particularly difficult to discern.

* As additional sources of information are found and as more information becomes available from remote parts of the globe, we will continue to enrich the database. In the case of 2005, for example, attack totals in Nepal grew dramatically. However, this data cannot be meaningfully compared to 2004 data because it is not clear whether attacks on civilians were actually occurring at a substantially higher rate, or if the upward trend was simply the result of changes in reporting and collection.

* Finally, the very approach to counting attacks could skew results. For instance, on the morning of 17 August 2005 there were about 450 small bomb attacks in Bangladesh.³ WITS counted these as one incident because we judged the individual attacks to all be part of a larger coordinated attack; an argument could be made that these were 450 separate attacks.

In summary, tracking attacks against civilians and noncombatants can help us understand important trends related to the nature of the attacks, where they are occurring, victims, and perpetrators. However, year-to-year changes in the gross number of attacks across the globe may tell us nothing about the effectiveness of the international community in preventing attacks, reducing the capacity of extremists to wage war, or preventing extremists from advancing their agenda through violence against the innocent.

³ Ibid., “ICN 200574834.”

NCTC Observations Related to Terrorist Incidents Statistical Material

Approximately 11,800 terrorist attacks against noncombatants occurred in various countries during 2008, resulting in over 54,000 deaths, injuries and kidnappings. Compared to 2007, attacks decreased by 2,700, or 18 percent, in 2008 while deaths due to terrorism decreased by 6,700, or 30 percent. As was the case last year, the largest number of reported terrorist attacks occurred in the Near East, but unlike previous years, South Asia had the greater number of fatalities. These two regions were also the locations for 75 percent of the 235 high-casualty attacks (those that killed 10 or more people) in 2008.

- Of the 11,770 reported attacks, about 4,600, or nearly 40 percent, occurred in the Near East where approximately 5,500 fatalities, or 35 percent of the worldwide total, were reported for 2008. Attacks in Iraq have continued to decline since 2007.
- Another 35 percent of the attacks occurred in South Asia with Afghanistan and Pakistan registering increased attacks. Attacks in Pakistan more than doubled in 2008.
- Violence against noncombatants in Africa, particularly related to fatalities associated with turmoil in Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, rose 140 percent in 2008, totaling about 2,200 fatalities in comparison to approximately 900 fatalities for 2007.
- The number of reported attacks in 2008 fell in the Western Hemisphere by about 25 percent, and in East Asia and the Pacific by 30 percent.

Terrorist use of kidnappings for ransom increased significantly in 2008. The number of kidnappings in South Asia during 2008 rose by 45 percent, although kidnappings worldwide remained about the same. The number of kidnappings in Pakistan rose sharply by 340 percent and in Afghanistan by about 100 percent, while in India the number rose by 30 percent.

Attackers

The perpetrators of over 7,000 attacks, or over 60 percent, in 2008 could not be determined from open source information. Of the remaining incidents, as many as 150 various subnational groups—a third of them well-known foreign terrorist organizations⁴—or clandestine agents were connected to an attack in various ways, including as a claimant, as the accused, and as the confirmed perpetrator. In most instances, open source reporting contains little confirmed or corroborating information that identifies the organizations or individuals responsible for a terrorist attack. In many reports, attackers are alleged to be tied to local or well-known terrorist groups but there is little subsequent reporting that verifies these connections. Moreover, pinpointing

⁴ Foreign Terrorist Organizations are designated by the State Department under a separate process.

attackers becomes even more difficult as extremist groups splinter or merge with others, make false claims, or deny allegations.

- According to open source reports, the Taliban, more than any other group, claimed credit for the largest number of attacks and the highest fatality totals.
- In contrast, al-Shabaab al-Islamiya [Muslim Youth Movement] was the group with the seventh highest total of claimed attacks but was the second deadliest group.

No terrorist attack occurred last year that approached the sophistication of planning and preparations that were characteristic of the 9/11 attacks. The Mumbai attacks—although not the first of such style attacks—remind us, however, that terrorists can carry out deadly attacks using less sophisticated tactics. Reporting points to a steadfast al-Qa'ida that is planning attacks in northwest Pakistan, and was able to expand its propaganda campaign through new audio releases in 2008 to invigorate supporters, win converts, and gain recruits while al-Qa'ida in Iraq and other al-Qa'ida linked groups carried out several successful attacks. The following were according to open sources:

- The al-Qa'ida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) attacked a police academy in Les Issers, Algeria, killing 43 people and wounding 45 others.⁵
- Al-Qa'ida in Yemen claimed responsibility for an attack at the US Embassy in Sanaa that killed 10 people and wounded three others.⁶

Types of Attacks

As was the case in 2007, most attacks in 2008 were perpetrated by terrorists applying conventional fighting methods such as armed attacks, bombings, and kidnappings. Terrorists continued their practice of coordinated attacks that included secondary attacks on first responders at attack sites, and they continued to reconfigure weapons and other materials to create improvised explosive devices.

- Attacks in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan accounted for about 55 percent of all attacks cataloged in WITS.
- According to open sources, the Taliban claimed responsibility for a food poisoning attack on a provincial headquarters in Nurestan, Afghanistan that sickened 261 government employees and police.⁷
- Suicide attacks declined from 525 in 2007 to 404 in 2008. This is largely due to declining violence in Iraq.
- Attacks by female suicide bombers accounted for almost 9 percent of all suicide attacks worldwide, and for 15 percent of all suicide attacks in Iraq.

⁵ Ibid., “ICN 200809075.”

⁶ Ibid., “ICN 200809446.”

⁷ Ibid., “ICN 200809457.”

- 2008 witnessed a suicide bombing attack by a naturalized US Citizen in Somalia.

Victims and Targets of Attacks

As has been the case since 2005, substantial numbers of victims of terrorist attacks in 2008 were Muslim.

- Almost 50,000 individuals worldwide were either killed or injured by terrorist attacks in 2008. Based upon a combination of reporting and demographic analysis of the countries involved, well over 50 percent of the victims were Muslims, and most were victims of attacks in Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

Open source reporting identifies approximately 65 percent of the almost 50,000 casualties of terror as simply civilians, and therefore actual tallies of specific categories of victims cannot be determined. However, the reporting does yield some insights about the demographics of these victims.

- Children remained disproportionately affected by terrorism, with a 10 percent rise in the number of child victims in 2008 while overall numbers declined.
- Diplomatic officials also saw a rise in the number of attempts against them and a large increase in victims from 12 victims in 2007 to 47 in 2008.

Trends in Person-borne Improvised Explosive Device (PBIED) vs. Suicide Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device (SVBIED) Attacks

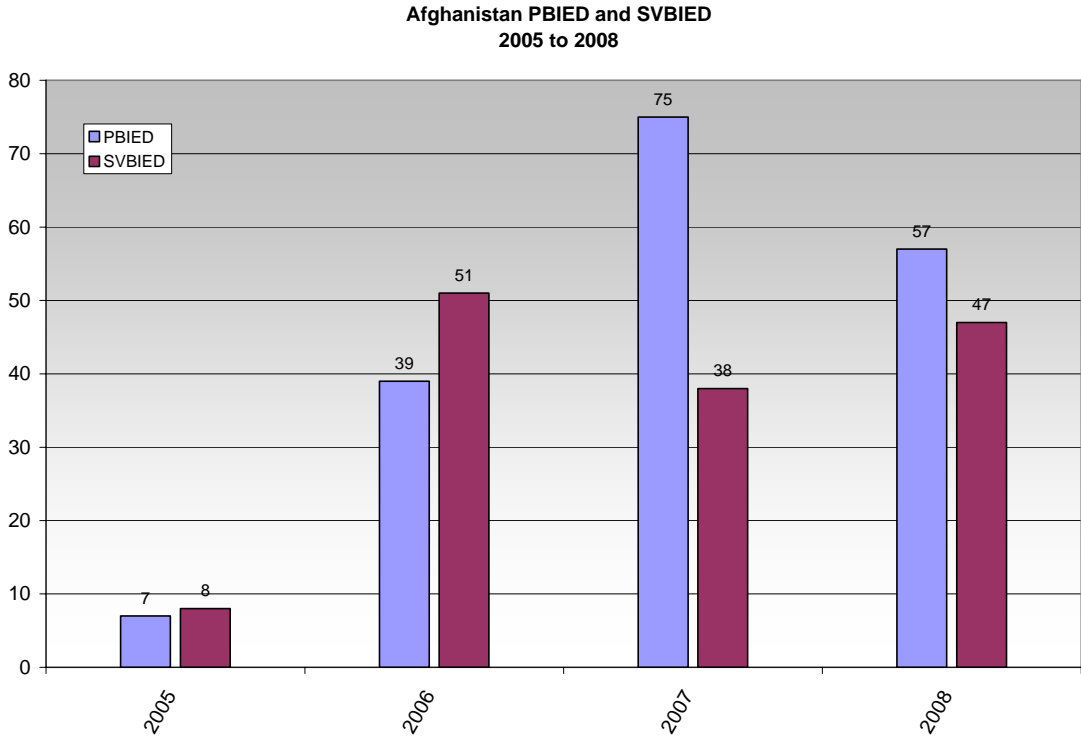
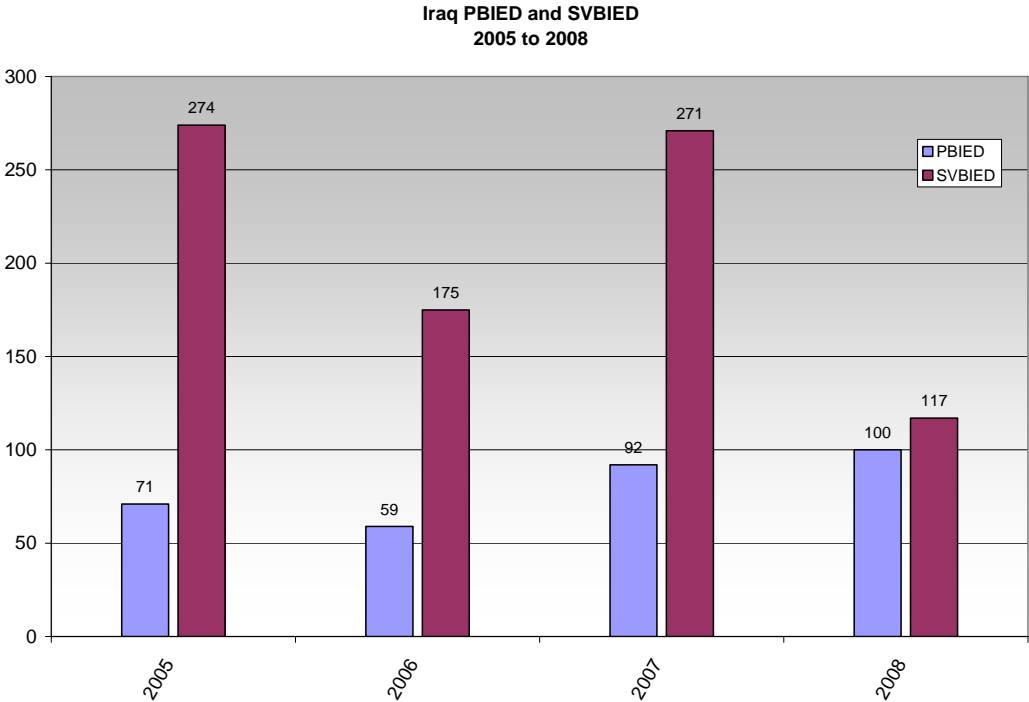
During 2008, suicide vehicle bombings in Iraq fell to levels comparable with the use of suicide bombers wearing a vest. From 2005 to 2007 in Iraq, suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (SVBIED) attacks outnumbered person-borne improvised explosive device (PBIED) attacks by approximately three to one. Over the course of 2008, insurgents began to shift techniques, tactics, and procedures, reducing the use of SVBIED attacks in favor of PBIED in Iraq. In Iraq, there were a total of 100 PBIED attacks in 2008 and 92 in 2007 resulting in a 69 percent increase from 2006 over the course of two years.

- Al-Qa'ida in Iraq (AQI) networks have been disrupted by coalition forces targeting SVBIED making factories, resulting in a drop in the supply and use of such devices.
- The number of female suicide bombers increased significantly in Iraq this year, from five in 2007 to 33 in 2008. Due to increased security measures in Iraq, insurgents adapted and began utilizing females to circumvent security measures, taking advantage of cultural restrictions on physical contact between males and females.

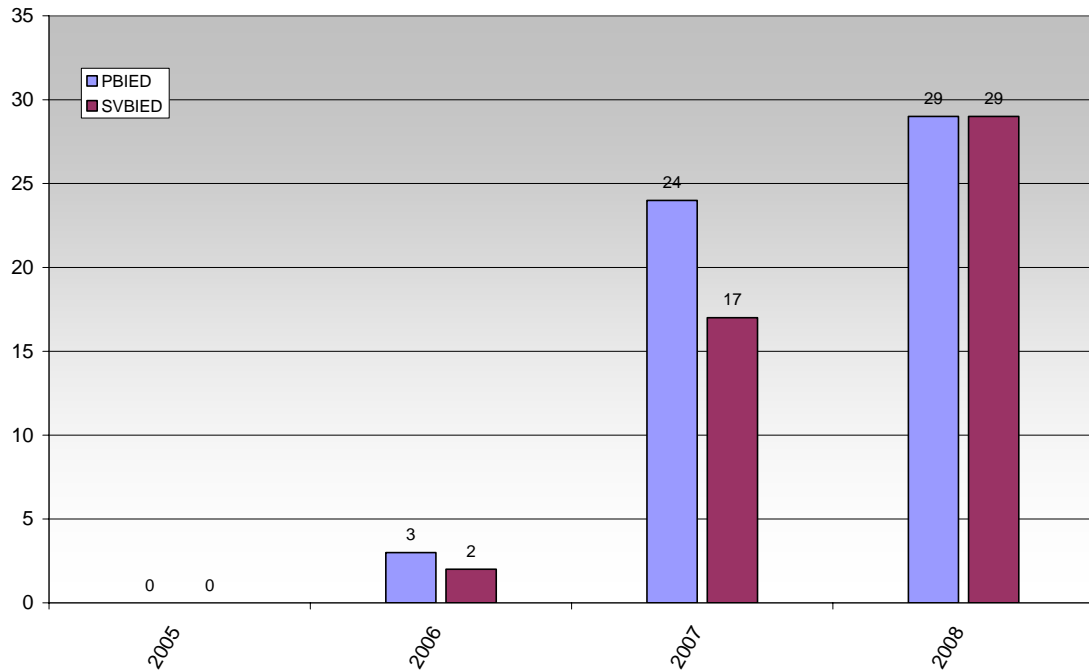
Conversely, the rest of the world has experienced a decrease in the number of PBIED attacks the last two years, suggesting a global shift in favor of SVBIED attacks. The shift is progressing slower in Afghanistan and Pakistan but much faster in Africa. This further proves that terrorists will continually update their methods to carry out spectacular attacks that influence and create media exposure for their cause, an example being the SVBIED attack on the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad in September.

- Pakistan in 2008 recorded a 50-50 split in the number of PBIED attacks and SVBIED attacks; however, in 2007 the split was 58.5 percent (PBIED) versus 41.5 percent (SVBIED). Afghan insurgents have closed the disparity as well, 45.2 percent of suicide attacks in 2008 were SVBIED attacks versus 33.6 percent in 2007.
- In Africa, insurgents carried out a total of 16 SVBIED attacks the last two years, compared to only one from 2005-2006. This is four times more than the number of PBIED attacks over the last two years.

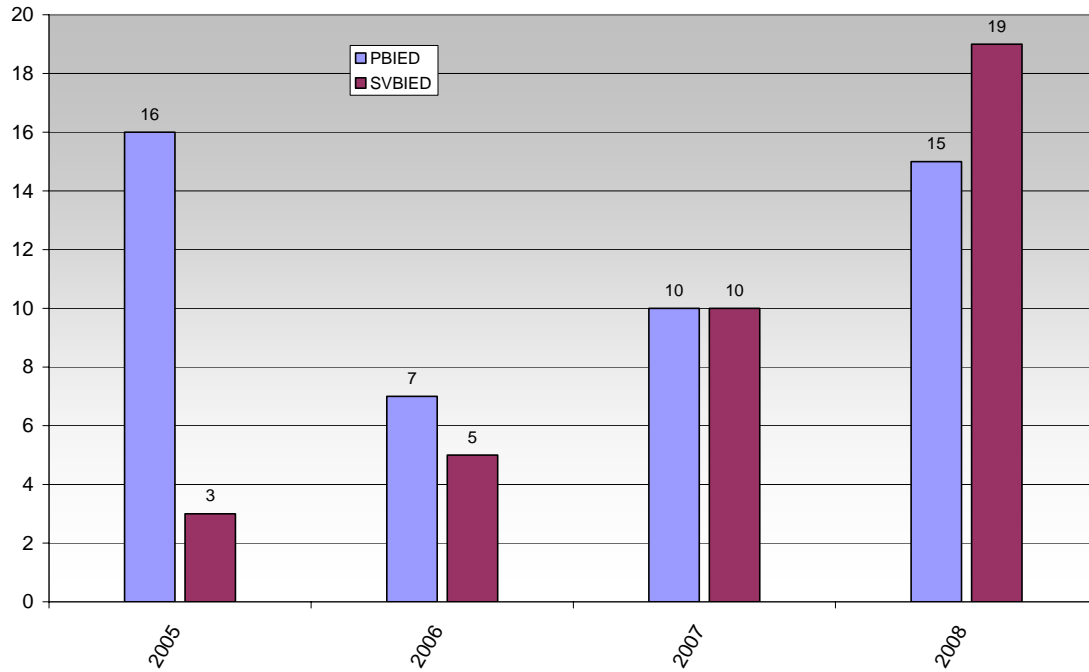
Some double counting occurs on the following charts when PBIEDs and SVBIEDs were used in a single attack.



Pakistan PBIED and SVBIED
2005 to 2008

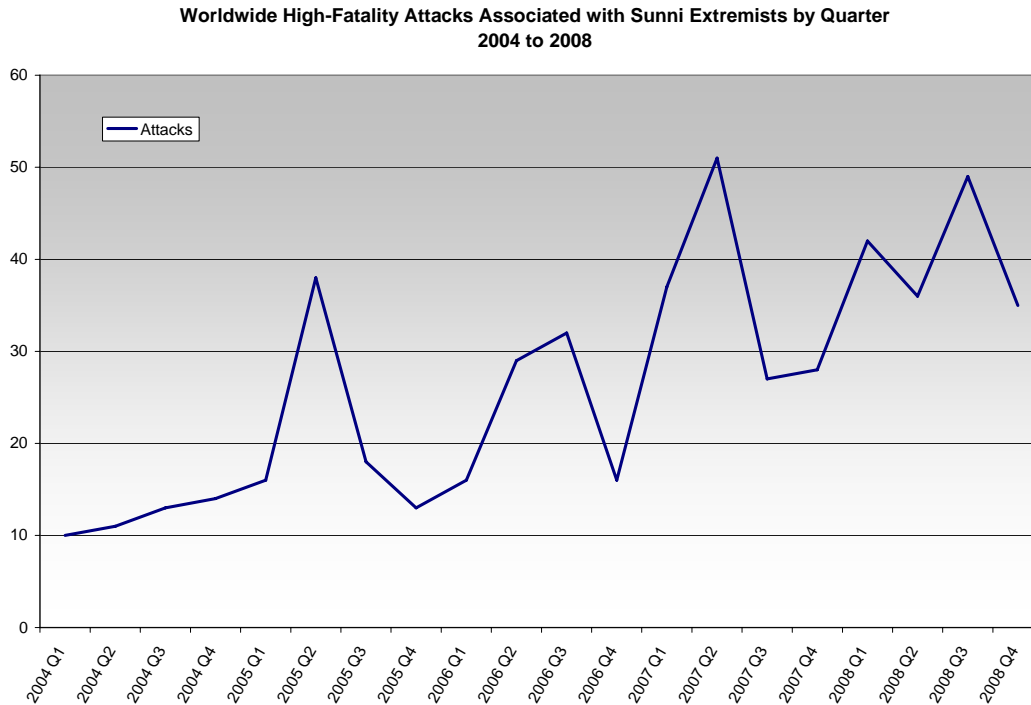


Rest of World PBIED and SVBIED
2005 to 2008



Trends in Sunni High-Fatality Attacks

According to the WITS data from 2004 to 2008, the frequency of high-fatality attacks (those attacks that killed at least ten people) associated with Sunni extremists has increased since the first quarter of 2004. Since 2004, a total of 25 countries have suffered at least one high-fatality attack perpetrated by Sunni extremists. Iraq was the country with the largest number of such attacks.



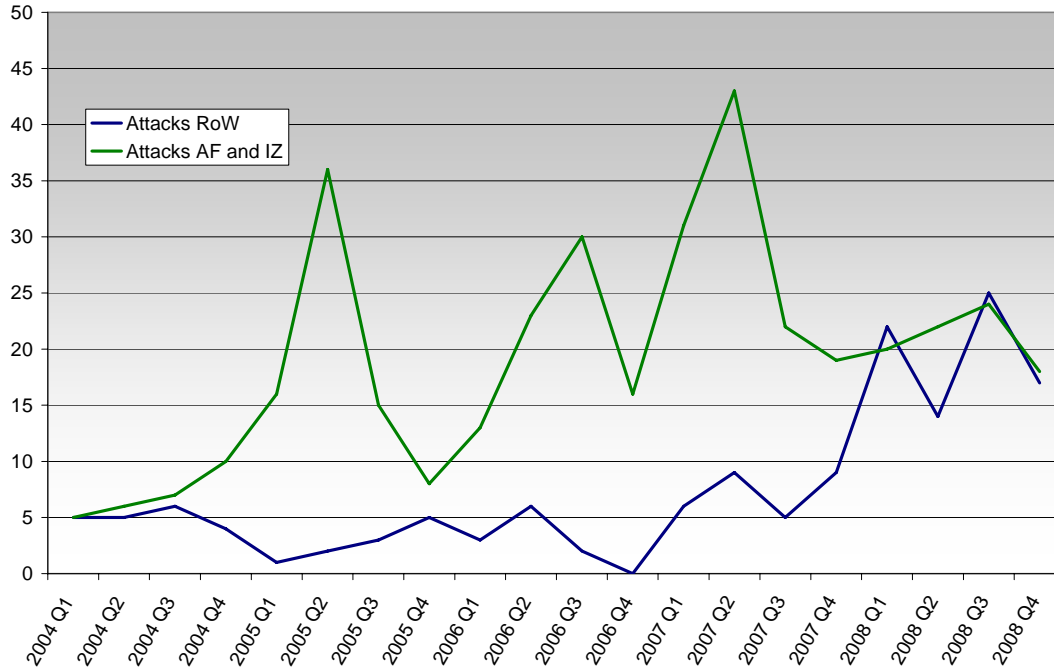
The frequency of such attacks in Iraq and Afghanistan, when removed from worldwide totals, has increased since 2004. High fatality attacks in the rest of the world remained level until late 2007 when the frequency more than doubled and now accounts for half or more of all such attacks. The upward pace of attacks outside of Iraq and Afghanistan continued through 2008 until, for the first time⁸, the number of high-fatality attacks exceeded the number of such attacks in these two countries. Data from the fourth quarter of 2007 indicated the rest of the world trended upward, while Iraq and Afghanistan trended downward beginning in mid-2007.

Countries where high-fatality Sunni attacks occurred in 2008 included Afghanistan, Algeria, China, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Mauritania, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. Countries that sustained their first⁹ high-fatality attack in 2008 perpetrated by Sunni extremists included China, Mauritania, and Syria.

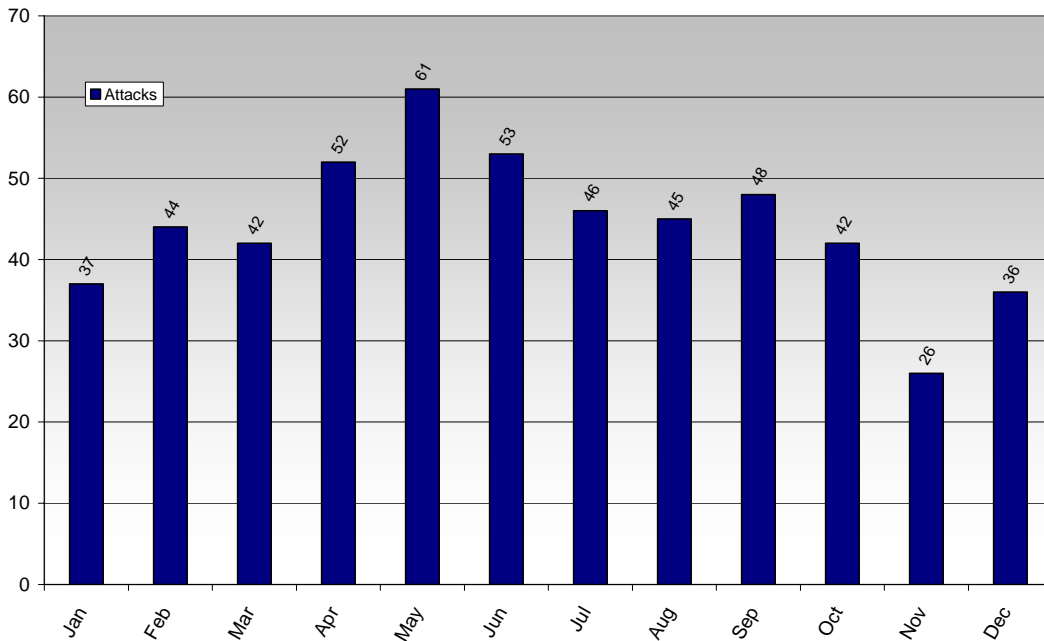
⁸ For the first time since 1 Jan. 2004. Attacks prior to this date were unavailable for comparison.

⁹ Attacks prior to 1 Jan 2004 were unavailable for comparison.

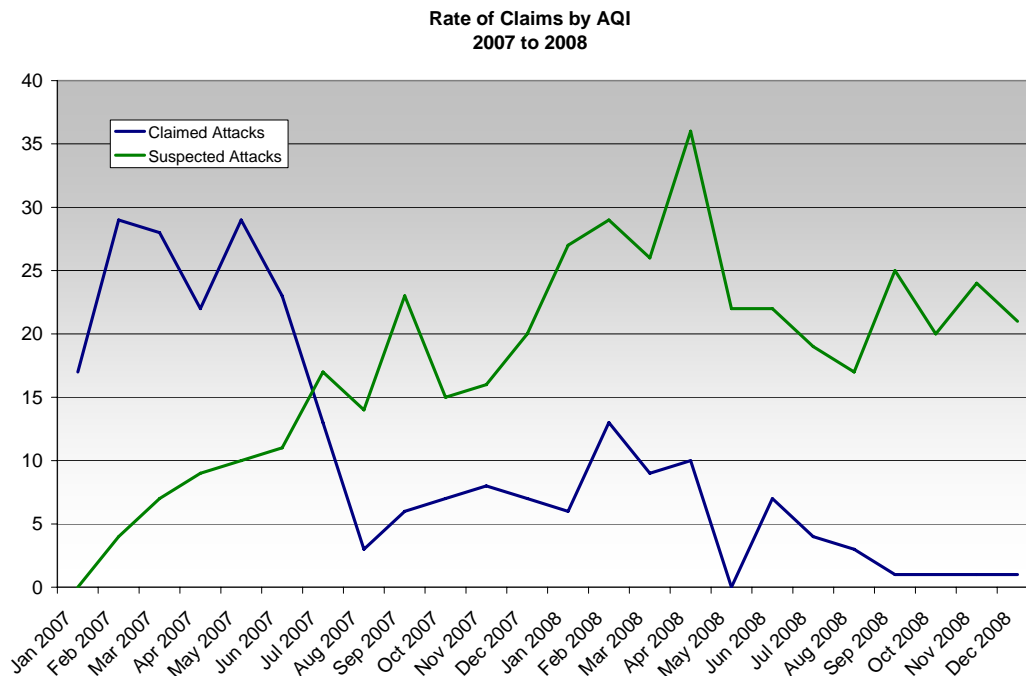
Comparison of High-Fatality Sunni Attacks in Iraq and Afghanistan versus Rest of World from 2004 to 2008



Sunni High-Fatality Attacks Grouped by Month of Attack 2004 to 2008



For every year after 2004, the frequency of high-fatality attacks perpetrated by Sunni extremists has peaked between the months of April and September and declined between the months of October and December. This cyclical pattern corresponds with the Islamic post-holy month of Ramadan celebration, the Eid ul-Fitr, and the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, but it is not clear if there is a causal correlation.



Another trend discovered in the WITS data was in the frequency of claims of high-fatality Sunni attacks in Iraq. A decline in claims by al-Qa'ida in Iraq (AQI) was noted beginning in mid-2007, and has continued to date. The decline in the number of claimed attacks could be attributed to successful operations against media operatives of the group, but the rate of attacks suspected by AQI increased inversely indicating that AQI remained committed to attacking Iraqi civilians and infrastructure.

Statistical Charts and Graphs

Chart 1 - Lethality - Comparison of Fatalities and Incidents by Region

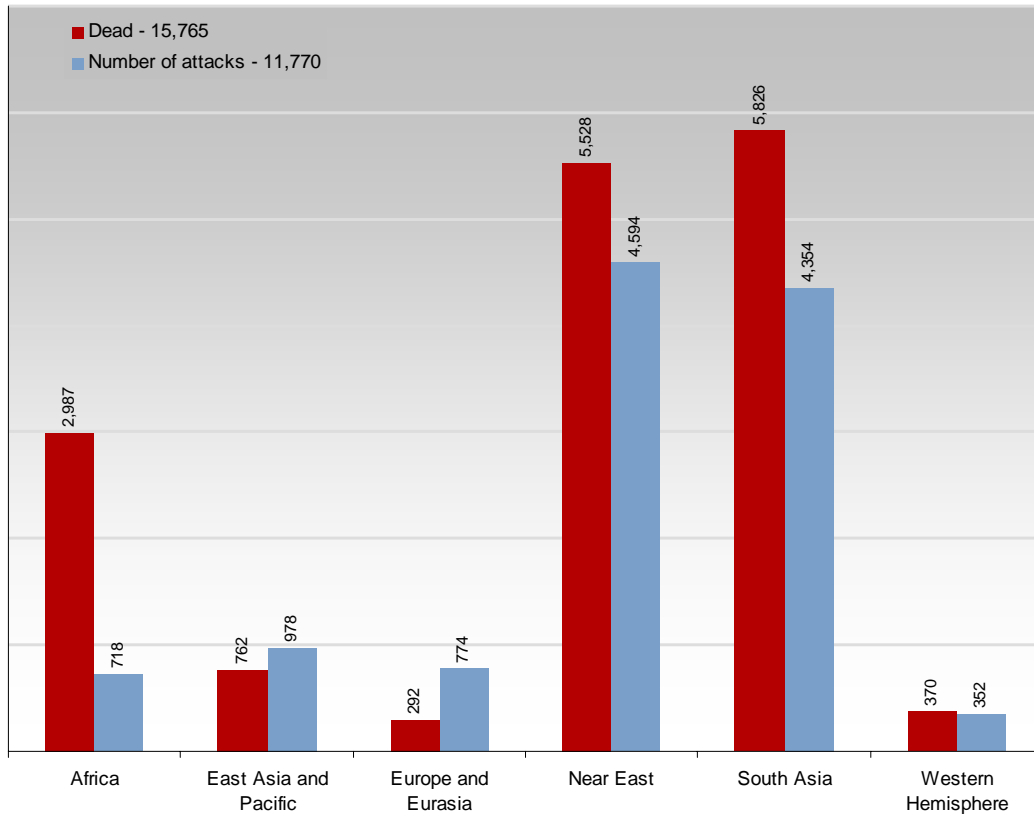


Chart 2 - Comparison of Attacks and Victims by Region

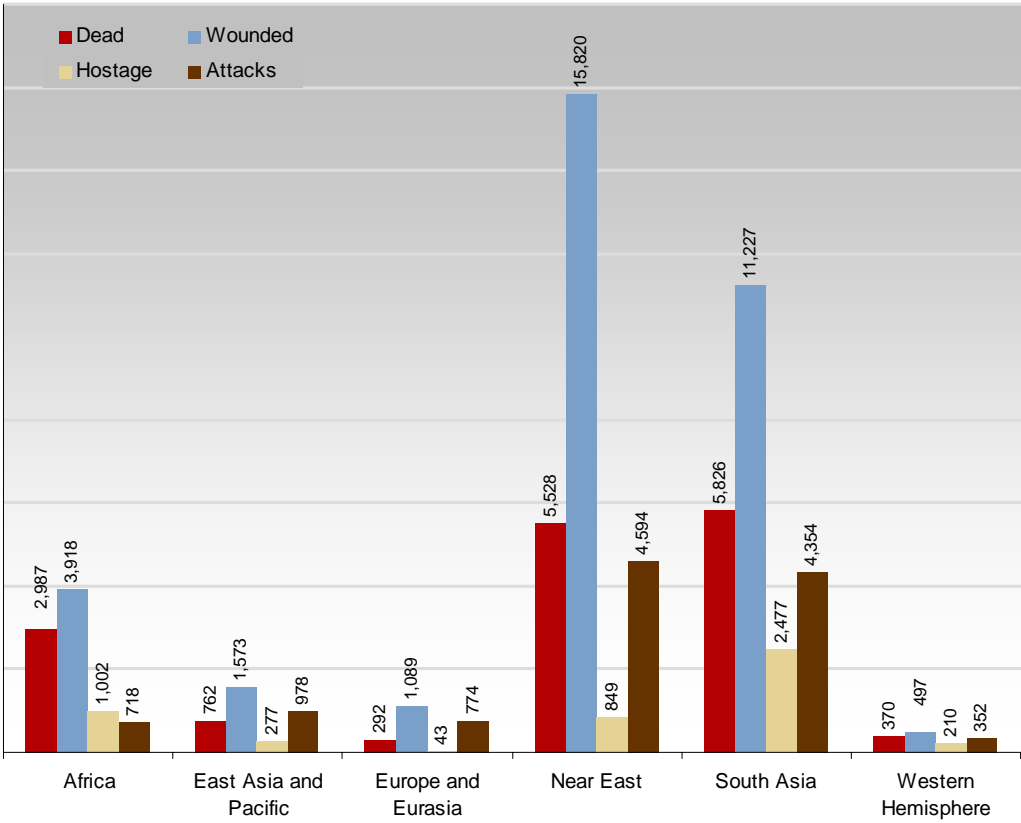
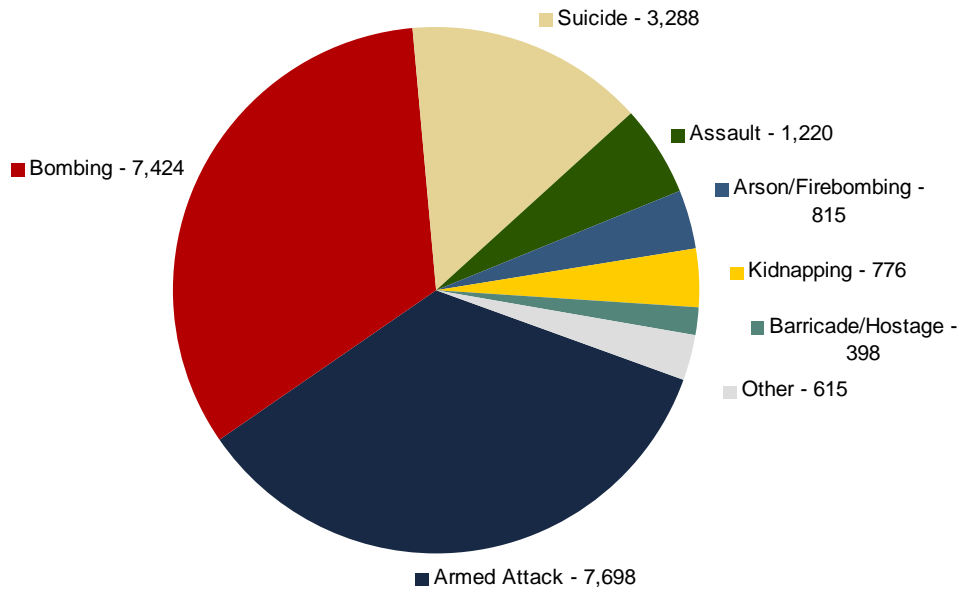
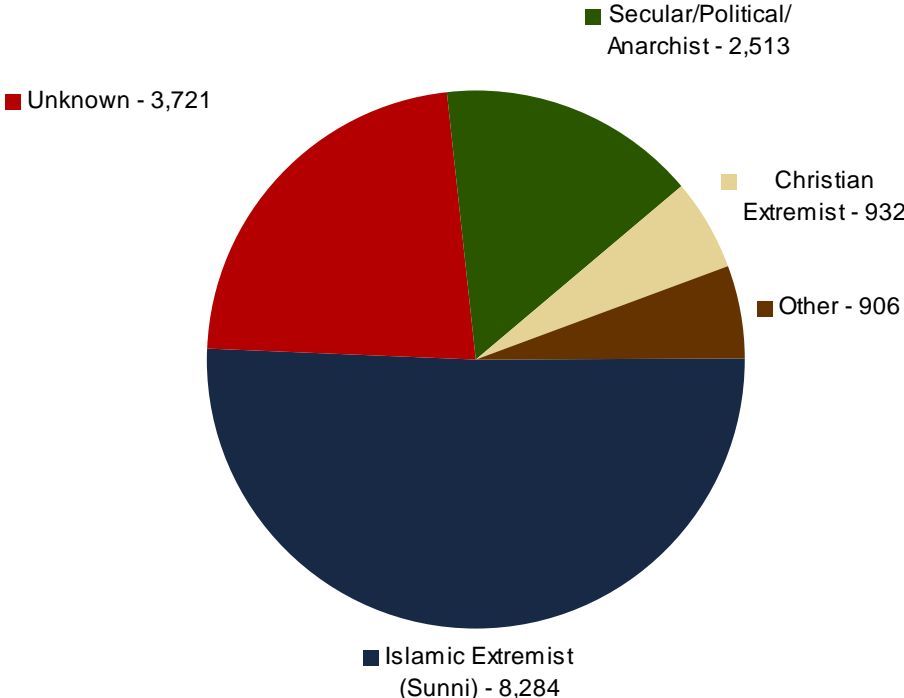


Chart 3 - Deaths by Method



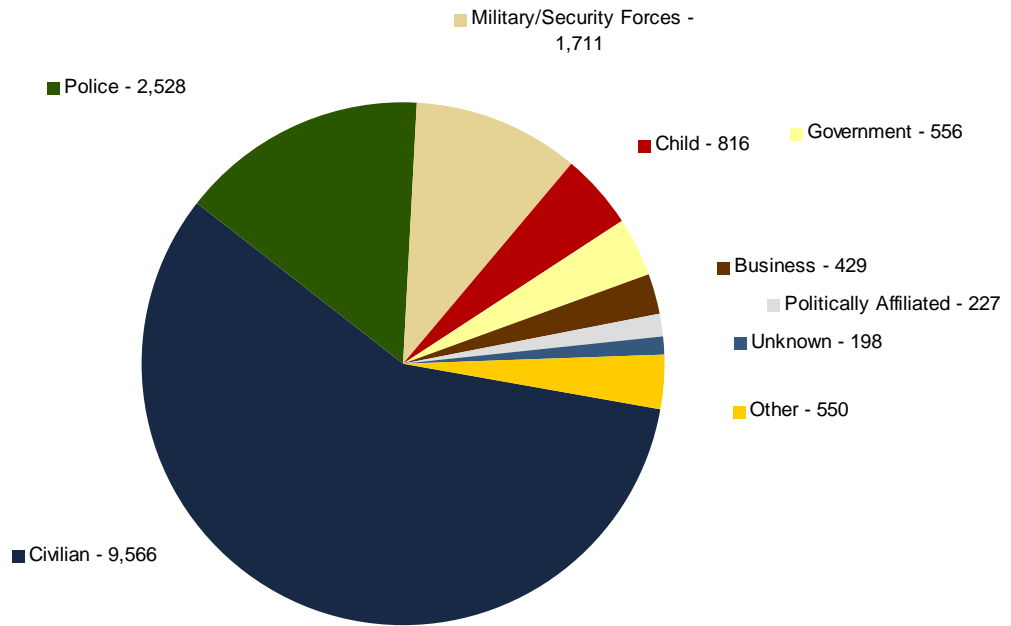
15,765 Total Deaths
There is some double counting when multiple methods are used.

Chart 4 - Deaths by Perpetrator Category



15,765 Total Deaths
Some double counting when joint claims were made. Categories include attacks either claimed, suspected, or inferred.

Chart 5 - Deaths by Victim Category



15,765 Total Deaths
Children were double counted, typically as either civilians or students.

Chart 6 - Deaths by Country

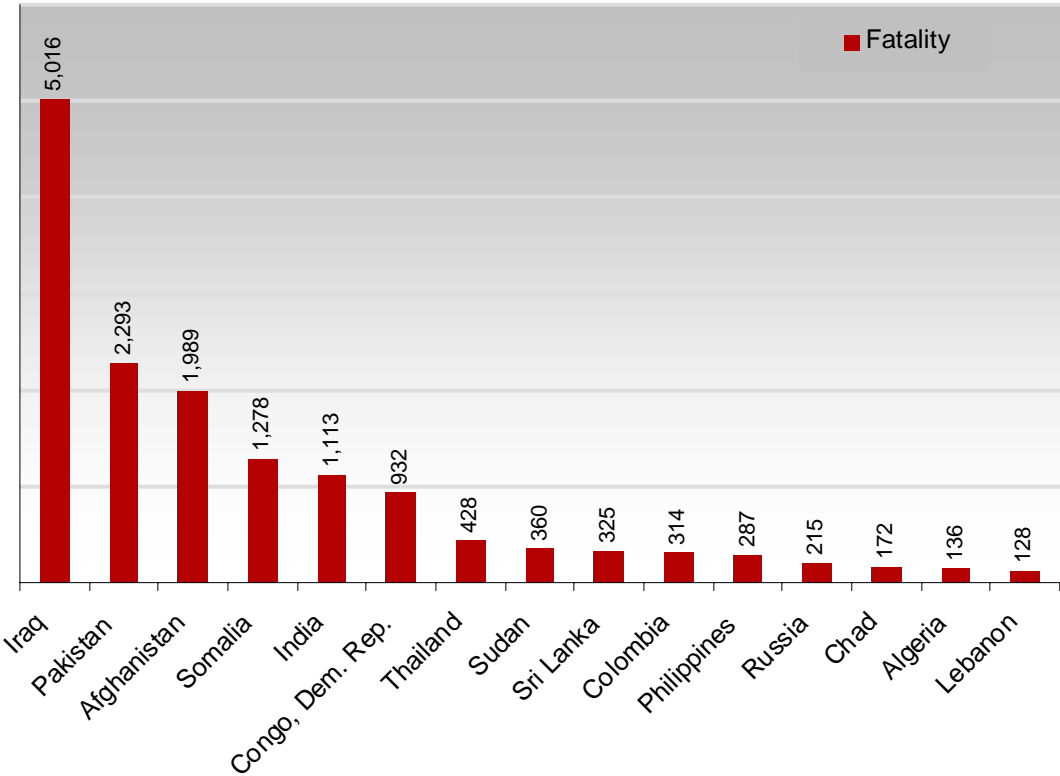
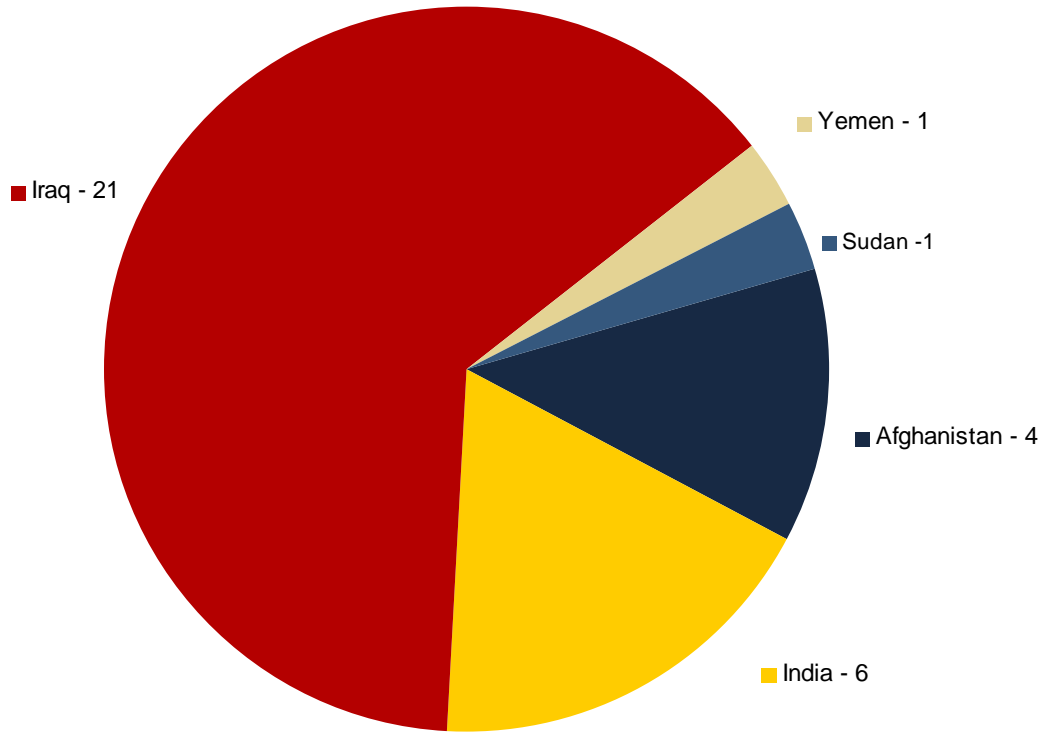


Chart 7 - US Citizen Fatalities by Country
Numbers provided by the Department of State - Bureau of Consular Affairs



33 Total US Deaths
Numbers provided by Department of State - Bureau of Consular Affairs

Chart 8 - US Fatalities as a Share of Total Fatalities

Numbers provided by the Department of State - Bureau of Consular Affairs

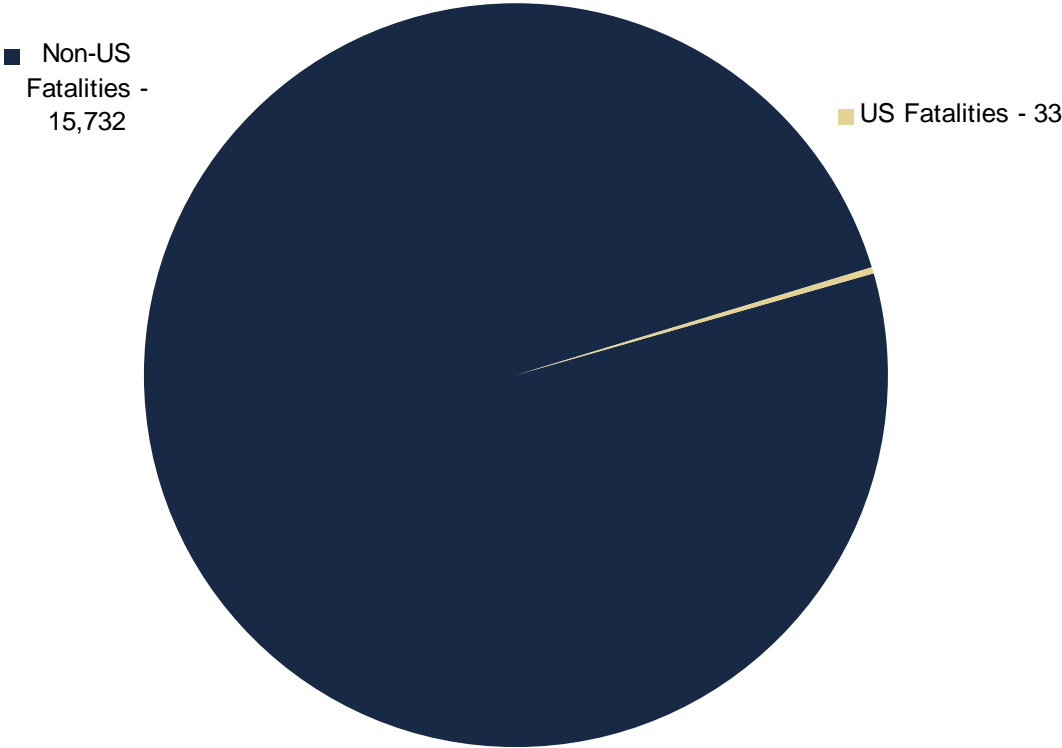


Chart 9 - Kidnappings by Country

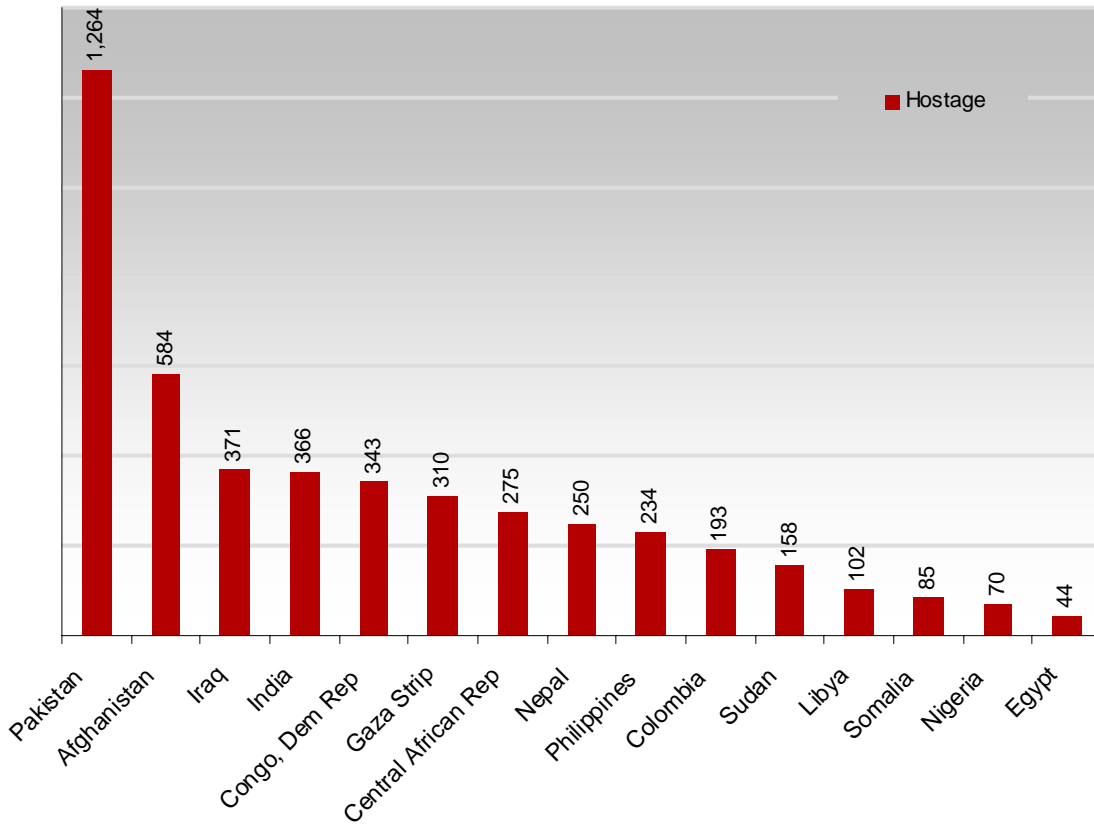
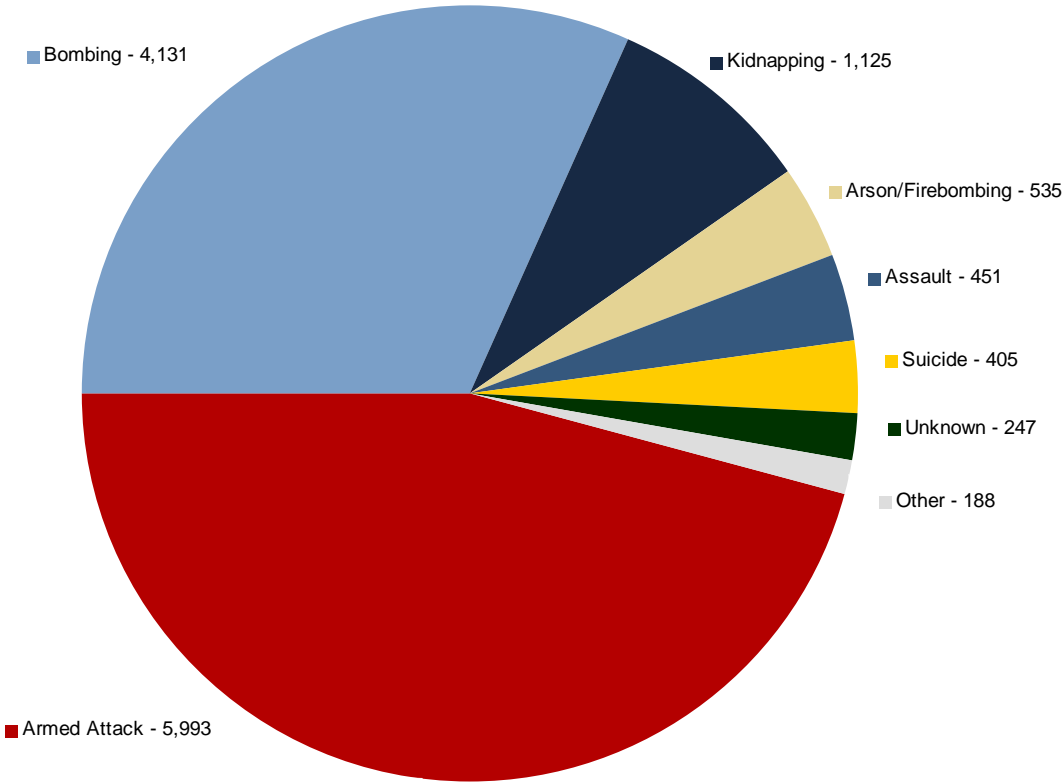
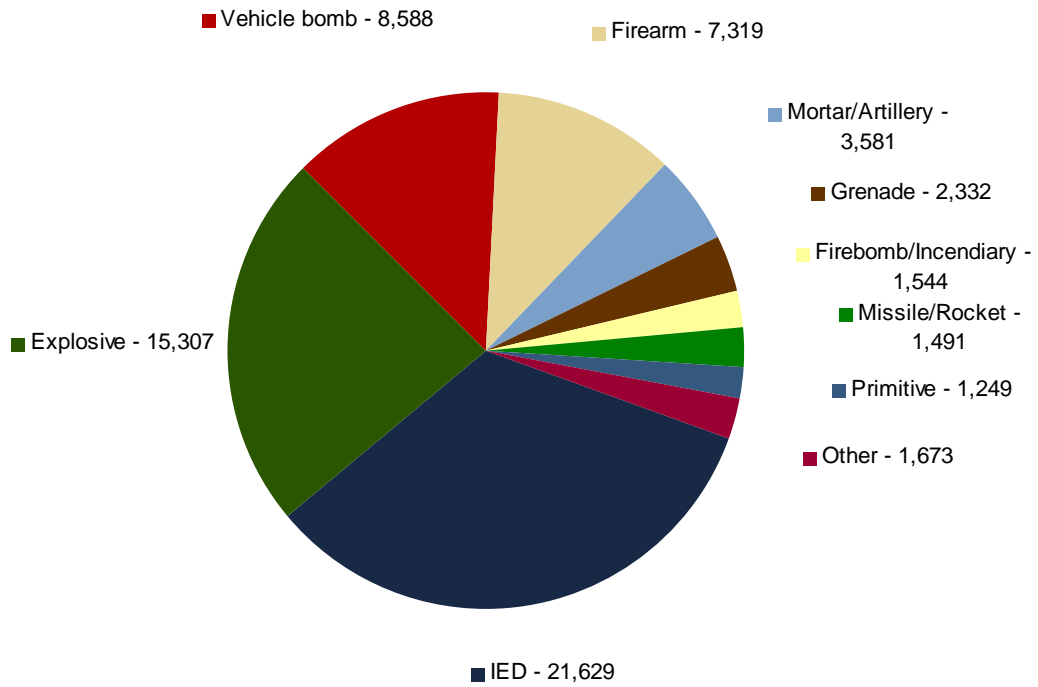


Chart 10 - Primary Methods Used in Attacks



11,770 attacks
Some double counting occurred when multiple methods were used.

Chart 11 - Injuries by Weapon



34,124 Injuries
Double counting occurred when multiple weapons were used.

Chart 12 - All Attacks Involving Facilities by Category

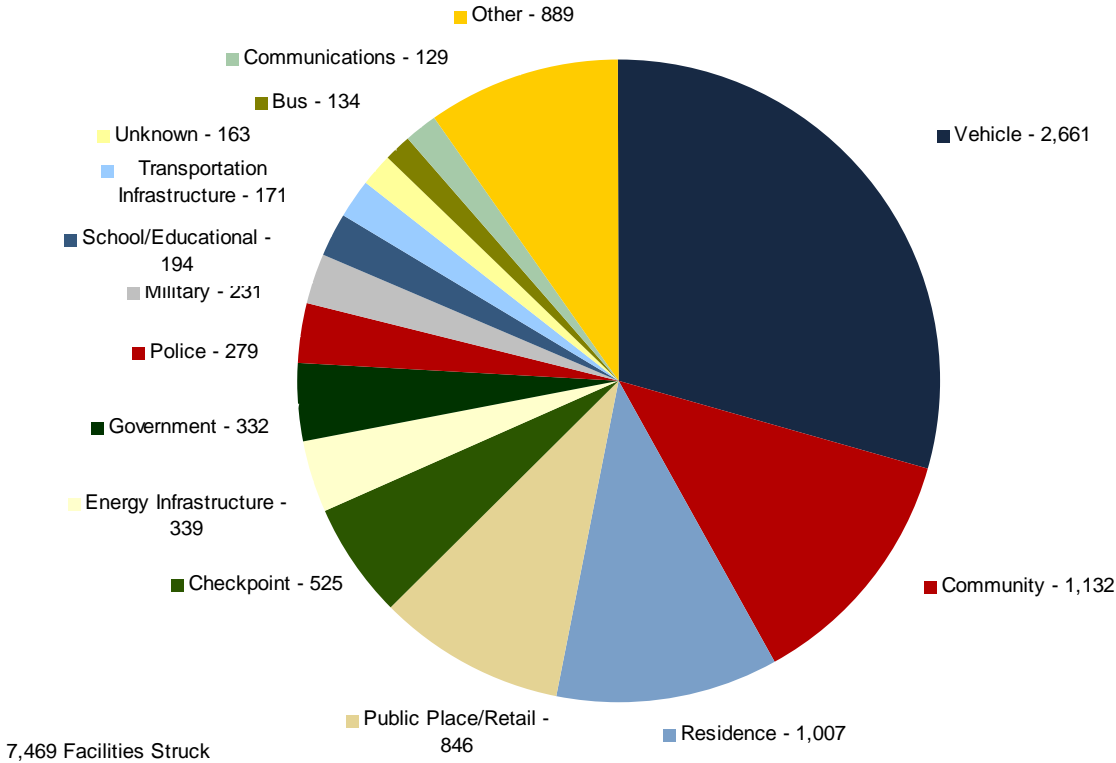


Chart 13 - Attacks Grouped by Fatality Range

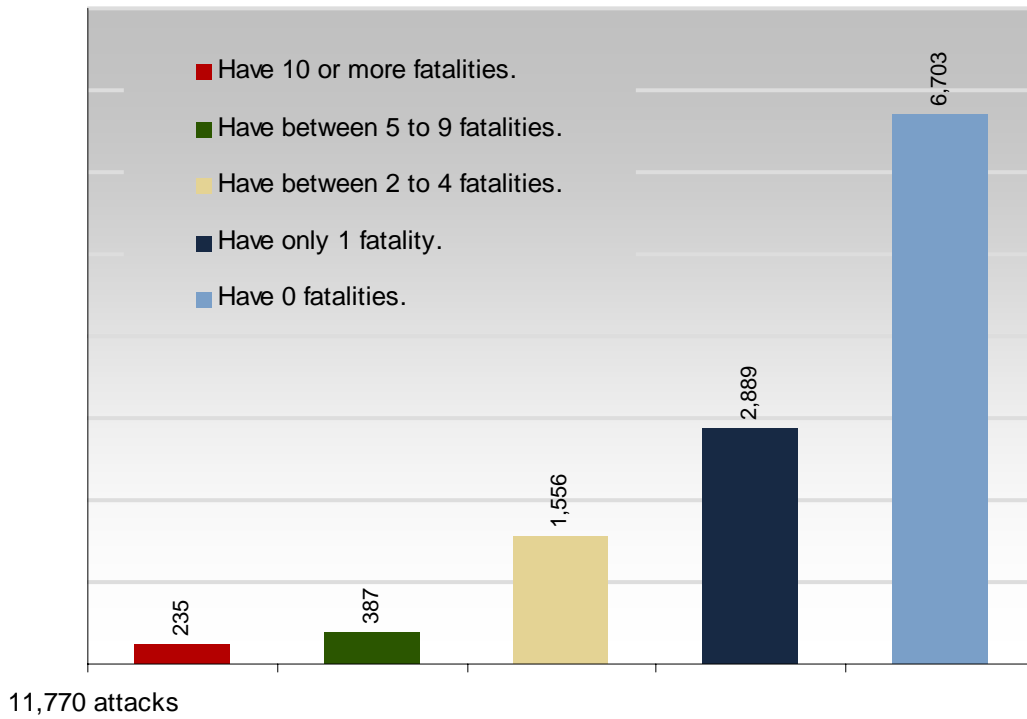
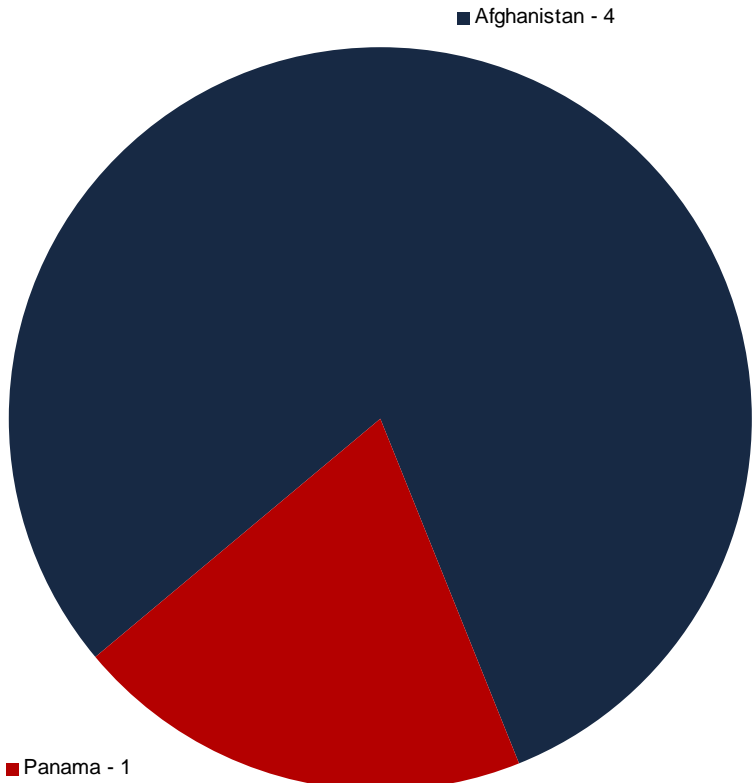


Chart 14 - US Citizen Terrorism Kidnappings by Country

Numbers provided by the Department of State - Bureau of Consular Affairs



5 Total US Kidnappings
Numbers provided by Department of State - Bureau of Consular

Chart 15 - Comparison of Attacks by Victims

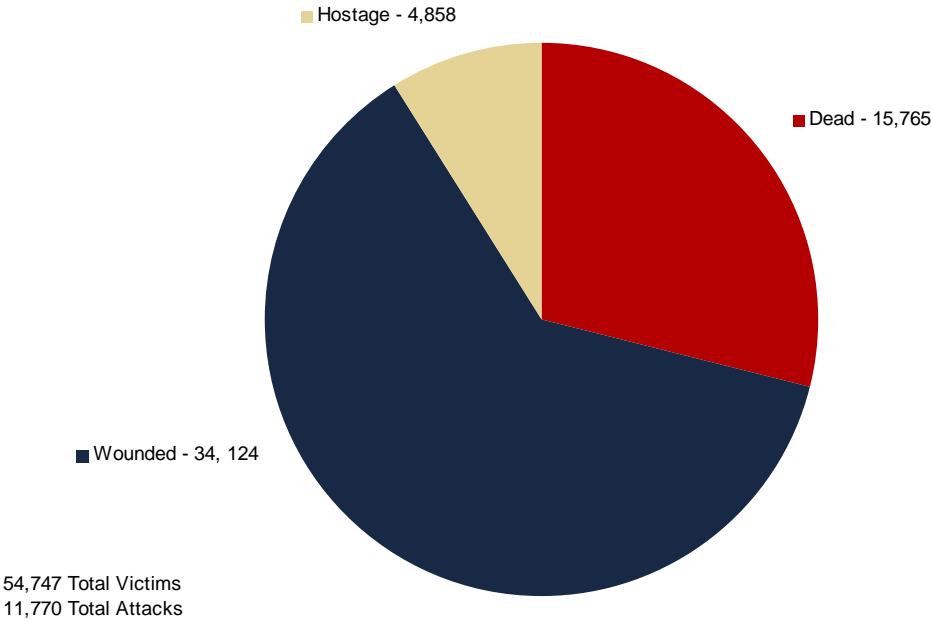
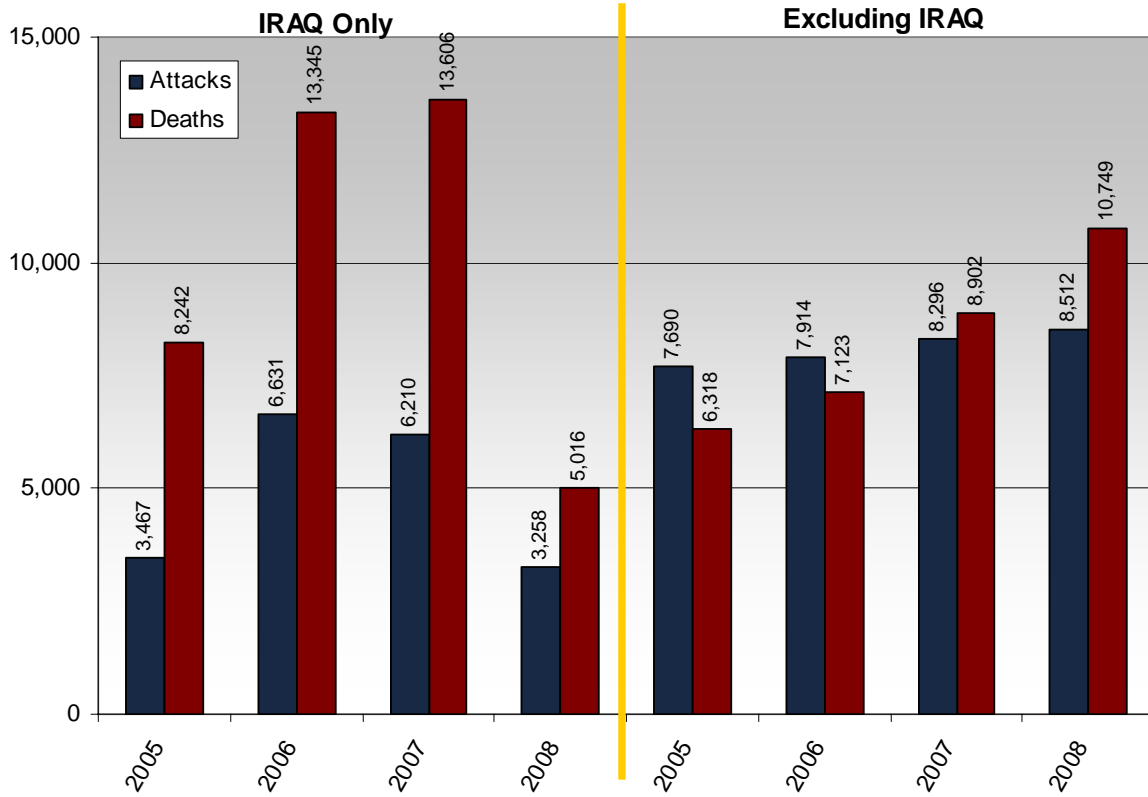


Chart 16 - Attacks & Deaths Compared - 2005 to 2008



Chronology of High-Fatality Terror Attacks

High-fatality terror attacks were acts of violence that meet the statutory criteria for terrorism and involve 10 or more deaths.

January

On 1 January 2008, late in the afternoon, in the Sab'ah Nisan district of Baghdad, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) he was wearing among Sunni mourners in a house in the eastern Zayyunah neighborhood, killing at least 33 civilians and several members of Iraqi intelligence, wounding 38 civilians, and damaging the house and several vehicles. The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) claimed responsibility.

On 1 January 2008, between midnight and 4:00 AM, in Port Harcourt, Rivers, Nigeria, armed assailants fired upon and threw dynamite at the Borokiri police headquarters, killing seven civilians and three police officers, and damaging the police station and three vehicles. The assailants then moved to and fired upon the Trans-Amadi police headquarters, killing one police officer and one civilian, wounding one police officer, and damaging the police station. Continuing the attack, the assailants then fired rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) and firearms at the Presidential Hotel, killing one police officer, wounding several civilians, and damaging the hotel. The Niger Delta Vigilantes claimed responsibility and threatened additional attacks.

On 2 January 2008, at about 12:30 PM, in the Ba'qubah al Jadidah district of Ba'qubah, Diyala, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) near a checkpoint manned by a local Sahwa Council, killing a council leader, three other members, two police officers and four civilians; wounding between 15 and 17 civilians, five Sahwa council members, and one police officer; and damaging the checkpoint and several nearby vehicles and buildings. The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) claimed responsibility.

On 3 January 2008, in Khash Rud, Nimruz, Afghanistan, assailants detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a group of police and road construction workers and, once additional police officers arrived at the scene, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) in their midst, killing 13 police officers and two Indian engineers, wounding two police officers, one engineer, and one civilian. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

On 6 January 2008, at about 12:00 PM, in the Karradah district of Baghdad, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) at an Army Day celebration, killing six soldiers, four police officers and between three and seven civilians; wounding as many as 19 civilians and seven soldiers and police officers; and damaging several civilian vehicles and an Iraq military vehicle. No group claimed responsibility.

On 7 January 2008, in the 'Azamiyah district of Baghdad, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) at the entrance of the Sunni Dawa compound in the northern Sab' Abkar area, killing the leader, his son, four other members of the 'Azamiyah Sahwa Council and three Dawa employees, wounding a number of other members, and damaging the office. As the wounded were being treated, a second suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne IED

(VBIED), wounding several members of the Sahwa Council. As a result of both attacks, the council leader and at least 13 council members as well as the three Dawa employees were killed and between 20 and 28 members and civilians were wounded. The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) claimed responsibility.

On 10 January 2008, in GPO Chowk, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan, outside of the Lahore High Court, a suicide bomber approached a group of riot police and detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) strapped to his body, killing 17 police officers, eight civilians, wounding at least 80 people, and destroying at least six vehicles. No group claimed responsibility.

On 14 January 2008, at about 7:45 PM, in the Quaidabad neighborhood of Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan, assailants detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) inside a market, killing 10 civilians, wounding at least 52 others, and damaging several shops. No group claimed responsibility.

On 16 January 2008, at 8:00 AM, in Okkampitiya Ihalagama, Uva, Sri Lanka, armed assailants detonated a bomb near a passenger bus, killing and injuring an undetermined amount of people and destroying the bus. Immediately after the explosion, the assailants fired on the fleeing passengers, killing and injuring another undetermined amount of people. Authorities reported 25 civilians, one Red Cross worker killed, 53 civilians and 10 children injured. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elm (LTTE) was responsible.

On 17 January 2008, at about 5:00 PM, in southern Ba'qubah, Diyala, Iraq, a suicide bomber wearing an improvised explosive device (IED) attacked the Shiite Shafta Mosque as worshippers were observing Ashura religious rites, killing 11 Shiite civilians, wounding 15 others, and damaging the front of the mosque. Although no group claimed responsibility, it was suspected that the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) perpetrated this attack.

On 17 January 2008, at about 6:55 PM, in Jhangi Mohallah, Peshawar, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, an armed suicide bomber entered the Mirza Qasim Baig mosque and opened fire on the people inside. He then detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) strapped to his body, killing 11 civilians, one child, injuring 23 civilians, two police officers, and damaging the mosque. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed Lashkar i Jhangvi was responsible.

On 17 January 2008, at about noon, in Bakara market, Mogadishu, Banaadir, Somalia, assailants remotely detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) as a military convoy passed, killing two soldiers and damaging a vehicle. The remaining soldiers and the assailants exchanged gunfire, launched mortars, and threw grenades, killing 18 civilians and five soldiers, wounding 89 civilians and 20 children, and damaging several residences and the market. Al-Shabaab al-Islamiya claimed responsibility.

On 17 January 2008, in Tanamalwila, Uva, Sri Lanka, armed assailants fired on a group of people, killing eight civilians and two police officers. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was responsible.

Between 18 January 2008 and 19 January 2008, near Kalonge, Sud-Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, armed assailants fire upon villagers, killing 43 civilians. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed that the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP) was responsible.

On 18 January 2008, beginning at around 10:00 AM, in An Nasiriyah, Dhi Qar, Iraq, armed assailants attacked a procession of Shiite pilgrims observing the Day of Ashura. At around 2:00 PM, in a coordinated attack, armed assailants attacked up to four police stations and a mobile police patrol with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades (RPG), small arms, and grenades and subsequently stormed a school. In total, seven police officers, four civilians, and two children were killed, between 40-53 civilians wounded, and the police station, school and one police vehicle damaged. The following day, after storming the mosque, police officers found a number of IEDs and booby-traps inside the mosque which were safely destroyed in a controlled detonation. Although no group claimed responsibility, it was widely believed the Jund al-Samaa perpetrated this attack.

On 21 January 2008, at about 6:30 PM, in a village between Tikrit and Bayji, Salah ad Din, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) he was wearing inside a communal hall, killing one child, between 12 and 17 civilians, wounding between nine and 21 civilians, one government official and causing the partial collapse of the hall. No group claimed responsibility, although authorities believed the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) was responsible.

On 23 January 2008, between 4:10 and 4:30 PM, in the Zanjili district of western Mosul, Ninawa, Iraq, authorities destroyed an improvised explosive device (IED) near a residence being used as an arms cache causing an estimated 15 tons of ordnance to explode, killing between 11 and 31 civilians, including several children, three Iraqi soldiers, wounding between 127 and 217 civilians including several children, seven Iraqi soldiers, damaging between 35 and 100 homes and several cell phone towers. No group claimed responsibility.

On 24 January 2008, in Kabithigollewa, Anuradhapura, North Central Province, Sri Lanka, authorities discovered two graves with 16 bodies. The bodies were bullet-riddled with hands bound behind their backs. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was responsible.

On 25 January 2008, at 10:35 AM, in Beirut, Beyrouth, Lebanon, assailants detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), killing two police officers and nine civilians, wounding 36 civilians, and damaging over 40 vehicles. No group claimed responsibility.

February

Between 1 February 2008 and 3 February 2008, in N'Djamena, Chari-Baguirmi, Chad, about 2,000 assailants stormed the city in an attempted coup targeting the President of Chad and exchanged small arms and mortar fire with government troops, killing at least 160 civilians, wounding at least 1,000 others, and causing unspecified damage to the community. During the attack, on 3 February 2008, assailants fired a mortar at the residence of the Saudi Arabian

ambassador, killing one embassy worker and one child and damaging the diplomatic residence. The assailants eventually pulled back from the capital but threatened subsequent attacks on the airport. The United Front for Democratic Change claimed responsibility.

On 1 February 2008, at about 10:20 AM and 10:40 AM, in Baghdad, Iraq, assailants remotely detonated improvised explosive devices (IED) worn by two female suicide bombers in Suq al Ghazl pet market, located in Ar Rusafa district in central Baghdad, and in a bird market, located in Baghdad al Jadidah, a predominately Shiite area in southeastern Baghdad, killing 99 people, including civilians, children, and shop workers; wounding between 145 and 196 others; and damaging at least 20 shops, 100 pets and birds, and several vehicles. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) was responsible.

On 2 February 2008, in Dambulla, Central Province, Sri Lanka, assailants detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) inside a passenger bus, killing many people, including children, injuring many more, including children, and destroying the vehicle. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was responsible.

On 3 February 2008, in the morning, in Waberi district of Mogadishu, Banaadir, Somalia, assailants remotely detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) as a government vehicle carrying soldiers passed but hit a minibus instead, killing eight civilians and three children, wounding seven civilians and three children, and damaging the minibus. No group claimed responsibility, although al-Shabaab al-Islamiya denied responsibility.

On 3 February 2008, at about 2:15 PM, in Colombo, Western Province, Sri Lanka, inside the Colombo Fort Railway Station, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) strapped to her body, killing eight civilians, four children, injuring 100 people, and damaging the station. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was responsible.

On 4 February 2008, at about 7:30 AM, in Rawalpindi, Punjab, Pakistan, a suicide bomber drove a motorcycle into a military bus and detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), killing seven soldiers, three civilians; wounding 10 soldiers, 15 civilians, two children; and destroying the military bus, damaging a school bus, several other vehicles and several nearby buildings. No group claimed responsibility.

On 4 February 2008, at about 3:45 PM, in Weli Oya, North Central Province, Sri Lanka, assailants detonated a claymore inside a bus, killing seven students (three children and four adults), five soldiers, one civilian, injuring 17 people, and destroying the bus. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was responsible.

On 4 February 2008, in Kajo Kaji, Al Istiwa'iyah al Wusta, Sudan, armed assailants fired upon a community, killing 136 civilians and looting several residences. No group claimed responsibility, but it was widely believed that the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was responsible. However, the LRA denied responsibility.

On 5 February 2008, at about 8:00 PM, in Bender Cassim, Bari, Somalia, assailants simultaneously threw two grenades into crowded neighborhoods, killing 21 civilians, wounding 100 others, and damaging two restaurants. Al-Shabaab al-Islamiya claimed responsibility.

On 9 February 2008, at night, in Nahkai, Charsadda, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, during an Awami National Party (ANP) election rally, a suicide bomber approached the stage and detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) strapped to his body, killing 25 people, two police officers, injuring 29 people, six children, three police officers, two soldiers, one journalist and one political party member. No group claimed responsibility.

On 10 February 2008, from 5:00 AM to 10:00 AM, near Tall Abtah, Ninawa, Iraq, armed assailants riding in approximately 25 cars fired upon two Sahwa Council villages with rocket-propelled grenades (RPG), mortars, and small arms, killing six Sahwa Council paramilitary members, four children, and two civilians; wounding 10 other civilians; and damaging both villages. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Islamic State of Iraq (DII) was responsible.

On 10 February 2008, at about 4:30 PM, in Yathrib, Salah ad Din, Iraq, a suicide bomber attempted to detonate a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a checkpoint jointly manned by Sahwa Council paramilitary members and police officers. The security forces fired upon the suicide bomber, causing the VBIED to explode near a public market that was 20 yards from the checkpoint, killing 20 civilians, including several children, three Sahwa Council paramilitary members; wounding between 39 and 45 other civilians, including several children; and damaging several shops in the market and the checkpoint. No group claimed responsibility.

On 11 February 2008, at about noon, near Hurriya Square in the southern Jadriya neighborhood of the Karradah district of Baghdad, Iraq, assailants simultaneously detonated two vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIED) near the Headquarters of the Support and Salvation Councils building, killing 14 civilians, six Sahwa Council paramilitary members, and one Iraqi soldier; wounding 19 paramilitary members, 16 civilians, nine soldiers, and two Sunni Sahwa Council tribal leaders; and damaging dozens of cars, a government building, a Shiite political party building, and a gas station. The assailants conducted the attack during a meeting of Sahwa Council chieftains from Al Anbar province. The Islamic state of Iraq (ISI) claimed responsibility.

On 11 February 2008, at about 12:55 PM, in Edak near Mir Ali, Federally Administered Tribal Areas, Pakistan, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) in a political motorcade, killing 10 political affiliates, wounding 13 others and damaging a vehicle. No group claimed responsibility.

On 15 February 2008, at about 10:45 PM, near Daspalla, in Nayagarh, Orissa, India, approximately 500 assailants fired upon a Police Training School (PTS), a district police station, and the district armory, killing 15 police officers and one civilian, wounding nine police officers and one civilian and damaging all three facilities. The assailants also stole a cache of arms and

ammunition in a bus. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist) was responsible.

On 16 February 2008, in Parachinar, Federally Administered Tribal Areas, Pakistan, during a Pakistan People's Party (PPP) rally, a suicide bomber drove his vehicle into the office of a candidate and detonated his vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), killing 41 people, six children, injuring 110 people, damaging 10 vehicles, seven shops and the candidate's office. No group claimed responsibility.

On 17 February 2008, at about 11:00 AM, in Bagh Pul, Kandahar, Kandahar, Afghanistan, a suicide bomber approached a crowd of approximately 500 people, who were gathered at a dog fighting event, and detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) strapped to his body, killing 90 civilians, six children, several private security guards, one police officer, injuring dozens of civilians, and damaging many vehicles. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Taliban was responsible.

On 18 February 2008, at 2:45 PM, in Spin Buldak, Kandahar, Afghanistan, at the Wesh Bazaar, a suicide bomber drove his vehicle into a Canadian Army patrol and detonated his vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), killing 37 civilians, injuring 30 others, three Canadian soldiers, destroying 100 shops and at least one military vehicle. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

On 18 February 2008, in the evening, in Bakara market in Mogadishu, Banaadir, Somalia, assailants fired upon government forces, causing retaliatory mortar fire, killing four police officers and six civilians, wounding 15 civilians, and damaging several residences and several military vehicles. No group claimed responsibility.

On 19 February 2008, at about 8:00 PM, in the Sab'ah Nisan district of Baghdad, Iraq, an improvised explosive device (IED), hidden on the bed of a truck prepared for launching rockets, exploded as police officers were attempting to defuse two of the rockets in the eastern Ubaydi neighborhood, killing 14 police officers, wounding between 27 and 45 others, and damaging 10 vehicles. The same launch site was previously used to fire rockets at two United States military outposts, leading police to search the area. The Mahdi Army (JAM) claimed responsibility.

On 19 February 2008, at about 5:00 AM, in Li Yubu, Gharb al Istiwa'iyah, Sudan, about 400 armed assailants fired upon a village, killing seven soldiers, three civilians and one government official, kidnapping 20 civilians and seven children, burning 70 residences and damaging a trading center. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed that the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was responsible.

On 22 February 2008, at about 4:00 PM, near Sarbanda, in Matta, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, assailants detonated two improvised explosive devices (IED) next to a wedding party motorcade, killing 10 civilians, four children, wounding eight children, five civilians, and damaging two vehicles. Police found a third IED nearby and safely disabled it. No group claimed responsibility.

On 24 February 2008, at about 3:00 PM, near Al Iskandariyah, Babil, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) he was wearing inside a tent set up for pilgrims traveling to Karbala' for the holiday of Arbaeen, killing between 56 and 63 civilians, including several children, wounding between 60 and 100 civilians, including several children, and damaging the tent. No group claimed responsibility, although authorities believed the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) was responsible.

On 26 February 2008, near Mosul, Ninawa, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) he was wearing on a bus near an Iraqi army checkpoint, killing between eight and 14 civilians, wounding between seven and 15 others, and damaging the bus. No group claimed responsibility.

On 29 February 2008, at about 8:00 PM, in Mingaora, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, at a funeral, a suicide bomber detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) strapped to his body, killing 36 people, three police officers, and injuring 50 people. No group claimed responsibility.

March

On 1 March 2008, in the morning, in Hodan district of Mogadishu, Banaadir, Somalia, armed assailants fired upon and killed two police officers. Later in the day, at about noon, in Bakara market, armed assailants fired upon government troops. The army retaliated and a mortar and firefight ensued, killing seven soldiers, seven civilians and several children, wounding about 65 civilians and several children, and damaging the market and an unspecified number of residences and businesses. Al-Shabaab al-Islamiya claimed responsibility.

On or before 2 March 2008, south of Samarra', Salah ad Din, Iraq, United States soldiers found the bodies of 14 Sahwa Council members in a mass grave. The council members' hands were bound behind their backs and they all bore gunshot wounds to their heads. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) was responsible.

On 2 March 2008, at about 11:00 AM, near Zarghunkhel, in Darra Adam Khel, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) during a tribal jirga, killing 43 civilians and wounding 57 others. No group claimed responsibility.

On 3 March 2008, at about 11:00 AM, in Bab al Muazzam neighborhood, Ash Shaykh 'Umar subdistrict, Ar Rusafa district in Baghdad, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a checkpoint manned by Sahwa Council members and Iraqi army troops, killing 22 civilians, council members, and soldiers; wounding 43 others, and damaging the checkpoint, 23 nearby residences, and an unspecified number of vehicles. The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) claimed responsibility.

On 3 March 2008, at about 5:00 AM, in Embakasi and Kasarani, near Kitale, Rift Valley, Kenya, armed assailants stormed a community, firing weapons, wielding machetes, and burning houses, killing eight civilians, six children, and one housekeeper, wounding six children and two civilians, and burning 10 residences. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed that the Sabat Land Defense Force (SLDF) was responsible.

On 3 March 2008, near Peshawar, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, assailants fired upon the village of Bara, killing 12 civilians, wounding 23 civilians, two children, kidnapping 10 civilians, damaging a Muslim shrine and burning three houses. On 7 March 2008, eight of the hostages were released, on 8 March 2008, another was released, and on 15 March 2008, the last hostage was released. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed Lashkar-e-Islam (LEI) was responsible.

On 6 March 2008, at about 6:45 PM, in Karradah district in Baghdad, Iraq, assailants detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) that was placed in a dumpster in an outdoor market, killing three civilians, wounding 12 others, and damaging the market and the dumpster. About five minutes later, when a large crowd had gathered at the scene of the explosion, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) he was wearing, killing 49 people, including civilians and children, and 16 police officers; wounding 114 people, including civilians and children, and 28 police officers; and damaging 13 vehicles, seven shops, and several residences. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) was responsible.

On 11 March 2008, at about 1:40 PM, 50 miles south of An Nasiriyah, Dhi Qar, Iraq, assailants detonated a roadside improvised explosive device (IED) near a United States (US) military convoy and a bus traveling from An Najaf to Al Basrah, killing 13 Shiite civilians and three children, wounding 22 other Shiite civilians and one US soldier, and damaging the bus and one military convoy vehicle. The IED was subsequently identified as an explosively formed penetrator (EFP). No group claimed responsibility.

On 11 March 2008, in the Nawagai area, near Bajaur, Federally Administered Tribal Areas, Pakistan, assailants detonated an improvised explosive device (IED), wounding one soldier and damaging one military vehicle. Assailants then fired on a military rescue team evacuating the wounded victim, causing no injuries or damage. The military fired retaliatory mortars and artillery at the assailants, killing 11 civilians, one child, wounding 25 civilians, and damaging one residence. No group claimed responsibility.

On 11 March 2008, at about 9:25 AM, in Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan, suicide bombers detonated two vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIED) near the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) regional headquarters and an advertising agency office, killing 15 police officers, 10 civilians, five children; wounding about 240 civilians, 50 children, 45 police officers; and damaging scores of vehicles, businesses, and residential buildings, two religious buildings and one police building. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed that either al-Qa'ida or the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were responsible.

On 13 March 2008, in the night, in Rutshuru, Nord-Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, armed assailants stormed a village and fired upon residents, killing nine civilians, three children and wounding one civilian. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed that the Mai-Mai was responsible.

On 13 March 2008, at about 2:00 PM, in the Ar Rusafa district of Baghdad, Iraq, assailants detonated a remote-controlled vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) in a market in the central Bab as Sharqi neighborhood, killing 18 civilians, wounding between 41 and 64 others, and damaging several clothing, CD, and DVD shops. No group claimed responsibility.

On 13 March 2008, near Al Junaynah, Gharb Darfur, Sudan, armed assailants fired upon a convoy carrying students, killing nine security guards and one civilian, wounding five people, and damaging the convoy. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed that the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) was responsible.

On 15 March 2008, in Mogadishu, Banaadir, Somalia, armed assailants fired upon and killed 10 civilians and police officers. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed that al-Shabaab al-Islamiya was responsible.

On 15 March 2008, in the Ceel Cirfiid area of Mogadishu, Banaadir, Somalia, armed assailants fired upon a police checkpoint, killing four civilians and 10 people, including police officers. Al-Shabaab al-Islamiya claimed responsibility.

On 17 March 2008, at about 6:10 PM, in downtown Karbala', Karbala', Iraq, a female suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) near a crowd of Shiite civilians outside the Imam Hussein shrine on Habib bin Mezaher Street before evening prayers, killing between 43 and 57 Shiite civilians (up to 50 Iraqi; 7 Iranian), wounding between 65 and 73 others (up to 63 Iraqi; 10 Iranian), and damaging several market stalls. Although no group claimed responsibility, the United States military suspected the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) perpetrated this attack.

On 20 March 2008, in Kasib and Khor areas near Nyala, Janub Darfur, Sudan, armed assailants stormed a community, killing 12 civilians, wounding three others, and causing an unspecified amount of damage. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Sudan Liberation Army/Movement (SLA/SLM) was responsible.

On 23 March 2008, at about 6:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 4:30 PM and 8:30 PM, in Baghdad, Iraq, assailants fired between 15 and 30 mortar rounds and rockets at the International (Green) Zone, with some landing outside the Green Zone, killing 14 civilians, including several children, one United States (US) government contractor; wounding between four and eight people, between 39 and 47 civilians, including several children; causing light damage to the US embassy complex, several residences inside and outside the Green Zone, and a parking lot. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed Mahdi Army (JAM) splinter groups were responsible.

On 23 March 2008, at about 7:00 AM, in Mosul, Ninawa, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) at the entrance to an Iraqi military headquarters, killing between 10 and 15 soldiers, wounding between 25 and 40 others, between 10 and 12 civilians, and damaging the military headquarters facility. The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) claimed responsibility.

On 29 March 2008, at about 4:00 PM, in Mogadishu, Banaadir, Somalia, assailants launched mortars at the presidential palace, killing two government officials and 15 soldiers, wounding about 20 others, and damaging the palace. Ethiopian troops guarding the palace responded with retaliatory mortar fire on a busy Bakara market, killing 20 civilians and one child, wounding 40 civilians, and damaging the market and a money exchange shop. Al-Shabaab al-Islamiya claimed responsibility.

On 30 March 2008, in As Siniyah, Salah ad Din, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a checkpoint, killing one police officer, three or four Sahwa Council members, between four and six civilians, wounding two police officers, between two and eight Sahwa Council members, three civilians, and damaging the checkpoint. No group claimed responsibility.

On 31 March 2008, in Buulobarde, Hiiraan, Somalia, assailants fired automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) at a hotel housing regional leaders, killing seven soldiers and four civilians, damaging the hotel and four military vehicles. Al-Shabaab al-Islamiya claimed responsibility.

April

On 3 April 2008, at about 6:00 AM, in Cadaado, Galguduud, Somalia, assailants fired firearms, mortars, and rockets at two government checkpoints, killing 15 soldiers and four civilians, wounding 20 soldiers and six civilians, and damaging the two checkpoints, one bus, and six armored military trucks. Al-Shabaab al-Islamiya claimed responsibility.

On 4 April 2008, in As Sa'diyah, Diyala, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) he was wearing near a funeral procession in Sed Himreen cemetery, killing 20 civilians and wounding 30 others. No group claimed responsibility.

On 6 April 2008, in the morning, in Weliveriya, Western Province, Sri Lanka, a suicide bomber approached the starting line of a marathon race and detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) strapped to his body, killing 13 civilians and a government official, injuring about 100 civilians and one police officer. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was responsible.

On 8 April 2008, in the morning, in Shinkay, Zabol, Afghanistan, armed assailants attacked a road construction site, killing nine civilians and nine private security guards, injuring eight guards and eight civilians and kidnapping 27 civilians. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

On 10 April 2008, at 9:45 AM, in Kandahar, Kandahar, Afghanistan, in a residential neighborhood, a suicide bomber detonated his vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a NATO patrol, killing seven civilians, three children, injuring 18 civilians, three Canadian soldiers, two police officers, damaging 14 shops and several vehicles including at least one military vehicle. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

On 10 April 2008, in Campo Novo de Rondonia, Rondonia, Brazil, armed assailants fired upon and killed 15 civilians. No group claimed responsibility.

On 12 April 2008, at 9:00 PM, in Shiraz, Fars, Iran, during the evening prayer session, a bomb exploded at the Sayid Al-Shuhadan Husainiya, killing 12 civilians, wounding 200 others, and causing damage to the mosque. Jihadi Movement of the Sunna People of Iran claimed responsibility.

On 13 April 2008, in the late evening, in Arghandab, Kandahar, Afghanistan, assailants fired on a police checkpoint, killing 11 police officers, wounding one other, damaging two vehicles and the checkpoint. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

On 14 April 2008, in the afternoon, near Rabi'ah, Ninawa, Iraq, assailants detonated a roadside vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a truck transporting Kurdish Peshmerga paramilitary members, killing 12 paramilitary members, wounding between two and five others, and damaging the truck. The paramilitary members were on leave en route to Sinjar. The Shield of Islam Brigade claimed responsibility.

On 15 April 2008, at about 11:15 AM, in central Ba'qubah, Diyala, Iraq, assailants detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near the Diyala Courthouse, killing 34 civilians, 12 children, and one police officer; wounding 64 civilians, 15 police officers, and three children; and damaging three minibuses, eight cars, 10 shops, a restaurant and the courthouse. The VBIED was parked across the street from the courthouse and in front of a restaurant. Although no group claimed responsibility, the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) was suspected of perpetrating this attack.

On 15 April 2008, at about 12:30 PM, in western Ar Ramadi, Al Anbar, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) in a restaurant frequented by police officers, killing six civilians, five police officers, and two children; wounding 10 civilians and four police officers; and damaging the restaurant. The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) claimed responsibility.

On 17 April 2008, at about 7:00 PM, in Zaranj, Nimruz, Afghanistan, in front of a mosque, a suicide bomber detonated his improvised explosive device (IED), killing 14 civilians, 13 children, two police officers, injuring 15 civilians, 15 children and causing damage to the mosque. No group claimed responsibility.

On 17 April 2008, at about 11:00 AM, near Adhaim, Diyala, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) in a Sunni funeral mourning tent, killing 55 civilians and wounding at least 40 others. The bomber was described as an elderly man thought by guards to be too old to be a bomber. The funeral was for two brothers who were Sahwa Council paramilitary members and had been kidnapped on 15 April 2008 and their bodies found on 16 April 2008. The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) issued warnings to relatives of the deceased brothers not to hold a funeral procession. No group claimed responsibility, although the ISI was widely believed to have perpetrated this attack.

On 17 April 2008, in Safati village, near Nyala, Janub Darfur, Sudan, armed assailants stormed a community, fired upon the residents, killing 10 civilians, wounding four others, and set fire to the village. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed that the Sudan Liberation Army/Movement (SLA/SLM) was responsible.

Between 19 April 2008 and 22 April 2008, in Mogadishu, Banaadir, Somalia, armed assailants fired upon Ethiopian military positions, prompting retaliatory mortar fire. The fighting escalated and extended throughout Mogadishu for the next two days, with mortar fire killing 51 Ethiopian soldiers, 23 Somali soldiers, 121 civilians, and two children; wounding about 241 civilians, 79 Ethiopian soldiers, 30 Somali soldiers, and three children; and damaging one market, several residences, and one military base. Al-Shabaab al-Islamiya claimed responsibility.

On 22 April 2008, at about 7:30 AM, in Ar Ramadi, Al Anbar, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a United States (US) military/Iraqi police joint checkpoint at an entrance to the city, killing two US Marines, between one and seven police officers, between one and four civilians, wounding three US Marines, two or three police officers, between 16 and 30 civilians, five children, and causing damage to the checkpoint. The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) claimed responsibility.

On 22 April 2008, between 6:00 and 6:45 PM, in Jalula', Diyala, Iraq, a female suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) she was wearing near a police station, killing between three and seven police officers, between three and 11 civilians, one Kurdish paramilitary member, wounding two or three police officers, between 10 and 15 civilians, and damaging the police station. No group claimed responsibility.

On 25 April 2008, in the evening, in Piliyandala, Western Province, Sri Lanka, at a public bus stand, assailants detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) inside a passenger bus, killing 24 civilians, one Buddhist monk, one child; injuring 33 civilians, 30 children; and destroying the bus. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was responsible.

On 27 April 2008, at about 11:45 PM, in Mogadishu, Banaadir, Somalia, assailants fired firearms, mortars, and rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) at a military post, killing nine soldiers and damaging the military post. A mortar and firefight ensued, killing one civilian, three children, and one security guard, wounding an unspecified number of civilians, and damaging one residence. The fighting continued and the troops chased the assailants into a mosque, assaulting those inside with knives, killing at least 18 civilians, one imam, and several Islamic scholars. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed that al-Shabaab al-Islamiya was responsible.

On 29 April 2008, in Khugiani, Nangarhar, Afghanistan, a suicide bomber approached a group of police officers and government officials and detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) strapped to his body, killing 11 police officers, seven civilians, injuring 15 police officers, 13 civilians, two Australian journalists, the district chief and causing damage to several vehicles. The Taliban claimed responsibility. A previously unknown group calling themselves Tora Bora Front also claimed responsibility.

On 30 April 2008, at about 7:30 AM, in Baidoa, Bay, Somalia, assailants remotely detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) as a water tanker passed, killing two soldiers, wounding several others, and damaging the tanker. Ethiopian soldiers responded by indiscriminately firing into a crowded street, killing 13 civilians and wounding nine others. No group claimed responsibility.

May

On 1 May 2008, in the evening, in Balad Ruz, Diyala, Iraq, a female suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) near a crowd of people celebrating a wedding in a marketplace. Several minutes later as police and rescue workers arrived on the scene, a second male suicide bomber detonated an IED he was wearing. The two attacks killed 45 people, including civilians, children, police officers, and rescue workers; wounded 75 others; and damaged the market and an unspecified number of shops and vehicles. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) was responsible. ISI denied responsibility.

On 1 May 2008, at about 9:30 AM, in Karradah district in Baghdad, Iraq, assailants detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a United States (US) military patrol, killing eight or nine civilians, one child, and one US soldier; wounding between 23 and 26 civilians and two US soldiers; and damaging at least 12 civilian vehicles, a US military vehicle, and several auto repair shops. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) was responsible.

On or about 2 May 2008, in Al Qa'im, Al Anbar, Iraq, armed assailants fired upon and killed between 11 and 13 police officers. No group claimed responsibility, although authorities blamed an unidentified Syrian group.

On 2 May 2008, at the end of Friday prayers, in Sa'dah, Sa'dah, Yemen, assailants remotely-detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) at the Bin Salman mosque, killing 2 children, 16 civilians and soldiers, wounding 45 civilians and soldiers, and damaging the mosque. No group claimed responsibility, although authorities blamed Huthis rebels, who denied the accusation.

Starting on 7 May 2008 and ending approximately two weeks later, in Beirut, Beyrouth, Lebanon and Tripoli, Liban-Nord, Lebanon, assailants fired rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) and firearms at government soldiers and public places, killing one child, at least 40 civilians and soldiers; wounding 11 civilians, at least one child, and several soldiers; and damaging a building and several cars. The cars were being used as roadblocks on the road to the airport. Hizballah claimed responsibility.

On 7 May 2008, in the evening, in Wanlaweyn, Shabeellaha Hoose, Somalia, armed assailants fired mortars at Ethiopian troops, prompting retaliatory fire, killing nine civilians, four children, and eight soldiers, and causing an unspecified amount of damage to the community. Al-Shabaab al-Islamiya claimed responsibility.

On 9 May 2008, at about 5:40 PM, in Ampara, North Eastern Province, Sri Lanka, at the City Cafe Hotel, assailants detonated an improvised explosive device (IED), killing 11 civilians, injuring 29 others, damaging the hotel and several nearby hotels. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was responsible.

On 10 May 2008, in Baidoa, Bay, Somalia, assailants remotely detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) as a tanker carrying water for Ethiopian troops passed, killing 12 civilians and one soldier, wounding nine civilians, and damaging the tanker. No group claimed responsibility.

On 13 May 2008, in Jaipur, Rajasthan, India, between about 7:30 PM and 7:45 PM, assailants detonated nine improvised explosive devices (IED) in a crowded tourist area near a Hindu temple, killing 64 civilians, wounding approximately 200 others, and damaging the temple, a vehicle, and many shops. In that area, authorities recovered and safely defused another IED that failed to detonate. Indian Mujahideen (IM) claimed responsibility.

On 14 May 2008, between 4:00 PM and 6:30 PM, near Zaydan, Al Anbar, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) near a Sunni funeral, killing 21 civilians, 1 child, and at least three paramilitary members; wounding 45 civilians and at least three paramilitary members; and damaging a funeral tent. The funeral was being held for a technical school principal who was shot and killed the previous day. The deceased principal was also the uncle of the Al Fallujah chief of police and the brother of a leading member of a Sahwa Council. The funeral was being attended by many members of this Sahwa Council. No group claimed responsibility.

On 15 May 2008, at about 9:00 AM, in Dilaram, Farah, Afghanistan, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) at a police checkpoint, killing 16 civilians, three police officers, wounding 25 civilians, 5 police officers, damaging the checkpoint and two vehicles. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

On 15 May 2008, at about 7:30 AM, in North Cachar Hills, Assam, India, assailants fired upon and set fire to cement trucks, killing five cement truck drivers and five assistants and damaging five cement trucks. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Dima Halim Daogah-Jewel Garlossa (DHD-J) was responsible.

On 16 May 2008, at noon, in Colombo, Western Province, Sri Lanka, a suicide bomber drove his motorcycle into one of three buses transporting police officers to a demonstration and detonated his vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), killing seven officers, three civilians, injuring 62 others, 30 police officers, three soldiers, damaging at least 13 vehicles and a military checkpoint. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was responsible.

On 18 May 2008, in Mardan, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, a suicide bomber approached the gate of the Punjab Regiment Center and detonated an improvised explosive device (IED), killing

eight civilians, four soldiers, injuring 13 civilians, 10 soldiers, and damaging the base and a nearby bakery. The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility.

On 19 May 2008, in the evening, in Al Bi'aj, Ninawa, Iraq, armed assailants fired upon a minibus transporting police recruits returning to the city from their recruitment camp, killing nine police recruits and two police drivers, kidnapping one police recruit, and damaging the minibus. Several of the victims appeared to have been killed execution style, with gun shots to the head. Iraqi security forces later rescued the kidnapped police officer. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed that the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) was responsible.

On 20 May 2008, at about 4:00 AM, in Abyei, Janub Kurdufan, Sudan, armed assailants fired upon military positions and burned residences, prompting an intense firefight, killing 22 soldiers and at least 35 civilians, wounding 54 soldiers, and destroying the community, including many residences. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/SPLA) claimed responsibility.

On 26 May 2008, at about 7:00 PM, in Mogadishu, Banaadir, Somalia, armed assailants fired mortars and rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) at a peacekeeping barracks, prompting an exchange of firearms and mortars, killing sixteen civilians and two children, wounding 26 civilians and one child, and damaging at least one building. Al-Shabaab al-Islamiya claimed responsibility.

On 29 May 2008, between 10:30 AM and 11:00 AM, in Sinjar, Ninawa, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) in a crowd of civilians waiting outside a police station to apply for jobs as police officers, killing between eight and 14 civilians, two police officers, wounding between 11 and 16 civilians, five police officers, and damaging the police station. No group claimed responsibility, although it was believed the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) was responsible.

On 31 May 2008, at about 9:00 PM, in Hit, Al Anbar, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) near a police checkpoint, killing the city's Chief of Police, five other police officers, and four civilians; wounding five police officers and seven civilians; and damaging the checkpoint. No group claimed responsibility.

June

On 2 June 2008, at about 8:00 PM, in Dawasa district in central Mosul, Ninawa, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a checkpoint controlling entry into the city's police department compound, killing five police officers, six civilians, and two children; wounding 38 civilians and children and eight police officers; and damaging the checkpoint and the police compound. The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) claimed responsibility.

On 4 June 2008, in the morning, at Kinyandoni camp, near Rutshuru, Nord-Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, assailants raided and fired upon an internally-displaced persons (IDP) camp, killing 10 IDPs and two children, wounding about 20 IDPs, many children, and two

humanitarians. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed that the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) were responsible.

On 4 June 2008, at about 8:00 PM, in Karradah district in central Baghdad, Iraq, assailants detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near Hassan Ice Cream shop in Jadriya neighborhood as a mobile elite police patrol was passing, killing seven civilians and three police officers, wounding seven civilians and four police officers, and damaging three civilian vehicles and one police vehicle. No group claimed responsibility.

On 4 June 2008, at about 2:15 PM, in Ash Sha'b neighborhood in 'Azamiyah district in northern Baghdad, Iraq, assailants fired a rocket improvised explosive device (IED) in the direction of a United States (US) forward operating base (FOB), causing four other rocket IEDs on the assailants' truck to explode prematurely, killing 15 civilians and one child, wounding 28 civilians and one child, damaging 15 residences and an unspecified number of vehicles. No group claimed responsibility, although authorities believed Mahdi Army (JAM) splinter groups were responsible.

On 5 June 2008, in Nabanga, Gharb al Istiwa'iyah, Sudan, about 100 armed assailants stormed a village and fired upon the inhabitants, killing 14 South Sudanese soldiers, nine civilians, and children. The assailants then set fire to the community, causing damage but no further injuries. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed that the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was responsible.

On 6 June 2008, at about 7:45 AM, in Katubedda, Moratuwa, Western Province, Sri Lanka, assailants detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) near a public passenger bus, killing 21 civilians, injuring 50 others and damaging the bus. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was responsible.

Between 7 June 2008 and 9 June 2008, in Mogadishu, Banaadir, Somalia, armed assailants threw grenades at a military foot patrol, killing three soldiers. The assailants also fired mortars at Somali troops, starting an intense firearm and mortar fight lasting three days, killing nine civilians, three children; wounding over 94 civilians and three children; and damaging several communities and several residences. Ethiopian troops fired mortars into a market, killing seven civilians and two children, and damaging the market. No group claimed responsibility.

On 9 June 2008, in Wagela, Nimba, Liberia, armed assailants attacked a farm, firing machine guns, assaulting with machetes, and pouring acid on the farmers, killing 13 workers and wounding several others. No group claimed responsibility.

On 13 June 2008, at about 9:00 PM, in Kandahar, Kandahar, Afghanistan, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) at the front gate of Sarposa prison, another suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) at the rear gate of the prison and other assailants fired on the prison with firearms, rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) and rockets, killing 15 police officers and damaging the prison. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

On 13 June 2008, in Saravan, Sistan va Baluchestan, Iran, armed assailants kidnapped and killed 16 border police officers. The assailants kidnapped the 16 police officers and took them over the border into Pakistan. Jundullah claimed responsibility.

On 16 June 2008, at about 7:15 AM, in Vavuniya, North Eastern Province, Sri Lanka, a suicide bomber approached the Police Senior Superintendent complex and detonated his vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBEID), killing 12 officers, injuring 19 others, three children, one civilian and damaging the police building. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was responsible.

On 17 June 2008, at 5:45 PM, in the Al Kazimiyah district of Baghdad, Iraq, assailants detonated a large vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) parked in a garage near a market and bus stop in the northwestern Madinat al Hurriyah neighborhood, killing 58 civilians and five children, wounding 59 civilians and 12 children, destroying a multi-level building containing 20 apartments and 20 shops, and damaging 15 cars. No group claimed responsibility, although the United States (US) military blamed this attack on a Mahdi Army (JAM) splinter group.

On 19 June 2008, in Kurram, Federally Administered Tribal Areas, Pakistan, armed assailants fired rockets and small arms fire at a convoy, killing four contractors, two civilians, and one private security guard. The assailants then set three vehicles on fire, damaging the vehicles but causing no further injuries. The assailants then kidnapped eight other contractors. On 23 June 2008, the bodies of the eight kidnap victims were found with hands, legs, and heads removed. No group claimed responsibility, although it was believed Sunni Islamic extremists were responsible.

On 22 June 2008, between 12:30 PM and 1:00 PM, in Ba'qubah, Diyala, Iraq, a female suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) at a police checkpoint outside the provincial government offices, killing seven or eight police officers, between seven and nine civilians, one child; wounding between five and 10 police officers, 37 people; and damaging several government facilities, several police vehicles, the checkpoint and several nearby buildings. No group claimed responsibility, although it was believed the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) was responsible.

On 22 June 2008, in the evening, in Adhaim, Diyala, Iraq, assailants fired 10 mortar rounds at a Sahwa Council headquarters and checkpoint, killing 10 Sahwa Council members, wounding 24 others, damaging several residences and causing unspecified damage to the headquarters and checkpoint. The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) claimed responsibility.

From 22 June 2008 to 25 June 2008, in Tripoli, Liban-Nord, Lebanon and Beddawi, Liban-Nord, Lebanon, armed assailants fired upon opposing political forces, killing eight civilians, one child, one police officer; wounding approximately 28 civilians and 19 political affiliates; and damaging several buildings, a mosque, several residences, several vehicles, and the local electrical infrastructure. No group claimed responsibility, but it was widely believed that forces of the opposing 14 March Coalition and 8 March Coalition were responsible.

On 23 June 2008, in Jandola, Federally Administered Tribal Areas, Pakistan, assailants fired on a group of Bitani tribal members, killing 18 tribal members, kidnapping and killing 22 others, and kidnapping eight others. The assailants then set fire to residences, damaging 35 homes but causing no injuries. On 27 June 2008, the eight kidnapped victims were safely released. The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility.

On 24 June 2008, at about 9:30 AM, in the Sadr City district of Baghdad, Iraq, assailants detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) hidden inside the district advisory council facility, killing two United States (US) soldiers, three government contractors (2 US; 1 Italian), six people; wounding one US soldier, three or four local government officials, seven people; and damaging the facility. No group claimed responsibility, although it was believed Mahdi Army (JAM) splinter groups were responsible.

On 26 June 2008, between 10:30 AM and noon, in Al Karmah, Al Anbar, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) he was wearing at a Sahwa Council facility where a meeting was taking place between pro-government sheikks, killing 11 Sahwa Council members, three United States soldiers, two contractors, three police officers, one local government official, between zero and five people; wounding between 20 and 30 people; and damaging the facility. The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) claimed responsibility.

On 26 June 2008, between 1:00 PM and 1:30 PM, in Mosul, Ninawa, Iraq, assailants fired one rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) at and detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a public market, killing 15 civilians, two children, one police officer, wounding 71 civilians, nine police officers, and damaging several public buildings. No group claimed responsibility.

On 29 June 2008, at about 10:30 AM, in Malkangiri, Orissa, India, assailants fired rockets, mortars, and light machine guns at a boat ferrying Greyhound special police force members across Ballimella reservoir, killing 31 police officers and four paramilitary members, wounding 10 police officers, and damaging the ship. No group claimed responsibility, but it was widely believed the Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist) was responsible.

July

On 1 July 2008, in Matabaan, Galguduud, Somalia, armed assailants ambushed and fired upon a military convoy, killing nine Ethiopian soldiers and damaging at least two vehicles. A firefight ensued, killing 27 civilians. Al-Shabaab al-Islamiya claimed responsibility.

On 6 July 2008, at about 7:30 PM, in Islamabad, Islamabad, Pakistan, in front of a police station, a suicide bomber approached a crowd of police officers and civilians and detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) strapped to his body, killing 15 police officers, four civilians, injuring 24 police officers, 16 civilians, and damaging the police station. No group claimed responsibility.

On 7 July 2008, at 8:25 AM, in Kabul, Kabul, Afghanistan, a suicide bomber drove his vehicle into the gate of the Indian Embassy and detonated his vehicle-borne improvised explosive

device (VBIED), killing 25 civilians, six police officers, at least four Indian embassy employees, four children, two Indian private security guards; injuring 109 civilians, 20 embassy employees (18 Indian; 2 Indonesian), 10 police officers, two children; destroying at least seven vehicles (5 Afghan; 2 Indian), causing extensive damage to the Indian embassy's Gate, damaging several nearby buildings and shops including the Pajhwok Afghan News building, and the adjacent Indonesian embassy. No group claimed responsibility, although some Afghan officials blamed the Pakistani-based Taliban.

On 9 July 2008, in the afternoon, in Al Faisaliya district in central Mosul, Ninawa, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near the convoy of the Iraqi Army's Senior Security Commander in Ninawa near the provincial traffic police headquarters, killing between eight and 14 civilians; wounding 29 others, seven Iraqi soldiers, and five traffic police officers; and damaging three vehicles in the convoy, four civilian vehicles, the traffic police headquarters, and several nearby shops and buildings. No group claimed responsibility.

On or about 13 July 2008, near Ghazni, Afghanistan, assailants kidnapped and killed 15 civilians. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

On 13 July 2008, at about 10:20 AM, in Deh Rawod, Oruzgan, Afghanistan, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) targeting a police vehicle, killing 17 civilians, several children, five police officers, wounding 44 civilians, and destroying the police vehicle. No group claimed responsibility.

On 15 July 2008, at about 8:00 AM, in eastern Ba'qubah, Diyala, Iraq, two suicide bombers detonated improvised explosive devices (IED) near a crowd of civilians waiting to enlist outside the Iraqi Army recruitment center at Saad military base, killing 33 civilians and wounding between 55 and 69 others. The second suicide bomber detonated his explosives shortly after the first attack as first responders attempted to help the injured. One suicide bomber wore an Iraqi Army uniform and the second was dressed in civilian clothes. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) was responsible for the attack.

On 16 July 2008, at about 4:00 PM, near MV-126 village, in Malkangiri, Orissa, India, assailants detonated a landmine improvised explosive device (IED) near a police vehicle and then fired upon it, killing 17 police officers and damaging the vehicle. No group claimed responsibility, but it was widely believed the Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist) was responsible.

On 16 July 2008, at about 7:00 PM, in the Taliha district of downtown Tall 'Afar, Ninawa, Iraq, assailants detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) in a crowded outdoor market in a predominantly Shiite neighborhood, killing 16 civilians and nine children; wounding 59 civilians, 10 children, and three police commandos; and damaging the market. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed that the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) perpetrated this attack.

On 26 July 2008, between about 6:30 PM and 8:00 PM, in Ahmadabad, Ahmadabad, Gujarat, India, assailants detonated between 15 and 19 improvised explosive devices (IED) and two vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIED) at 17 different crowded areas including markets, hospitals, residential areas, and bus routes, killing 56 civilians, wounding more than 200 others, and damaging two hospitals and many residences, shops, busses, and businesses. Authorities later recovered and safely defused three additional IEDs. Indian Mujahideen (IM) claimed responsibility.

On 27 July 2008, at about 10:00 PM, in Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey, assailants detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) in a rubbish container, causing no injuries or damage. Ten minutes later, assailants detonated a second IED in another rubbish container, killing five children and 12 civilians, wounding 154 civilians, and damaging several cafes and apartment buildings. No group claimed responsibility, but authorities believed the Kongra-Gel (KGK, PKK, TAK, KADEK, HPG) suspects whom they arrested were responsible.

On 28 July 2008, at about 11:00 AM, in Kirkuk, At Ta'mim, Iraq, a female suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) she was wearing in a crowd of Kurdish protesters protesting the passage of the provincial council elections law which cancelled elections in the city, killing between 13 and 22 civilians and wounding between 47 and 79 others. No group claimed responsibility, although authorities believed the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) was responsible.

On 28 July 2008, at about 8:00 AM, in the Karradah district of Baghdad, Iraq, three female suicide bombers detonated three improvised explosive devices (IED) they were wearing minutes apart in a very large crowd of Shia civilians walking to the Imam Kadhim shrine, killing between 16 and 25 civilians, three police officers, four children; wounding between 64 and 117 civilians, and causing damage to the surrounding area. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) was responsible.

August

On 2 August 2008, at about 10:00 AM, in the Loy Karez area, in Spin Buldak, Kandahar, Afghanistan, assailants detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) targeting security forces, killing 11 civilians, two children, wounding six civilians, and damaging a civilian bus. No group claimed responsibility.

On 3 August 2008, at about 8:30 AM, in 'Azamiyah district in northern Baghdad, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near the 'Azamiyah passport office on al-Maghreb Street, killing 12 civilians; wounding 20 or 21 others and three police officers; and damaging six civilian vehicles, several nearby buildings and several shops. No group claimed responsibility, although Interior Ministry officials accused an unnamed political party of being responsible.

On 3 August 2008, at about 8:00 AM, in Mogadishu, Banaadir, Somalia, assailants remotely detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) as a group of street cleaners passed, killing 23

civilians and wounding 42 others. No group claimed responsibility, although the Somali-backed Ethiopian troops and the Islamic Courts Union traded accusations.

On 4 August 2008, at about 8:00 AM, in Kashi, Xinjiang, China, assailants in a dump truck threw grenades at police officers near a border post, damaging the post but causing no injuries. The assailants then assaulted the officers with machetes, killing 16 police officers and wounding 16 others. During the attack the dump truck struck a hotel, damaging the front door but causing no further injuries. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely reported that the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) was responsible.

On 8 August 2008, at about 6:30 PM, in Tall 'Afar, Ninawa, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) in a crowded produce market, killing 28 civilians; wounding 66 others, five police officers, and one vendor; and damaging the market and an unspecified number of produce stands. No group claimed responsibility, although authorities blamed the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI).

On 10 August 2008, in El Tambo, Cauca, Colombia, armed assailants fired upon and killed 10 civilians. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed that the National Liberation Army (ELN) was responsible.

On 12 August 2008, at about 11:00 AM, near a bridge on the main Peshawar-Kohat Road, in Peshawar, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, a suicide bomber drove his vehicle into a Pakistani Air Force vehicle and detonated his vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), killing 10 airmen, three civilians, one child, wounding 11 civilians, five airmen, one child, damaging nine vehicles, and a bridge. Both the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Jaish-e-Islami claimed responsibility.

On 12 August 2008, in Dera Bugti, Balochistan, Pakistan, assailants killed 18 police officers and injured five others. The Balochistan Republican Army (BRA) claimed responsibility.

On 13 August 2008, at 8:00 AM, in Tripoli, Liban-Nord, Lebanon, assailants detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) five meters from a bus stop, killing seven civilians, one infant, and 10 soldiers; wounding 45 people, mostly soldiers; and damaging the bus, several vehicles, and nearby buildings. No group claimed responsibility, but it was believed that Fatah al-Islam was responsible.

On 13 August 2008, at about 11:34 PM, in Allama Iqbal Town, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan, at a crowded city square, a suicide bomber detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) strapped to his body, killing eight civilians and two police officers; injuring 21 officers and 19 civilians; and damaging a mosque, several buildings and several vehicles. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Taliban was responsible.

On 14 August 2008, at about 7:30 PM, near Al Iskandariyah, Babil, Iraq, a female suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) near a group of Shia pilgrims resting on the roadside, killing 20 civilians, two police officers, wounding 72 civilians and three police officers. The pilgrims were traveling to Karbala' to participate in the Sharbaniyah observances.

No group claimed responsibility, although the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) is suspected of perpetrating this attack.

On 15 August 2008, in the afternoon, near Arbiska, near Mogadishu, Banaadir, Somalia, assailants remotely detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) as a civilian bus passed, killing 11 civilians and damaging the bus. Ethiopian troops opened retaliatory fire, killing 26 civilians and one child, wounding 18 civilians, and damaging one bus. No group claimed responsibility, although the Ethiopian government blamed al-Shabaab al-Islamiya.

On 17 August 2008, in the morning, in Khowst, Khowst, Afghanistan, outside of North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Camp Salerno, a suicide bomber detonated his vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), killing 10 civilians, injuring 13 others, and damaging the entrance to the base. Military forces fired upon a second would-be suicide VBIED bomber, attempting to target first responders, causing him to flee from his vehicle into a crowd. The VBIED was later disarmed in a controlled detonation causing no further casualties or damage. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

On 17 August 2008, in the night, in Shah Wali Kot, Kandahar, Afghanistan, an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded when it was struck by a police vehicle, killing 10 police officers and destroying the vehicle. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Taliban was responsible.

On 17 August 2008, at about 8:00 PM, in Ain Kechera, Skikda, Algeria, assailants remotely detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) as a military convoy passed and then fired upon the convoy, killing eight police officers, two soldiers and one civilian, and damaging three vehicles. Shortly thereafter, assailants detonated a second IED and fired upon the arriving support troops, killing one soldier and wounding 13 others. Al-Qa'ida Organization in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) claimed responsibility.

On 17 August 2008, at about 7:30 PM, in the 'Azamiyah district of Baghdad, Iraq, a suicide bomber dressed as a woman detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) near a Sahwa Council checkpoint near the Sunni Abu Hanifa Mosque, killing seven Sunni Sahwa paramilitary members and eight civilians, wounding two other paramilitary members and 28 civilians, and damaging the checkpoint and several buildings. Among the deceased Sahwa members was the local Sahwa leader and the wounded included two of his sons. The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) claimed responsibility.

On 18 August 2008, in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte, Philippines; Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte, Philippines; and Maasim, Sarangani, Philippines, assailants fired upon and killed 38 civilians, 27 soldiers, one police officer; wounded many civilians, at least three children; took 50 civilians hostage; and burned and looted 23 residences, 3 businesses, and 3 vehicles. The hostages were used as human shields for the assailants as the latter were withdrawing and were later released. No group claimed responsibility, although officials suspected the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) was responsible.

On 19 August 2008, at about 7:00 AM, in Les Issers, Boumerdes, Algeria, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a police academy, killing 42 civilians and one police officer, wounding 32 civilians and 13 police officers, and damaging the police academy, several residences and several shops. Al-Qa'ida Organization in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) claimed responsibility.

On 19 August 2008, in Dera Ismail Khan, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, a suicide bomber entered the emergency room of the district headquarters hospital and detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) strapped to his body, killing 26 civilians, seven police officers, two health workers, injuring 48 civilians, five police officers, two journalists, several health workers, and damaging the hospital. The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility. A Taliban spokesperson claimed that the attack was in response to military operations in Bajaur and Swat.

On 20 August 2008, at about 6:00 AM, in Bouira, Bouira, Algeria, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a military barracks, killing two soldiers and damaging the barracks. Minutes later, a second suicide bomber detonated a VBIED near a bus parked in front of the Sophie hotel, killing 12 workers, wounding 44 others, and damaging the bus, the hotel, and several other buildings. Al-Qa'ida Organization in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) claimed responsibility.

On 21 August 2008, at about 2:35 PM, in Wah, Punjab, Pakistan, two suicide bombers detonated their improvised explosive devices outside the gates of the Pakistan Ordnance Factory during a shift change, killing between 60 and 70 people, wounding between 80 and 102 others, and causing unspecified damage to the area. Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility.

On 23 August 2008, in Shah Wali Kot, Kandahar, Afghanistan, assailants detonated a roadside improvised explosive device (IED) near a minibus, killing eight civilians, two children, wounding four civilians, and damaging the vehicle. No group claimed responsibility, although it was believed the Taliban was responsible.

On 24 August 2008, between 8:00 PM and 8:30 PM, in Zaydan, Al Anbar, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) near the home of a Sunni Sahwa Council leader who was holding a banquet celebrating the release of his son from the Camp Bucca detention center three days earlier, killing 19 Sahwa Council paramilitary members, eight civilians, and three children; wounding up to 42 other people, including police officers, children, Sahwa Council members, and civilians; and damaging the residence. The Sahwa Council fatalities included the local chieftain. Although no group claimed responsibility, guests reported that the son had argued with Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) members while in detention possibly leading to this reprisal attack.

On 25 August 2008, at about 8:00 AM, in Shah Dheri, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, armed assailants fired rockets and small arms at the residence of a brother of a ruling party member of parliament (MP), killing four civilians, including the brother, seven security guards, one paramilitary member, wounding one civilian, and damaging the home. The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility.

On 26 August 2008, at about 10:30 AM, in Jalula', Diyala, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a police station in the northeastern Hay al-Shuhadah neighborhood, killing 25 civilians and five police officers, wounding 52 civilians and three Iraqi soldiers, and damaging the police station. Most of the civilian casualties were police recruits waiting to join. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) was responsible.

On 28 August 2008, in Bannu, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, assailants detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a police van, killing six or seven police officers, between one and three civilians, wounding five police officers, seven civilians, and damaging the van. No group claimed responsibility.

On 30 August 2008, near Jamshedpur, in East Singhbhum, Jharkhand, India, a landmine exploded on a Jharkhand Armed Police (JAP) vehicle, killing 12 police officers and damaging the vehicle. No group claimed responsibility, although authorities believed the Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist) was responsible.

September

On 3 September 2008, in the early morning, in Mogadishu, Banaadir, Somalia, assailants fired mortars at the presidential palace, starting an exchange of small arms and mortar fire, killing five civilians and 14 soldiers, wounding 14 civilians and two soldiers, and damaging the palace and several residences. Al-Shabaab al-Islamiya claimed responsibility.

On 5 September 2008, in Matta, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, assailants attempting to kidnap a local tribal leader fired small arms, crew-served automatic weapons and mortars at a group of civilians, killing 15 civilians, wounding three others, and kidnapping 15 others. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Taliban was responsible.

On 6 September 2008, in the Zhangali area, near Peshawar, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a police checkpoint, killing 31 civilians, five police officers, wounding 98 civilians, two police officers, destroying the checkpoint, three vehicles, and 40 shops. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

On 10 September 2008, in the evening, in the Miskene area, in Dir, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, assailants fired small arms and threw grenades at a mosque, killing 22 civilians, three children, wounding 47 civilians, three children, and damaging the mosque. No group claimed responsibility.

On 12 September 2008, at about 6:20 PM, in Ad Dujayl, Salah ad Din, Iraq, assailants detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) in a market near a police station, killing 28 Shiite civilians, four Shiite children, and four police officers; wounding 39 other Shiite civilians and children; and damaging the police station, a nearby medical clinic, 10 vehicles, and the market. The market was crowded with civilian shoppers buying foodstuffs for the evening end of the daily Muslim sunrise-to-sunset fast during the month of Ramadan. No

group claimed responsibility, although it was widely suspected that the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) perpetrated this attack.

On 13 September 2008, between 6:07 PM and 6:38 PM, in New Delhi, Delhi, India, assailants detonated five improvised explosive devices (IED) in crowded markets and tourist areas, killing 31 civilians, wounding at least 100 others, damaging several shops and vehicles and one subway station. Explosions occurred at a park and a subway station in Connaught Place, Gaffar Market, and Greater Kailash-1 market. Authorities later found and safely defused three more IEDs planted at a movie theater and a children's park near a tourist attraction. Indian Mujahideen (IM) claimed responsibility.

On 14 September 2008, in Zouerat, Tiris Zemmour, Mauritania, armed assailants fired small arms and rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) at a military convoy, killing 12 soldiers and damaging three vehicles. Al-Qa'ida Organization in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) claimed responsibility.

On 15 September 2008, at about 7:30 PM, in Balad Ruz, Diyala, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) near the home of a police sergeant major as fellow police officers and relatives were gathered to celebrate the Iftar meal, killing 11 police officers, nine civilians, and two children; wounding 33 people, including many civilians and several police officers; and damaging the home. The police officer whose home was targeted had been released one day earlier from United States (US) custody at Camp Bucca. No group claimed responsibility.

Between 17 September 2008 and 21 September 2008, near Nambia, Orientale, Democratic Republic of the Congo, assailants stormed several communities, firing upon inhabitants and burning and looting the residences and a Catholic mission, killing at least 52 civilians, kidnapping at least 10 others and 159 children, and burning hundreds of residences and destroying at least eight communities. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed that the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was responsible.

On 17 September 2008, between 9:15 AM and 9:30 AM, in Sanaa, San'a', Yemen, armed assailants attacked the United States Embassy, detonating two vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIED) and firing rocket-propelled grenades (RPG), rockets, and firearms, killing six Yemeni security guards, three civilians (2 Yemeni; 1 American) and one Indian nurse, and wounding several other Yemeni civilians, and damaging the main security gate and the front wall of the embassy. The assailants also threatened to attack the British, Saudi Arabian, and United Arab Emirates embassies. Al-Qa'ida in Yemen claimed responsibility.

Between 20 September 2008 and 21 September 2008, in Chesht-e Sharif, Herat, Afghanistan, armed assailants fired upon contractors and police officers at a dam that was under construction, killing 11 police officers providing security and wounding several others. No group claimed responsibility, although it was believed the Taliban were responsible.

On 20 September 2008, at about 8:00 PM, in Islamabad, Pakistan, an armed suicide bomber fired on and drove his vehicle through a security checkpoint at the Marriott Hotel and detonated

his vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), killing 47 civilians (45 Pakistani; 1 Egyptian; 1 Vietnamese), six private security guards, five soldiers (3 American; 2 Pakistani), two children, two diplomats (1 Czech; 1 Danish), injuring 264 civilians (244 Pakistani; 6 German; 5 Saudi; 3 American; 2 British; 2 Thai; 1 South Korean; 1 Filipino), three Danish diplomats, two British children, one government official, destroying the hotel, tens of vehicles, and damaging several nearby buildings. A previously unknown group calling itself Fidayeen-e-Islam claimed responsibility, although Pakistani authorities investigating the attack believe it was perpetrated by Harakat ul-Jihad-I-Islami (HUJI) and that the initial claim was meant to obstruct the investigation. One report also indicated that a United States (US) counterterrorism official suspected that Al-Qa'ida was responsible for the attack. On 22 December 2008, a newspaper stated that an advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan revealed that the investigation into the attack was complete and they held Lashkar i Jhangvi responsible for the bombing.

On 24 September 2008, at about 11:00 AM, near Khan Bani Sa'd, Diyala, Iraq, armed assailants detonated a roadside improvised explosive device (IED), launched rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) and fired small arms at a joint Iraqi police-Sahwa Council mobile patrol, killing between 20 and 27 police officers and eight Sunni paramilitary members, wounding four other police officers, and damaging three vehicles. It was suspected that the assailants had received advance knowledge of the impending police operation. No group claimed responsibility, although Iraqi authorities believed the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) perpetrated this attack.

On 27 September 2008, at 8:45 AM, on the al-Muthaleq al-Junubi Road in Damascus, Dimashq, Syria, assailants detonated a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), killing one brigadier general, one child, 15 civilians, and wounding 14 civilians. The target was either a security checkpoint or the nearby intelligence complex. No group claimed responsibility, but authorities believed Fatah al-Islam was responsible.

On 28 September 2008, at about 5:45 PM, in the Rashid district of Baghdad, Iraq, assailants detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a public market and mosque in the predominantly Shiite southwestern Shurtah ar Rabi'a neighborhood, killing five civilians, three children, and four vendors, wounding 35 other civilians, and damaging several cars, shops, and buildings. The timing and location of this attack was set to coincide with shopping for the Iftar meal, which celebrates the breaking of the fast during Ramadan. No group claimed responsibility, although the United States military suspected the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) was responsible.

On 28 September 2008, at about 7:10 PM, in the Karradah district of Baghdad, Iraq, assailants detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) in a parking garage near a crowded market on Al Attar Street followed seven minutes later by an improvised explosive device (IED) and small arms fire targeting first responders, killing 16 civilians and four police officers, wounding 65 other civilians, including several children, and seven police officers, and damaging the market, the garage, and several vehicles. This attack was timed to coincide with the Muslim preparation for the Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan with feasts and celebrations. No group claimed responsibility, although the United States military blamed this attack on the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI).

October

On 2 October 2008, between 7:45 AM and 8:10 AM, in the Karradah district of Baghdad, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) at an Iraqi Army checkpoint near the Shiite Zaafarana Mosque in the southeastern Az Za'faraniyah neighborhood as Shiite worshippers were leaving morning prayers, killing between one and nine civilians, three Iraqi soldiers; wounding 24 civilians, three police officers; one Iraqi soldier; and damaging the checkpoint, one military vehicle, several civilian vehicles, and several nearby buildings. No group claimed responsibility, but the United States military blamed this attack on the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI).

On 2 October 2008, at about 7:45 AM, in the Sab'ah Nisan district of Baghdad, Iraq, a teenage suicide bomber detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) he was wearing near the Shiite Al Rasul Mosque in the southeastern Baghdad Al Jadidah neighborhood as worshippers were leaving morning prayers, killing 10 civilians and two police officers, and wounding 24 civilians and one police officer. The bomber was detained by police officers 80 meters away and prior to entering the mosque but managed to detonate his explosives anyway. No group claimed responsibility, although the United States military blamed this attack on the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI).

On 6 October 2008, at about 4:45 PM, in Bhakkar, Punjab, Pakistan, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) targeting Pakistani Muslim League (Nawaz) leader Rashid Akbar Niwani, killing 24 civilians and one police officer, wounding 61 civilians and one political leader, and damaging a residence. No group claimed responsibility.

On 6 October 2008, at about 8:45 AM, in Dharmapala Mawatha, Anuradhapura, North Central Province, Sri Lanka, a suicide bomber entered the United National Party (UNP) office while party officials were holding a function and detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) strapped to his body, killing at least 27 party members and civilians, one journalist, wounding 94 political party members and civilians, and damaging the office. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was responsible.

On 8 October 2008, in Charcheno, Oruzgan, Afghanistan, assailants killed 10 civilians. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Taliban was responsible.

On 9 October 2008, at about 1:00 PM, in the Khwago Oba area, in Dir, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, assailants detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) targeting a prison van, killing five prisoners, four children, and three police officers, wounding seven police officers, three prisoners, and damaging the prison van and a school bus. No group claimed responsibility.

On 9 October 2008, at 6:00 PM, in Tintay, Huancavelica, Peru, armed assailants detonated a bomb under a military vehicle, then engaged in a firefight with soldiers, killing 13 soldiers, two civilians; wounding one child, two civilians, 14 soldiers; and damaging several vehicles. The Shining Path (SL) claimed responsibility.

On 10 October 2008, at about 4:30 PM, in the Rashid district of Baghdad, Iraq, assailants detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a public market in the predominantly Shia southern Abu Dishir neighborhood, killing 10 civilians and three children, wounding 27 civilians, and damaging 12 shops, one apartment building, and seven vehicles. No group claimed responsibility.

On 10 October 2008, in the Khadezai area, in Kurram, Federally Administered Tribal Areas, Pakistan, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) targeting a tribal jirga, killing 85 civilians and wounding 200 others. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Taliban was responsible.

On 10 October 2008, between Al Junaynah, Gharb Darfur, Sudan and Kulbus, Gharb Darfur, Sudan, armed assailants fired upon a government convoy, killing at least two government officials, four soldiers, nine people, and damaging several vehicles. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed that the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) was responsible.

On 16 October 2008, in Maywand, Kandahar, Afghanistan, armed assailants hijacked a passenger bus, holding hostage the approximate 50 civilians who were onboard and damaging the bus. The assailants then released the bus with 10 passengers and split the remaining 40 into separate groups. The victims were then kidnapped and taken to undisclosed locations, where they were killed, some of them by beheading while others were fired on. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

On 17 October 2008, in Mogadishu, Banaadir, Somalia, assailants fired mortars at an African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) peacekeeping base but missed, causing no injuries or damages, but prompting an exchange of mortars, killing 14 civilians, wounding 21 others, and damaging at least one shop and one residence. No group claimed responsibility.

On 21 October 2008, at about 7:45 PM, in Ragailong, Imphal City, Manipur, India, assailants detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a group of civilians, killing 17 civilians and wounding 30 others. The Kangleipak Communist Party-Military Council (KCP-MC) claimed responsibility.

On 23 October 2008, at about 8:00 AM, in the Ar Rusafa district of Baghdad, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-improvised explosive device (VBIED) after ramming into the convoy of the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs in the central Bab as Sharqi neighborhood, killing between three and eight civilians, three police officers, three or four private security guards; wounding between 16 and 20 civilians, two police officers, four private security guards; damaging two vehicles, one police vehicle, three civilian vehicles, and a dozen shops. No group claimed responsibility.

On 26 October 2008, in Swat, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, assailants kidnapped one tribal elder. The tribal elder was immediately rescued by fellow tribal members. The assailants fired on the tribal members, killing six soldiers and four civilians; then kidnapped and beheaded one

soldier; and kidnapped 62 other tribal elders and two soldiers. On 31 October 2008, in the same area, all 62 tribal elders were safely released. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

On 29 October 2008, at about 10:00 AM, in Hargeysa, Woqooyi Galbeed, Somalia, three suicide bombers detonated vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIED), killing at least 21 civilians (21 Somali; 1 Finnish), four Ethiopian diplomatic workers, two United Nations (UN) staff members, one government employee; wounding at least 25 civilians (23 Somali; 2 British), four journalists, eight UN staff members, one Ethiopian diplomatic worker; and damaging the presidential compound, the Ethiopian consulate office, and several buildings of a UN compound. On the same day at about the same time, in Bender Cassim, Bari, Somalia, two suicide bombers detonated VBIEDs, killing six intelligence officers and one civilian, wounding 13 civilians, and damaging two intelligence service compounds. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed that al-Shabaab al-Islamiya and al-Qa'ida were responsible.

On 30 October 2008, at about 11:25 AM, in Gauhati, Assam, India; Kokrajhar, Assam, India; Barpeta, Assam, India; and Bongaigaon, Assam, India, assailants detonated three improvised explosive devices (IED) and six vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIED) in crowded markets, public places, near a courthouse, and near a hospital, killing 81 civilians, wounding approximately 350 others, and damaging six markets, a shop, a hospital, a court building, and scores of vehicles. The Islamic Security Force-Indian Mujahideen claimed responsibility, but authorities believed the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), and Harakat ul-Jihad-I-Islami/Bangladesh (HUJI-B) were responsible.

On 31 October 2008, at about 5:00 PM, in Thajuary, North Cachar Hills, Assam, India, assailants ambushed and fired upon a police escort vehicle, killing eight police officers and two civilians, and damaging the vehicle. No group claimed responsibility, but authorities believed the Dima Halim Daogah-Jewel Garlossa (DHD-J) was responsible.

November

Between 4 November 2008 and 6 November 2008, in Kiwanja, Nord-Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, armed assailants attacked the village and fired upon the occupants, killing up to 95 civilians and many children, and wounding 33 other civilians. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed both the Mai-Mai and National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP) were responsible.

On 5 November 2008, at about 2:15 PM, in Vladikavkaz, Severnaya Osetiya-Alaniya, Russia, a suspected female suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) on or near a passenger minibus, killing 12 people and injuring approximately 40 others, including many children. No group claimed responsibility.

On 6 November 2008, in Batmali, near Khar, Federally Administered Tribal Areas, Pakistan, a suicide bomber entered a meeting of tribal leaders and detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) strapped to his body, killing 22 civilians, injuring 51 others, and damaging the meeting place. The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility.

On 7 November 2008, in the evening, in Mogadishu, Banaadir, Somalia, assailants fired mortars at at least one Ethiopian military base and several Somali military checkpoints. The attack on the Ethiopians triggered an exchange of gunfire and artillery/mortar fire, killing as many as seven civilians and three Ethiopian soldiers and wounding up to 11 soldiers and at least five civilians. These totals include the casualties caused when a mortar landed on a house, killing three civilians, wounding five others, and damaging the house. Assailants detonated a landmine as a Somali military vehicle passed, killing two soldiers, wounding three others and damaging the vehicle. Al-Shabaab al-Islamiya claimed responsibility.

On 10 November 2008, at about 8:00 AM, in the 'Azamiyah district of Baghdad, Iraq, assailants detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), near a public market in the northern Kasra neighborhood as a minibus transporting girls to school passed, and shortly afterward detonated two more roadside IEDs targeting first responders, killing between 17 and 20 civilians, five children, four Iraqi soldiers, and two police officers; wounding between 62 and 65 civilians, including several children, three soldiers, and three police officers; setting fire to 15 civilian cars on fire, damaging the minibus, 10 shops and several vendor stalls. The Kasra neighborhood is predominantly Shia. No group claimed responsibility, but it was widely believed that the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) perpetrated this attack.

On 12 November 2008, at about 5:15 PM, in the Sab'ah Nisan district of Baghdad, Iraq, assailants detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a bus station in the predominantly Shia eastern Baghdad Al Jadidah neighborhood followed by a roadside improvised explosive device (IED) targeting police first responders, killing 12 civilians, wounding 42 others, 12 children, and six police officers, and damaging several cars, a minibus, one police vehicle, and several houses and several shops. No group claimed responsibility.

On 15 November 2008, at about 3:00 PM, in Tall 'Afar, Ninawa, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a car dealership in a marketplace, killing 11 civilians, wounding between 28 and 36 others, and damaging several shops and several vehicles. No group claimed responsibility.

On 16 November 2008, in Jalula', Diyala, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a police checkpoint, killing six or seven police officers and five civilians, wounding eight police officers, one Iraqi soldier, and six civilians, and damaging the checkpoint. No group claimed responsibility.

On 21 November 2008, at 11:00 AM, in Dera Ismail Khan, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, assailants detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) targeting a funeral procession, killing 10 civilians, wounding 43 others. No group claimed responsibility.

On 24 November 2008, at about 7:30 AM, in the Sab'ah Nisan district of Baghdad, Iraq, assailants detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) magnetically attached to a minibus transporting Ministry of Trade employees in the eastern Baghdad al Jadidah district, killing between 10 and 14 government employees, possibly one child, wounding between four and seven government employees, and destroying the minibus. No group claimed responsibility.

On 23 November 2008, off the coast of Mumbai, Maharashtra, India, 10 assailants hijacked a fishing trawler and assaulted the crew members, killing four fishermen and the trawler captain. Between 26 November 2008, at about 9:20 PM, and 29 November 2008, at about 8:00 AM, in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India, the assailants fired upon, threw grenades upon, held hostages within, and detonated improvised explosive devices (IED) and bombs at several facilities, killing 140 other civilians, 17 police officers, and two military members; wounding 280 civilians, 25 military members, and three police officers; and damaging one railway station, one cinema, one restaurant, one Jewish cultural center, one hospital, two luxury hotels and several vehicles. Deccan Mujahideen claimed responsibility, although authorities believed Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LT) was responsible.

On 28 November 2008, in Al Musayyib, Babil, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) he was wearing in a line of Muslims waiting to enter a Shiite mosque for Friday prayers, killing between eight and 12 civilians, wounding between 15 and 23 others, and damaging one mosque. No group claimed responsibility, although it was believed the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) was responsible.

On 28 November 2008, in the night, in Bannu, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, a suicide bomber drove his vehicle into a police checkpoint and detonated his vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), killing six police officers, seven civilians (5 Pakistani; 2 Afghan), injuring 13 civilians, three police officers, and destroying the checkpoint. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

December

On 1 December 2008, at about 11:00 AM, in Musa Qal'eh, Helmand, Afghanistan, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) targeting a police vehicle, killing eight civilians, two police officers, wounding 25 civilians, two police officers, and damaging the vehicle. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

On 1 December 2008, at about 1:00 PM, in the Ar Rusafa district of Baghdad, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) he was wearing at a crowd of police recruits leaving from classes at the Baghdad Police Academy on Eastern Palestine Street. One minute later, a separate suicide bomber detonated his vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) targeting first responders. In total, 11 police recruits and five police officers were killed, 35 police recruits and 11 police officers were wounded, and several cars, two minivans, and the police academy entrance were damaged. No group claimed responsibility, although the United States military blamed the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI).

On 1 December 2008, at about 1:00 PM, in the Mosul al Jadidah district of western Mosul, Ninawa, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a joint Iraqi police-United States military convoy, killing 14 civilians and two police officers; wounding 30 civilians, two police officers, and four United States (US) soldiers; and damaging at least one police vehicle and one US military vehicle. No group claimed responsibility.

On 1 December 2008, on the Charbagh-Mingaora road, near Mingaora, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED)

targeting a military checkpoint, killing 11 civilians, wounding 64 civilians, two soldiers, damaging the checkpoint, and several vehicles. No group claimed responsibility.

On 4 December 2008, at 11:07 AM, in the Julan and Al Shurta districts of northern Al Fallujah, Al Anbar, Iraq, in a coordinated attack, two separate suicide bombers detonated vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIED) targeting the Jolan and Al Hudhayri police stations, killing 12 police officers, six civilians, and one child; wounding 147 people, including police officers, civilians, and children; and damaging two police stations, seven houses, and a school. The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) claimed responsibility.

From 4 December 2008 to 6 December 2008, in Guri Ceel, Galguduud, Somalia, armed assailants kidnapped a Muslim cleric. The assailants then attacked members of at least two local Muslim militias, killing at least seven civilians, including firing upon three civilians as they were trying to escape the fighting in a truck, and several militia members, wounding at least 18 civilians and militia members, and damaging the truck. Al-Shabaab al-Islamiya claimed responsibility.

On 5 December 2008, in Orakzai, Federally Administered Tribal Areas, Pakistan, a suicide bomber prematurely detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) while attempting to target a local fair, killing 10 civilians and wounding 15 others. No group claimed responsibility.

On 11 December 2008, at about 1:50 PM, on the Kirkuk-Arbil road, nine miles north of Kirkuk, At Ta'mim, Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated his improvised explosive device (IED) at the Abdullah Restaurant, killing 46 civilians, seven children, one popular Turkomen singer, and a Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) branch chief; wounding 104 civilians including several children (1 Canadian; 104 Iraqis), and five bodyguards; and damaging the restaurant. It was believed that the intended targets of the bomber were members of the PUK and local Arab tribal leaders who were meeting to discuss resolutions to ethnic tensions in Kirkuk, prior to a scheduled meeting with President Jalal Talibani. No group claimed responsibility, but the United States (US) military blamed this attack on the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI).

On 13 December 2008, in Swat, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, assailants fired on an anti-Taliban cleric and his followers, killing eight civilians, the cleric, wounding several civilians, and kidnapping 25 civilians. The assailants also set fire to residences, damaging 16. On 15 December 2008, in the same area, two of the kidnap victims were killed. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

On 17 December 2008, between 11:00 AM and 11:30 AM, in the Ar Rusafa district of Baghdad, Iraq, assailants detonated a roadside improvised explosive device (IED) then detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) as first responders and civilians gathered to watch outside the traffic police headquarters in the eastern Mustansiryah neighborhood, killing two or three police officers, 15 or 16 civilians; wounding between eight and 18 police officers, between 25 and 47 civilians; damaging one police headquarters, 15 civilian vehicles, several shops, and residences. No group claimed responsibility.

From 24 December 2008 to 27 December 2008, near Doromo, Orientale, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), assailants using machetes, swords, and clubs stormed a church, killing between 32 and 85 civilians including a number of children, wounding several other civilians, and damaging the church. Associated assailants also assaulted people in the village, killing between 55 and 149 civilians, ransacking several homes, and stealing food and other property. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was responsible.

From 25 December 2008 to 27 December 2008, in Faradje, Orientale, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), assailants assaulted villagers, killing between 46 and 66 civilians, two Catholic priests, the chief doctor and a pharmacist; raped many women, wounding 80 female civilians; beat several civilians, wounding four civilians, kidnapping many other civilians including 20 children; set fire to hundreds of homes, damaging 801 homes, three schools and several healthcare centers and government buildings; and looted several businesses, homes and a hospital. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was responsible.

On 25 December 2008, in Bitima, Orientale, Democratic Republic of the Congo, assailants attacked the village, killing 17 civilians by unknown means. No group claimed responsibility, although military sources believed the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was responsible.

From 25 December 2008 to 27 December 2008, in Gurba, Orientale, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), assailants with machetes and clubs assaulted civilians, killing between 60 and 213 civilians. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was responsible.

From 25 December 2008 to 27 December 2008, in Bangadi, Orientale, Democratic Republic of the Congo, assailants using machetes and clubs assaulted civilians, killing 48 civilians. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was responsible.

From 25 December 2008 to 27 December 2008, in Duru, Orientale, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), assailants assaulted villagers, killing 75 civilians and then set fire to a church, destroying the church. No group claimed responsibility, although it was widely believed the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was responsible.

On 27 December 2008, between 11:00 AM and noon, in the Al Kazimiyah district of Baghdad, Iraq, assailants detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) near a Shiite shrine in the northwestern Az Zahra' neighborhood, killing between 22 and 25 civilians including several children, wounding between 50 and 54 civilians including several children, and damaging dozens of vehicles. No group claimed responsibility.

On 28 December 2008, at about 10:30 AM, in Esmā'il Kheyli, Khowst, Afghanistan, a suicide bomber drove his vehicle through an Afghan National Army (ANA) checkpoint and detonated his vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), killing 14 students who were walking alongside a military compound near the checkpoint, one ANA soldier, one civilian, injuring 58

people, destroying the checkpoint and causing damage to the military compound. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

On 28 December 2008, in the morning, in Saravan, Sistan va Baluchestan, Iran, a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) vest, killing 45 border police officers and damaging a police checkpoint. No group claimed responsibility.

On 28 December 2008, in Shalbandi, near Buner, North-West Frontier, Pakistan, a suicide bomber parked his vehicle near a polling station and detonated his vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), killing 35 civilians, four children, four police officers, injuring 16 civilians, and destroying the polling station and damaging several residences, a market and a nearby mosque. The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility.

On 31 December 2008, in Musa Qal'eh, Helmand, Afghanistan, armed assailants fired upon the compound belonging to a district chief, killing 20 of his bodyguards and damaging the facility. The Taliban claimed responsibility.



National Consortium for the
Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism

A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BASED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

To: NCTC

From: Gary LaFree, Director, National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), University of Maryland

Date: March 28, 2009

Subject: Challenges and Recommendations for Measuring Terrorism

Compared to most types of criminal violence, terrorism poses special conceptual and methodological challenges. To begin with the term “terrorism” yields varying definitions, often loaded with political and emotional implications. As PLO Chairman Arafat famously noted in a 1974 speech before the United Nations, “One man’s terrorist is another man’s freedom fighter.” Defining terrorism is no less complex for researchers. Researchers have identified dozens of different definitions of terrorism and it is not unusual for academic conferences to dedicate hours of discussion to exploring and defending competing definitions. Beyond the challenge of arriving at a defensible definition of terrorism are considerable challenges in collecting valid data on terrorism. In criminology, data on illegal violence come traditionally from three sources, corresponding to the major social roles connected to criminal events: “official” data collected by legal agents, especially the police; “victimization” data collected from the general population of victims and non-victims; and “self-report” data collected from offenders. However, each of these three data sources is problematic for examining terrorism: Official data on terrorism is incomplete because most individuals convicted of terrorism-related crimes are actually sentenced on non-terrorism charges such as homicide or weapons possession. Victimization data are difficult because often victims are randomly chosen, have little specialized knowledge about the attack, or do not survive the attack. And gaining access to active offenders through self-report surveys is both difficult and dangerous.

Because of the challenges of collecting traditional crime data on terrorism, open source event data bases have received a great deal of attention over the past four decades. These data bases rely on reports about terrorism from the print or electronic media. Open source data bases began to appear in the early 1970s, and there were more than a dozen of them by the late 1990s. Terrorism event data bases have grown more comprehensive and systematic over time. Event data bases have serious limitations. The media may report inaccuracies and lies; there may be conflicting information or false, multiple or no claims of responsibility. Government censorship and disinformation may also affect results. Yet while event data bases have serious limitations, compared to more traditional criminology data, they also have important advantages. In particular, because of the compelling interest that terrorist groups have in media attention, open source information may be uniquely useful in the study of terrorism. And compared to most criminology data, terrorism event data are not limited to highly industrialized countries. While it is the case that traditional media under-report news stemming from developing countries or in

highly autocratic states, the salience of terrorism as a phenomenon today makes it more likely than ever that media will report such incidents as information becomes available.

These evolving open source terrorist event data bases have allowed for more rigorous analysis of terrorism and terrorist activity. However, a major drawback of these data collections is that they have traditionally excluded domestic terrorist attacks. In general, international terrorist attacks are those involving a national or a group of nationals from one country crossing international borders and attacking targets in another country. Domestic attacks are those involving a national or a group of nationals attacking targets in their home country. Part of the reason for excluding domestic attacks from these data bases is bureaucratic. Many governmental agencies, including the U.S. State Department, have had a long history of concentrating on international terrorism. But beyond the tradition of dividing bureaucratic responsibility for terrorism according to international-domestic distinctions was the practical challenge of collecting global data on a very large number of incidents: Sources that have compared domestic and international terrorist attacks have concluded that the former outnumber the latter by as much as seven to one. Nevertheless, the gravity of excluding domestic attacks can be felt when we consider that two of the most noteworthy terrorist events of the 1990s--the March 1995 nerve agent attack on the Tokyo subway and the April 1995 bombing of the federal office building in Oklahoma City--would remain unrecorded in most event data bases because both lacked any known foreign involvement.

In recent years, there have been major new efforts to overcome this shortcoming by systematically collecting domestic event data. Both the Worldwide Incidents Tracking System (WITS), collected by the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), and the Global Terrorism Database (GTD), collected by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) at the University of Maryland, have tackled the problem of collecting data on domestic attacks. The NCTC was established in August 2004 by Presidential order as the primary organization in the United States Government for collecting, integrating and analyzing data on terrorism and counterterrorism. In December 2004, Congress codified the NCTC in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act and placed the NCTC in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. The WITS data now provide an important new unclassified, publicly available data source on terrorism (<http://wits.nctc.gov/Main.do>). NCTC began reporting event-based data on terrorism in 2004 and substantially improved the comprehensiveness of their data collection efforts in 2005.

The original GTD was produced by a team at the START Center at the University of Maryland which began by computerizing an earlier data base that included information on terrorist attacks from 1970 to 1997. In April 2006 START received additional funding from the Department of Homeland Security to extend the GTD beyond 1997. The project to extend GTD data was conducted by a team from the Center for Terrorism and Intelligence Studies working in conjunction with START researchers. In March 2009, START released an updated terrorism data base that included more than 80,000 attacks--both domestic and international--spanning the years 1970 to 2007 (<http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd>). START plans to release updated versions of the data as they become available.

Now that we have access to increasingly comprehensive terrorism event data bases like WITS and GTD, it is possible to think constructively about ways to further improve their quality and to expand the types of analyses being conducted with the data. I recommend three: validation studies, expanding data bases beyond completed terrorist attacks, and geo-spatial analysis. First, as event data bases improve, new avenues for validating them become feasible. An important method for assessing the quality of event data bases on terrorism will be to do systematic comparisons between different sources of event data and between terrorism data drawn from other sources. Thus far there have been very few comparative studies of this type owing to many of the methodological problems encountered in defining and measuring terrorism: no universally accepted definition of terrorism, the absence of international data from official sources, and difficulties in conducting victimization or self report surveys. Still, much more can be done. In some situations, it is possible to compare event data to police or court data, including corrections statistics on terrorism from individual countries. It is also possible to examine media sources used in the WITS and GTD data to look for differential patterns of bias and incorrect or incomplete reporting. In addition, much primary data are collected by intelligence agents, including data from communications intercepts, surveillance, informers, defectors, interrogation of prisoners, and captured internal documents (e.g., memos, training manuals). While most of these sources are not readily available to researchers working in an open, unclassified environment, there are important opportunities provided by official data on terrorism that have not been adequately exploited. In particular, researchers could do more to examine court records and transcripts, government reports and hearings and declassified intelligence reports.

Second, an important limitation of event data bases is that they exist in a vacuum, only providing information on actual attacks without any context for failed plots or for situations when a group decided to use an approach other than terrorism to pursue their goals. The utility of databases like WITS and the GTD could be greatly increased by combining them with data bases that provide a more complex range of independent and dependent variables. For example, START is embarking on research that allows analysts to compare terrorist attacks to non-terrorist actions taken by extremist groups. This could include a wide variety of activity ranging from legitimate political participation to social service functions to crime and piracy. This approach can also be applied to analyses designed to provide insights on terrorist target selection. In this realm, START is conducting a project to examine why terrorists employ IEDs against specific targets while not launching such weapons at other similar targets. By expanding and applying event data bases in this way, we can begin to address the question of when and why individuals and groups choose terrorist methods instead of other methods. When examined in a longitudinal framework, such analysis strategies may also give us insight into behavior that precedes terrorist attacks, such as crimes committed before terrorist attacks occur.

And finally, perhaps the two most salient characteristics of comprehensive event data bases like WITS and GTD is their longitudinal and spatial dimensions. Thus far, the longitudinal characteristics of these data bases have been exploited much more frequently than their spatial characteristics. Descriptive point maps can be useful for identifying locations of attacks and groups claiming responsibility. But more sophisticated analysis can be done using exploratory spatial data analysis techniques. For example, such methods are useful for distinguishing between random and non-random spatial patterns of events—such as how a specific type of

terrorism like suicide bombings spreads across regions. Even better would be more analysis that extends static cross-sectional views of the spatial distribution of events to consider dynamic features of changes over time in spatial dependencies.

The NCTC should be applauded for substantially improving the government's publicly available data on terrorism. The comprehensiveness and validity of the WITS data far surpasses the data on international terrorism that formed the basis of the earlier reports prepared by the U.S. State Department. The NCTC should also be praised for making the WITS data publicly available and for seeking feedback from the research community. As psychologist Donald Campbell has pointed out, there is nothing that moves knowledge ahead faster than a "disputatious community of truth seekers." Making data publicly available provides an important mechanism for critical feedback. Openness adds oxygen to the flame of scientific inquiry.

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