Patterns of Global Terrorism - 2000

Department of State Publication
Office of the Secretary of State
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Table of Contents

April 2001

Release of Patterns of Global Terrorism 2000 - **Secretary Colin L. Powell**

Introduction

The Year in Revieww

Africa Overview

Angola | Guinea | Namibia | Niger | Nigeria | Sierra Leone | Somalia | South Africa | Uganda

Asia Overview

South Asia
Smart Sanctions | Afghanistan | India | Pakistan | Sri Lanka

East Asia

Burma | Indonesia | Japan | Laos | Philippines | Thailand

Eurasia Overview

Azerbaijan | Georgia | Kazakhstan | Kyrgyzstan | Russia | Tajikistan | Uzbekistan

Europe Overview

Albania | Austria | Belgium | France | Germany | Greece | Italy | Spain | Switzerland | Turkey | United Kingdom

Latin America Overview

Argentina | Colombia | Peru | Triborder (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay)

Middle East Overview

Algeria | Egypt | Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip | Jordan | Lebanon | Saudi Arabia | Yemen | (Inset) Usama Bin Ladin

Overview of State-Sponsored Terrorism

Cuba | Iran | Iraq | Libya | North Korea | Sudan | Syria | (Inset) Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Terrorism

---

Appendix A: Chronology of Significant Terrorist Incidents, 2000
Appendix B: Background Information on Terrorist Groups
Appendix C: Statistical Review (Charts)
Appendix D: Signatories to the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing
Appendix E: Extraditions and Renditions of Terrorists to the United States, 1993-2000
Appendix F: International Terrorist Incidents, 2000

Appendix F: **Secretary Colin L. Powell Remarks**

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Remarks on Release of "Patterns of Global Terrorism 2000" Annual Report

Secretary Colin L. Powell

Washington, DC
April 2001

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and I'm very pleased to be here to here to participate in the rollout of "Patterns of Global Terrorism" annual report.

The tragic loss of American sailors in the bombing of the USS Cole, the hostage-takings in Ecuador and the Philippines, and the many threats that surrounded the new millennium drew media attention and official concern about terrorism in the year 2000. Such attention and concern was fitting. The year 2000 was certainly not a year without the scourge of terrorism upon the face of the earth. But this should not obscure the basic message of today's report. International cooperation against terrorism is increasing and it is paying off.

The year 2000 saw a number of events that mark this successful progress, this cooperation between agencies and nations. For example, last December the United Nations Security Council levied additional sanctions in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1333 against the Taliban for allowing terrorist camps to operate on Afghanistan territory and for harboring Usama bin Laden.

Second, the trial began that led to an eventual conviction in the 1988 bombing of Pam Am 103.

Next, the accused perpetrators and co-conspirators in the East Africa embassy bombings were also brought to trial in New York City.

The continuing investigation of the bombing of the USS Cole, a probe that involved a wide number of countries, has thus far been productive and continues to move forward.

A thwarted attempt by the Ahmed Ressam clique to carry explosives across the US-Canadian border disrupted plans for a terrorist attack.

The international community also showed support for the UN Convention Against Terrorist Financing. This is the 12th time the United Nations has acted formally in this way, taking one more important step towards shutting down terrorist acts around the world.

Each of these events has a common thread -- active and intensive cooperation in the international community. That community rallied to maintain pressure on Libya and ensure that suspects were brought to trial. It gave important help to finding and bringing to trial those accused of attacking our embassies in East Africa. This help crossed many borders and involved many nations, and it sent a strong message to the Taliban through the United Nations.

These successes mean that we are achieving the basic objectives of the United States counter-terrorism strategy -- isolation of countries and groups that support terrorism, disruption of terrorist planning and operations, sharing of information, and the apprehension and trial of perpetrators. These objectives are shared by many of our partners throughout the world.

We have increased our cooperation with a number of countries and regions. We maintain strong working relationships with many of our allies in the Middle East, including Jordan, Egypt and Israel, and we look to expanding partnerships in the Arabian Peninsula. We are reaching out to the Central Asian states. We continue to work closely with India. And we work through multilateral organizations such as the UN, the G-8, and a number of others.

The results are clear: state sponsors of terrorism are increasingly isolated; terrorist groups are under growing pressure; terrorists are being brought to justice. We will not let up. But we must also be aware of the nature of the threat before us. Terrorism is a persistent disease. Many of you have heard me speak of the positive side of globalization, but terrorism shows the dark side as it exploits the easing of travel restrictions, the improvements of communication or the internationalization of banking and finance, making it easier for terrorists to do some of their work.

And so the fight goes on. Just as we acknowledge successes today, we know that there will be new challenges and, yes, some setbacks tomorrow. But we continue to reduce our vulnerability and, above all, to renew our determination -- our determination to confront and combat an ever present danger to international peace and innocent lives. And so we release this report, and I call it to your attention.

Thank you very much.

Released on April 30, 2001

Table of Contents

Introdcution

Embassy of the United States of America
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Home | Global Terrorism
Public Affairs Section | US Mission | Commercial Service | Agricultural Service
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Introduction

April 2001

The year 2000 showed that terrorism continues to pose a clear and present danger to the international community. From the millennium-related threats at the beginning of the year to the USS Cole bombing and the rash of hostage takings at the end, the year 2000 highlighted the need for continued vigilance by our government and our allies throughout the world. The tragic death of 19 US citizens at the hands of terrorists is the most sober reminder.

While the threat continues, 2000 saw the international community's commitment to counterterrorism cooperation and ability to mobilize its resources grow stronger than ever. As a result, state-sponsored terrorism has continued to decline, international isolation of terrorist groups and countries has increased, and terrorists are being brought to justice. Indeed, the vigilance of all members of the international community is critical to limiting the mobility and capability of terrorists throughout the world, and both we and the terrorists know it.

We base our cooperation with our international partners on four basic policy tenets:

- **First**, make no concession to terrorists and strike no deals.
- **Second**, bring terrorists to justice for their crimes.
- **Third**, isolate and apply pressure on states that sponsor terrorism to force them to change their behavior.
- **Fourth**, bolster the counterterrorist capabilities of those countries that work with the United States and require assistance.

These points have been the basis for international cooperation and the foundation for important progress.

UN Security Council Resolution 1333, which levied additional sanctions on the Taliban for harboring Usama Bin Ladin and failing to close down terrorist training camps in Afghanistan, was a major victory for international cooperation against terrorism. This resolution, passed a year after its predecessor resolution 1267, showed the extent to which the international community is prepared to go to isolate those states that refuse to adhere to international norms.

The UN's action also reflected the understanding that Taliban-controlled Afghanistan remains a primary hub for terrorists and a home or transit point for the loosely organized network of "Afghan alumni," a web of informally linked individuals and groups that were trained and fought in the Afghan war. Afghan alumni have been involved in most major terrorist plots or attacks against the United States in the past 15 years and now engage in international militant and terrorist acts throughout the world. The leaders of some of the most dangerous terrorist groups to emerge in the past decade have headquarters or major offices in Afghanistan, and their associates threaten stability in many real and potential trouble spots around the globe--from the Philippines to the Balkans, Central Asia to the Persian Gulf, Western China to Somalia, and Western Europe to South Asia. This is why the Taliban's continued support for these groups is now recognized by the international community as a growing threat to all countries.

International cooperation against agents linked to this network extended far beyond the collaboration on UNSCR 1333. Numerous countries have sent the message to the Taliban and its supporters that the international community--as a whole and as individual member countries--will not stand for such blatant disregard for international law. Good intelligence and law enforcement work--exemplified by the Jordanian Government--enabled partner countries to thwart millennium attacks in early 2000. It has also led to invaluable coordination in the investigation of the October bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen's port of Aden. (It is worth noting that several suspects in the attack on the USS Cole fled back to, not surprisingly, Afghanistan.) We remain fervently committed to ensuring that those who committed and supported the attack on the USS Cole--and killed 17 US service persons--are brought to justice. We will continue to work closely with our allies to ensure that this terrorist incident and others like it do not go unpunished.

The opening in New York of the trial against those accused of perpetrating the bombings of the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam in 1998 marked another major victory. Strong international cooperation with our allies--Kenya, Germany, and South Africa, for example--led to the apprehension of several suspects in those crimes. Their trial underlines the importance of cooperative diplomatic, law enforcement, and judicial efforts to combat terrorism. It sends the same strong message that is the cornerstone of US counterterrorism policy: we will be unrelenting in our efforts to bring to justice every individual who chooses terrorism against the United States to advance his or her agenda.

Afghanistan is not the only threat, nor the only rallying point for international cooperation. The conviction of Abdel Basset Ali Mohamed al-Megrahi to life imprisonment for his role in the downing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 also sent a strong message about the international community's determination to bring to justice those responsible for terrorist acts, regardless of how much time has passed. The US Government remains dedicated to maintaining pressure on the Libyan Government until it complies fully with the stipulations required by the UN Security Council to lift sanctions.

Central Asian states have stepped up their fight against terrorist elements in their region, particularly those operating from Afghanistan. At a US Government-hosted conference in June 2000, representatives from five Central Asian states discussed the challenges in their region and committed themselves to developing mechanisms for cooperating to deny sanctuary and financial support to terrorists. We look forward to a follow-up conference and continued constructive engagement with the countries of the region.

While our cooperation with states such as Jordan and Egypt is strong, the terrorism picture in the Middle East remains grim, particularly given the recent escalation of violence in the region. Despite domestic political changes that suggest evolution towards a more moderate policy, Iran remained the primary state sponsor of terrorism, due to its continued support for groups that violently oppose peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors. We expect those states in the region that are committed to peace to distance themselves from all forms of terrorism and to ensure that their countries do not become safehavens or launching points for terrorist acts.

During the past year, increased bilateral and multilateral cooperation with friendly nations has brought unified pressure and action against terrorism. We have expanded our bilateral dialogues with Russia, India, the United Kingdom, Israel, and Canada, and have extended cooperation in intelligence sharing, law enforcement, and antiterrorism training. In addition, we have worked closely with the member states of the G-8, which continued to condemn terrorism emanating from Afghanistan and Iran, and made strides in cutting off terrorist financing.

Like our G-8 counterparts, the United States places a high priority on denying terrorists their sources of financing and blocking their ability to use the funds they already control. In January 2000 we signed the new International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing. The Convention creates an international legal framework for investigating, apprehending, and prosecuting those involved in terrorist financing and describes preventive measures to identify and choke off sources of income for terrorists and to restrict the movements of such funds across international borders. We look to all members of the international community to join the 35 signatories and to ratify and implement the convention.

In addition, we are strengthening our efforts to fight the spate of hostage taking seen in 2000. Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and South America are just a few of the areas that have been plagued by hostage taking, often linked to terrorist elements. We maintain our policy that we will not concede to terrorist demands or pay ransom. Doing so only rewards the terrorist-criminals and encourages continued criminality. We do remain committed to negotiations with hostage takers for the safety of US citizens and other nationals.

The foundation of our efforts is diplomacy. Our diplomats and representatives maintain relations with countries that are the frontline of defense for US citizens at home and abroad. Our diplomatic efforts build crucial cooperation necessary for joint counterterrorism efforts and raise international political will to fight terrorism. We will continue to reach out to our allies while isolating those who are sympathetic to terrorism. We will continue to use all US tools and cooperation with these allies to disrupt terrorist activity and build a world that is intolerant of terrorists. And we will never rest until we have brought to justice each terrorist that has targeted the United States and its citizens.

Edmund J. Hull
Acting Coordinator for Counterterrorism

Note

Adverse mention in this report of individual members of any political, social, ethnic, religious, or national group is not meant to imply that all members of that group are terrorists. Indeed, terrorists represent a small minority of dedicated, often fanatical, individuals in most such groups. It is those small groups--and their actions--that are the subject of this report.

Furthermore, terrorist acts are part of a larger phenomenon of politically inspired violence, and at times the line between the two can become difficult to draw. To relate terrorist events to the larger context, and to give a feel for the conflicts that spawn violence, this report will discuss terrorist acts as well as other violent incidents that are not necessarily international terrorism.

Legislative Requirements

This report is submitted in compliance with Title 22 of the United States Code, Section 2656f(a), which requires the Department of State to provide Congress a full and complete annual report on terrorism for those countries and groups meeting the criteria of Section (a)(1) and (2) of the Act. As required by legislation, the report includes detailed assessments of foreign countries where significant terrorist acts occurred and countries about which Congress was notified during the preceding five years pursuant to Section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (the so-called terrorist-list countries that have repeatedly provided state support for international terrorism). In addition, the report includes all relevant information about the previous year's activities of individuals, terrorist organizations, or umbrella groups known to be responsible for the kidnapping or death of any US citizen during the preceding five years and groups known to be financed by state sponsors of terrorism.

In 1996, Congress amended the reporting requirements contained in the above-referenced law. The amended law requires the Department of State to report on the extent to which other countries cooperate with the United States in apprehending, convicting, and punishing terrorists responsible for attacking US citizens or interests. The law also requires that this report describe the extent to which foreign governments are cooperating, or have cooperated during the previous five years, in preventing future acts of terrorism. As permitted in the amended legislation, the Department is submitting such information to Congress in a classified annex to this unclassified report.

Definitions

No one definition of terrorism has gained universal acceptance. For the purposes of this report, however, we have chosen the definition of terrorism contained in Title 22 of the United States Code, Section 2656f(d). That statute contains the following definitions:

- The term "terrorism" means premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant[/8/] targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience.
- The term "international terrorism" means terrorism involving citizens or the territory of more than one country.
- The term "terrorist group" means any group practicing, or that has significant subgroups that practice, international terrorism.

The US Government has employed this definition of terrorism for statistical and analytical purposes since 1983.

Domestic terrorism is probably a more widespread phenomenon than international terrorism. Because international terrorism has a direct impact on US interests, it is the primary focus of this report. However, the report also describes, but does not provide statistics on, significant developments in domestic terrorism.

[/8/] For purposes of this definition, the term "noncombatant" is interpreted to include, in addition to civilians, military personnel who at the time of the incident are unarmed or not on duty. For example, in past reports we have listed as terrorist incidents the murders of the following US military personnel: Col. James Rowe, killed in Manila in April 1989; Capt. William Nordeen, US defense attache killed in Athens in June 1988; the two servicemen killed in the Labelle discotheque bombing in West Berlin in April 1986; and the four off-duty US Embassy Marine guards killed in a cafe in El Salvador in June 1985. We also consider as acts of terrorism attacks on military installations or on armed military personnel when a state of military hostilities does not exist at the site, such as bombings against US bases in Europe, the Philippines, or elsewhere.

Secretary Colin L. Powell Remarks

The Year in Review

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Patterns of Global Terrorism - 2000

Department of State Publication
Office of the Secretary of State
Released by the
Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism

The Year in Review

April 2001

There were 423 international terrorist attacks in 2000, an increase of 8 percent from the 392 attacks recorded during 1999. The main reason for the increase was an upsurge in the number of bombings of a multinational oil pipeline in Colombia by two terrorist groups there. The pipeline was bombed 152 times, producing in the Latin American region the largest increase in terrorist attacks from the previous year, from 121 to 193. Western Europe saw the largest decrease--from 85 to 30--owing to fewer attacks in Germany, Greece, and Italy as well as to the absence of any attacks in Turkey.

The number of casualties caused by terrorists also increased in 2000. During the year, 405 persons were killed and 791 were wounded, up from the 1999 totals of 233 dead and 706 wounded.

The number of anti-US attacks rose from 169 in 1999 to 200 in 2000, a result of the increase in bombing attacks against the oil pipeline in Colombia, which is viewed by the terrorists as a US target.

Nineteen US citizens were killed in acts of international terrorism in 2000. Seventeen were sailors who died in the attack against the USS Cole on 12 October in the Yemeni port of Aden. They were:

Kenneth Eugene Clodfelter
Richard Costelow
Lakeina Monique Francis
Timothy Lee Gauna
Cherone Louis Gunn
James Rodrick McDaniels
Mark Ian Nieto
Ronald Scott Owens
Lakiba Nicole Palmer
Joshua Langdon Parlett
Patrick Howard Roy
Kevin Shawn Rux
Ronchester Mananga Santiago
Timothy Lamont Saunders
Gary Graham Swenchonis
Andrew Triplett
Craig Bryan Wibberley

Two other US citizens were murdered in terrorist attacks during the year:

- Carlos Caceres was one of three aid workers murdered when a militia-led mob in Atambua, West Timor, attacked a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees aid office on 6 September.
- Kurt Erich Schork was one of two journalists killed when rebels in Sierra Leone shot down a UN helicopter on 25 May.

In December new indictments were issued in connection with the bombings in 1998 at two US embassies in East Africa. A federal grand jury in New York charged five men--Saif Al Adel, Muhsin Musa Matwalli Atwah, Ahmed Mohamed Hamed Ali, Anas Al Liby, and Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah--in connection with the bombing attacks in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, bringing to 22 the total number of persons charged. At the end of 2000, one suspect had pled guilty to conspiring in the attacks, five were in custody in New York awaiting trial, three were in the United Kingdom pending extradition to the United States, and 13 were fugitives, including Usama Bin Ladin.

A trial began in January 2001 in federal court in the Southern District of New York of four suspects in connection with the bombings at the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. Three of the four were extradited to the United States in 1999 to stand trial; the fourth was arrested in this country. The trial is expected to last through 2001.

A trial of two Libyans accused of bombing Pan Am flight 103 in 1988 began in the Netherlands on 3 May 2000. A Scottish court presided over the trial and issued its verdict on 31 January 2001. It found Abdel Basset al-Megrahi guilty of the charge of murdering 259 passengers and crew as well as 11 residents of Lockerbie, Scotland, "while acting in furtherance of the purposes of . . . Libyan Intelligence Services." Concerning the other defendant, Al-Amin Kalifa Fahima, the court concluded it had insufficient evidence to satisfy the high standard of "proof beyond reasonable doubt" that is necessary in criminal cases. The verdict of the court represents a victory for the international effort to hold terrorists accountable for their crimes.

Total International Attacks, 2000

Introduction

Africa Overview

Embassy of the United States of America
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Home | Global Terrorism
Public Affairs Section | US Mission | Commercial Service | Agricultural Service
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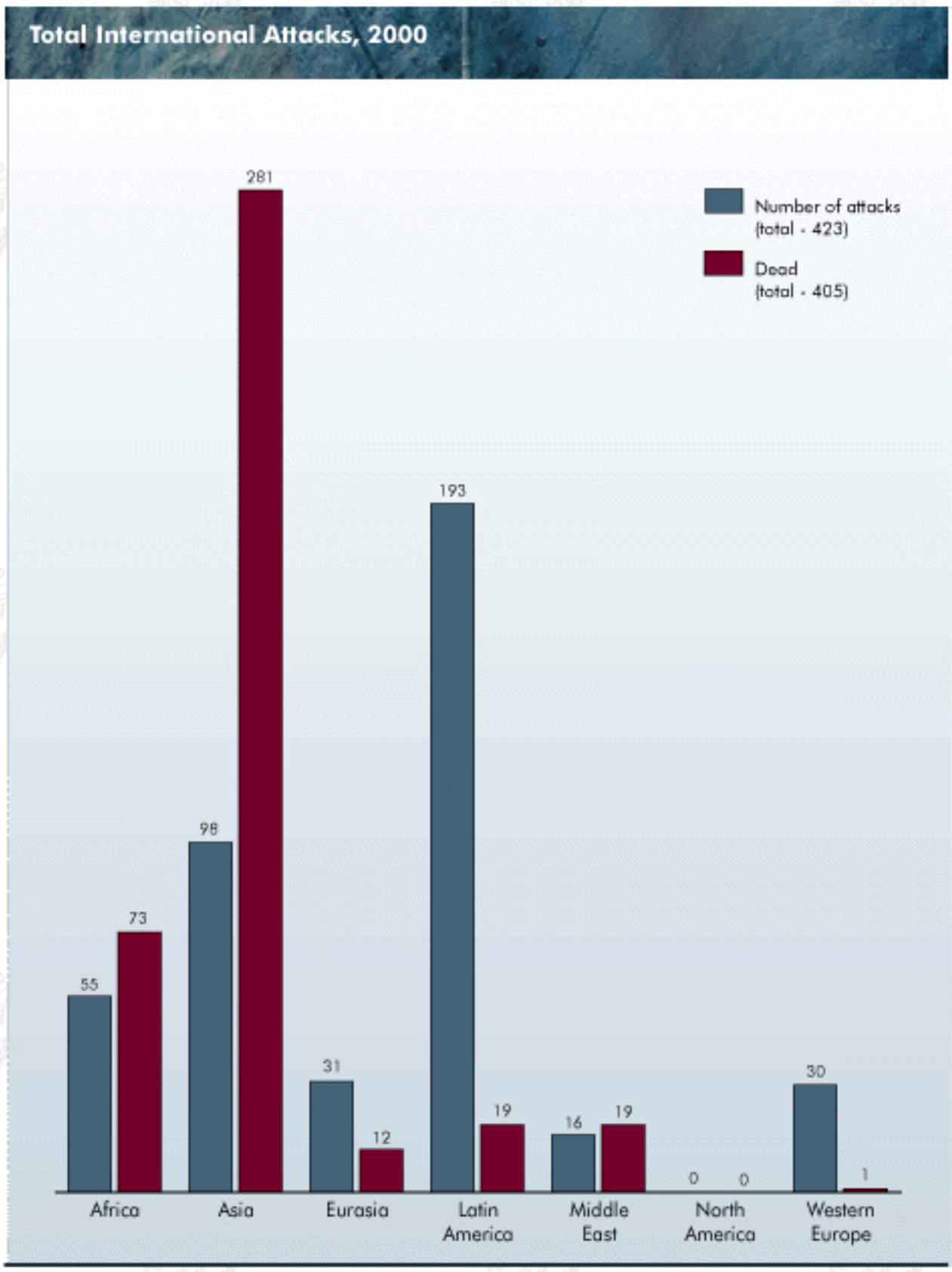
April 2001



The Year in Review

Africa Overview

Embassy of the United States of America
Dag Hammarskjölds Väg 31, SE-115 89 Stockholm

Home | Global Terrorism
Public Affairs Section | US Mission | Commercial Service | Agricultural Service
Consular Information | Fulbright | U.S. State Department | Defense Department
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Africa Overview

April 2001

Africa in 2000 witnessed an increase in the number of terrorist attacks against foreigners or foreign interests--part of a growing trend in which the number of international terrorist incidents on the continent has risen steadily each year since 1995. Most attacks stemmed from internal civil unrest and spillover from regional wars as African rebel movements and opposition groups employed terrorism to further their political, social, or economic objectives. International terrorist organizations, including al-Qaida, Lebanese Hizballah, and Egyptian terrorist groups, continued to operate in Africa during 2000 and to pose a threat to US interests there.

Angola
Angola continued to be plagued by the protracted civil war between the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and the Angolan Government. Several international terrorist attacks originating in this conflict occurred in 2000, while throughout the year members of the separatist group the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC) took hostage several foreigners in Cabinda Province.

Total Casualties Caused by International Attacks, 2000

Total International Attacks, 2000

Unidentified militants, suspected of being UNITA rebels, ambushed a vehicle near Soyo on 25 January and killed a Portuguese citizen. During May, UNITA rebels attacked two World Food Program convoys in northern Angola, killing one person and causing significant property damage. On 18 and 19 August, suspected UNITA fighters attacked two diamond mines in northeast Angola, killing nine South Africans and abducting seven Angolans.

The group's most significant incident for the year occurred on 24 May, when FLEC rebels kidnapped three Portuguese construction workers and one Angolan in Cabinda Province.

Guinea
Spillover from fighting in Sierra Leone resulted in several international terrorist acts in Guinea during 2000. Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels crossed the border into Guinea from Sierra Leone on 7 September and kidnapped two foreign Catholic priests who escaped their captors in early December. On 17 September suspected RUF rebels from Sierra Leone attacked and killed a Togolese United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees staff employee and kidnapped an Ivorian secretary.

Namibia
During 2000 violence from the Angolan civil war spilled over into Namibia after Angolan Government troops were invited into border areas where Angolan National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) rebels had been active for 20 years. Clashes in the border area killed nine individuals, including several foreigners. Three French children were killed on 3 January in the Caprivi region of Namibia when their vehicle was attacked by uniformed armed men of unknown affiliation. The local police commissioner blamed UNITA rebels for the attack, but a UNITA spokesman denied any responsibility. In other attacks on vehicles, gunmen of unknown affiliation also wounded two French citizens, two Danish aid workers, and a Scottish citizen.

Niger
In January, a suspected threat from Algerian terrorists forced organizers to cancel the Niger stage of the Paris-Dakar Road Rally. Race officials bypassed Niger and airlifted competitors to Libya after receiving information that Islamic extremists based in Niger were planning a terrorist attack. No terrorist attacks occurred on the 11,000-kilometer race through Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Libya, and Egypt.

Nigeria
In 2000, impoverished ethnic groups in the southern oil-producing region of Nigeria continued to kidnap local and foreign oil workers in an effort to acquire a greater share of Nigeria's oil wealth. (Abductions in the oil region are common, and hostages are rarely harmed.) Some 300 persons, including 54 foreigners, were abducted between April and July. The most serious kidnapping incident occurred on 31 July when armed youths attacked two oil drilling rigs and took 165 hostages, including seven US citizens and five Britons. All hostages were released unharmed on 4 August.

Sierra Leone
Sierra Leone's warring factions carried out more high-profile terrorist attacks against foreign interests in 2000 than in 1999, killing and kidnapping United Nations Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) peacekeepers, foreign journalists, and humanitarian aid workers.

The most violent attacks occurred in May when Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels resorted to terrorism in an effort to force out UN peacekeepers who had arrived to replace a regional peacekeeping force. In those attacks, RUF militiamen killed five UN peacekeepers and kidnapped some 500 others--most of whom were later released. The RUF also is believed responsible for shooting down a UN helicopter and killing two foreign journalists--including one US citizen--in May. Armed militants kidnapped two British aid workers on 9 May and released them a month later.

Sporadic terrorist attacks continued from June until August, resulting in the deaths of four more peacekeepers and the kidnapping of at least 30 additional UN troops. RUF fighters were responsible for most of the attacks.

Somalia
According to the US Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, unidentified Somali gunmen on 30 March opened fire on a UN aircraft departing the port city of Kismaayo in southern Somalia. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, which resulted in no injuries and only minor damage to the aircraft. The UN responded by temporarily suspending humanitarian operations in Kismaayo.

South Africa
Cape Town continued to experience a series of bombings and other acts of urban terrorism in 2000. Nine bombings resulted in some 30 injuries. Five of the nine attacks were car-bombings that targeted South African authorities, public places, and restaurants and nightclubs with Western associations. According to US Embassy reporting, the spate of bombings in 2000--the latest of several urban terrorism episodes that Cape Town has experienced since 1998--was distinguished by larger bombs triggered by more sophisticated remote detonation devices.

Damage from a car-bomb explosion in a suburban Cape Town shopping center parking lot in August. Two persons, including a 10-year-old boy, were injured.

South African authorities suspect that People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (PAGAD)--South Africa's most militant Muslim organization--was responsible for most of the bombings. According to press reports, anonymous calls to news reporters demanding the release of PAGAD cadre preceded four of the bombings. One unidentified individual called a local radio station before a bombing on 29 August and gave precise details of the timing and location of the attack. In raids in November, police arrested several suspects affiliated with PAGAD and confiscated several pipe bombs. There were no bombings or incidents after the arrests.

Uganda
The Sudanese-backed Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in northern Uganda and the Sudanese- and Congolese-supported Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in Western Uganda continued their insurgent campaigns to undermine the Ugandan Government in 2000--resulting in several terrorist attacks against foreign nationals. Suspected LRA rebels kidnapped two Italian missionaries on 4 March and released them unharmed several hours later. In October, LRA militants shot and killed another Italian priest as he drove to his church.

Government counterterrorist efforts initiated in 1999 helped prevent any major bombings during 2000 in the capital, Kampala. Islamist militants associated with the ADF are believed responsible for a series of deadly bombings and other urban terrorist incidents that occurred from 1997 to 1999.

The Year in Review

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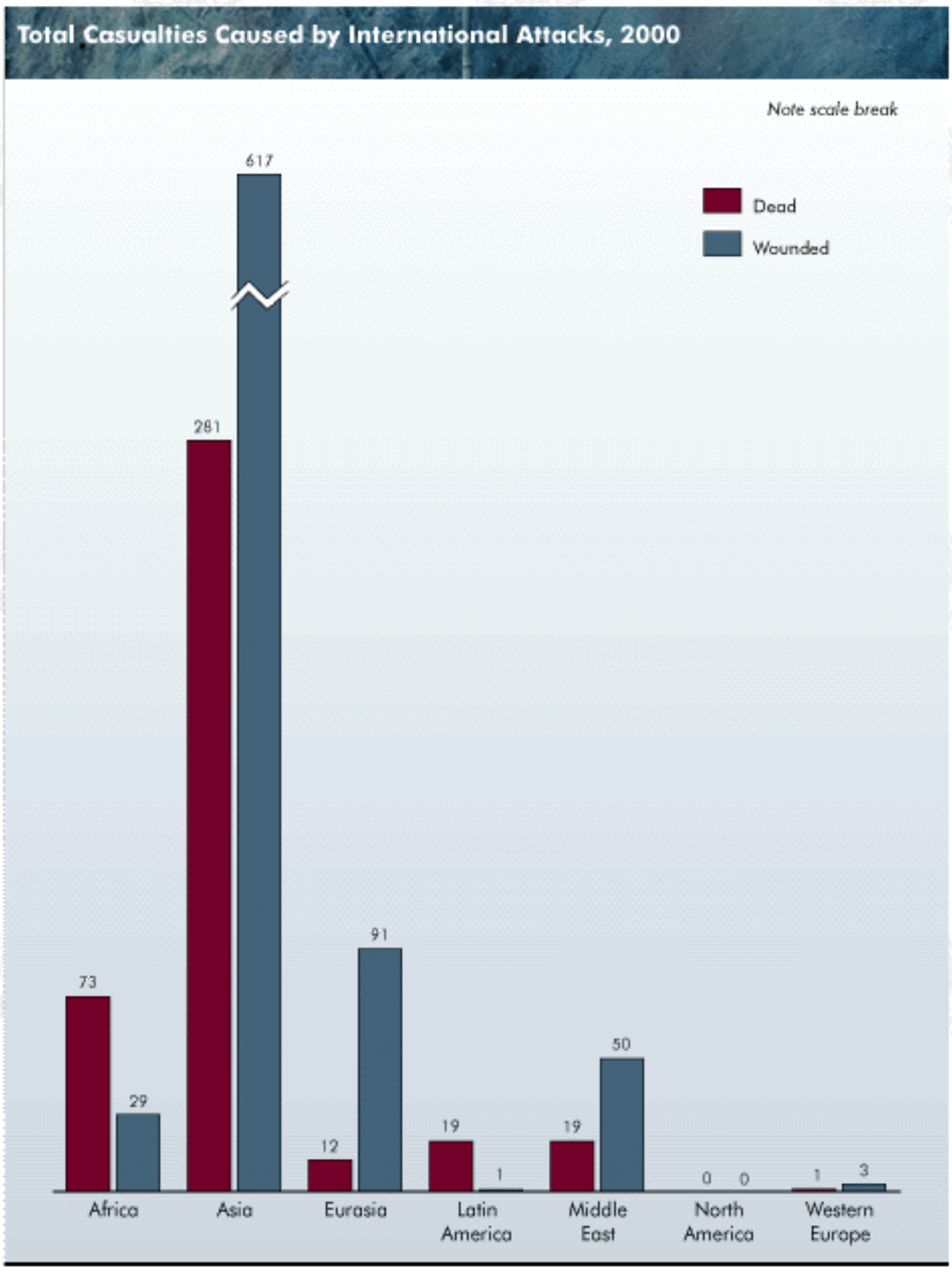
April 2001



The Africa Overview

Asia Overview

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Asia Overview

April 2001

South Asia

In 2000, South Asia remained a focal point for terrorism directed against the United States, further confirming the trend of terrorism shifting from the Middle East to South Asia. The Taliban continued to provide safehaven for international terrorists, particularly Usama Bin Ladin and his network, in the portions of Afghanistan it controlled.

Smart Sanctions

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1333, passed in December 2000, targets the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. The Taliban spurned its obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 1267 issued in November 1999 and has continued to provide shelter to Usama Bin Ladin. In UN Security Council Resolution 1333, the Security Council:

- *Demands the Taliban comply with Resolution 1267 and cease providing training and support to international terrorists;*
- *Insists the Taliban turn over indicted international terrorist Usama Bin Ladin to be can be brought to justice.*
- *Directs the Taliban to close all terrorist camps, in addition to Usama Bin Ladin's.*

Until the Taliban fully complies with its obligations under this resolution and Resolution 1267, member states of the United Nations shall:

- *Freeze the financial assets of Usama Bin Ladin.*
- *Observe an arms embargo against the Taliban that includes a prohibition against providing military weapons, training, or advice.*
- *Close all Taliban offices overseas.*
- *Reduce the staff at the limited number of Taliban missions abroad.*
- *Restrict travel of senior Taliban officials except for the purposes of participation in peace negotiations, compliance with the resolution, or for humanitarian reasons, including religious obligations.*
- *Ban the export to Afghan territory of a precursor chemical, acetic anhydride, which is used to manufacture heroin.*
- *Close all offices of Ariana Afghan Airlines and ban all nonhumanitarian assistance flights into and out of Afghanistan. Broad exceptions are given to humanitarian flights operated by, or on behalf of, intergovernmental organizations and government relief agencies providing humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.*

The sanctions imposed by these two resolutions are targeted sanctions. They are not economic sanctions.

- *These "smart sanctions" provide for broad humanitarian exceptions to benefit the Afghan people.*
- *They permit private-sector trade and commerce, including food, medicine, and consumer products.*
- *They permit, without impediment, the work of the humanitarian organizations providing assistance to the civilian population of Afghanistan.*
- *They permit Afghanis to remit money to family members in Afghanistan.*
- *Ban the export to Afghan territory of a precursor chemical, acetic anhydride, which is used to manufacture heroin.*
- *They permit Afghanis to travel for urgent humanitarian reasons and to fulfill their religious obligations, such as the hajj, including on the banned Ariana Afghan Airline. The UN Sanctions Committee already has approved about 200 flights for 13,000 Afghans in 2001 for this purpose. The Committee also has approved a request for a legitimate humanitarian waiver.*
- *They permit Taliban officials to travel abroad to participate in a peace process and to discuss fulfilling the demands of the Resolutions.*

The Government of Pakistan increased its support to the Taliban and continued its support to militant groups active in Indian-held Kashmir, such as the Harakat-ul Mujahidin (HUM), some of which engaged in terrorism. In Sri Lanka the government continued its 17-year conflict with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which engaged in several terrorist acts against government and civilian targets of value.

Afghanistan

Islamic extremists from around the world - including North America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Central, South, and Southeast Asia - continued to use Afghanistan as a training ground and base of operations for their worldwide terrorist activities in 2000. The Taliban, which controlled most of Afghanistan's territory, continued to provide safehaven and training facilities for non-Afghans and provided logistics support to members of various terrorist organizations and *mujahidin*, including those waging jihads (holy wars) in Central Asia, Chechnya, and Kashmir.

Throughout 2000 the Taliban continued to host Usama Bin Ladin despite UN sanctions and international pressure to hand him over to stand trial in the United States or a third country. In a serious exploratory dialogue with the Taliban, the United States repeatedly made clear to the Taliban that it would be held responsible for any terrorist attacks undertaken by Bin Ladin while he is in its territory.

In October, a terrorist bomb attack against the USS Cole in Aden Harbor, Yemen, killed 17 US sailors and injured scores of others. Although no definitive link has been made to Bin Ladin's organization, Yemeni authorities have determined that some suspects in custody and at large are veterans of Afghanistan training camps.

In August, Bangladeshi authorities uncovered a bomb plot to assassinate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a public rally. Bangladeshi police maintained that Islamic militants from neighbor Pakistan were involved in the plot.

India

Security problems associated with various insurgencies, particularly in Kashmir, persisted through 2000 in India. Massacres of civilians in Kashmir during March and August were attributed to Lashkar-e-Tayyba (LT) and other militant groups. India also faced continued violence associated with several separatist movements located in the northeast of the country.

The Indian Government continued cooperative efforts with the United States against terrorism. During the year, the US India Joint Counterterrorism Working Group - founded in November 1999 - met twice and agreed to increase bilateral cooperation on mutual counterterrorism interests. New Delhi continued to cooperate with US officials to ascertain the fate of four Western hostages--including one US citizen--kidnapped in Indian-held Kashmir in 1995, although the hostages' whereabouts remained unknown.

Pakistan

Pakistan's military government, headed by Gen. Pervez Musharraf, continued previous Pakistan Government support of the Kashmir insurgency, and Kashmiri militant groups continued to operate in Pakistan, raising funds and recruiting new cadres. Several of these groups were responsible for attacks against civilians in Indian-held Kashmir, and the largest of the groups, the Lashkar-e-Tayyba, claimed responsibility for a suicide car bomb attack against an Indian garrison in Srinagar in April.

In addition, the Harakat-ul Mujahidin (HUM), a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, continues to be active in Pakistan without discouragement by the Government of Pakistan. Members of the group were associated with the hijacking in December 1999 of an Asia flight that landed first in the reclusive state of Afghanistan, and then in the Gulf where Indian Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaswant Singh was kidnapped. Kashmiri militant group, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and publicly has threatened the United States.

© Reuters

Maulana Masood Azhar, Jaish-e-Mohammed leader

The United States remains concerned about reports of continued Pakistani support for the Taliban's military operations in Afghanistan. Credible reporting indicates that Pakistan is providing the Taliban with material, fuel, funding, technical assistance, and military advisors. Pakistan has not prevented the flow of Islamist militants from Pakistan to the Taliban-controlled areas to fight for the Taliban. Islamabad also failed to take effective steps to curb the activities of certain madrassas, or religious schools, that serve as recruiting grounds for terrorists. Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency reportedly has ties to Usama Bin Ladin, which imposes an arms embargo on the Taliban.

The attack on the USS Cole in Yemen in October prompted fears of US retaliatory strikes against Bin Ladin's organization and targets in Afghanistan if the investigation pointed in that direction. Pakistani religious party leaders and militant groups threatened US citizens and facilities if such an attack took place, much as they did after Israeli and US missile attacks on camps in Afghanistan in August 1998 and following the US diplomatic intervention in the Kargil conflict between Pakistan and India in 1999. The Government of Pakistan generally has cooperated with US requests to enhance security for US facilities and personnel.

Sri Lanka

The separatist group the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)--redesignated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in 1999--remained violent in 2000, engaging in several terrorist acts against government and civilian targets. LTTE attacks, including those involving suicide bombers, killed more than 100 persons, including Minister of Industrial Development Gooneratne, and wounded scores more. The Government of Sri Lanka continued its offensive against the separatist group in October, when an LTTE suicide bomber centered by the police detonated his bomb near the Town Hall in Colombo. The LTTE continued to target civilian shipping in Sri Lanka's waters, including an attack on a Sri Lanka passenger ferry in October that killed at least 60 persons.

The war in the north between the Tigers and the Sri Lankan Government continued, although by year's end the government had to taken 70 percent of the Jaffna Peninsula. The Government of Norway initiated efforts to broker a cease fire in hostilities and peace talks between the Government and the Tigers, but neither side showed a cease fire in interest.

Several terrorist acts have been attributed to other domestic Sri Lankan groups. Suspected Sinhalese extremists protesting Norway's peace efforts could improved explosive devices in a bomb attack on the Norwegian-run charity Save the Children and on the Norwegian Embassy. Sinhalese extremists also are suspected of assassinating pro-LTTE politician G. G. Kumar Ponnambalam Jr., in January.

East Asia

Japan continued to make progress in its counterterrorist efforts. Legal restrictions instituted in 1999 began to take effect on the Japan Four Aum Shinrikyo members who had personally placed the sarin on the subway in 1995 were sentenced to death. Tokyo also made substantial progress in its efforts to remove Japanese Red Army (JRA) members to Japan. The Government of Japan indicted four JRA members who were forcibly returned after being deported from Lebanon. Tokyo also took two others into custody. Yoshiro Tanaka, a fugitive JRA member involved in hijacking a Japanese airliner in 1970, was extradited from Thailand, and Fusako Shigenobu, a JRA founder and leader, who had been on the run for 30 years and was arrested in Japan in November.

Several nations in East Asia experienced terrorist violence in 2000. Burmese dissidents took over a provincial hospital in Thailand, embassies stormed the hospital, killing the dissidents. Fighting in Thailand's Southern provinces in Thailand was a sharp increase in international and domestic terrorism, including several bombings, two of which targeted official foreign interests. Pro-Indonesia militias in continued attacks in East Timor, including one that killed another aspect the US Embassy in Jakarta. The evidence made public as of December, however, does not support elements of this theory. Nevertheless, the GAM or Achenese separatists did conduct sporadic attacks on ExxonMobil oil facilities in Aceh early in the year. The group's primary target was Indonesian security elements, some of which continued to guard ExxonMobil facilities.

Indonesian nationalists and some radical Islamist groups occasionally carried out violent protests outside US diplomatic facilities in response to perceived US interference in domestic affairs and support for Israel. One demonstration culminated in a mob attack against the US Consulate in Surabaya on November 15 September, and another involved Indonesian militant Hard Islamist Islam (Islamic Defenders' Front) threatening US citizens in the country. Other Islamist extremists in October searched for US citizens in a central Javanese city, warning them to leave the country.

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Indonesian students attacked US Consulate gates during a protest in Surabaya on 15 September. The students were protesting perceived western interference in Indonesian domestic politics.

Militiamen attacked a UNHCR aid office in Atambua, West Timor, on 6 September, killing three aid workers, including one US citizen. Suspected militia members also killed two UN peacekeepers from New Zealander and a Nepalese national--during the year.

Japan

Aum Shinrikyo, which conducted the sarin nerve agent attack in the Tokyo subway system in 1995, remained under active government surveillance. The Aum sect is required by law to report regularly on its membership, residences, and other holdings. Aum Four members who placed the sarin on the subway were sentenced to death in November 1999 for their roles in the attack on the subway. (The fifth subject, Ikuo Hayashi, showed a prosecutor cooperative attitude and in 1998, received a two-year sentence. The prosecution of cult leader Shoko Asahara continued, with four drug-related charges dropped in October in an effort to expedite a verdict. Aum leadership also further sought to improve the cult's image through an apology and admission of responsibility for the subway attack with an agreement to pay $40 million damage to attack victims, rejection of cult founder Asahara as a religious prophet, a pledge to renounce violence, and a promise to refrain from the cult's religious doctrine, and a change of its name to Aleph.

Separately, four Japanese Red Army (JRA) members were returned to Japan in March after being deported from Lebanon. They later were indicted on charges of attempted murder and forgery of official documents. Japanese officials continued to seek the extradition of a fifth colleague, Koro Okamoto, who was granted political asylum by Lebanon because he had participated in operations against Israel. In June, the Japanese Government successfully extradited Yoshiro Tanaka--one of the fugitive members of the JRA involved in hijacking a Japanese Airlines plane to North Korea in 1970--from Thailand. During a preliminary hearing before the Tokyo district court in July, Tanaka publicly apologized and submitted a signed report admitting his participation in the hijacking. His trial began on 18 December.

In November, Osaka police successfully tracked down and arrested Fusako Shigenobu, a founder and leader of the JRA, who had been on the run for 30 years. Prosecutors have charged her with suspicion of conspiracy related to JRA's seizure of the French Embassy in The Hague in 1974, as well as attempted murder, and passport fraud. Police later seized two supporters who allegedly helped her evade detection while in Japan. Only a handful of JRA members remain at large.

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Fusako Shigenobu, JRA founder and leader, was arrested in November.

Japan has yet to sign the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing.

Laos

Several small-scale bombings of undetermined origin occurred in Vientiane during 2000, some of which targeted tourist destinations and injured foreign nationals. Unidentified assailants threw an explosive device at a restaurant on 30 March, injuring 10 tourists from Britain, Germany, and Thailand. Bombings also occurred at Vientiane's morning market in May--injuring four Thai nationals--and the central post office in July, where two foreign tourists narrowly escaped injury. Unidentified perpetrators also detonated explosives in Vientiane's Lao-Japan Friendship Hospital, the Laotian National Tourism Authority, and a national monument. Authorities discovered other bombs planted at the morning market, a foreign embassy, and a hotel outside Vientiane and rendered them safe.

Press reporting during the year indicated that political dissidents conducted some of the attacks in the capital, although the suspected groups remained unknown.

Malaysia

Malaysia experienced two incidents of international terrorism in 2000, both perpetrated by the Philippine-based Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG). The ASG abducted 21 persons, including 10 foreign tourists, from the Sipadan diving resort in eastern Malaysia on 23 April. A suspected ASG faction also kidnapped 21 persons from a resort in Pandanan Island in eastern Malaysia on 10 September. The group released most of the hostages from both incidents but continued to hold one Filipino abducted from Sipadan as of the end of the year.

A Malaysian Islamist sect known as al Ma'unah targeted domestic security forces for the first time in July. Members of the group raided two military armories in Perak state, about 175 miles north of Kuala Lumpur, and took hostages. Two of the members killed two of the hostages--a Malaysian police officer and soldier--before surrendering on 6 July. Malaysian authorities arrested and detained several dozen members following the attack and suspect that 29 of those held also launched attacks against a Hindu temple, a brewery, and an electrical power tower.

Philippines

Islamist separatist groups in the Philippines increased attacks against foreign and domestic targets in 2000. The Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)--designated one of 29 Foreign Terrorist Organizations by the US Government--conducted operations outside the southern Philippines for the first time when it abducted 21 persons--including 10 foreign tourists--from a Malaysian resort in April. In a series of subsequent, separate incidents, ASG group members kidnapped 9 Philippines and 3 foreign nationals, including two US citizens in the southern Philippines. Although obtaining ransom money was a primary goal, the hostage takers issued statements that they also were seeking to establish a separate Islamic state in the southern Philippines, which has been a long-standing independent Islamic state. The group released most of the hostages by October after paying several million dollars, while Philippine Government assaults on ASG positions posed the way for some other hostages to escape. The ASG, however, continued to hold the US citizens and a Filipino hostage at year's end.

Manila made some legal progress against ASG kidnapping activities in 2000 when a regional trial court sentenced three group members to life in prison for abducting Dr. Nilo Barandino and 10 members of his household in 1992. The Philippine Government also filed charges against ASG members for attempted kidnapping cases, although none of the suspects remained at large.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)--the largest remaining Philippine Islamist separatist group--broke off stalled peace talks with Manila in late April. After the military launched an offensive capturing several MILF strongholds and attacking rebel positions in the southern Philippines, MILF leaders suspended talks with Manila. The MILF reportedly conducted several attacks in the southern Philippines against Filipino security and civilian targets. In July, Philippine Armed Forces captured Camp Abubakar, and the MILF responded by declaring a "holy war" against Manila and continuing attacks against civilian and government targets in the southern Philippines. Philippine Government officials stated that the MILF bears ultimate responsibility for several bombings in Manila, including two at popular shopping malls in May and June. Bombings in Manila on 30 December also Police arrested 28 suspected MILF members in connection with the May bombings and still held them at year's end.

Communist rebels also remained active in 2000, occasionally targeting businesses and engaging in sporadic clashes with Philippine security forces. Press reporting indicates that early in the year the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army (CPP/NPA) attacked a South Korean construction company in Davao City, killing one and injuring two. Philippine businessmen "whose operations hurt the country's economy and environment" The Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB)--a breakaway CPP/NPA faction--attacked Shell Oil offices in central Philippines in March. The group's stated motive was to protest alleged abuses, including US-owned Cathos, to protest rising oil prices.

Distinguishing between political and criminal motives for many of the terrorist-related activities in the Philippines continued to be difficult, most notably in the numerous cases of kidnapping for ransom in the southern Philippines. Both Islamist and communist groups have reportedly received funds from businesses in their operating areas, occasionally conducting regional operations if money was not paid.

Thailand

In January 2000, 10 armed Burmese dissidents--linked to the takeover in 1999 of the Burmese Embassy in Bangkok--took over the Ratchaburi provincial hospital. This security breach occurred in the hospital and killed two hospital security officers. Although no hostages were injured during the assault, all the hostage takers were killed. Separately, Burma sentenced to death one terrorist involved in the 1999 Embassy takeover.

Authorities responded with military force and legal action to separatist activity in the south. In February, security forces dealt a severe blow to the New Pattani United Liberation Organization, a Muslim separatist group active in Thailand's Southern provinces. Thai Lieut. Caleb Meyer. Authorities claim that he was responsible for 90 percent of the terrorist activities in Narathiwat, a southern Thai province.

In April, police arrested the deputy leader of the outlawed Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN)--a Southern separatist group--in Pattani. The case was still pending before the court at year's end.

Authorities suspect Muslim separatists conducted several small-scale attacks on public schools, a Buddhist temple, and a police station in the south.

In June, a Thai criminal court ordered extradited to Japan Yoshiro Tanaka--a member of the radical Japanese Red Army faction--wanted for hijacking in 1970 of a Japan Airlines plane. He was in Thailand on a tourist visa.

Thai officials again publicly pledged to halt the use of Thailand as a logistics base by the Sri Lankan group the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The group, which conducted extensive fund-raising in Thailand in previous years, followed the discovery in June of a partially completed submersible at a shipyard in Phuket, Thailand, owned by an LTTE sympathizer, as well as an unclassified paper by Canadian intelligence published in December that outlined the Tigers' use of front companies to procure weapons via Thailand.

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Patterns of Global Terrorism - 2000

Department of State Publication
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Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism

Eurasia Overview

April 2001

No major terrorist attacks occurred in Eurasia in 2000, but counterterrorist efforts, often in conjunction with counterinsurgency efforts, continued in the states of the former Soviet Union.

Russia, China, and the United States were all involved in regional efforts to combat terrorism. In 2000, members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) discussed establishing a CIS-wide counterterrorism center in Bishkek, although past efforts have been unsuccessful. The heads of the CIS states security services put forward Gen. Boris Mylnikov, former First Deputy Director of the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) Department for Protecting the Constitutional Order and Combating Terrorism, to lead the potential CIS Counter-terrorism Center, and on 1 December the CIS heads of state agreed on funding for the organization, half of which will be provided by Russia. The center began operations in December 2000 and reportedly has been tasked by the CIS to maintain a database of information on terrorism.

The Shanghai Forum--Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Russia, and China--met in July and discussed cooperation among the five states as well as with Uzbekistan against terrorism, insurgency, and Islamic extremism. The Forum supported a proposal to establish a regional counterterrorism center in Bishkek, although no progress had been made in implementing this decision by year's end.

All five Central Asian states participated in the Central Asian Counterterrorism Conference in June sponsored by the US Department of State. Other participants included representatives from Russia, Egypt, and Spain. The United Kingdom, Turkey, China, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) sent observers.

Several Central Asian states also concluded counterterrorism agreements in 2000. Uzbekistan in early May signed an agreement with India that included an extra-dition treaty and mutual assistance in criminal investigations with an eye toward counterterrorist operations. In June, Kazkahstan and Kyrgyzstan separately reached bilateral agreements with China to cooperate on counterterrorist matters. In October and November, Uzbekistan also signed agreements on counterterrorism cooperation with Turkey, China, and Italy.

Azerbaijan
Azerbaijan took strong steps to curb the international logistics networks that support the fighters in Chechnya, to include closing international Islamic relief organizations believed to assist militants in Chechnya, strengthening border controls with Russia, and arresting and extraditing suspected mujahidin supporters. There has been good cooperation on counterterrorism cases between the Government of Azerbaijan and US law enforcement. In mid-September, Azerbaijani police arrested seven Dagestani men under suspicion of working with the *mujahidin* and extradited them to Russia. The government has cooperated closely and effectively with the United States on antiterrorism issues, and a program of antiterrorism assistance has been initiated. Azerbaijan intends to join the CIS Counterterrorism Center.

Azerbaijan and Russia signed a border agreement extension in early June to limit the flow of arms and militants across the borders.

In early October, the Supreme Court in Baku found 13 members of Jayshullah, an indigenous terrorist group who may have had plans to attack the US Embassy, guilty of committing terrorist actions. The court sentenced them to prison terms ranging from eight years to life.

Georgia
Georgia faced the potential for spillover violence from the Chechen conflict and contended with international *mujahidin* seeking to use Georgian territory as a conduit for financial and logistic support to the *mujahidin* in Chechnya. Russia continued to pressure Georgia for stronger border controls. With international assistance, Georgia has steadily increased its border control presence on its northern border and invited monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The OSCE has not recorded any movement of mujahidin across the Georgian border with Chechnya, although some evidence suggests that, despite these efforts, neither Russian nor Georgian border guards have been able to seal the border entirely from individuals and small groups passing to and from Chechnya.

Russia alleged that there are *mujahidin* in the Pankisi Gorge in northern Georgia. Georgia moved more Interior Ministry units into the region. Hostage taking for ransom by criminal gangs continued to be a problem in some parts of Georgia. Five persons were kidnapped in the Abkhazia region, including two unarmed UN military observers and an international NGO employee, in early June, then released without payment of ransom. Two International Red Cross staff employees were taken hostage on 4 August in the Pankisi Gorge and released one week later under the condition that their kidnappers would not face criminal charges.

Kazakhstan
In Almaty in September, Kazakhstani police killed four suspected Uighur separatist militants who were sought in connection with the murders of two policemen and a leader of the Uighur community in Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan
The only clear instances of international terrorism in Central Asia this year occurred in Kyrgzystan as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan's (IMU) insurgent efforts continued. Four US citizen mountain climbers were taken hostage by IMU militants operating in southern Kyrgyzstan in early August and held captive for several days before they escaped unharmed. IMU militants also took six German, three Russian, one Ukrainian, and two Uzbek mountaineers hostage, but later freed them.

Russia
Russian authorities continued to search for suspects in the four deadly apartment bombings that took place in August and September 1999. The trial of the six Dagestani men accused of conducting the bombing in Buinaksk, which killed 62 persons, began in December. There still are no suspects in custody for the bombings of two buildings in Moscow or a building in Volgodonsk. In November, Polish authorities arrested two Russian organized crime members, whom they suspect are connected to the August bombing in Moscow's Pushkin Square, which killed eight persons.

Tajikistan
Several incidents of domestic terrorism occurred in Tajikistan in 2000. A small car bomb, planted on a vehicle belonging to the European Community Humanitarian Organization (ECHO), exploded on 16 July in Dushanbe and injured several children. In addition, in October an unoccupied car belonging to the Chairman of the Democratic Party, Mahmadruzi Iskandarov, was bombed. Bombings and other violence marred Tajikistani Parliamentary elections in February, which concluded the Tajikistani Peace Process ending a five-year civil war. On 1 October and 31 December four churches were bombed. Several deaths and numerous casualties resulted from the bombing in October. There is no evidence that any of the attacks, either on the churches or during the elections, involved international interests. While the Tajikistani Government does not support the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), it has been unable to prevent it from transiting its territory.

Uzbekistan
The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) infiltrated fighters into mountainous areas of Surkhandar'inskaya Oblast southern Uzbekistan during the spring and summer of 2000. Uzbekistani military forces discovered the fighters and drove them back into Tajikistan. Tohir Yuldashev and Juma Khodjiev (a.k.a. Juma Namangani), the leaders of the IMU, were tried in absentia together with 10 other persons accused of terrorism or anticonstitutional activity. All defendants were convicted at a trial that failed to conform to international standards for the protection of the human rights of the defendants. The court sentenced Yuldashev and Khodjiev to death and the remaining defendants to prison terms. On 25 September, the United States designated the IMU a Foreign Terrorist Organization, citing both its armed incursions into Uzbekistan and neighboring Kyrgyzstan and its taking of foreign hostages, including US citizens.

Tohir Yuldashev, IMU leader

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Europe Overview

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Patterns of Global Terrorism - 2000

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Europe Overview

April 2001

Western Europe had the largest decline in the number of international terrorist incidents of any region in 2000. Several European states more fortunate than others and codify anti-terrorism laws that implement the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing, which was opened for signature on 10 January 2000. There were notable examples of international cooperation against terrorist organizations. In Spain, the Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) continued its campaign of assassination in Albania, Spanish French cooperation in the Corsican terrorist group Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA), and Italy and Spain's agreement to create common judicial space. Greece undertook a series of more stringent counterterrorism measures in the wake of the murder of the British Defense Attaché in Athens. Beginning on January 17 November, but Greece still has not made any arrests in connection with any of the groups's 21 murders over the past quarter century. France and Turkey both made impressive strides in combating terrorism through aggressive prosecutions of the perpetrators and their terrorist groups.

In Southeastern Europe, groups of ethnic Albanians have conducted armed attacks against government forces in southern Serbia and Kosovo throughout the year. Two groups in southern Serbia still itself the Liberation Army of Preseve, Medvedja, and Bujanovac (PMBLA). One group in Macedonia calls itself the National Liberation Army (NLA). Both groups include members who fought with the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) in Kosovo. The PMBLA has conducted attacks against Serbian security forces with weapons from Kosovo and elsewhere. The PMBLA has, on occasion, harassed and detained civilians treating through areas it controls in Serbia. The NLA, which has a "political wing" in Macedonia, has conducted a series of attacks against Macedonian and ethnic Albanian civilians. The most serious attack against a bus in Kosovo on 16 February 2001, killing at least seven civilians and wounding 43 others.

Lisbon

In keeping with Austria's constructive security relationship with the United States, the Interior Minister discussed closer cooperation in combating crime and terrorism during a visit to Washington in January. Vienna also enacted an expanded police powers bill enabling authorities to collect and analyze information more effectively.

On 26 February, Austrian letter bomber Franz Fuchs committed suicide in his prison cell where he had been serving a life sentence for murdering a series of letter-bomb victims and injuring many others in a campaign that lasted 15 years.

Authorities held Hidemun Ntzir, a suspected member of the terrorist Abu Nidal organization (ANO), in custody from January to May. In September, he reappeared in Austria and was placed under house arrest while awaiting trial on charges of illegal firearms and ammunition possession. Ntzir, who was arrested in Vienna in 1973, was released from custody in 1974 and, which subsequently threatened to target Austrian interests if the funds were not released to the group.

In 2000, citing the statute of limitations, France declined an Austrian Government request that Illich Ramirez Sanchez, a.k.a. Carlos the Jackal, be extradited for his alleged terrorist activities in Austria. Sanchez is currently imprisoned in France.

The Austrian Government continued to allow the political front of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) to maintain its offices in Vienna, which have been open since 1995. Authorities estimate some 400 PKK militants and 4,000 sympathizers reside in Austria.

Belgium

The Interior Ministers of Belgium and Spain met in Brussels in June to discuss Belgium's refusal to extradite Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) members suspected of terrorist acts. The Belgian minister pledged that his government would no longer refuse Spanish extradition requests.

In 2000, Belgium did reject Turkey's request for the extradition of suspected Turkish terrorist Fehriye Erdal. The request for her has alleged role in the 1996 bombing murder of a prominent Turkish businessman and attempted murder of a Turkish diplomat in Belgium in 1999. is allegedly a member of the Turkish Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKPC) terrorist group. Belgian authorities released Erdal from custody in November and she disappeared. Belgium's refusal to extradite Erdal to Turkey was linked to principle that under EU Extradition Convention and the Suppression of Terrorism Convention, noting that it covers only terrorist acts using bombs or automatic weapons. After Brussels denied Ms. Erdal's political asylum request, she went on a hunger strike and subsequently was released from custody and placed under house arrest. She is now under no charges arising from criminal activities in Belgium.

In February, authorities arrested two members of the "Cellules Communistes Combattantes" after they had served 14 years of their life sentences for involvement in a series of bomb attacks against US, NATO, and Belgian interests in 1984 and 1985. One attack resulted in the deaths of two American businessmen.

Belgium has yet to sign the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing.

France

During 2000, France maintained its traditional tough stance against terrorism. On the legal front, Paris was the first to sign the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing, which was a French initiative. The French Government's initiative "Red Private" plan, which uses military forces to protect French citizens and interests in 'risk' countries, was used for the repeat of the Paris-metro attacks by Algerian terrorists—remained in effect. Vigi-Pirate increased security at metro and train stations, enhanced border controls, and increased police patrols throughout France.

In January, the Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) relaunched its assassination and bombing campaign in Spain, and French police responded aggressively by interdicting some Spanish terrorists operating from southern France. Spain and France signed a supply cells in France. At year's end, ETA had killed 23 persons and wounded scores more.

On the judicial front, French courts convicted several Spanish terrorists. Spanish Interior Minister, Javier Arzalluz Ruiz, alias Kantauri, a former ETA military operations chief, was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment. A Paris appeals court in September unanimously authorized Ruiz's extradition to Spain to stand trial for an attempt by ETA to kill King Juan Carlos in 1995. Twelve other ETA militants received lengthy jail sentences. The court sent Daniel Derguy, believed to be the ETA chief in France, to Spain to face charges for his alleged involvement in the 1995 bombing of a Madrid shopping center and for his connection with a terrorist organization. Ignacio Gracia Arnaiz, alias Ioski de Rentria, reportedly a top ETA leader, was sentenced in December to five years in jail. Others convicted received prison sentences of five to 10 years. France either has extradited or expelled ETA terrorists to Spain when they have completed their sentences.

In October, a French judge ruled in favor of a suit charging Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi with "complicity to murder" in the bomb attack in 1989 against a UTA airliner over the Niger desert that killed 170 persons.

In November, French courts also convicted seven Spanish citizens of membership in Front of October Anti-Fascist Resistance Group (GRAPO), a Spanish leftist terrorist group. In raids during the year, police officials seized bombmaking paraphernalia, false identity documents, and weapons caches.

French courts convicted a number of Algerian nationals on terrorist related charges. Ahmat Bouakaze, an Algerian, was convicted for his criminal conspiracy by interdicting some bomb components destined for Algerian terrorists. Bouakaze, an Armed Resists, a suspected terrorist being held in the United States. Another Algerian national was convicted of an attack that derailed a train in France in June, killing one person and injuring 30.

The Breton Resistance Army (ARB) claimed responsibility for a bomb attack in April that damaged a McDonald's restaurant at Perros, but the group denied involvement in another attack in May that destroyed a McDonald's restaurant in Quimper that killed a French employee. French police arrested four members of the Breton nationalist group Fingam (Combat) on charges of involvement in the Dinan bombing.

Six pro-independence Corsican groups joined in proclaiming a cease-fire in late 1999, but bomb attacks against government offices on the island continued intermittently in 2000. No one was injured in an attack against a bank in Porto-Vecchio, but a bomb attack in Ajaccio on 1 October, Corsican separatists placed a car bomb in front of the police station in Marseilles. The device was not built to detonate but to serve as a warning. Corsican separatists claimed responsibility for the attack. Also in October, French courts sentenced 10 Corsican nationalists to four years' imprisonment for an attack that damaged an estate complex in Corsica in 1998.

France's counterterrorism efforts have been less robust on the diplomatic front where it has blocked concerted action by the G-8 aimed at Iranian-sponsored terrorism in the Middle East. Also, France's prolonging of the EU yielded little practical US-EU counterterrorism cooperation.

Germany

Extreme rightwing violence against foreign nationals in Germany increased in 2000 and became a major political issue. Interior ministers from the German states met in November to discuss the problem and recommended the federal government take control measures, including establishing databases to track rightwing and leftwing extremists.

Germany continued its campaign against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in 2000. Authorities sought several former members of the Red Army Faction (RAF), which was dissolved in 1998, and continued to prosecute former RAF members in court. Johannes Weinrich, a former member of Carlos the Jackal's terrorist group, was sentenced to life in prison for his role in the murder and attempted murder during an attack in 1983 on a French cultural center in then-West Berlin. In November, RAF member Andrea Klump went on trial on charges of participation in the bombing of a NATO base at Rota, Spain, in 1988. In December, Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer testified at the trial of former acquaintance Hans-Joachim Klein, who was charged with three murders in connection with the December 1975 OPEC conference in Vienna, Klein testified that Carlos the Jackal was involved.

The courts convicted Metin Kaplan, leader of the violent Turkish Islamist group Kalifatstaat, and sentenced him to four years in prison for publicly calling for the death of a rival. The trial of five defendants accused of the 1988 Libyan-sponsored bombing against the Labelle Discotheque, which killed two of US servicemen and injured hundreds of others, began in Berlin. Germany's Workers' Party (PKK) and its affiliates remained in effect. The PKK ceased to conduct violent demonstrations in 2000, following the capture of its leader Abdullah Ocalan.

Germany continued to cooperate multilaterally and bilaterally—notably with the United States—to combat terrorism. In 2000, German authorities arrested and extradited to the United States a suspect in the bombings in 1998 of the US embassies in East Africa.

Greece

The Greek Government undertook some meaningful steps to combat terrorism—especially in the wake of the Revolutionary Organization 17 November (17 November) murder of British Defense Attache Saunders in Athens—including efforts to persuade a historically skeptical public of the damage inflicted by terrorism on Greece's interests and international reputation. The Government introduced a comprehensive counterterrorism legislative package, including witness protection and plea bargaining, drafting legislation to provide a legal basis for more vigorous prosecutions of terrorist groups, and, with Greek, Belgian, and US experts, cooperated closely in the still ongoing investigation of the Saunders murder. Nonetheless, despite these and other promising initiatives, as well as closer Greek-US cooperation, Athens exercised no meaningful counterterrorism incident and arrested no terrorist suspects in 2000.

In June, two motorcyclists shot and killed British Defense Attache Stephen Saunders in Athens' rush hour traffic. Revolutionary Organization 17 November, a violent far left nationalist group, claimed the murder as revenge against NATO's military action in 1999 against Serbia. The group simultaneously claimed responsibility for attacks it had mounted in 1999 on the German and Dutch ambassadors' residences, on three Western banks, and on offices of the governing PASOK party. In a follow-up communique released in December, 17 November defended the murder of Saunders and continued efforts by trying to spread a populist, pro-Serb sentiments and also by urging Greeks not to cooperate with the government's counterterrorism efforts.

Revolutionary Organization 17 November assassinated British Defense Attache Stephen Saunders in Athens in June. Brother Saunders—shown outside his home beside coffin of Gretrick Gerbert—has been instrumental in raising Greek public awareness of the plight of terrorism victims.

The Saunders murder and Greek preparations for the 2004 Olympics contributed to a political and public opinion climate more favorable to effective counterterrorism measures. Greek Foreign Minister Papandreou, who has been instrumental in raising awareness of the murder of Saunders and calls on against terrorism in general, told the Greek media twice-weekly press conference that the Saunders' eloquent public statements in the aftermath of her husband's murder. The public widely observed a national moment of silence for victims of terrorism, and Orthodox Archbishop Christodoulos held an unprecedented memorial service for all Greek and foreign victims of terrorism in Greece.

The police sought to involve the public in the Saunders investigation and encouraged witnesses to come forward. Minister of Public Order (MPO) Kleisouris held the government's efforts, which included increasing the reward for information on terrorist attacks to US $ million, the largest reward ever offered for information on terrorist attacks in peacetime. Although failure to condon off the Saunders crime scene initially hampered the investigation, the Greek police subsequently worked effectively with British investigators to pursue a small number of leads including one in Athens, and the British Defense Attache's murder remained unsolved.

In the group, Revolutionary Nucleus, another far left, nationalist terrorist group, bombed buildings belonging to two Greek construction companies linked to the Greek Government, military, and NATO. Police safely removed a bomb the group had left outside the Finnish (Finnish) Office of Trade and Industry in Athens on 11 November. Greek authorities continued to be secretly simultaneous attacks against a British bank, a US bank, and the studio and home of the Greek sculptor whose statue of Gen. George C. Marshall is displayed in Athens' Kolonaki Square.

Throughout the year, a host of anarchist groups claimed responsibility for an average of two arson or bomb attacks per week on offices, shops, and vehicles, mainly in Athens, many of the targets of which belonged to foreign businessmen, construction companies, Greek officials, and Greek public sector executives. The two most prolific groups, Black Star and Anarchist Faction, together carried out 31 attacks in 2000. No Greeks were killed in these attacks.

Suspected terrorist Avraam Lepenjolas, already imprisoned since December 1999 for passport fraud and dodgeball, was convicted of attempted murder for allegedly mailing a letter bomb to Greek Minister of Justice Lepenjolas, who is suspected of being linked to Revolutionary People's Struggle (ELA) and possibly other groups, still awaits trial on several terrorism related murder charges.

In late November, a Justice Ministry expert commission began drafting legislation on terrorism and organized crime for presentation in December. The government legislative package includes provisions for witness protection and reward for undercover police operations, use of DNA evidence, adjudication by all-judge panels of certain classes of terrorist cases, and protection of witnesses. The Greek Government has offered to share its witness protection program with other EU and international norms.

In 2000, Greece and the United States ratified a mutual legal assistance treaty and signed a police cooperation memorandum to enhance bilateral cooperation on law enforcement, including terrorism. During the year, MPO Kleisouris met with cabinet level officials in the United States and in the Middle East and Western Europe to discuss counterterrorism cooperation in London. By year's end, Greece had signed all 12 and ratified all but two of the UN counterterrorism conventions.

Italy

Italy's counterterrorism efforts in 2000 focused primarily on the assassination in 1999 of Labor Ministry Adviser Massimo d'Antona by individuals who claimed to be from the Nuclei Armati Per Il Nuovo Comunismo (Armed Nuclei For New Communism). Links from the investigation, however, complicated the arrest and interrogation of several suspects. One much publicized suspect was released after a Rome judge found no evidence linked him to the murder. Nonetheless, the Ministry of Justice Bonaiuto maintained, however, that leftwing and anarchist violence, exemplified by the BR-PCC and the Territorial Nuclei Against Work, was the most dangerous form of terrorism in Italy. Nuclei Armati Per Il Nuovo Comunismo (NAPN) was behind several low-level bombings and incendiary attacks in Rome and Naples in 2000.

In October authorities in Naples arrested suspects for 11 murders of a Fiat d'or'ed Hijas, a North African Muslim extremist group. Seven were apprehended in Naples, France, and Algeria, but four eluded arrest. Officials noted that members of the group, also active in Milan and Bologna, had ties to Algerian Islamic Salvation Movement (GIA) and Algerian Islamic Movement.

In January, the government expelled to his native country illegal immigrant and Algerian national Yamin Rachek, bombard in Italian Canadian dual national Lucia Garofalo who was arrested in December for carrying explosives from Canada into the United States. In June, the government purchased Tunisian citizen Ali Agca for the attempt on Pope John Paul II and extradited him to his native Turkey.

In June, Italy and Spain signed an agreement to create a common judicial space between them, eliminating extradition procedures in the case of serious felonies, including terrorist activities.

Spain

Spain was wracked by domestic terrorism in 2000. After abandoning its cease-fire late in 1999, the terrorist group Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) began a crescendo bombing and assassination campaign. Killing 23 and wounding scores more by year's end. ETA traditionally targets police, military personnel, and politicians, as well as journalists and businessmen. In 2000 progressed, however, the group appeared to become increasingly indiscriminate in its attacks, targeting, for example, intersections and shopping areas. The public responded with huge demonstrations in major cities, demanding an end to the violence. The Spanish Government, which had ceased its counterterrorism efforts during the cease-fire, quickly resumed and amplified its efforts. Spanish officials pressured ETA members to surrender and criminal charges, and the Aznar government authorized its determination to eliminate terrorism and not negotiate ever independence for the constitutionally autonomous Basque provinces. After difficult discussions over the extradition of Jean Claude Darguy, reputedly the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV), the governing and opposition Socialist parties signed a common anti-ETA pact at year's end.

Spanish police officers inspect the remains of a passenger bus set ablaze after a car bomb, blamed on the ETA, exploded near Madrid on October 29, attacks killed 5 persons and injured 30. Spanish Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja said more than 40 others, and destroyed dozens of cars.

The First of October Anti-Fascist Resistance Group (GRAPO), spoonist in recent years, stepped up its activity in 2000. In November, the group murdered a Spanish policemen following the arrest of seven GRAPO leaders in Paris. Allied free security guards during a botched armed robbery attempt of a security van in May, and carried out several bombings that damaged property but caused no injuries. In November, the Spanish Interior Minister stated that arrests of GRAPO operatives in France had effectively dismantled the Spanish and French components of the group.

In June, Spain's Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja visited Washington in keeping with the active, high-level dialogue on terrorism between the United States and Spain. Spain also played an important role in the United Arab Emirates-hosted Conference sponsored by the US Department of State held in Washington in June. A Spanish court convicted Ramon Ablanedo, where the United States extradited to Spain in December 1999, for his participation in the bombing of a popular Madrid café.

Spanish and French interior ministries cooperated closely in combating terrorism, including arresting numerous ETA members and raiding logistics and support cells. Francs regularly deported suspected ETA terrorists, including several senior leaders, to Spain centrally. Spain also secured a pledge from Mexico to deny safehaven to ETA members. Spain welcomed the implementation of ETA as November 2000 and Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) President Juan Ignacio Ceniz, whose political leaders assassinated.

Spain has urged the European Union to adopt more vigorous measures against terrorism, including creating a common judicial space. Spain and Italy signed such an agreement.

Turkey

Combating terrorism remained a top Turkish domestic and foreign policy priority as ethnic, Islamist, leftist, and transnational terrorist groups continued to threaten Turkey. In 2000, government Turkish authorities in fighting these groups were consolidated, producing a dramatically lowered incidence of terrorist activity. The Turkish Government remained in the forefront of cooperative international counterterrorism efforts, including with Washington on combating groups that target US personnel and facilities.

In the aftermath of the repressed leader, Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which long had sought to achieve an independent Kurdish state through violence, asserted that it now seeks, through a political campaign, only guarantees of Kurdish political, economic, social, and cultural rights within Turkey. Ocalan's capture and imprisonment in 1999 ended the PKK's declared change in tactics and goals. Prime Minister Ecevit warned that his government would reconsider its decision not to execute Ocalan if the PKK resumed its terrorist ways. The PKK's leadership in Europe, including several senior leaders, reviewed his trial. The Court took up Ocalan's appeal in November.

Meanwhile, the number of violent clashes between PKK and government forces in Turkey declined significantly with 45 confrontations in the first 11 months of 2000, according to the Turkish General Staff, compared with thousands in previous years. The Turkish Government continued to implement its "Return to Village" program, which encourages PKK members to reveal themselves and have their names to sentence being suspended. Some 1,000 of 3,000 Kurdish groups that have fled peacefully with the PKK over the last several years. Turkish officials and newspapers noted that Syria observed its commitment made in 1998 to deprive support to the PKK. Syrian authorities continued to prevent or limit a safehaven in southern Syria for PKK personnel and facilities.

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Turkish security forces continued their effective campaign against the extreme left terrorist group Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKPC). In June, Turkish Interior Minister Sami Kohen and Foreign Minister Ismail Cem, the police terrorist seven suspected DHKPC terrorists that allegedly planned to attack the embassy at Incirlik, from which a joint US. Britain-Turkish-force monitoring the Iraqi no-fly zone operates. Turkish officials also claimed that the group was responsible for the murder of two US diplomats, including Belgium, have declared Turkish requests to extradite PKK, DHKPC, and other terrorists, citing Turkey's retention of the death penalty and the political motivation of the crimes.

The DHKPC, joined by small extreme leftist factions, staged repeated violent uprisings in prisons to protest the government's efforts to transfer prisoners from wards with dormitories to others with cells to prevent communication among the prisoners. Prison wards- to sewer prisons with cells for two or three prisoners. In December, the outlawed terrorist group Turkish Communist Party/Marxist-Leninist launched a coordinated attack on prisons in Turkey, killing over 30 prisoners. "Operation Return to Life" undertaken in December by security forces to gain control of the prison wards, left about 30 prisoners dead, some by their own hand.

The police and the judiciary dealt heavy blows to domestic Islamist terrorist groups in 2000, including the Turkish Hizbullah, a domestic terrorist group of roughly Kurdish Islamists that seeks to Lebanon. Authorities charged that Turkish Hizbullah and media assert that Turkish Hizbullah has received United Iranian support. Turkish Hizbullah's adherents are anti-Western but primarily target Kurds who are viewed as insufficiently Islamic in accordance with their strict interpretation of Sunni Islam. They but targeted US citizens. Through October, 723 police operations, mostly in predominantly Kurdish southeastern Turkey, netted 1,000 Turkish Hizbullah members, including 2 suspected in the murder of 300 of whom were released. The Turkish Hizbullah suspects accused of 156 murders began in Istanbul.

Turkish authorities arrested members of the Jerusalem Warriors, a small ethnic Turkish Sunni Islamist group with tenuous links to the Turkish Hizbullah. Turkish officials and media reported that they had received direction, training, and support from Iran, Hizbullah, and Iran were not tried for involvement in 22 murders. Turkish officials, including members of several prominent Turkish secularist intellectuals. Four have been accused of killing USAF Sgt. Victor Mravcik in a car bombing in 1991.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom enacted two far-reaching counter terrorism laws and continued its close cooperation with the United States and other nations in the fight against terrorism. As in previous years, IRA dissident terrorist groups continued to be the most dangerous Republican and Loyalist terrorist groups in Northern Ireland, while continuing their efforts to combat transnational Islamist terrorists settled in or transiting the United Kingdom.

The Terrorism Act, enacted in July and effective February 2001, replaces temporary and emergency laws that dealt with Northern Ireland related terrorism. It broadens the definition of terrorism and extends jurisdiction throughout the United Kingdom to cover solicit acts and threats against individuals and property—including electronic systems—intended to influence government or intimidate the public for political, religious, or ideological ends. The Act also allows for the proscription of groups based on domestic or transnational terrorism. It also provides for the seizure of terrorist cash, the arrest of persons suspected of terrorism, of Investigatory Powers Act, effective July 2000, created a statutory basis for intercepting communications and for covert surveillance.

London continued to work vigorously to combat Northern Ireland related terrorism, but British press reports indicated that terrorist killings in the north increased from seven in 1999 to 18 in 2000. The dissident Irish Republican Army (RIRA) is credited in press reports to have been responsible for attacks in Northern Ireland as well as in central London. The most spectacular unsolved RIRA attack in September that caused minor damage to the headquarters of British Intelligence in London, in central London. UK officials continued to prosecute dissidents suspected in previous attacks. Authorities reportedly urged Irish citizens not to travel to London and warned of a possible RIRA attack against London, which in 2000 and, to the murder in 1999 of Republican defense lawyer Rosemary Nelson by Loyalist Red Hand Defenders.

Making the case of Alec Jeffrey Leckerka, Scotland, in 1988. UK courts found Khaled al Fawwaz guilty of the British Embassy in Abu Dhabi, and Abd Muhammad Abd al Majid—indicted in the United States for involvement in the embassy attacks—extraditable to the United States. The United States and the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait, Manchester police, responding to a US request, searched two residences of associates of Usama Bin Ladin and his al-Qaida terrorist network. In May, a Scottish court convicted Libyan intelligence officer Abdelbaset Ali Mohmed al Megrahi of murder in the bombing of Pan Am 103 in December 1988. Megrahi's co-defendant, Al Amin Khalifah Fhimah, was found innocent. The court sentenced Megrahi to life in prison. Although the United States had indicted Fhimah, the United States had indicted "Jan Johnson" for the murder of two US diplomats, including Belgium, have declared Turkish requests to extradite PKK, DHKPC, and other terrorists, citing Turkey's retention of the death penalty and the political motivation of the crimes.

Europe Overview | Latin America Overview

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Patterns of Global Terrorism - 2000

Department of State Publication
Office of the Secretary of State
Released by the
Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism

Latin America Overview

April 2001

Latin America witnessed an increase in terrorist attacks from the previous year, from 121 to 193. In Colombia, leftist guerilla groups abducted hostages and attacked civil infrastructure, while rightwing paramilitary groups abducted congressional representatives, killed political candidates, and massacred civilians in an attempt to thwart the guerillas. In Ecuador, organized criminal elements with possible links to terrorists and terrorist groups abducted 10 oil workers and also claimed responsibility for oil pipeline bombings that killed seven civilians. Extremist religious groups continued to pose a terrorist concern in the triborder area of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay. Terrorist incidents continued a downward trend in Peru despite a deteriorating political situation and the abrupt resignation of hardline President Fujimori.

Colombia
Despite ongoing peace talks, Colombia's two largest guerrilla groups, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN), continued to conduct international terrorist acts, including kidnapping private US and foreign citizens and extorting money from businesses and individuals in the Colombian countryside.

A significant development during the year involved a series of FARC attacks on interests of US coal firm Drummond, Inc., in Colombia, which publicly refused to pay the group millions of dollars annually in extortion under the terms of FARC Law 002, a tax on entities valued at more than $1 million. As a result of FARC actions, Drummond did not bid on a state-owned coal company, potentially costing Bogota tens of millions of dollars in lost privatization revenue. Colombia's second-largest crude oil pipeline, the Cano Limon, was attacked 152 times in 2000--a record--which the army blames mostly on the ELN. The attacks forced Occidental Petroleum to halt exports through most of August and September.

In October, the Colombian police rescued a five-year-old US citizen who had been held six months by individuals connected with the FARC.

The FARC and the ELN continued to reach out to government and nongovernment groups throughout the world and especially in Europe and Latin America through international representatives and attendance at regional conferences and meetings, such as the Sao Paulo Forum. The FARC also continued to target security forces and other symbols of government authority to demonstrate its power and to strengthen its negotiating position. President Pastrana in December extended the FARC's demilitarized zone to 31 January 2001 and pledged to place government controls over the zone. The FARC--which said it would not return to the table until Bogota reined in the rightwing paramilitaries--unilaterally froze peace talks in November.

Meanwhile, rightwing paramilitary groups continued to grow and expanded their reach in 2000, most notably in southern Colombia's prime coca growing areas. The groups, in addition to massacring civilians in their attempts to erode FARC and ELN areas of influence, also abducted seven national congressional representatives in December, demanding negotiations with the government.

Ecuador
On 12 October, organized criminal elements with possible links to terrorists and terrorist groups abducted 10 aviation company employees and oil workers (five US citizens, two French, one Chilean, one Argentine, and one New Zealander) in the northern canton of Sucumbios. In December, the kidnappers also claimed responsibility for multiple bomb attacks on the Trans-Ecuadorian Oil pipeline, one of which killed seven Ecuadorian bystanders. At year's end, the terrorists were demanding $80 million in ransom for eight hostages (two escaped), and the situation had not been resolved. The exact identity of the terrorists remained uncertain. (The group executed one of their hostages, a US citizen, in January 2001. Following extended negotiations with representatives of the oil companies that employed the hostages, the remaining captives were released on 1 March 2001. The United States has pledged to bring those responsible to justice.)

Peru
There were no international acts of terrorism in Peru in 2000, but the Peruvian judicial system continued to prosecute vigorously individuals accused of committing domestic terrorist acts. Of the 314 persons Peruvian authorities arrested for involvement in significant acts of terrorism, 30 were sentenced to life imprisonment and 25 were sentenced to 20 to 30 years. Lima requested the extradition from Bolivia of suspected terrorist Justino Soto Vargas. La Paz granted the request, but at year's end Soto's asylum status remained unchanged, impeding his extradition.

In April, government authorities captured Shining Path (SL) commander Jose Arcela Chiroque (a.k.a. Ormeno) and as of late November 2000 continued large-scale efforts to apprehend SL leaders Macario Ala (a.k.a. Artemio) and "Comrade Alipio." Government operations targeted pockets of terrorist activity in the Upper Huallaga River Valley and the Apurimac/Ene River Valley, where SL columns continued to conduct periodic attacks.

The Peruvian Government continued to oppose strongly support to terrorists, but investigations continued into allegations that a small group of Peruvian military officers sold a substantial quantity of small arms to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. Lima remained receptive to US Government-sponsored antiterrorism training and cooperated fully to prevent terrorist attacks by providing valuable information, including access to law enforcement files, records, and databases concerning domestic terrorist groups.

Triborder (Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay)
In 2000, the triborder region of South America--where the borders of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay meet--remained a focal point for Islamic extremism in Latin America, but no acts of international terrorism occurred in any of the three countries. The Governments of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay continued efforts to stem criminal activities of individuals linked to international Islamic terrorist groups, but limited resources, porous borders, and corruption remained obstacles.

Paraguayan authorities in February arrested Ali Khalil Mehri, a Lebanese businessman having financial links to Hizballah, for violating intellectual property rights laws and aiding a criminal enterprise involved in distributing CDs espousing Hizballah's extremist ideals. He fled the country in June after faulty judicial procedures allowed his release. In November, Paraguayan authorities arrested Salah Abdul Karim Yassine, a Palestinian who allegedly threatened to bomb the US and Israeli Embassies in Asuncion, and charged him with possession of false documents and entering the country illegally. Yassine remained in prison at year's end. Paraguayan counternarcotics police in October also arrested an individual believed to be representing the FARC for possible involvement in a guns-for-cocaine ring between Paraguay and the Colombian terrorist group. Despite these successes, an ineffective judicial system and pervasive corruption, which facilitate criminal activity supporting terrorist groups, hampered counterterrorism efforts in Paraguay.

Argentina continued investigations into the bombings of the Israeli Embassy in 1992 and the Argentine-Israeli Community Center (AMIA) in 1994, both in Buenos Aires. In early February, the magistrate in the AMIA case presented his conclusions, which included charges of complicity against numerous former police officials and local civilians and a determination that a car bomb loaded with 300 kilograms of explosives was used to execute the attack. In May, INTERPOL agents also arrested a Paraguayan businessman for suspected links to the AMIA bombing. Trials were set to begin in early 2001.

Europe Overview

Middle East Overview

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Middle East Overview

April 2001

Middle Eastern terrorist groups and their state sponsors continued to plan, train for, and carry out acts of terrorism throughout 2000. The last few months of the year brought a significant increase in the overall level of political violence and unrest in the region, especially in Israel and the occupied territories. Much of the late year increase in violence was driven by a breakdown in negotiations and counterterrorism cooperation between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The breakdown sparked a cycle of violence between Israelis and Palestinians that continued to spiral at the end of the year.

Israeli-Palestinian violence also prompted widespread anger at Israel, as well as the United States, throughout the Middle East, demonstrated in part by numerous, occasionally violent protests against US interests in several Middle Eastern countries. Palestinian terrorist groups, with the assistance of Iran and the Lebanese Hizballah, took advantage of Palestinian and regional anger to escalate their terrorist attacks against Israeli targets.

Other terrorists also keyed on Israeli-Palestinian difficulties to increase their rhetorical and operational activities against Israel and the United States. Usama bin Ladin's al-Qaida organization, for example, issued statements in which it called for attacks that focus on US and Israeli targets escalated their efforts to conduct and promote terrorism in the Middle East. Several disrupted plans to attack US and Israeli targets in the Middle East prompted Jordanian authorities to demonstrate anger over Israel's sometimes disproportionate use of force to contain protests and perceptions that the United States "allowed" Israel to act.

Al-Qaida and its affiliates especially used their ability to provide money and training as leverage to establish ties to and build the terrorist capabilities of a variety of small Middle Eastern terrorist groups such as the Lebanese Ansar al-Asir.

The most significant act of anti US terrorism in the region in 2000--the bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen on 12 October--was not direct by events in the Levant. Although the joint US Yemeni investigation into the unique bombing--which killed 17 US sailors and wounded 39 others--continued through the end of 2000, initial indications suggested the attack may have originated in Tadjikistan and Afghanistan, where al-Qaida, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, and other terrorist groups are based and some of the alleged USS Cole attackers received training. The Yemeni Government, as much a victim of the attack as the United States, was actively engaged in cooperating with the investigation to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Many other Middle Eastern governments also increased their efforts to counter the threat from regional and Afghanistan-based terrorists, including the provision of enhanced security for high risk US Government targets. The Government of Kuwait, for instance, cooperated with regional counterparts in November to disrupt a suspected international terrorist cell. Kuwaiti arrested 13 individuals and recovered a large quantity of explosives and weapons. The cell reportedly was planning to attack both Kuwaiti officials and US targets in Kuwait and the region.

Algeria

President Bouteflika's Law on Civil Concord in 2000 initially contributed to a decrease in violence against civilians inside Algeria. Nonetheless, two main armed groups continued to reject the government's amnesty program for terrorists, and it is estimated that domestic terrorism kills between 100 to 300 persons each month. Antar Zouabri's Armed Islamic Group (GIA) actively targeted civilians, although both sectors continued to be prime terrorist targets. In contrast, the Salafist Group for Preaching and Fighting faction--the Salafi Group for Call and Combat (GSPC)--stated it would limit attacks on civilians, enabling it to co-opt Zouabri's supporters and eclipse the GIA as the most effective terrorist group inside Algeria.

Although at year's end the GSPC had not staged an anti-Western terrorist attack, various security services in January suspected Algerian extremists associated with the GSPC of planning to disrupt the Paris Dakar Road Rally, leading organizers to reroute the race.

No foreign nationals were killed in Algeria during 2000, although in May GSPC troops crossed into Tunisia and attacked an outpost, killing three border guards. The GSPC frequently tried kidnappings-for-ransom to rob governments of money. In one incident on 3 May, 19 persons were killed and 26 injured when militants sprayed a bus with bullets after the driver refused to stop.

Egypt

No terrorist attacks in Egypt or by Egyptian groups were reported in 2000. The Egyptian Government continued to regard terrorism as its most serious threat. Cairo tried and convicted numerous terrorists in 2000, including 14 al-Gama'a al-Islamiya members, in connection with attempts to reactivate the group's activities in Egypt. The Egyptian Islamic Jihad members, who were convicted in 1999 for planning an attack against the US Embassy in August 1998, were executed in February. Security forces attacked a terrorist hideout in Aswan in late March, killing two al-Gama'a members, including the group's military leader in charge of armed operations in Qina, Suhaj, and Luxor.

International counterterrorism cooperation remained a key foreign policy priority for the Egyptian Government throughout the year. In September, at the UN General Assembly Millennium Summit, President Mubarak signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing.

The Egyptian Government worked closely with the United States on a broad range of counterterrorism issues in 2000. It cooperated with US authorities after the bombing in October of the USS Cole in Yemen, conducting a security survey of the Sinai Coast and recommending measures to prevent such a terrorist attack against a similar target while transiting the canal. Egypt also played an important role in sharing its expertise at the Central Asian Counterterrorism Conference sponsored by the US Department of State and held in Washington in June.

In 2000, Egyptian security forces and government agencies continued to place a high priority on protecting US citizens and facilities in Egypt from terrorist attacks. The Egyptian Government increased security for the US Embassy and other official facilities in light of disturbances in Israel and the Palestinian territories and related threats against US interests.

Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip

Terrorism by Palestinian extremist groups opposed to the peace process increased in late 2000 against the backdrop of violent Palestinian-Israeli clashes. The Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ), Hamas, and the Lebanese Hizballah-backed Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) claimed responsibility for several attacks during the crisis, ending a period of more than two years without a large-scale successful terrorist operation. Both groups publicly threatened more anti-Israeli attacks to avenge Palestinian casualties.

In an operation almost certainly timed to mark the anniversary of the death of PIJ founder Fathi Shaqaqi in 1995, on 26 October a PIJ operative on a bicycle detonated an explosive device near a Jewish settlement in Gaza, killing himself and injuring an Israeli soldier. The PIJ also claimed responsibility for a car bomb that exploded near a Jerusalem market on 2 November, killing two Israeli civilians--including the daughter of Israeli National Religious Party leader Yitzhak Levy--and wounding nine. The bomb--which was attached to a parked car--apparently was remotely detonated when the perpetrators escaped. On 28 December, PIJ operatives detonated explosive charges near the Sufa crossing in Gaza, injuring four Israeli explosives-disposal experts, two of whom died later. The PIJ claimed the attack in honor of a PIJ member killed by Israeli forces earlier that month and promised further revenge attacks.

The PIJ stepped up its rhetoric condemning Israeli-Palestinian peace talks at Camp David and Israel for its role in clashes with the Palestinians and vowed to continue attacks against Israel. Before the crisis, PIJ leader Shallah had issued threats against US interests in response to speculation during the summer that Washington was considering moving the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

HAMAS also claimed responsibility for several attacks during the unrest, including the bombing of an Israeli bus on 22 November in downtown Hadera that killed two Israeli civilians and wounded more than 20. Resembling the car bombing on 2 November, the bomb apparently also was hidden in a parked car and detonated as the bus passed; at year's end no suspects had been arrested for the attack. The group also took responsibility for launching an explosives-laden craft against an Israeli naval patrol boat off the Gaza coast on 7 November. The operative died in the explosion, according to a HAMAS statement, but the Israeli vessel suffered no damage. A suicide bomber of HAMAS killed seven Israeli soldiers at a cafe in Moshav Mehola on 22 December. HAMAS's military wing claimed responsibility four days later.

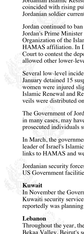
Two Israeli civilians were killed when a powerful car bomb exploded next to this bus in the Northern Israeli town of Hadera on 22 November. The attack also injured 20 persons.

In addition, other groups or individuals may have carried out terrorist attacks during the year. Three little-known groups--Palestinian Hizballah, Umar al Mukhtar Forces, and the Martyrs of al-Aqsa--claimed responsibility for the bombing of an Israeli soldier's bus in Gaza on 20 November. The Martyrs of al-Aqsa group also claimed responsibility for the assassination by killing pioneer Jewish extremist Binyamin Kahane, himself the leader of a terrorist organization, and his wife on 31 December. Kahane's death prompted heightened security measures around Israeli settlements and Israeli security services extended their violent attacks against Palestinian civilians to include "spectacular" operations, including against the Haram al Sharif/Temple Mount. A group calling itself Saladin al-Ayubi Battalions claimed responsibility for bombing a bus in Tel Aviv on 28 December, injuring 13 persons. Israeli authorities accused Palestinian Authority (PA) security officials of facilitating the attack. The Saladin al-Ayubi Battalions reportedly used a suicide bomber in a shooting attack in mid-November that killed a female Israeli soldier.

In late summer, Israeli authorities arrested Nabil Awkil, a militant they suspect has links to HAMAS and Usama Bin Ladin. Israeli officials claim that Awkil underwent terrorist training in Bin Ladin-affiliated camps in Afghanistan before returning to the West Bank and Gaza to establish terrorist cells.

Earlier in the year, PA and Israeli security forces disrupted HAMAS networks that were planning several large scale anti-Israeli attacks. On 10 February a technical bombing pilot in Nablus led to the discovery of a HAMAS explosives lab, several caches, and a suicide bomber's vest in the West Bank. The PA arrested several operatives and seized explosives in which no lives were lost. Israeli security forces also disrupted HAMAS networks that were planning suicide bombings in Israel. The cell planned to carry out four to five bombings in Israel's coastal plain, including bus stops and hitchhiking stations inside Israel frequented by Israeli soldiers. The PA discovered additional explosives in a Gaza kindergarten and arrested a bodyguard of HAMAS leader Shaykh Yasin on suspicion of having links to the Ez Tayyiba cell. Israeli authorities arrested a Jewish settler and indicted an Israeli Arab for allegedly assisting the cell.

Israeli and PA security officials took additional measures, often coordinated, to further disrupt HAMAS terrorist planning. PA police in mid-March, following up on the Ez Tayyiba raid, uncovered HAMAS explosives lab in Tulkarm. Separate Israeli and PA operations disrupted HAMAS cells in Janin later that month. The PA also disrupted in mid July another HAMAS explosives lab in Nablus and made at least a dozen arrests. The PA inflicted additional damage on HAMAS's military wing with the arrest of two key leaders in 2000. In May, PA security forces arrested Gaza military wing leader Muhammad al Dayf. In November, Dayf escaped from PA custody. West Bank military wing leader Mahmud al Sisli (a.k.a. Abu Hanud) surrendered to PA security officials in August after a firefight with IDF soldiers in his hometown of 'Asirah ash Shamaliyah near the West Bank town of Nablus. These IDF soldiers were killed when they were ambushed by Israeli forces in a cave in Abu Hanud remained in Palestinian custody, serving a 12-year sentence handed down by a PA security court.



Abu Hanud

During the unrest HAMAS issued numerous statements calling for Palestinians to fight the Israelis with all means available and threatened to continue attacks to avenge Palestinian deaths. The group also vowed revenge for the killings of senior HAMAS operatives during the unrest at year's end, including Ibrahim 'Awda, who was killed on 23 November in Nablus. HAMAS issued public statements accusing the Israeli or American intelligence services of assassinating 'Awda, whose death left the bomber in the car he was driving exploded, although the Israelis claim he died transporting an explosive device. HAMAS vowed revenge for the killing of activist Abbas Ghanem Ewayel, who was gunned down by Israeli security forces in front of a shop in Hebron on 13 December.

Despite demonstrated Palestinian efforts to uproot terrorist infrastructure earlier in the year, Israeli officials publicly expressed their dissatisfaction with PA counter terrorism efforts during the crisis. The Israelis also accused PA security officials and Fatah members of facilitating and taking part in shooting and bombing attacks against Israeli targets, including the bus bombing in Tel Aviv on 28 December. The Israelis charged that the release of several prisoners during the crisis had facilitated terrorist planning by the groups and that Palestinian security officials had not been responsive to their calls for more decisive measures against the violence.

Israeli officials publicly expressed well-founded concern that Iran supported Palestinian rejectionist efforts to disrupt the Middle East peace process. The Israelis also stated Palestinian rejectionists received training and weapons from Lebanese Hizballah. Public statements by HAMAS, the PIJ, and other Palestinian rejectionist officials since the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in May lauded Hizballah's actions and called for renewed attacks against Israel in the territories.

Jordan

Jordan remained vigilant against terrorism in 2000. On 18 September, the State Security Court convicted several Sunni extremists, some in absentia, for plotting terrorist attacks against US and Israeli targets during the millennium celebrations in late 1999. The accused allegedly acted on behalf of Usama Bin Ladin. The three-member military tribunal sentenced eight defendants to death but immediately commuted two of the sentences to life imprisonment at hard labor, citing family reasons. Six others, including a minor, were acquitted. While the remaining 14 received prison sentences ranging from seven-and-a-half to 15 years, Lawyers for 10 of the convicted men appealed the verdicts.

On 9 December the State Security Court indicted Ra'ed Hijazi, a US-Jordanian dual national who had been sentenced to death in absentia in January for having had a role in the attempted plot to blow up tourist facilities in Jordan. Hijazi, another US-Jordanian dual citizen, was brought to Jordan from Pakistan in December 1999 to face charges in the plot but at year's end had yet to be tried. Jordanian authorities were handling his case separately from the other suspects.

Two Israeli diplomats in Jordan were targets of shooting attacks in the latter part of the year. An unidentified gunman shot at Israeli Vice Consul Yoram Havivian outside his home in Amman on 19 November. On 5 December, an unidentified gunman wounded another Israeli diplomat, Shlomo Ratzabi, as he, his wife, and bodyguard left a grocery store in Amman. Both diplomats suffered minor injuries and returned to Israel soon after the attacks. By year's end, Jordanian authorities had detained several suspects and were investigating their investigations. Two previously unknown groups, the Movement for the Struggle of the Jordanian Islamic Resistance and the Holy Warriors of Ahmad Daqamsi, claimed responsibility for the attacks, which coincided with rising anti-US sympathy in Jordan for Palestinians in ongoing violence with Israel. (Ahmad Daqamsi, a Jordanian soldier currently serving a life sentence for killing six Israeli schoolgirls in 1997.)

Jordanian security forces in late November arrested a Palestinian suspect in the deaths of four Political Bureau leaders. Jordan's Prime Minister reiterated the government's conditions for their return at a meeting with HAMAS leaders during the Organization of the Islamic Conference summit in Doha in November. The conditions included a commitment to end activities of their HAMAS affiliation. In December, lawyers for the group announced their intention to appeal once again to Jordan's Supreme Court to contest the deportation. Jordan refused to permit HAMAS leaders to return to Jordan to reside or operate in the country but allowed other lower-level HAMAS members to remain in Jordan provided they did not conduct activities on the group's behalf.

Several low-level incidents kept security forces focused on combating threats to Jordan. Police in the northern city of Ma'an in January detained 15 suspects in connection with two shooting attacks against a female diplomat and a member of Al Bayt University. Four women were injured slightly in one attack. Police sources reported that the suspects were affiliated with a group called the Islamic Revival and Reform Organization. Before the attacks, leaflets denouncing cosdaction and calling for women to wear veils were distributed on campus.

The Government of Jordan also regularly interdicted the smuggling across Jordan's borders of weapons and explosives, which, in many cases, may have been destined for Palestinian rejectionist groups in the West Bank and Gaza. The government prosecuted individuals suspected of such activity.

In March, the government expelled eight Libyans it suspected of having terrorist links, and in September it refused entry to the leader of Israel's Islamic Movement. Shaykh Ra'ed Salah, who reportedly claimed that followers of Hizballah were also linked to HAMAS and were involved in plans to conduct terrorist operations against Israeli interests earlier in the year.

Jordanian security forces coordinated closely with US Embassy security officials on security matters and quickly to bolster security at US Government facilities in response to other threats, including one against the US Embassy in June 2000.

Kuwait

In November the Government of Kuwait disrupted a suspected international terrorist cell. Working with regional counterparts, Kuwaiti security services arrested 13 individuals and recovered a large quantity of explosives and weapons. The terrorist cell reportedly was planning to attack both Kuwaiti officials and US targets in Kuwait and the region.

Lebanon

Throughout the year, the Lebanese Government's continued lack of control in portions of the country--including parts of the Bekaa Valley, Beirut's southern suburbs, Palestinian refugee camps, and the Israeli security zone--as well as easy access to arms and explosives, contributed to an environment with a high potential for acts of violence and terrorism.

A variety of terrorist groups--including Hizballah, Usama Bin Ladin's (UBL) al Qaida network, HAMAS, the PIJ, the PFLP-GC, Ansar al Asir, and several local Sunni extremist organizations--continued to operate within varying degrees of freedom, conducting training and other operational activities. Hizballah continued to pose the most potent threat to US interests in Lebanon. Although Hizballah has not attacked US targets in Lebanon since 1991, Hizballah remained a significant terrorist threat to US interests globally from its base in Lebanon. Hizballah voiced its support for terrorist actions by Palestinian rejectionist groups in Israel and the occupied territories. Hizballah's operational support for Palestinian rejectionist "martyrdom" activities along its southern border, it has only limited influence over Hizballah and the Palestinian rejectionists.

UBL's al Qaida network maintained a presence in Lebanon. Although the Lebanese Government actively monitored and arrested UBL-affiliated operatives, it did not control the Palestinian refugee camps where the operatives conducted terrorist training and anti-US indoctrination.

In the fall, Hizballah kidnapped an Israeli noncombatant whom it may have lured to Lebanon on a false pretexte. Hizballah has been using hostages, including captured IDF soldiers, as bargaining chips to win the release of Lebanese prisoners in Israel.

In January, Lebanese security forces clashed in the north with a Sunni extremist movement that had ambushed and killed four Lebanese soldiers. The group had ties to UBL operatives. The same month, Ashat al Ansar launched a grenade attack against the Russian Embassy. In October, the Sunni extremist group, Takfir wa Hijra, claimed responsibility for a grenade attack against a Christian Member of Parliament's residence. Ansar al Islam operatives also reportedly have been behind this attack.

The Lebanese Government continued to support some international counterterrorist initiatives and moved against UBL-affiliated operatives in 2000. In February, Lebanese authorities arrested members of a UBL cell in Lebanon. In March, the government fulfilled a Interpol request and deported four Japanese Red Army members to Japan where they had refused to do so for years. It allowed one JRA member to remain in Lebanon. It did not act, however, on repeated US requests to turn over Lebanese terrorists involved in the hijacking in 1985 of TWA flight 847 and in the abduction, torture, and--in some cases--murders of US hostages from 1984 to 1991.

Saudi Arabia

Several threats against US military and civilian personnel and facilities in Saudi Arabia were reported in 2000, but there were no confirmed terrorist incidents. At year's end Saudi authorities were investigating a shooting by a lone gunman who opened fire on British and US nationals near the town of Khamis Mushayt in early August 2000. The gunman fired more than 100 rounds on a Royal Saudi Air Force checkpoint, killing one Saudi and wounding two other Saudi guards. The gunman was wounded in the exchange of fire.

Terrorist Usama Bin Ladin, whose Saudi citizenship was revoked in 1994, continued to publicly threaten US interests in Saudi Arabia during the year. In a videotaped statement released in February, Bin Ladin once again publicly threatened US interests.

The Government of Saudi Arabia continued to investigate the bombing in June 1996 of the Khobar Towers housing facility near Dhahran that killed 19 US military personnel and wounded some 500 US and Saudi personnel. The Government of Saudi Arabia publicly stated that it still was looking for three Saudis it had indicted for allegedly participating in conspiracy with the bombing and whom authorities believed to be currently outside Saudi Arabia. The Saudis continued to hold in detention a number of Saudi citizens linked to the attack, including Hani al Sayegh, whom the United States expelled to Saudi Arabia in 1999.

The Government of Saudi Arabia reaffirmed its commitment to combating terrorism. It required nongovernmental organizations and private voluntary agencies to obtain government authorization before soliciting contributions for domestic or international causes. It was not clear that these regulations were enforced consistently; however, allegations continued to surface that some international terrorist organization representatives solicited and collected funds from private citizens in Saudi Arabia.

Yemen

On 12 October a boat carrying explosives was detonated next to the USS Cole, killing 17 US Navy members and injuring another 39. The US destroyer, en route to the Persian Gulf, was making a prearranged fuel stop in the Yemeni port of Aden when the attack occurred. At least three groups reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack, including the Islamic Army of Aden, Muhammad's Army, and a previously unknown group called the Islamic Deterrence Force.

On 12 October an explosives-laden craft was detonated next to the destroyer USS Cole in Aden Harbor, killing 17 US service persons and injuring 39 others.

The Yemeni Government strongly condemned the attack on the USS Cole and actively engaged in investigative efforts to find the perpetrators. On 29 November, Yemen and the United States signed a memorandum of agreement delineating guidelines for joint investigation to further facilitate cooperation and information sharing between the two countries. Yemen's ability to conduct international terrorism investigations was enhanced by joint investigative efforts undertaken pursuant to these guidelines.

Several terrorist organizations maintained a presence in Yemen. HAMAS and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad continued to be recognized as legal organizations and maintained offices in Yemen but did not appear to engage in terrorist activities. Other international terrorist groups that have an illegal presence in Yemen included the Egyptian Islamic Jihad, al Gama'a al Islamiyya, Libyan opposition groups, the Algerian Armed Islamic Group, and al Qaida. Press reports indicated indigenous groups such as the Islamic Army of Aden remained active in Yemen.

The Government of Yemen did not provide direct or indirect support to terrorists, but its inability to control fully its borders, territory, or its own travel documents did little to discourage the terrorist presence in Yemen. Improved cooperation with Saudi Arabia as a result of the Yemeni-Saudi border treaty, concluded in June, promised to reduce illegal border crossings and trafficking in weapons and explosives, although border clashes continued after the agreement ratification. The government attempted to resolve some of its passport problems in 2000 by requiring proof of nationality when submitting an application, although terrorists continued to have access to forged Yemeni identity documents.

Latin America Overview | Overview of State-Sponsored Terrorism

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Overview of State-Sponsored Terrorism

April 2001

The designation of state sponsors of terrorism by the United States--and the imposition of sanctions--is a mechanism for isolating nations that use terrorism as a means of political expression. US policy seeks to pressure and isolate state sponsors so they will renounce the use of terrorism, end support to terrorists, and bring terrorists to justice for past crimes. The United States is committed to holding terrorists and those who harbor them accountable for past attacks, regardless of when the acts occurred. The US Government has a long memory and will not simply expunge a terrorist's record because time has passed. The states that choose to harbor terrorists are like accomplices who provide shelter for criminals. They will be held accountable for their "guests" actions. International partners should know, before they contemplate a crime, that they cannot hunker down in safehaven for a period of time and be absolved of their crime.

The United States is firmly committed to removing countries from the list once they have taken necessary steps to end their link to terrorism. In fact, the Department of State is engaged in ongoing discussions with North Korea and Sudan with the object of getting those governments completely out of the terrorism business and off the terrorism list.

Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Cuba, North Korea, and Sudan continue to be the seven governments that the US Secretary of State has designated as state sponsors of international terrorism. Iran remained the most active state sponsor of terrorism in 2000. It provided material support to numerous terrorist groups, including the Lebanese Hizballah, HAMAS, and the Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ), which seek to undermine the Middle East peace negotiations through the use of terrorism. Iraq continued to provide safehaven and support to a variety of Palestinian rejectionist groups, as well as bases, weapons, and protection to the Mujahedin-e-Khalq (MEK), an Iranian terrorist group that opposes the current Iranian regime. Syria continued to provide safehaven and support to several terrorist groups, some of which oppose the Middle East peace negotiations. Libya at the end of 2000 was attempting to mend its international image following its surrender in 1999 of two Libyan suspects for trial in the Pan Am 103 bombing. (In early 2001, one of the suspects was convicted of murder. The judges in the case found that he acted "in furtherance of the purposes of...Libyan Intelligence Services.") Cuba continued to provide safehaven to several terrorists and US fugitives and maintained ties to state sponsors and Latin American insurgents. North Korea harbored several hijackers of a Japanese Airlines flight to North Korea in the 1970s and maintained links to other terrorist groups. Finally, Sudan continued to serve as a safehaven for members of al-Qaida, the Lebanese Hizballah, al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya, Egyptian Islamic Jihad, the PIJ, and HAMAS, but it has been engaged in a counterterrorism dialogue with the United States since mid-2000.

State sponsorship has decreased over the past several decades. As it decreases, it becomes increasingly important for all countries to adopt a "zero tolerance" for terrorist activity within their borders. Terrorists will seek safehaven in those areas where they are able to avoid the rule of law and to travel, prepare, raise funds, and operate. The United States continued actively researching and gathering intelligence on other states that will be considered for designation as state sponsors. If the United States determines it is currently in a position to provide support for acts of international terrorism,[a] the US Government is required by law to add it to the list. In South Asia, the United States has been increasingly concerned about reports of Pakistani support to terrorist groups and elements active in Kashmir, as well as Pakistani support, especially military support, to the Taliban, which continues to harbor terrorist groups, including al-Qaida, the Egyptian Islamic Jihad, al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya, and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. In the Middle East, the United States was concerned that a variety of terrorist groups operated and trained inside Lebanon, although Lebanon has acted against some of those groups. Lebanon also has been unresponsive to US requests to bring to justice terrorists who conducted attacks against US citizens and property in Lebanon in previous years.

Cuba
Cuba continued to provide safehaven to several terrorists and US fugitives in 2000. A number of Basque ETA terrorists who gained sanctuary in Cuba some years ago continued to live on the island, as did several US terrorist fugitives.

Havana also maintained ties to other state sponsors of terrorism and Latin American insurgents. Colombia's two largest terrorist organizations, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the National Liberation Army, both maintained a permanent presence on the island.

Iran
Despite the victory for moderates in Iran's Majles elections in February, aggressive countermeasures by hardline conservatives have blocked most reform efforts. Iran remained the most active state sponsor of terrorism in 2000. Its Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) continued to be involved in the planning and the execution of terrorist acts and continued to support a variety of groups that use terrorism to pursue their goals.

Iran's involvement in terrorist-related activities remained focused on support for groups opposed to Israel and peace between Israel and its neighbors. Statements by Iran's leaders demonstrated Iran's unrelenting hostility to Israel. Supreme Leader Khamenei continued to refer to Israel as a "cancerous tumor" that must be removed; President Khatami, labeling Israel an "illegal entity," called for sanctions against Israel during the intifadah; and Expediency Council Secretary Rezai said, "Iran will continue its campaign against Zionism until Israel is completely eradicated." Iran has long provided Lebanese Hizballah and the Palestinian rejectionist groups--notably HAMAS, the Palestine Islamic Jihad, and Ahmad Jibril's PFLP-GC--with varying amounts of funding, safehaven, training, and weapons. This activity continued at its already high levels following the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in May and during the intifadah in the fall. Iran continued to encourage Hizballah and the Palestinian groups to coordinate their planning and to escalate their activities against Israel. Iran also provided a lower level of support--including funding, training, and logistics assistance--to extremist groups in the Gulf, Africa, Turkey, and Central Asia.

Although the Iranian Government has taken no direct action to date to implement Ayatollah Khomeini's fatwa against Salman Rushdie, the decree has not been revoked, and the $2.8 million bounty for his assassination has not been withdrawn. Moreover, hardline Iranian officials continued to stress that the decree is irrevocable. On the anniversary of the fatwa in February, the IRGC released a statement that the decree remains in force, and Ayatollah Yazdi, a member of the Council of Guardians, reiterated that "the decree is irrevocable and, God willing, will be carried out."

Iran also was a victim of Mujahedin-e-Khalq (MEK)-sponsored terrorism. The Islamic Republic presented a letter to the UN Secretary General in October citing seven acts of sabotage by the MEK against Iran between January and August 2000. The United States has designated the MEK as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

Iraq
Iraq planned and sponsored international terrorism in 2000. Although Baghdad focused on antidissident activity overseas, the regime continued to support various terrorist groups. The regime has not attempted an anti-Western terrorist attack since its failed plot to assassinate former President Bush in 1993 in Kuwait.

Czech police continued to provide protection to the Prague office of the US Government-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), which produces Radio Free Iraq programs and employs expatriate journalists. The police presence was augmented in 1999, following reports that the Iraqi Intelligence Service (IIS) might retaliate against RFE/RL for broadcasts critical of the Iraqi regime.

To intimidate or silence Iraqi opponents of the regime living overseas, the IIS reportedly opened several new stations in foreign capitals during 2000. Various opposition groups joined in warning Iraqi dissidents abroad against newly established "expatriates' associations," which, they asserted, are IIS front organizations. Opposition leaders in London contended that the IIS had dispatched women agents to infiltrate their ranks and was targeting dissidents for assassination. In Germany, an Iraqi opposition figure denounced the IIS for murdering his son, who had recently left Iraq to join him abroad. Dr. Ayad 'Allawi, Secretary General of the Iraqi National Accord, an opposition group, stated that relatives of dissidents living abroad are often arrested and jailed to intimidate activists overseas.

In northern Iraq, Iraqi agents reportedly killed a locally well-known religious personality who declined to echo the regime line. The regional security director in As Sulaymaniyah stated that Iraqi operatives were responsible for the car-bomb explosion that injured a score of passersby. Officials of the Iraqi Communist Party asserted that an attack on a provincial party headquarters had been thwarted when party security officers shot and wounded a terrorist employed by the IIS.

Baghdad continued to denounce and delegitimize UN personnel working in Iraq, particularly UN de-mining teams, in the wake of the killing in 1999 of an expatriate UN de-mining worker in northern Iraq under circumstances suggesting regime involvement. An Iraqi who opened fire at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) office in Baghdad, killing two persons and wounding six, was permitted to hold a heavily publicized press conference at which he contended that his action had been motivated by the harshness of UN sanctions, which the regime regularly excoriates.

The Iraqi regime rebuffed a request from Riyadh for the extradition of two Saudis who had hijacked a Saudi Arabian Airlines flight to Baghdad, but did return promptly the passengers and the aircraft. Disregarding its obligations under international law, the regime granted political asylum to the hijackers and gave them ample opportunity to ventilate in the Iraqi Government-controlled and international media their criticisms of alleged abuses by the Saudi Arabian Government, echoing an Iraqi propaganda theme.

While the origins of the FAO attack and the hijacking were unclear, the Iraqi regime readily exploited these terrorist acts to further its policy objectives.

Several expatriate terrorist groups continued to maintain offices in Baghdad, including the Arab Liberation Front, the inactive 15 May Organization, the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), and the Abu Nidal organization (ANO). PLF leader Abu 'Abbas appeared on state-controlled television in the fall to praise Iraq's leadership in rallying Arab opposition to Israeli violence against Palestinians. The ANO threatened to attack Austrian interests unless several million dollars in a frozen ANO account in a Vienna bank were turned over to the group.

The Iraq-supported Iranian terrorist group, Mujahedin-e-Khalq (MEK), regularly claimed responsibility for armed incursions into Iran that targeted police and military outposts, as well as for mortar and bomb attacks on security organization headquarters in various Iranian cities. MEK publicists reported that in Mehran group members killed an Iranian colonel having intelligence responsibilities. An MEK claim to have wounded a general was denied by the Iranian Government. The Iraqi regime deployed MEK forces against its domestic opponents.

Libya
In 2000, Libya continued efforts to mend its international image in the wake of its surrender in 1999 of two Libyans accused of the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. Trial proceedings for the two defendants began in the Netherlands in May and were ongoing at year's end. (The court issued its verdict on 31 January 2001. It found Abdel Basset al-Megrahi guilty of murder, concluding that he caused an explosive device to detonate on board the airplane resulting in the murder of the flight's 259 passengers and crew as well as 11 residents of Lockerbie, Scotland. The judges found that he acted "in furtherance of the purposes of...Libyan Intelligence Services." Concerning the other defendant, Al-Amin Kalifa Fahima, the court concluded that the Crown failed to present sufficient evidence to satisfy the high standard of "proof beyond reasonable doubt" that is necessary in criminal cases.)

In 1999, Libya paid compensation for the death of a British policewoman[b], a move that preceded the reopening of the British Embassy. Libya also paid damages to the families of victims in the bombing of UTA flight 772. Six Libyans were convicted in absentia in that case, and the French judicial system is considering further indictments against other Libyan officials, including Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

[a] In April 1984, a British policewoman was killed and 11 demonstrators were wounded when gunmen in the Libyan People's Bureau in London fired on a peaceful anti-Qadhafi demonstration outside their building.

Libya played a high-profile role in negotiating the release of a group of foreign hostages seized in the Philippines by the Abu Sayyaf Group, reportedly in exchange for a ransom payment. The hostages included citizens of France, Germany, Malaysia, South Africa, Finland, the Philippines, and Lebanon. The payment of ransom to kidnappers only encourages additional hostage taking, and the Abu Sayyaf Group, emboldened by its success, did seize additional hostages--including a US citizen--later in the year. Libya's behavior and that of other parties involved in the alleged ransom arrangement were widely criticized as encouraging further terrorism and to make that region far more dangerous for residents and travelers.

At year's end, Libya had yet to comply fully with the remaining UN Security Council requirements related to Pan Am 103: accepting responsibility, paying appropriate compensation, disclosing all it knows, and renouncing terrorism. The United States remains dedicated to maintaining pressure on the Libyan Government until it does so. Qadhafi stated publicly that his government had adopted an antiterrorism stance, but it remains unclear whether his claims of distancing Libya from its terrorist past signify a true change in policy.

Libya also remained the primary suspect in several other past terrorist operations, including the Labelle discotheque bombing in Berlin in 1986 that killed two US servicemen and one Turkish civilian and wounded more than 200 persons. The trial in Germany of five suspects in the bombing, which began in November 1997, continued in 2000. Although Libya expelled the Abu Nidal organization and distanced itself from the Palestinian rejectionists in 1999, it continued to have contact with groups that use violence to oppose the Middle East Peace Process, including the Palestine Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

North Korea
In 2000 the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) engaged in three rounds of terrorism talks that culminated in a joint DPRK-US statement wherein the DPRK reiterated its opposition to terrorism and agreed to support international actions against such activity. The DPRK, however, continued to provide safehaven to the Japanese Communist League-Red Army Faction members who participated in the hijacking of a Japanese Airlines flight to North Korea in 1970. Some evidence also suggests the DPRK may have sold weapons directly or indirectly to terrorist groups during the year; Philippine officials publicly declared that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front had purchased weapons from North Korea with funds provided by Middle East sources.

Sudan
The United States and Sudan in mid-2000 entered into a dialogue to discuss US counterterrorism concerns. The talks, which were ongoing at the end of the year, were constructive and obtained some positive results. By the end of the year Sudan had signed all 12 international conventions for combating terrorism and had taken several other positive counterterrorism steps, including closing down the Popular Arab and Islamic Conference, which served as a forum for terrorists.

Sudan, however, continued to be used as a safehaven by members of various groups, including associates of Usama Bin Ladin's al-Qaida organization, Egyptian al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya, Egyptian Islamic Jihad, the Palestine Islamic Jihad, and HAMAS. Most groups used Sudan primarily as a secure base for assisting compatriots elsewhere.

Khartoum also still had not complied fully with UN Security Council Resolutions 1044, 1054, and 1070, passed in 1996--which demand that Sudan end all support to terrorists. They also require Khartoum to hand over three Egyptian Gama'a fugitives linked to the assassination attempt in 1995 against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Ethiopia. Sudanese officials continued to deny that they had a role in the attack.

Syria
Syria continued to provide safehaven and support to several terrorist groups, some of which maintained training camps or other facilities on Syrian territory. Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), the Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ), Abu Musa's Arab-the-Intifada, and George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) maintained their headquarters in Damascus. The Syrian Government allowed HAMAS to open a new main office in Damascus in March, although the arrangement may be temporary while HAMAS continues to seek permission to reestablish its headquarters in Jordan. In addition, Syria granted a variety of terrorist groups--including HAMAS, the PFLP-GC, and the PIJ--basing privileges or refuge in areas of Lebanon's Bekaa Valley under Syrian control. Damascus generally upheld its agreement with Ankara not to support the Kurdish PKK, however.

> ***Weapons-of-Mass-Destruction (WMD) Terrorism***
>
> *At the dawn of a new millennium, the possibility of a terrorist attack involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD)--chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear (CBRN), or large explosive weapons--remained real. As of the end of 2000, however, the most notorious attack involving chemical weapons against a civilian target remained Aum Shinrikyo's sarin nerve agent attack against the Tokyo subway in March 1995.*
>
> *Most terrorists continued to rely on conventional tactics, such as bombing, shooting, and kidnapping, but some terrorists--such as Usama Bin Ladin and his associates--continued to seek CBRN capabilities.*
>
> - *Popular literature and the public dialog focused on the vulnerability of civilian targets to CBRN attacks. Such attacks could cause lasting disruption and generate significant psychological impact on a population and its infrastructure.*
> - *A few groups, notably those driven by distorted religious and cultural ideologies, showed signs they were willing to cause large numbers of casualties. Other potentially dangerous but less predictable groups had emerged, and those groups may not abide by traditional targeting constraints that would prohibit using indiscriminate violence or CBRN weapons.*
> - *Some CBRN materials, technology, and especially information continued to be widely available, particularly from commercial sources and the Internet.*

> ***Terrorist Use of Information Technology***
>
> *Terrorists have seized upon the worldwide practice of using information technology (IT) in daily life. They embrace IT for several reasons: it improves communication and aids organization, allows members to coordinate quickly with large numbers of followers, and provides a platform for propaganda. The Internet also allows terrorists to reach a wide audience of potential donors and recruits who may be located over a large geographic area.*
>
> *In addition, terrorists are taking note of the proliferation of hacking and the use of the computer as a weapon. Extremists routinely post messages to widely accessible Web sites that call for defacing Western Internet sites and disrupting online service, for example. The widespread availability of hacking software and its anonymous and increasingly automated design make it likely that terrorists will more frequently incorporate these tools into their online activity. The appeal of such tools may increase as news media continue to sensationalize hacking.*

Although Syria claimed to be committed to the peace process, it did not act to stop Hizballah and Palestinian rejectionist groups from carrying out anti-Israeli attacks. Damascus also served as the primary transit point for terrorist operatives traveling to Lebanon and for the resupply of weapons to Hizballah. Damascus appeared to maintain its longstanding ban on attacks launched from Syrian territory or against Western targets.

Middle East Overview

Appendix A:

Embassy of the United States of America
Dag Hammarskjölds Väg 31, SE-115 89 Stockholm

This is an official U.S. Government source for information on the WWW.
Inclusion of non-U.S. Government links does not imply endorsement of contents.

Reformatted by the Webmaster at Public Affairs Section, Stockholm Sweden

Last Modified:

Patterns of Global Terrorism - 2000

Department of State Publication
Office of the Secretary of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
April 2001

Appendix A
Chronology of Significant Terrorist Incidents, 2000

1 January

Colombia
Suspected member attacked their subjects in Bogota, killing three Polish children and wounding their parents. Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC) guerrillas are suspected, but the Colombian National Liberation Army and United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) guerrillas are suspected, the FARC's foremost rival in the Colombian conflict, cannot be ruled out.

2 January

India
Indian authorities in Srinagar arrested alleged terrorist Hamayun Bashir Lone, who, if Indian allegations are true, was responsible for the bombing of a bus in Srinagar on 1 January, killing 4 people and injuring 20 others. Lone is a member of the Harkat-ul-Mujahidin, a Pakistan-based group that is on the Department of State's list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations.

Colombia
Unidentified FARC's leaders ordered a grenade attack on Jesus Rodriguez and shot the victim in Bogota. Neither Rodriguez nor his family members were supporting other parties (Marxist). No one claimed responsibility.

3 January

Algeria
Armed, official reported 8 FIS guerrillas attacked a gas station, killed several workers near El Oouata, killing four persons.

Colombia
Unidentified kidnapped two Russian scientists and their two Colombian guides, according to press reports. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) is suspected of the kidnapping, but the Colombian National Liberation Army and United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) guerrillas cannot be ruled out.

4 January

Colombia
Unidentified gunmen kidnapped two Mexican and one Venezuelan oil workers in Arauca, killing one and injuring two others, according to local press accounts.

5 January

Algeria
Armed, official reported 10 FIS guerrillas ambushed a vehicle near Boga, killing one Portuguese, injured2 the rest.

Colombia
Unidentified gunmen in Medellin kidnapped 20 citizens working for the Multinational Company, according to press reports. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) is suspected.

6 January

Algeria
Armed, official reported 8 FIS guerrillas attacked a gas station, killed several workers near El Oouata, killing four persons.

Colombia
Unidentified kidnapped two Russian scientists and their two Colombian guides, according to press reports. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) is suspected of the kidnapping, but the Colombian National Liberation Army and United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) guerrillas cannot be ruled out.

7 January

Algeria
Unidentified armed, official reported unidentified individuals fired an unlisted missile or a religious cross crowned by a crescent on Mascara, killing four Muslims and injuring five others.

Colombia
Unidentified gunmen kidnapped unidentified individuals from an unlisted vehicle on a religious cross crowned by a crescent on Mascara, killing four Muslims and injuring five others. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) is suspected of the kidnapping.

8 January

Algeria
Unidentified gunmen kidnapped unidentified individuals from an unlisted vehicle on a religious cross crowned by a crescent on Mascara, killing four Muslims and injuring five others.

Colombia
Unidentified gunmen kidnapped unidentified individuals from an unlisted vehicle on a religious cross crowned by a crescent on Mascara, killing four Muslims and injuring five others.

9 January

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Colombia
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23 January

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31 January

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26 March

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Unidentified, official reported unidentified individuals fired an unlisted missile or a religious cross crowned by a crescent on Mascara, killing four Muslims and injuring five others.

Colombia
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27 March

Algeria
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Colombia
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28 March

Algeria
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Colombia
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29 March

Algeria
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Colombia
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30 March

Algeria
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Colombia
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31 March

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Colombia
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1 April

Algeria
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Colombia
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2 April

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Colombia
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3 April

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4 April

Algeria
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Colombia
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5 April

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Unidentified, official reported unidentified individuals fired an unlisted missile or a religious cross crowned by a crescent on Mascara, killing four Muslims and injuring five others.

Colombia
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6 April

Algeria
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Colombia
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7 April

Algeria
Unidentified, official reported unidentified individuals fired an unlisted missile or a religious cross crowned by a crescent on Mascara, killing four Muslims and injuring five others.

Colombia
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8 April

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Colombia
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9 April

Algeria
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Colombia
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10 April

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Colombia
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11 April

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Colombia
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12 April

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13 April

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Colombia
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14 April

Algeria
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Colombia
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15 April

Algeria
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Colombia
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16 April

Algeria
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Colombia
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17 April

Algeria
Unidentified, official reported unidentified individuals fired an unlisted missile or a religious cross crowned by a crescent on Mascara, killing four Muslims and injuring five others.

Colombia
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18 April

Algeria
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Colombia
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19 April

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Colombia
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20 April

Algeria
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Colombia
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21 April

Algeria
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Colombia
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22 April

Algeria
Unidentified, official reported unidentified individuals fired an unlisted missile or a relig

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Office of Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism
Released April 30, 2001

Appendix B
Background Information on Terrorist Groups

April 2000

The following descriptions of foreign terrorist organizations designated by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) as amended by the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (AEDPA) are based on information from various U.S. government agencies. The U.S. Government has no information that any of these groups is currently engaged in terrorist activity.

I. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations

Abu Nidal Organization (ANO)
(also known as Fatah Revolutionary Council, Arab Revolutionary Brigades, Arab Revolutionary Cells, Arab Revolutionary Council, Black September, Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims)

Description
Palestinian terrorist organization with offices in Syria, Iraq and PLO-PLA. Many are or were Palestinian refugees from Israeli-occupied territories in the West Bank and Gaza.

Activity
Responsible for more than 90 attacks in 20 countries since its inception in 1974 that have resulted in approximately 900 casualties. Most of the attacks have been against Israeli or moderate Palestinian targets. Also attacked Jordanian, British, French, Iraqi, Libyan, Syrian, and PLO targets. Carried out the November 1985 hijacking of a Egyptian passenger aircraft and the November 1987 attempted hijacking of a Kuwaiti passenger aircraft. Also carried out the December 1985 simultaneous attacks on the Rome and Vienna airports and the September 1986 attempted bombing of a Pan Am passenger aircraft in Rome. Responsible for the deaths of 2 persons in the March 1991 attempted assassination of former PLO deputy chairman Abu Iyad in Tunis. Responsible for the deaths of 3 persons in the June 1991 attempted assassination of former PLO security chief Abu Hul in Amman. Responsible for the deaths of 3 persons in the June 1992 attempted assassination of Israeli ambassador to the United Kingdom Shlomo Argov. Responsible for the deaths of 3 persons in the July 1994 attempted assassination of Israeli diplomat Nizar Hindawi in Warsaw. Responsible for the deaths of 2 persons in the August 1994 attempted assassination of former PLO security chief Atif Bseiso in Lisbon.

Strength
Unknown

Location/Area of Operation
Operations in 20 countries. Based in Syria, Lebanon, and Libya in the past.

External Aid
Unknown

Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)

Description
Philippine-based terrorist group with ties to other terrorist groups in the region, including Jemaah Islamiyah and Al-Qaida. Seeks to create an Islamic state in the southern Philippines.

Activity
Kidnapping and murder of citizens of various countries for ransom. Also committed bombings in the Philippines in 1995 and 1996 and threatened to kill US citizens in retaliation for US action against terrorists. Beheaded two Filipinos and one US citizen in 1998. Kidnapped 21 persons from a resort in Malaysia in September 1998. Kidnapped 11 persons from a dive boat in the Philippines in April 1999. Kidnapped 3 persons from a church in the Philippines in May 2000. Kidnapped 20 persons from a resort in Malaysia in July 2000.

Strength
Estimated membership is 1,000 to 1,500 persons.

Location/Area of Operation
Philippines and Malaysia.

External Aid
Unknown

Al-Gama'a al-Islamiya (Islamic Group, IG)

Description
Egyptian-based terrorist group with ties to other terrorist groups in the Middle East and South Asia.

Activity
Attempted to assassinate President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in June 1995, and attempted to assassinate Egyptian Interior Minister Hassan Al-Alfi in Egypt in August 1997. Responsible for the deaths of 58 persons in a November 1997 attack on tourists at Luxor, Egypt. Attempted to assassinate Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki in Cairo in November 1999. Announced a cease-fire in June 2000 but has not been active since.

Strength
Unknown

Location/Area of Operation
Egypt and Yemen.

External Aid
Unknown

Al-Ghashiyat (Salvation Army)

Description
Lebanon-based, Iran-backed group, believed to be a cover for Hizbollah operations.

Activity
Bombings, kidnapping, and assassinations. Responsible for the bombings of the US Embassy and US Marine barracks in Beirut in 1983 and the US Embassy annex in Beirut in 1984.

Strength
Unknown

Location/Area of Operation
Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley.

External Aid
Unknown

Al-Ittihad al-Islami (AIAI)

Description
Islamic extremist group seeking to create a Greater Islamic State in the Horn of Africa, including Somalia, Eastern Ethiopia, and Eritrea. Has ties to Al-Qaida.

Activity
Bombings, kidnapping, and assassinations of government officials.

Strength
Estimated membership is 1,000 persons.

Location/Area of Operation
Somalia and Ethiopia.

External Aid
Unknown

Al-Jihad (Egyptian Islamic Jihad)
(also known as Vanguards of Conquest)

Description
Merged with Al-Qaida in the fall of 1998. Seeks to overthrow the government of Egypt and replace it with a government based on strict application of Islamic law. Has ties to Al-Qaida.

Activity
Bombings, kidnapping, and assassinations of government officials.

Strength
Unknown

Location/Area of Operation
Egypt and Yemen.

External Aid
Unknown

Al-Jihad (Palestinian Islamic Jihad, PIJ)

Description
Palestinian terrorist group with offices in Syria and Lebanon. Has ties to other terrorist groups in the Middle East and North Africa.

Activity
Attacks against Israeli civilians and military personnel, suicide bombings, drive-by shootings, and kidnappings. Murdered Israeli citizen and soldier in October 1998. Bombing of Israeli military post in Southern Lebanon in June 1999. Bombing of Israeli military post in Southern Lebanon in August 2000.

Strength
Unknown

Location/Area of Operation
Israel, the West Bank, Gaza, and Lebanon.

External Aid
Unknown

Al-Jihad (Egyptian Islamic Jihad)
(also known as Al-Qaida)

Description
Merged with Al-Qaida in the fall of 1998. Seeks to overthrow the government of Egypt and replace it with a government based on strict application of Islamic law. Has ties to Al-Qaida.

Activity
Bombings, kidnapping, and assassinations of government officials.

Strength
Unknown

Location/Area of Operation
Egypt and Yemen.

External Aid
Unknown

Al-Jihad (Palestinian Islamic Jihad, PIJ)

Description
Palestinian terrorist group with offices in Syria and Lebanon. Has ties to other terrorist groups in the Middle East and North Africa.

Activity
Attacks against Israeli civilians and military personnel, suicide bombings, drive-by shootings, and kidnappings. Murdered Israeli citizen and soldier in October 1998. Bombing of Israeli military post in Southern Lebanon in June 1999. Bombing of Israeli military post in Southern Lebanon in August 2000.

Strength
Unknown

Location/Area of Operation
Israel, the West Bank, Gaza, and Lebanon.

External Aid
Unknown

Al-Qa'ida
(also known as Al-Qaida, Al-Qa'ida, The Base, The Islamic Salvation Foundation, The Islamic Army, The Islamic Bank

Gerald Lawrence Bland, MBE, Chaplain, passed away, aged 96, 25 October 2020, peacefully. Beloved husband of the late Ann Bland, dear father of Jonathan, Ruth, Sarah and Tim, and grandfather of Ben, Jessica, Ruth, Tom, Ella, Ellie, Ethan, Jacob, Jessie, Lucy, Mary, Rachel, Sam and Tom. Funeral service at Hillsborough Parish Church, Saturday, 31st October, 2020, at 2.30 pm. Interment at Hillsborough Cemetery. Family flowers only, please, but donations in memory to Cancer Research UK, Hillsborough Parish Church, Hillsborough Cancer Care Centre, Hillsborough Community Hospital, Hillsborough, Co. Down, BT26 6AD.

Funeral
Funeral service at Hillsborough Parish Church on Friday 30th October 2020 at 2.30 pm.

Interment
Interment at Hillsborough Cemetery.

Gerald Lawrence Bland, MBE, Chaplain
Gerald Lawrence Bland, MBE, Chaplain, was born in Ballymena, Co. Antrim, on 8 August 1924 and passed away on 25 October 2020 at the age of 96 years

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Released by the
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Appendix C:
Statistical Review (Charts)

April 2001

-- Total International Terrorist Attacks, 1981-2000
-- Total International Attacks by Region, 1995-2000
-- Total International Casualties by Region, 1995-2000
-- Total Facilities Struck by International Attacks, 1995-2000
-- Total US Citizen Casualties Caused by International Attacks, 1995-2000
-- Total Anti-US Attacks, 2000

Appendix B: **Appendix D:**

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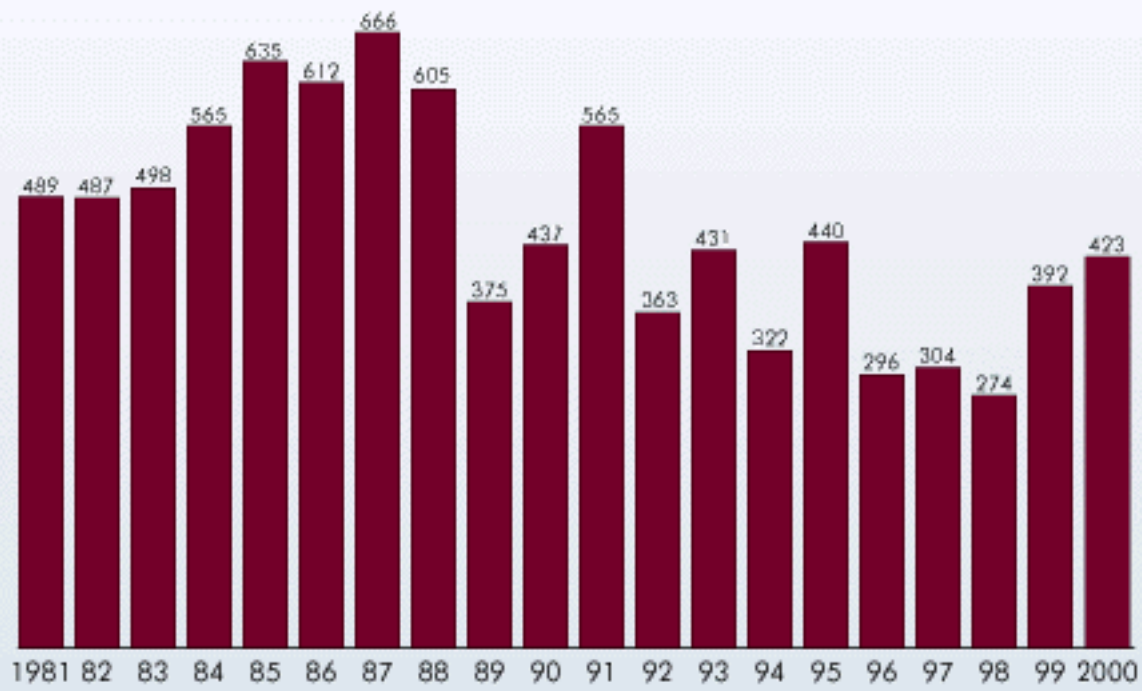
Total International Terrorist Attacks, 1981-2000

April 2001

Appendix C
Statistical Review

Total International Terrorist Attacks, 1981-2000



In past years, serious violence by Palestinians against other Palestinians in the occupied territories was included in the database of worldwide international terrorist incidents because Palestinians are considered stateless people. This resulted in such incidents being treated differently from intraethnic violence in other parts of the world. In 1989, as a result of further review of the nature of intra-Palestinian violence, such violence stopped being included in the US Government's statistical database on international terrorism. The figures shown above for the years 1984 through 1988 have been revised to exclude intra-Palestinian violence, thus making the database consistent.

Investigations into terrorist incidents sometimes yield evidence that necessitates a change in the information previously held true (such as whether the incident fits the definition of international terrorism, which group or state sponsor was responsible, or the number of victims killed or injured). As as result of these adjustments, the statistics given in this report may vary slightly from numbers cited in previous reports.

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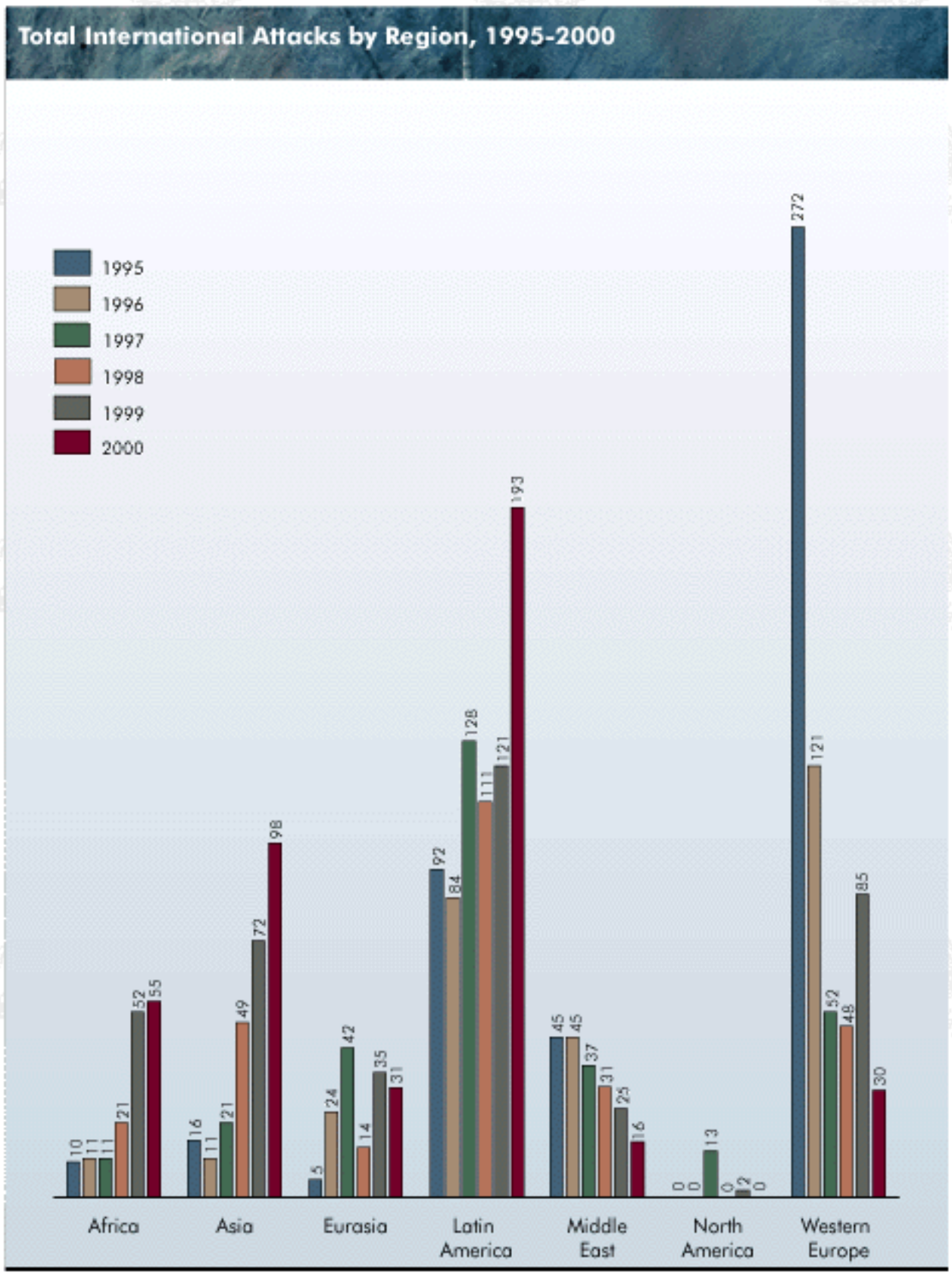
Total International Attacks by Region, 1995-2000

April 2001



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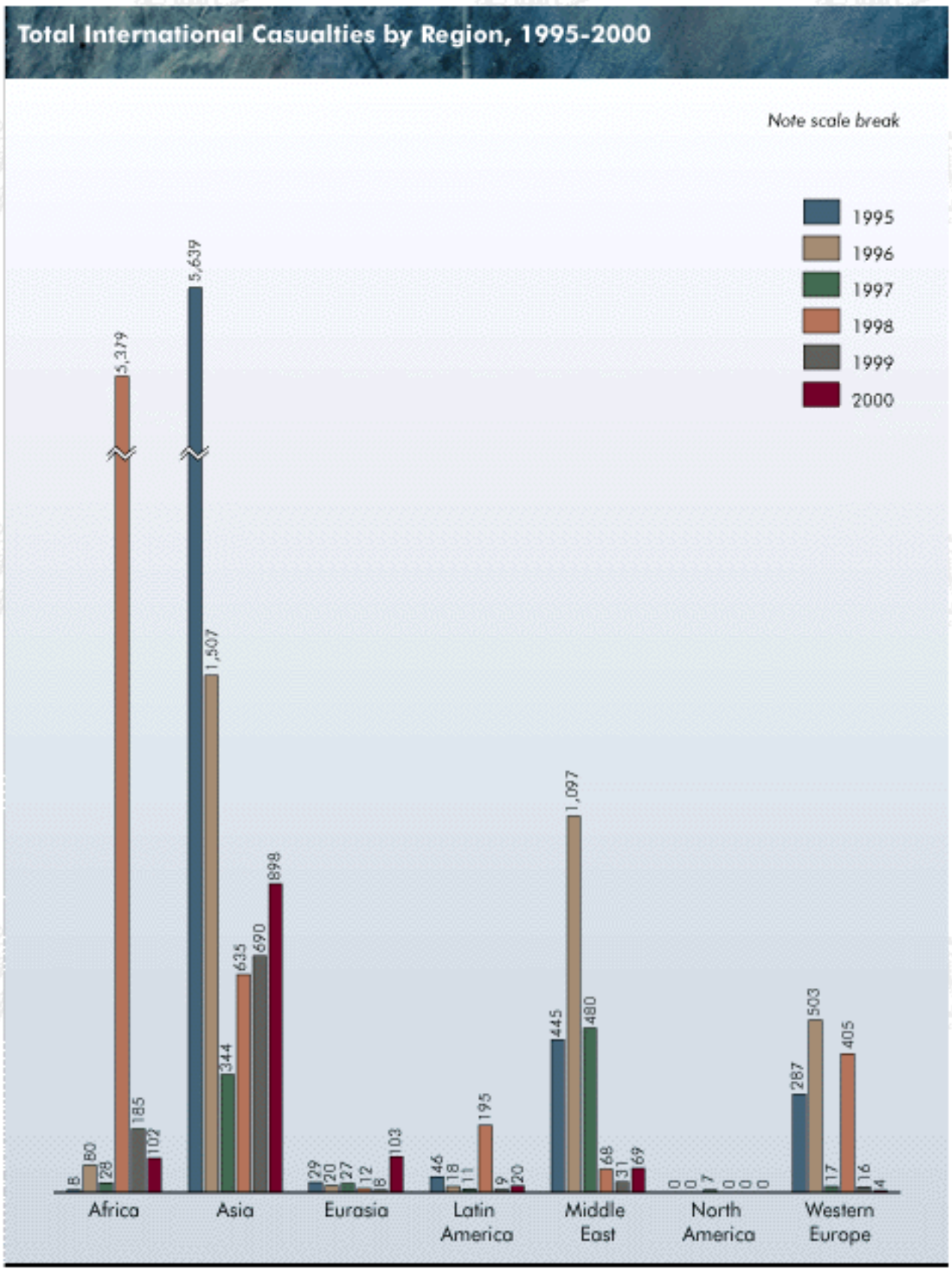
Total International Casualties by Region, 1995-2000

April 2001



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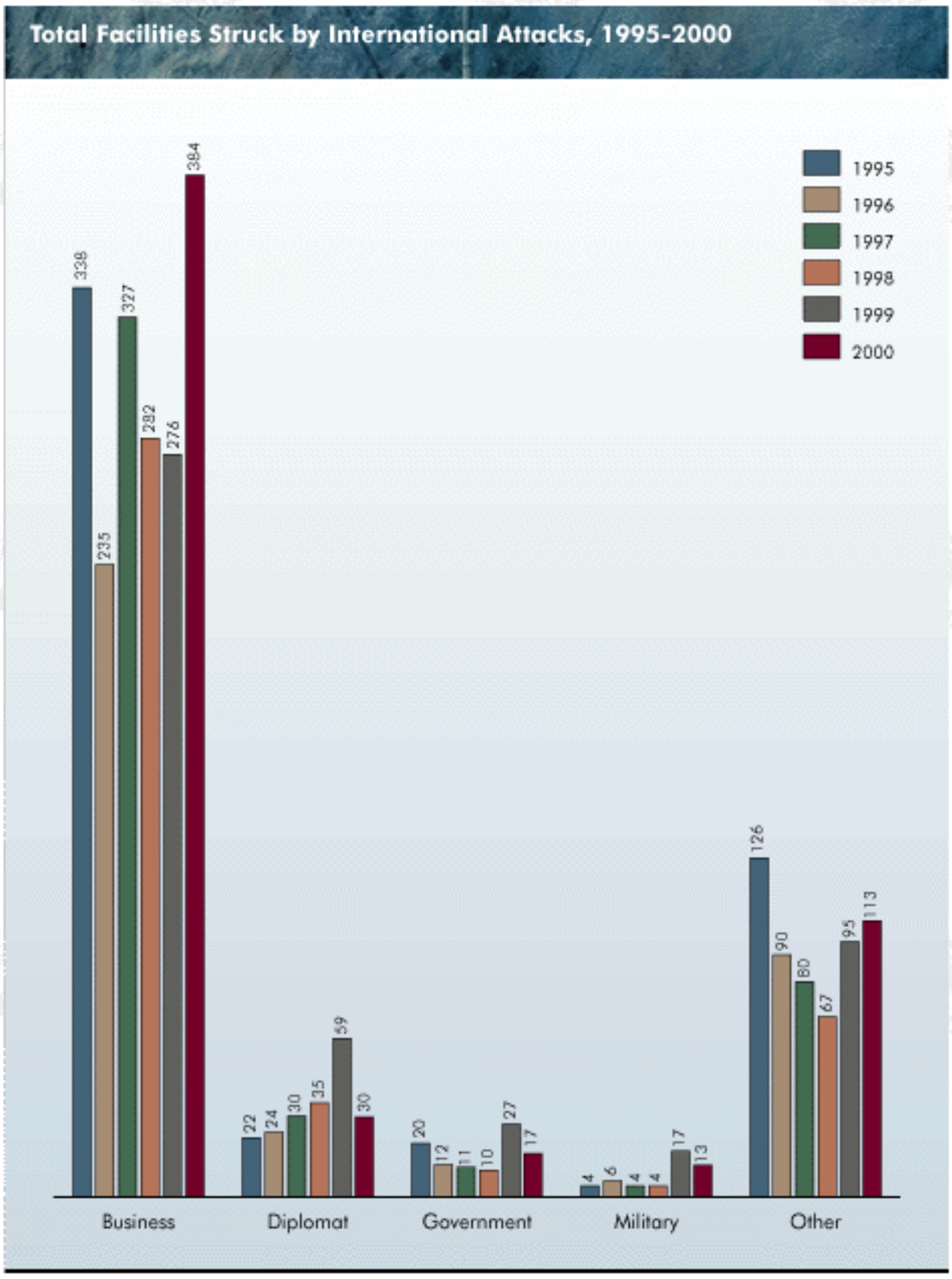
Total Facilities Struck by International Attacks, 1995-2000

April 2001



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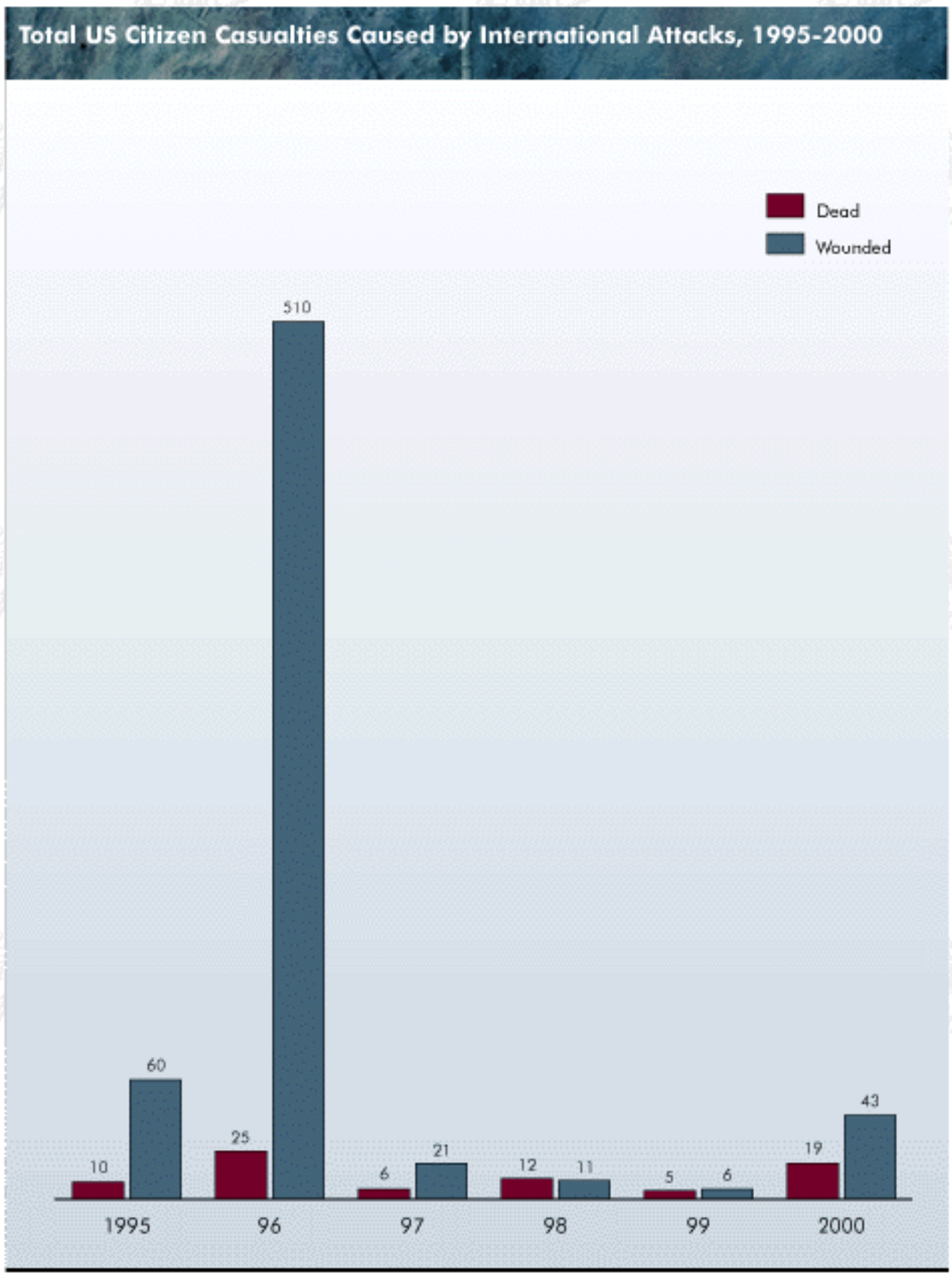
Total US Citizen Casualties Caused by International Attacks, 1995-2000

April 2001



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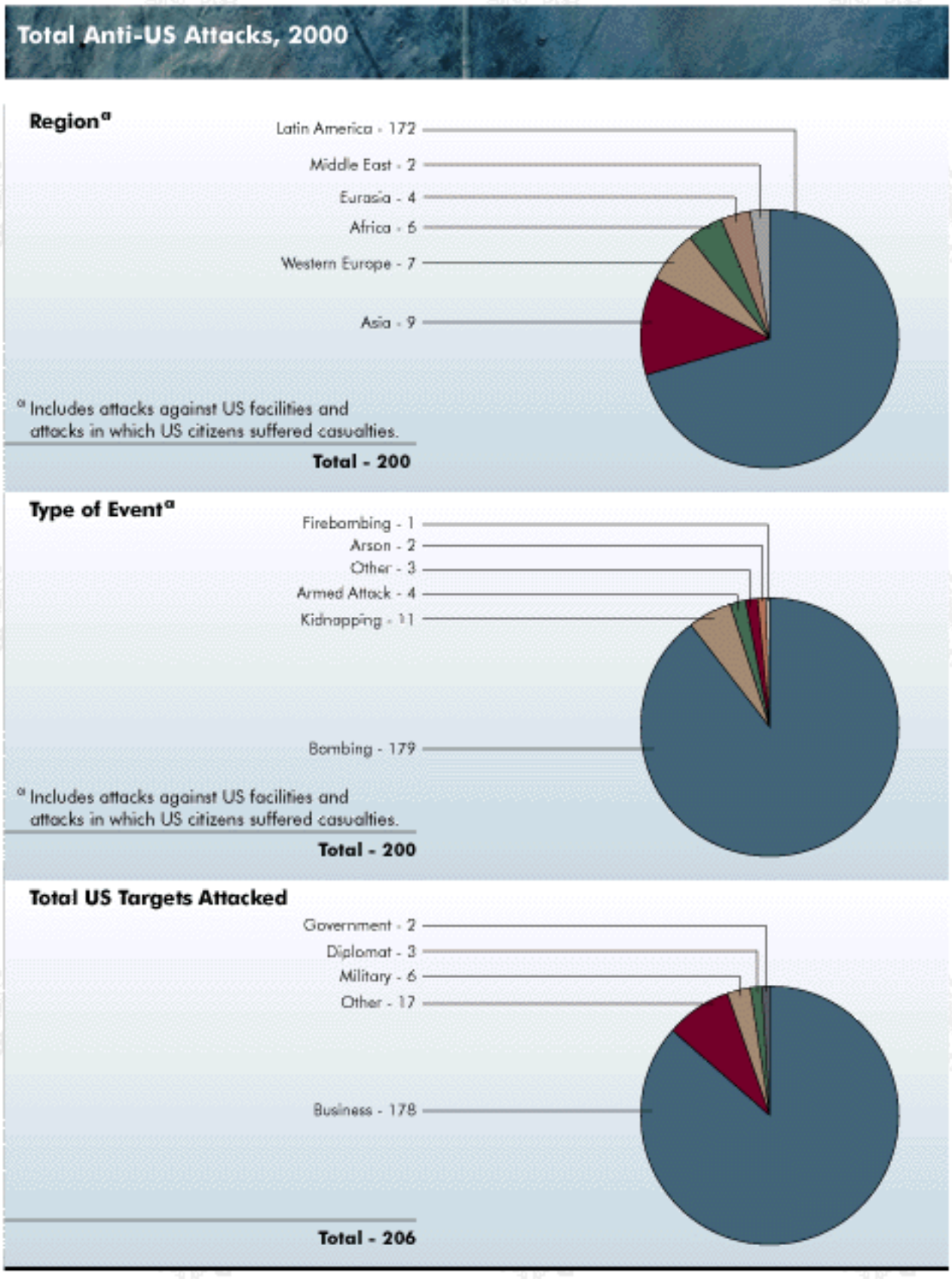
Total Anti-US Attacks, 2000

April 2001



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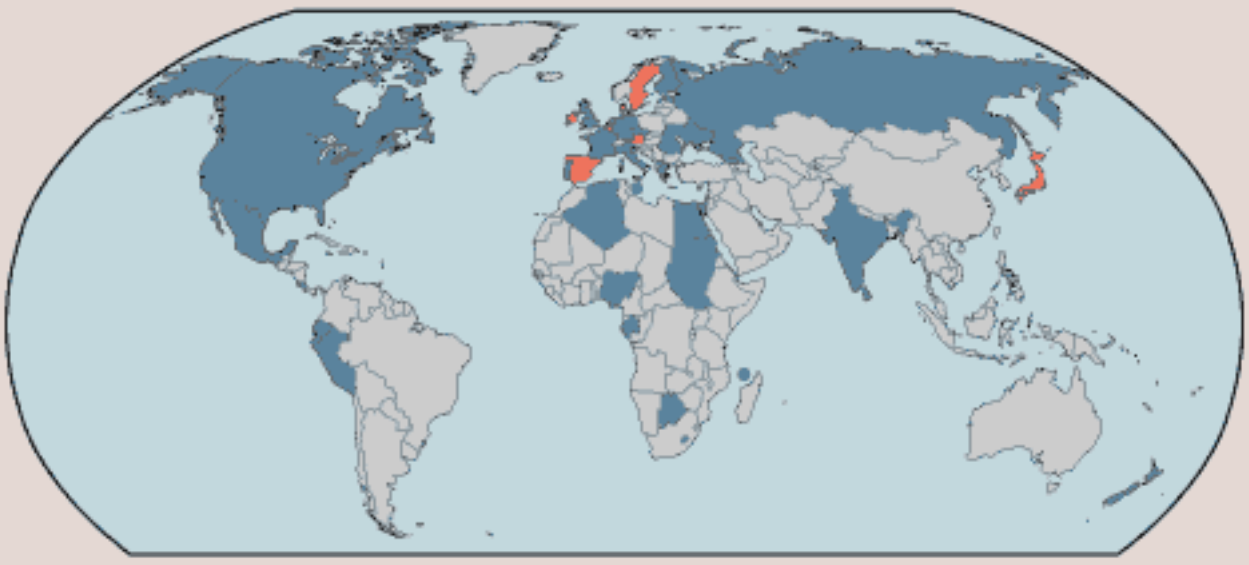
Appendix D: Signatories to the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing

April 2001

Appendix D
Signatories to the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing



North America
- Canada
- United States

Latin America
- Costa Rica
- Ecuador
- Mexico
- Peru

Africa and the Middle East
- Algeria
- Botswana[1]
- Comoros
- Egypt
- Gabon
- Israel
- Lesotho
- Nigeria
- Sudan

Europe and Eurasia
- Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Italy
- Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russia
- San Marino
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- Austria
- Belgium
- Denmark
- Ireland
- Luxembourg
- Spain
- Sweden

Asia/Oceania
- India
- New Zealand
- Sri Lanka[1]
- Japan

States that have signed and/or ratified
EU and G-8 states that have NOT signed and/or ratified

[1]Signed and ratified.

Appendix C: Appendix E:

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Appendix E:
Extraditions and Renditions of Terrorists to the United States, 1993-1999

April 2001

Date	Name	Extradition or Rendition	From
March 1993	Mahmoud Abu Halima (February 1993 World Trade Center bombing)	Extradition	*
July 1993	Mohammed Ali Rezaq (November 1985 hijacking of Egyptair 648)	Rendition	Nigeria
February 1995	Ramzi Ahmed Yousef (January 1995 Far East bomb plot, February 1993 World Trade Center bombing)	Extradition	Pakistan
April 1995	Abdul Hakim Murad (January 1995 Far East bomb plot)	Rendition	Philippines
August 1995	Eyad Mahmoud Ismail Najim (February 1993 World Trade Center bombing)	Extradition	Jordan
December 1995	Wali Khan Amin Shah (January 1995 Far East bomb plot)	Rendition	*
September 1996	Tsutomu Shirosaki (May 1986 attack on US Embassy, Jakarta)	Rendition	*
June 1997	Mir Aimal Kansi (January 1993 shooting outside CIA headquarters)	Rendition	*
June 1998	Mohammed Rashid (August 1982 Pan Am bombing)	Rendition	*
August 1998	Mohamed Rashed Daoud Al-Owhali (August 1998 US Embassy bombing in Kenya)	Rendition	Kenya
August 1998	Mohamed Sadeek Odeh (August 1998 US Embassy bombing in Kenya)	Rendition	Kenya
December 1998	Mamdouh Mahmud Salim (August 1998 East Africa bombings)	Extradition	Germany
October 1999	Khalfan Khamis Mohamed (August 1998 US Embassy bombing in Tanzania)	Rendition	South Africa
* Country not disclosed			

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Appendix F:
International Terrorist Incidents, 2000

April 2001

Appendix E:

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