Special Update Report
Terrorism in North, West, & Central Africa: From 9/11 to the Arab Spring

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Director, International Center for Terrorism Studies, and Senior Fellow, Potomac Institute for Policy Studies
The International Center for Terrorism Studies (ICTS)

Established in 1998, the activities of ICTS are guided by an International Research Council that offers recommendations for study on different aspects of terrorism, both conventional and unconventional. ICTS also serves as a coordinating body for a consortium of universities and think tanks throughout the world, namely the Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies (IUCTS). ICTS is also affiliated with the Inter-University Center for Legal Studies (Washington, DC).

There exists the need to educate policy-makers, and the public in general, on the nature and intensity of the terrorism threat in the twenty-first century. As a member of the academic and research community, the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies has an intellectual obligation, as well as a moral and practical responsibility, to participate in the international effort to arrest the virus of terrorism. The purpose of the ICTS, therefore, is four-fold:

- First, to monitor current and future threats of terrorism;
- Second, to develop response strategies on governmental and non-governmental levels;
- Third, to effect continual communication with policy-makers, academic institutions, business, media, and civic organizations; and
- Fourth, to sponsor research programs on critical issues, particularly those relating enabling technologies with policy, and share the findings nationally and internationally.

ICTS has sponsored, co-sponsored, and participated in more than 400 events in many countries, including the U.S., Albania, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, India, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Morocco, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Romania, Sri Lanka, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom. ICTS has published more than 100 books and 30 reports and ICTS activities were covered extensively by television, radio, and press in more than 60 countries.
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About the Author

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Professor Yonah Alexander, PhD, serves as a Senior Fellow at the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies and Director of its International Center for Terrorism Studies. He is also a member of the Board of Regents. Concurrently, he is Director of the Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies and Co-Director of the Inter-University Center for Legal Studies. Both are consortia of universities and think tanks throughout the world. In addition, Professor Alexander directed the Terrorism Studies program (George Washington University) and the Institute for Studies in International Terrorism (State University of New York), totaling 35 years of service.

Educated at Columbia University (PhD), the University of Chicago (MA), and Roosevelt University of Chicago (BA), Professor Alexander taught at: The George Washington University, The American University, the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University of America, Tel Aviv University, The City University of New York, and The State University of New York. He also lectured at numerous institutions and universities including: Amman, Amsterdam, Ankara, Beijing, Berkeley, Berlin, Bonn, Brasilia, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Caracas, Colombo, Geneva, Harvard, Istanbul, Jerusalem, Johannesburg, Kiev, Lausanne, London, Los Alamos, Madrid, Mexico City, Moscow, New Delhi, Oxford, Paris, Prague, Princeton, Rabat, Rome, Santiago, Seoul, Singapore, Stanford, Stockholm, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto, Warsaw, and Yalta.

His research experience includes such appointments as: Research Professor of International Affairs and Visiting Professor of Law, The George Washington University; Director, "Terrorism, Gray Area and Low Level Conflict," U.S. Global Strategy Council; Senior Fellow, The Institute for Advanced Studies in Justice, School of Law, The American University; Research Associate, School of Journalism, Columbia University; Senior Staff Member, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Georgetown University; Director, Institute for Studies in International Terrorism, State University of New York; and Fellow, Institute of Social Behavior Pathology, The University of Chicago. He is a member, International Institute of Strategic Studies (London) and other professional bodies. Additionally, he has served as academic advisor to governments and international organizations (e.g. UN, NATO, OSCE).

Dr. Alexander is founder and editor-in-chief of three academic international journals: Terrorism; Minorities and Group Rights; and Political Communication and Persuasion. Since 2010, he has served as editor-in-chief of Partnership for Peace Review, a new journal under the auspices of NATO. He also has published over 100 books including Al-Qaeda: Ten Year After 9/11 and Beyond; Terrorists in Our Midst: Combating Foreign Affinity Terrorism in America; Evolution of U.S. Counterterrorism Policy (three volumes); Turkey: Terrorism, Civil Rights, and the European Union; The New Iranian Leadership: Terrorism, Nuclear Ambition, and the Middle East Conflict; and Counterterrorism Strategies: Success and Failures of Six Nations. His works were translated into more than two dozen languages. Professor Alexander's personal papers and collection on terrorism are housed at the Hoover Institution Library and Archives at Stanford University.

He received numerous academic and professional awards and grants from private and public foundations (the most recent is the 2010 John Lyman Prize for the book, Terror on the High Seas: From Piracy to Strategic Challenge).

Professor Alexander has appeared on many television and radio programs in more than 40 countries. His numerous articles and interviews were published in both the United States and the international press.
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NEW TERRORISM HOT SPOT: AFRICA’S SAHEL

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PREFACE

Terrorism in North, West, & Central Africa: From 9/11 to the Arab Spring

By Yonah Alexander

We learn from history that nothing is permanent in world affairs. Empires, nations, and people rise and decline and others take their place. The only certainty is uncertainty and consequently a realistic analysis of factors that contribute to stability or instability of national, regional, and global security frameworks is critical.

Tragically, the Maghreb — Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia — as well as adjacent parts of the Sahel — Chad, Mali, and Niger — have emerged as one of the most worrying strategic challenges to the international community, and yet for decades these regions have mostly been overlooked by policy-makers in the West. Consider, for example, the empirical data generated since September 11, 2001.

More specifically, for the past ten years terrorist attacks by al-Qa’ida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and other militant extremists in the Maghreb and Sahel have increased more than 500 percent from their low point in the period to hit a high of 204 attacks in 2009. In 2011, the number of terrorist attacks remains dangerously high, increasing from 2010’s total to reach 185 attacks for the year.
Over the past decade, 1,288 terrorist bombings, murders, kidnappings, and ambushes—against international and domestic targets—claimed more than 2,000 lives and 6,000 victims in Algeria, Chad, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, and Tunisia.

Last year, intelligence reports and arrests confirmed AQIM has opened links with Latin cartels for ‘drugs-for-arms’ smuggling into Europe through terrorist-trafficking networks in the Sahel that include members of the Polisario Front. Recently, intelligence reports from officials in the region confirm that a variety of arms from the Libya conflict, including surface-to-air missiles, may have fallen into AQIM hands in the Sahel.

What is particularly of grave concern is that AQIM, jointly with other al-Qa’ida affiliates and militant groups (e.g. al-Qa’ida in the Arabian Peninsula, AQAP, operating in Yemen, as well as al-Shabaab members in Somalia, Boko Haram militants based in Nigeria, and Polisario militants from Algeria) currently and for the foreseeable future, represent a most dangerous threat both regionally and inter-regionally. Clearly in the failed and fragile states bordering the Sahara, al-Qa’ida has established a safe haven and breeding ground for its activities.

Two major concerns feed into this arc of instability that stretches from the Red Sea and is poised to reach to the Atlantic. First, is the lingering 35-year old Western Sahara conflict, which is creating an opening for AQIM’s expansion and also recruitment of hard-core Polisario members among the Sahrawi refugee camps in Algeria, further complicating the viability of a diplomatic resolution for the Western Sahara issue.

And second, the dramatic and unprecedented “Arab Spring” revolutionary process that began in Tunisia, continued in Egypt, and exploded into a civil war in Libya. Apparently, al-Qa’ida and other terrorist groups in North, West, and Central Africa are already attempting to take advantage of the unstable events in the countries involved in their efforts to destabilize the region even further.

The purpose of this updated report is to supplement three earlier special studies published in 2009, 2010, and 2011. The publication titled “Why the Maghreb Matters: Threats, Opportunities, and Options for Effective Engagement in North Africa” (March 2009) was co-sponsored by the Conflict Management Program of the John Hopkins University with the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies. This report was supported by a bipartisan panel of foreign policy experts, including General (ret.) Wesley Clark, Amb (ret.) Stuart Eizenstat, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Professor William Zartman, and other distinguished academics and former diplomats.

The panel’s special report recommended that the new US administration “look around the corner,” as President Barack Obama had advocated, and engage the region more effectively to prevent the brewing crisis in security before it erupts. More specifically, the report outlined threats, opportunities, and options for the United States to promote peace and prosperity, and prevent a growing peril in North Africa. The nations of the Maghreb have long been at the crossroads of history and currently hold great potential as a bridge between the Islamic world and the West.

The region could benefit greatly from increased regional economic integration that would make it an appealing market for Europe and the United States. But it also faces serious challenges: a firm toehold by al-Qa’ida in the Sahara, inconsistent economic
growth, a growing restive young population, and regional disputes that impede economic and security cooperation, in particular the long-running dispute over Western Sahara.

The other two special reports, namely, “Maghreb and Sahel Terrorism: Addressing the Rising Threats from al-Qa’ida and other Terrorists in North and West and Central Africa” (January 2010), and “The Consequences of Terrorism: al-Qa’ida and other Terrorist Threats in the Sahel and Maghreb” (January 2011), presented overviews of terrorism and dealt in some detail with the security challenges in the region and their implications.

The current publication is updating the annual statistical data since 9/11 and focusing on chronological terrorist events in 2011. Moreover, a special analysis is presented on the Arab Spring’s developments, covering specifically: Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, and Chad.

A team of analysts based at the ICTS conducted research with an effort to understand the security impact in the region and beyond. The team included Patrick Cheetham (UCLA), Evan Lundh (UCLA), Amy Glazier (Tufts University), Jesse Sedler (Emory University), and Daniel Idziak (College of William and Mary).

Finally, on the basis of the material presented in this updated report some recommendations are offered to be considered with the hope of stimulating further research in this area.

**SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The key insights and recommendations underlined in the earlier studies appear even more relevant, and urgent, in light of the “Arab Spring” developments. They include the following steps that should be given close consideration by US policymakers and the international community in general:

1. Develop a comprehensive program in the affected countries to increase public awareness concerning the nature of jihadist terrorism as a form of low-intensity warfare being waged against the Maghreb and Sahel; how it affects the local populations; how it diverts resources away from economic development; and how it constrains political open space.

2. Strengthen the US intelligence mechanism in order to provide more effective collection and analysis of data related to al-Qa’ida’s terrorism in general in the region and beyond. And ensure that the information is used effectively by cooperating bodies in the region through providing equipment, training, and monitoring assistance.

3. Deny supporters of Islamic extremism in the Maghreb, Sahel, and elsewhere the capacity and freedom to engage in propaganda through effective information countermeasures, grassroots development investments, and open channels of communication with local leaders.

4. Expand US counterterrorism technical assistance to the area, particularly training for internal security bodies, police agencies, and the military, particularly under the umbrella of multilateral working groups to provide for adequate monitoring and transparency.
5. Improve the level of security coordination between the countries in the region so they can more effectively share intelligence and interdict terrorist networks and supply lines on the ground.

6. Encourage the governments in the region to accelerate regional economic and social reforms with a “carrot-and-stick” approach to increase broadly the levels of economic cooperation between the nations and spur increased trade and commerce that contributes to economic growth and reduces poverty as an underlying factor in fueling social unrest and extremism.

7. Resolve the Western Sahara crisis, which is inhibiting both security and economic cooperation in the Maghreb and Sahel, and is driving a wedge between two of the region’s most influential nations—Morocco and Algeria.

8. Shut down the refugee camps run by the Polisario near Tindouf, Algeria because they are a recruiting ground for terrorists, traffickers, and other criminal enterprises. The US and international community should prioritize permanent refugee resettlement in line with existing international protocols and agreements.

9. Face the intellectual challenge of radical Islam directly with “home-grown” religious and intellectual leaders who are able to challenge the misuse of Islam and channel religious tendencies into more productive social development opportunities.

10. Raise the diplomatic, economic, political, and military costs to Iran high enough to outweigh the benefits of supporting terrorism and exporting jihadist terrorism elsewhere.

In sum, a coherent and firm US policy vis-à-vis the threats of terrorism in Maghreb and Sahel would increase domestic public understanding and support in the US for sustained engagement with the nations of North and West/Central Africa. The updated documents incorporated in this report, particularly the statistical tables and terrorism chronology covering the period September 11, 2001 – December 31, 2011, make it clear that constructive and sustained engagement is vital, employing both “hard” (security, military, intelligence cooperation) and “soft” elements (economic and social development creating employment opportunities, education that equips students/trainees for jobs, and reduction of religious radicalism). Otherwise, the US, the EU, and our friends in the region will remain hostages to, and targets of the ideological, theological, and political terrorists for the remainder of the 21st century.
The Arab Spring

Tunisia

Overview:
Inspired by the self-immolation of a frustrated, impoverished fruit vendor whose merchandise was confiscated by authorities, Tunisians took to the streets in December 2010 to protest the autocracy, corruption, and inequality of the Ben Ali regime. Thus began a movement dubbed the Jasmine Revolution, which inspired people in other Arab countries to rise up against their autocratic rulers in what became known as the Arab Spring. By January 14, 2011, 78 protesters were dead, 94 injured, and President Ben Ali’s 23-year rule ended as he left for Saudi Arabia. In the days that followed, a transitional government began the process of creating the functions of a democratic state.

With moderate Islamists of the Ennahda Party (banned under Ben Ali) becoming a dominant political force, the emerging government is challenged with balancing liberal reforms and religion. Tunisia’s long border with Libya (which experienced extensive conflict in during the Libyan uprising) could serve as a point of transfer for weapons and militants into Tunisia. Tunisia’s tourism industry, which plays a vital role in the economy, must be revived and commercial connections expanded to produce employment for Tunisia’s unemployed.

Outlook:
One year later, Tunisia remains in an official state of emergency. There is a “general threat” of terrorism, and travelers to Tunisia have been warned that demonstrations with the potential for violence and injury are possible. Tunisia’s Jasmine Revolution initiated the Arab Spring, but has been marked by the absence of the large-scale violence seen by other countries such as Libya, Yemen, and Syria.

The underlying problems which led to the Jasmine Revolution such as unemployment, particularly among youth, and corruption, must be addressed for Tunisia to prosper. Tunisia’s proximity to Europe and its position within Africa and the Arab world place it at a fertile commercial and cultural nexus. Tunisia has the opportunity to play an enhanced role in regional affairs as a connection point between Europe, Africa, and the Arab World.

If governmental reforms are successful in bringing true democracy to Tunisia, rooting out corruption, and increasing employment, Tunisia may experience significantly enhanced growth as more of the labor force participates in economic activity and commercial ties with other countries expand. Tunisia’s connectivity to the world via broad access to the Internet and international travel routes is well established. For tourism levels to return to pre-uprising levels, Tunisia must remain free from civil unrest.

The ouster of former president Ben Ali, who maintained an iron grip on power and kept fundamentalists out of a leading role in society, has re-injected political Islam to Tunisia’s political space. The Ennahda Movement has emerged as a powerful force, taking 90 out of 217 seats in the constituent assembly elected to draft a new constitution for Tunisia.

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Tunisia Timeline 2011

12/17/10
Mohamed Bouazizi self-immolates initiating mass protests

1/14
Ben Ali leaves Tunisia for Saudi Arabia

1/19
Switzerland freezes Ben Ali’s Assets

3/9
Ben Ali’s Party is disbanded

5/8
Massive riot leading to 200 arrests and renewed curfew

6/22
Ben Ali and his wife in absentia are sentenced to 35 years in prison

11/22
Newly elected Assembly begins first session

3/29/10
President Ben Ali falls to quell unrest by offering conciliatory reforms

2/27
P.M. Ghannouchi resigns

1/17
National Unity Coalition forms by P.M. Ghannouchi

5/27
G8 offers $10 billion in aid for new Tunisian government

10/23
Free elections are held bringing Ennahda Party into power

Map of Tunisia

Red with a white disk in the center bearing a red crescent nearly encircling a red five-pointed star; resembles the Ottoman flag (red banner with white crescent and star) and recalls Tunisia’s history as part of the Ottoman Empire; red represents the blood shed by martyrs in the struggle against oppression, white stands for peace; the crescent and star are traditional symbols of Islam.

Ethnic Groups: Arab 94%, European 1%, Jewish and other 1%

Religions: Muslim 98%, Christian 1%, Jewish and other 1%

Population: 10,629,186 (July 2011 est.)

Median age: total: 30 years

Urban population: 67% of total population (2010)

Literacy (age 15 and over can read and write): 74.3%

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24: 30.7

Unemployment, general: 13% (2010)

Demographics

*Flag, Map and Demographics courtesy of CIA World Factbook
In a situation similar to that in Egypt, where the Muslim Brotherhood is emerging as a potent political force in the wake of former president Hosni Mubarak’s departure from power, Tunisia must learn to manage the interplay between religion and government, which were separated since Tunisia’s independence in 1956.

Tunisia has experienced terrorist attacks including a 2007 plot on the British and American embassies in Tunis. The alleged attackers were linked to the Algerian terrorists of the Group for Preaching and Combat which has evolved into AQIM. Tunisia shares an extensive border with Libya, which may lead to heightened threats due to the proliferation of small arms from the Libyan conflict.

While Tunisia’s revolution was not the al-Qa’ida inspired uprising that Usama bin Laden had long advocated, both he and Anwar al-Awlaki praised the outcome. In a posthumous message, bin Laden said, “The sun of the revolution has risen from the Maghreb,” and “The light of the revolution came from Tunisia. It has given the nation tranquility and made the faces of the people happy.”² In al-Qa’ida in the Arabian Peninsula’s magazine, Inspire, Awlaki sent a message of Muslim unity in the Arab Spring: “Our mujahedeen brothers in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and the rest of the Muslim world will get a chance to breathe again after three decades of suffocation.”³

In its current situation, Tunisia sees Turkey as an example of how to blend secular institutions and Islam. Turkey, similar in its proximity to Europe and Muslim identity, may be an example for Tunisia to follow in its evolution into a democratic state. Turkey is managing secularism and democracy in its government and society, something that other states have not been able to balance.

In conclusion, Tunisia must find a way to balance the role of Islam with secular social institutions and the rights of women in the emerging democratic order. Tunisia must also work to ensure that terrorism does not spread from other countries and take root in Tunisia, further damaging the tourism industry. The benefits gained from tourism are a powerful incentive for Tunisia to maintain close ties with Europe and to serve as a responsible member of the Mediterranean community. The problems of unemployment and corruption must be rooted out under the emerging democratic government in order for Tunisians to be satisfied with the outcome of their Jasmine Revolution.

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Egypt Timeline 2011

1/25
Egyptian protest movement begins against Mubarak

1/31
Gov. reorganized to appease protesters

3/19
Constitutional reforms approved by Egyptian voters

4/13
Mubarak arrested on corruption charges

8/18
Militants cross from Sinai to attack Israel

9/10
Military cracks down on protesters following Israeli embassy incident

11/18
Protests in Tahrir against military rule

12/30
NGOs calling for democratic progress are raided by government

Protestors
Mubarak
New Regime
International
Domestic
Violence

1/28
Mubarak reacts violently, mobilizes army

2/11
Mubarak steps down after massive protests

2/22
New cabinet appointed

2/25
Protestors return to Tahrir, demand reforms

5/25
Egypt permanently reopens border with Gaza, causing Israeli fear over weapons

6/3
Mubarak trial begins

10/6
Religious violence between Copts and Muslims


Ethnic groups: Egyptian 99.6%, other .4%
Religions: Muslim (mostly Sunni) 90%, Coptic 6%, Christian 2%
Population: 82,079,636 (July 2011 est.)
Median age: total: 24.3 years
Urban population: 43.4% of total population (2010)
Literacy (age 15 & over can read & write): 71.4% (2004 census)
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24: 24.8% (2009)

Demographics

Map of Egypt

Three equal horizontal bands of red (top), white, and black; the national emblem (a gold Eagle of Saladin facing the hoist side with a shield superimposed on its chest above a scroll bearing the name of the country in Arabic) centered in the white band; the band colors derive from the Arab Liberation flag and represent oppression (black), overcome through bloody struggle (red), to be replaced by a bright future (white).
Egypt

Overview:
Egyptians, who had long tolerated their authoritarian ruler Hosni Mubarak, were inspired by the success of the Tunisian demonstrators and took to the streets to demand basic freedoms, a reliable democratic process, economic improvement, and an end to corruption. In 18 days, Egyptians ended President Mubarak’s 30-year rule and have since faced the looming question of “what’s next?” The revolution, and the American response that was swift in embracing the protestors and abandoning their long-standing ally, Mubarak, has caused authoritarian leaders elsewhere to question America’s steadfastness. On the other hand, protestors monitoring America’s response to movements in other countries question America’s commitment to democracy. Egypt’s military is struggling to keep up with the speed at which newly empowered citizens want to see change. In the recent elections, the Muslim Brotherhood, the only well-organized national movement, and Salafist candidates representing the conservative core of Egyptian society, are the key players. In addition to questions about minority rights, an Islamist Egypt may change its relationships with other countries in the region, particularly Israel, with which relations have deteriorated over security in the Sinai.

Outlook:
Egypt faces demographics similar to other countries embroiled in the Arab Spring. With a median age of 24.3 a population growing at 1.96%, and youth unemployment at 24.8%, the country is filled with young, unemployed, and frustrated people. For any new government—secular, religious, or military—to be successful, it must address these issues in a substantial way. The downfall of America’s longtime ally Hosni Mubarak poses a series of challenges to America’s foreign policy makers. While the military was instrumental in the ouster of Mubarak, it is still unclear how it will respond to aspirations for Egypt’s future that will be shaped by a democratic process led by Islamic parties. If the military allows for a smooth transition of power to democratically elected leaders, the US will hopefully have an Egyptian partner whose interests reflect those of the people.

The international community is uncertain of Egypt’s leadership due to the continuing sectarian violence, lawlessness in the Sinai, and tension between the new government and Israel. While US support for the protest movement demonstrated America’s preference for democracy, it gives other pro-Western autocrats cause for concern regarding the continuing loyalty of the US to their regimes.

Within Egypt, questions remain over human rights, religion, and the status of women, many of whom were instrumental in the protest movement. In one case, Egyptian courts found that the military’s subjection of women to ‘virginity tests’ violated their rights. This incident, and other concerns including torture, magnify the issue of the military rulers’ respect for human rights.

It is not yet certain that the military will abide by the transfer of power that will likely emerge from the new constitution being drafted by the new parliament, where Salafists and the Muslim Brotherhood hold the majority of seats. The new government may make significant changes in the country’s foreign policy. It is more sympathetic to Hamas, a US-designated terrorist organization. Egypt has permanently reopened its border with Gaza and served as a third party in prisoner swap negotiations between Hamas and Israel. Gaza’s Prime Minister, Ismail Haniya, who represents Hamas, stopped in Egypt during his first trip abroad since taking power, an indication of his close relationship with the new government. Many challenges lie ahead for Egypt and its new leaders.
Libya

Overview:
The Libyan revolution against Colonel Muammar Gaddafi quickly followed the Jasmine Revolution. Gaddafi condemned the uprising in January of 2011, amidst reports of widespread unrest and demonstrations occurring in several Libyan cities, which transformed into open rebellion following severe government crackdowns. The Libyan Revolutionary Council (LRC) was created in late February to integrate the leadership and political outreach of the regime’s opponents. The rebels and regime forces engaged in a series of military engagements, but the rebels faltered when Gaddafi’s forces began to utilize air power against their forces.

The United Nation (UN) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) debated a no-fly zone in Libya on humanitarian grounds. On March 17, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1973 approving the no-fly zone. European and American forces began a massive air campaign on March 18 against Gaddafi’s forces. By March 22, NATO took command of the operation and continued to strike against Gaddafi’s army and military institutions, including strikes on Tripoli.

Ultimately, efforts to mediate a peace agreement proved futile as the LRC would not accept any resolution that allowed Gaddafi to remain in power. Continued NATO military pressure enabled rebel forces to press the ground attack while gaining diplomatic recognition and international support. Rebel forces captured Tripoli on August 21. By October 20, Sirte, the last Gaddafi stronghold, was captured and rebel forces apprehended and killed Muammar Gaddafi.

The new Libyan government began to consolidate power and proposed democratic reforms to the constitution. The transition has not been as smooth as hoped as several powerful militias that opposed Gaddafi are contesting with the interim government for influence in the new Libya. The conflict between the new government’s military and militia forces continues as does the circulation of arms from weapons depots emptied during the conflict.

Outlook:
The frequency of conflicts between the NTC and local militias as well as inter-militia conflict has been increasing. These skirmishes and vigilante and revenge killings, threaten to destabilize the country and potentially lead to a renewed civil war. The NTC must also remove the vestiges of Gaddafi’s regime while maintaining government services. This predicament threatens the balance between legitimacy and functionality. There is also the daunting dilemma of retrieving advanced weapons, such as portable ground-to-air anti-aircraft missiles looted from Gaddafi armories during the rebellion which pose a potential threat to the Sahel. Terrorists could use them to destabilize the region’s transportation. The United States is initiating a buyback program to thwart such a scenario.

Yet there is a great degree of hope for Libyan democracy. The NTC has pledged to write a new constitution following the election of a National Assembly. The constitution allocates 20 of the 200 seats to women and the National Assembly is expected to convene in June 2012.

Libya continues to experience economic difficulties even though several international bodies have unfrozen Libya’s assets. This development has yet to improve the cash crisis on the grassroots level. Meanwhile, Libya’s oil infrastructure is steadily improving to help the regime recover much-needed income.
Algeria Timeline 2011

1/16
Mohsen Bouterif sets himself on fire mirroring Tunisia’s Mohamed Bouazizi

1/7
Algerians riot over food prices

1/24
19 year old State of Emergency is officially repealed

2/12
Algerian Protests Clash with Police as 400 are arrested

2/20
Police break up rally of thousands of protesters without using weapons to maintain order. Unemployment is estimated at 42%.

3/15
To stop further protests, oil revenues are used to boost salaries of thousands of workers

4/15
President Bouterifka pledges constitutional reform

8/30
Libya’s TNC accuses Algeria of authorizing the Gaddafi family’s entry into Libya. The TNC demands Algeria hands the family over for trial

8/26
Suicide attack hits Algerian military academy killing 18

9/24-25
On the 24th Pro-Gaddafi fighters entered Libya and killed 8 people, the following day the TNC wanted an explanation from Algeria about how the fighters crossed the border

Demographics

- Ethnic groups: Arab-Berber 99%, other 1%
- Religions: Sunni Muslim 99%, other 1%
- Population: 34,994,937 (July 2011 est.)
- Age Structure: 0-14: 24.2%
  15-64: 70.6%
  65+: 5.2%
- Urban population: 66% of total population (2010 est.)
- Literacy (age 15 and over can read and write): 69.9%
- Unemployment: 24.3%

Map of Algeria

Two equal vertical bands of green (hoist side) and white; a red, five-pointed star within a red crescent centered over the two-color boundary; the colors represent Islam (green), purity and peace (white), and liberty (red); the crescent and star are also Islamic symbols, but the crescent is more closed than those of other Muslim countries because the Algerians believe the long crescent horns bring happiness.
Algeria

Overview:
Algeria has many of the same issues as its neighbors: a young unemployed population, stifling and opaque bureaucracy, a rigid economic system, and a ruling elite who have remained in power since independence. Despite these similarities to neighbors Tunisia and Libya, only minimal protests have occurred, which resulted in the repeal of a 19-year state of emergency, proposed constitutional reforms to strengthen democracy, and information laws broadening freedom of speech.

The Algerian civil war, which took place from the early 1990s to the early 2000s, has dulled the country’s enthusiasm for revolution. Conflicts between Islamist groups and government security forces have resulted in the deaths of more than 100,000 people. A further obstacle to protests is the strong Algerian security apparatus which is able to quell the protestors and rival ideological groups whose disagreements further splintered the Algerian population, thus preventing a unified movement. These factors seem to discourage widespread public resistance to the regime. The government’s concessions towards a fuller and freer democracy can be seen as a victory for reformers, but only if they are actually implemented. Elections are scheduled for May 2012.

Outlook:
Algeria has stood on the sidelines watching its neighbors’ transition from dictatorship to democratic reforms. Its recent history suggests that Algerian protests may never come, as the traumatic civil war has left its scars on the people. The wounds of that conflict, coupled with a strong Algerian security apparatus and a split opposition, underline the challenges that Algerian reformers must overcome. While the prospect of Arab Spring-style movement seems minimal, there is always the chance that some event will spark the population into action. The failure to enact promised reforms, widespread security actions against civilian groups such as the labor unions or moderate Muslim political parties, or manipulations of the coming election could throw the nation into turmoil and potentially damage the ruling regime. If economic conditions, unemployment, and low wages remain static, then the youth may see rebellion as the only means of change, potentially dragging Algeria down the same path as its neighbors.
**Morocco Timeline 2011**

2/20 Peaceful protests break out in Rabat, Casablanca, Tangiers, and Marrakech in favor of reforms. It is dubbed Feb. 20th Movement.

3/9 King declares overhaul of constitution.

4/28 Terrorists bomb Marrakech cafe.

5/8 Feb. 20 protests continue in Casablanca and Marrakech.

5/35 GCC invites Morocco and Jordan to join.

6/17 King announces referendum to give elected officials more power.

7/1 Vote on referendum passes by 98%.

7/3 Demonstrations urge continued democratic reform.

9/17 5,000 person protest in Casablanca against corruption.

12/9 PM-elect Benkirane announces he won't institute Islamic dress code for women.

1/11 PM Benkirane announces his new position to permit abortion in cases of rape or incest.

---

**Ethnic groups: Arab-Berber 99%, other 1%**

**Religions: Muslim 99%, Christian 1%, Jewish about 6,000 (2010 est.)**

**Population: 31,968,361 (July 2011 est.)**

**Median age: total: 26.9 years**

**Urban population: 58% of total population (2010)**

**Literacy (age 15 and over can read and write): 52.3% (2004 census)**

**Unemployment, youth ages 15-24: 21.9% (2009)**

**Unemployment, general: 9.1% (2010 est.)**

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**Map of Morocco**

Red with a green pentacle (five-pointed, linear star) known as Sualayman's (Solomon's) seal in the center of the flag; red and green are traditional colors in Arab flags, although the use of red is more commonly associated with the Arab states of the Persian gulf; the pentacle represents the five pillars of Islam and signifies the association between God and the nation; design dates to 1912.
Morocco

Overview:
The protests which became known as the February 20th Movement in Morocco have resulted in less violence and more reforms than in other Arab Spring countries. In response to popular protests calling for a parliamentary monarchy, a crackdown on corruption, and greater employment opportunities, Morocco’s King Mohammad VI agreed to a number of demands, accelerating his reform agenda. Among key elements were a new constitution stipulating increased powers for parliament and the prime minister, judicial reforms, equality for women and minorities enshrined in law, new parliamentary elections (which were held in November 2011, resulting in a moderate Islamist party winning the greatest number of seats), and civil and social equality for women.

Outlook:
Morocco’s economy is dominated by phosphate mining, agriculture, tourism, and low-value added consumer goods production, and is heavily dependent upon trade with Europe. An economic slowdown in Europe could mean increased domestic pressures in Morocco as fewer job opportunities become available to unemployed Moroccans.

King Mohammad VI of Morocco is a hereditary monarch who enjoys a great deal of legitimacy among Morocco’s people and his family has ruled since the 17th century. The king is the head of state and “leader of the faithful,” acting as both the religious leader and arbiter of the political process. The protests were not aimed at toppling the monarchy but pushing for government reform. The elections in November 2011 brought to power a coalition government led by the moderate Islamist Justice and Development Party (PJD).

Morocco has a difficult relationship with Algeria, which supports the Polisario Front in its conflict with Morocco over the Western Sahara. The Morocco-Algeria border is closed and there is increasing concern that militants and smugglers are increasing their activities in the region. The shared threat of terrorism has led the intelligence services of the two countries to hold regular joint meetings on counterterrorism and engage their counterparts in the US, Europe, and the region. Members of the Polisario Front have been accused of coordinating criminal activities in the ungoverned areas along the borders of the Sahel and Maghreb countries, raising concerns that these areas may become terrorist breeding grounds as AQIM has increased its activities in the region.

In conclusion, the Arab Spring has brought less upheaval to Morocco than it has brought to other countries because the government has agreed to some of the protesters’ demands and the monarchy enjoys the respect of the people. Morocco remains at risk from hard-line Islamists who seek to undermine the King’s role and from terrorists and criminal elements affiliated with AQIM. Continued high unemployment remains a pressing concern.
**Mauritania Timeline 2011**

- **1/14**: President Aziz promises price controls on food and commodities
- **1/17**: Businessman self-immolates
- **2/19**: Police disperse protesters in town of Vassal
- **3/9**: Police break-up protests, arrests and beatings; Doctors threaten strike
- **4/25**: Police deploy tear gas to break up “Day of Rage” protesters
- **5/8**: Mauritanian Parliament approves deal giving 25-year fishing rights to a foreign firm. Mauritians angered by lack of transparency
- **6/27**: Mauritanian police fire on protestors opposing the national census, killing one
- **9/27**: Police fire tear gas protesters against the census who believe the census discriminates against blacks
- **11/19**: Police fire tear gas protesters against the census who believe the census discriminates against blacks

**Map of Mauritania**

Green with a yellow five-pointed star above a yellow, horizontal crescent; the closed side of the crescent is down; the crescent, star, and color green are traditional symbols of Islam; the gold color stands for the sands of the Sahara

**Ethnic groups**: mixed Moor/black 40%, Moor 30%, Black 30%

**Religions**: Muslim (official) 100%

**Population**: 3,281,654 (July 2011 est.)

**Median age**: total: 19.5 years

**Urban population**: 41% of total population (2010)

**Literacy (age 15 and over can read and write)**: 51.2%

**Unemployment**: 30% (2008 estimate)

*Flag, Map and Demographics courtesy of CIA World Factbook*
Mauritania

Overview:
Mauritania is a country of more than three million people. Its economy is heavily dependent upon agriculture, fishing, and iron-ore mining. The current leader of the country, President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, came to power in a military coup in 2008 and was elected President the following year. Mauritania faces many of the same challenges which confront neighboring countries in the Arab World such as high unemployment and corruption. These issues are compounded by tensions between Mauritania's black and Arab populations. Slavery and human-trafficking remain persistent problems.

Mauritania faces a growing threat from AQIM and Boko Haram. Also, the separatist group, the Polisario Front, which is in conflict with Morocco over the Western Sahara, as well as former fighters from the Libyan civil war, pose border security threats. There have been some protests for change in Mauritania but have thus far resulted in little tangible impact on the government and people of Mauritania. Youth using social media to organize rallies echo concerns similar to those of others across the Arab World: greater employment opportunities, political reform, and ending corruption.

Outlook:
The Arab Spring in Mauritania has thus far seen relatively low-level protests directed at reforming the government and enhancing economic opportunities. The first truly democratic elections in Mauritania took place in 2007, but the results of this election were nullified by a military coup in 2008. Mauritania has a long history of authoritarian rule and has complicated relationships with its neighbors. It is one of only three Arab countries to have recognized Israel, although relations have been suspended since 2009.

The government of Mauritania has bounced between being criticized and supported by Western countries. It is one of the poorest countries in Africa with an extremely high youth-unemployment rate and has qualified for debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative, which eliminated Mauritania's foreign debt. Mauritania's relations with Senegal are in conflict over use of water from the Senegal River that serves as the border between the countries. Mauritanian blacks face widespread discrimination in educational and employment opportunities, and many have expressed their opposition to government efforts to implement a census which blacks claim places unfair requirements on proving citizenship.

The threat posed by AQIM's kidnapping activities in Mauritania, broad-based criminal trafficking, and incursions by militants from the Polisario Front have prompted the government to participate in US-supported joint anti-terror activities with Mali and others in the region. Mauritania faces the daunting challenges of developing its natural resources, creating jobs, and easing tensions between Mauritania's black and Arab populations while modernizing its society, infrastructure, and economy.
Mali Timeline 2011

- 1/24/12: Government says it is open to talks once hostilities are ceased.
- 1/17/12: Tuareg rebels launch offensive in northern cities, clash with Malian military forces.
- 11/1: Hundreds of Tuaregs march in northern cities to mark the one year anniversary of the National Azawan Movement.
- 10/16: Tuareg fighters return from Libya and create the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawan.
- 3/25: Thousands marched through Bamako to protest the Western-led military intervention in Libya and show their support for Col. Muammar Gaddafi.
- 3/4: Reports surface that hundreds of Tuaregs are leaving Mali to join pro-Gaddafi forces in Libya.

Ethnic groups: Mande 50%, Peul 17%, Voltaic 12%, Songhai 6%, Tuareg and Moor 10%, other 5%

Religions: Muslim 90%, Christian 1%, indigenous beliefs 9%

Population: 14,159,904 (July 2011 est.)
Median age: total: 16.3 years
Urban population: 36% of total population (2010 est.)
Literacy (age 15 and over can read and write): 46.4% (2003 est.)
Unemployment: Unknown

Demographics

*Flag, Map and Demographics courtesy of CIA World Factbook
Mali

Overview:
Unlike most other participants in the Arab Spring, Mali has a relatively strong democracy. While there was a sizeable protest in the capital, Bamako, in March 2011, it was directed towards US and Western embassies rather than the central government. However, separatist movements in the northern reaches of the country were reignited in late 2011 as Tuareg rebels, who fought alongside Gaddafi in the Libyan Civil War, returned to Mali armed and prepared to make another effort at national determination. The Tuaregs, a nomadic group of about 1.5 million people spread throughout the Sahel region of Mali, Niger, Algeria, and Libya, have long-standing tensions with the government based in southern Mali. They complain of being treated like second-class citizens and receiving an inequitable share of wealth from the uranium-rich mines located in the north.

Mali’s history is laced with rebellions by the Tuaregs, who have sparked uprisings as recently as 2007 to establish an independent state in the Azawad region of northern Mali. On October 16, as hundreds of Tuaregs returned to Mali with arms from the conflict in Libya, the Northern Mali Tuareg Movement joined forces with the National Azawan Movement, creating the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA). It soon became clear that this merger was the beginning of another armed conflict between the Tuaregs and the Malian government. In mid-January 2012, as the government’s military forces entered the north to begin negotiations for the release of al-Qa’ida hostages, MNLA launched an offensive in the town of Menaka. Although military officials claimed that they have successfully repelled the attack, this offensive may be an indication of a larger, longer term conflict between Tuareg nationalists and the Malian government.

Outlook:
Given the repeated occurrences of Tuareg rebellions in recent history, the Malian government may attempt to broker a lasting solution to this internal conflict. An inadequate state presence and porous borders in the Sahel pose problems for Mali’s security forces. AQIM has an established presence in the largely ungoverned north where there are also bases set up by international smuggling networks, some of which are tied to elements of the Polisario Front. While the threat of a countrywide uprising demanding the ouster of the current regime is largely nonexistent, the emergence of a sustained rebellion by the Tuareg will only compound the security issues that the government of Mali is currently facing.
Niger Timeline 2011

Special Update Report - Terrorism in North, West, & Central Africa: From 9/11 to the Arab Spring

Map of Niger

Three equal horizontal bands of orange (top), white, and green with a small orange disk centered in the white band; the orange band denotes the drier northern regions of the Sahara; white stands for purity and innocence; green symbolizes hope and the fertile and productive southern and western areas, as well as the Niger River; the orange disc represents the sun and the sacrifices made by the people.

Ethnic groups: Haoussa 55.4%, Djerma Sonrai 21%, Tuareg 9.3%, Peuhl 8.5%, Kanouri Manga 4.7%

Religions: Sunni Muslim 80%, other 20%

Population: 16,468,886 (July 2011 est.)

Median age: total: 15.2 years

Urban population: 17% of total population (2010 est.)

Literacy (age 15 and over can read and write): 28.7%

Male: 42.9%

Female: 15.4% (2005 est.)

Unemployment (youth): 3.2% (2004 est.)

Demographics

*Flag, Map and Demographics courtesy of CIA World Factbook.
Niger

Overview:
Niger experienced several events in 2011 which threatened its national stability. There is an active AQIM franchise based within its borders that has successfully attacked foreign visitors. Due to this threat, international development organizations, such as the Peace Corps, have withdrawn from Niger. There also remains an element of Tuareg (a nomadic ethnic minority) insurgency in northern Niger that is suspected of having ties to AQIM.

In January 2011, Niger held its first national election since the coup which ousted former President Mamadou Tandja. Newly elected President Mahamadou Issoufou won after a runoff election in March 2011 in what was considered a genuinely free and fair election. Despite the election, Niger’s democracy is still on shaky ground as indicated by an attempted coup in early August.

Niger’s international relations have suffered over the course of the Arab Spring. Niger did not take an official stance during the rebellion in neighboring Libya, although the government did issue statements declaring that Western military intervention and rebellion related violence has undermined security and economic conditions in the Sahel region. It has been estimated that 150,000 displaced persons fled Libya to Niger including many Tuareg militants who fought for Colonel Gaddafi’s forces. Bilateral relations between Libya and Niger have suffered in the wake of the Libyan rebellion since Niger granted asylum to Saadi Gaddafi—one of Muammar Gaddafi’s sons. Lastly, there is a bourgeoning humanitarian crisis in Niger and the larger Sahel as drought and poor harvest conditions threaten to plunge the region into famine.

Outlook:
It is difficult to assess the future of Niger as regional developments can significantly influence events within Niger itself. Niger is still confronting the aftermath of the Tuareg rebellion which ended in 2009 and is currently attempting to eliminate elements of AQIM within its borders. Both AQIM and Tuareg separatists have support in neighboring countries which could potentially exacerbate conditions in Niger, especially in the north. Politically, Niger has had a tumultuous past regarding government corruption. While the 2011 election was a promising development, there are no guarantees that President Issoufou will be able to stabilize the national political system. Niger’s economic outlook is promising as new oil discoveries could provide another avenue for trade growth (along with uranium). However, political and security instability in the region could have a harmful impact in developing the oil sector of Niger’s economy. China is currently expanding its ties to Niger in an effort to develop its oil infrastructure.
Chad Timeline 2011

2/13
First Parliamentary elections since 2002

4/25
Incumbent President Déby Itno wins 84% of vote to maintain his presidency; the opposition boycotts the elections

3/31
Libya’s TNC accuses Chad of backing pro-Gaddafi forces. Chadian Foreign Minister rejects these charges

8/8
President Déby Itno is sworn in for five more years

Population: 10,758,945 (July 2011 est.)
Religions: Muslim 53.1%, Catholic 20.1%, Protestant 14.2%, Animist 7.3%

Age Structure:
- 0-14 years: 46%
- 15-64 years: 51%
- 65+ years: 2.9%

Median age: total: 16.8 years
Urban population: 28% (2010 est.)

Literacy (age 15 and over can read and write French or Arabic): 25.7 total population
Population below poverty line: 80%

Map of Chad
 трех равных горизонтальных полос синего (книзь), желтого и красного цветов; флаг объединяет бывшие колониальные цвета с подчеркиванием солнца и юга страны, где климат жаркий и влажный; желтый цвет символизирует солнце, а красный — прогресс, единство и жертвоприношения.

*Flag, Map and Demographics courtesy of CIA World Factbook
Chad

Overview:
From its 1,000-kilometer border with Libya, Chad was a frontline witness to the Arab Spring protests. Chad was ripe for political unrest as it held parliamentary elections for the first time in nine years and underwent a controversial presidential election. However, no unrest developed as incumbent President Deby Itno’s Patriotic Salvation Movement won 113 of 155 seats in the February 2011 elections and nearly 84% of the popular vote. The opposition boycotted the elections and vowed to unite against him, but there is no sign yet of protests similar to those in other African nations such as Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Uganda. The revolution in Libya spilled over the border as Libya’s NTC accused Chad of supplying Muammar Gaddafi with fighters and weapons, a claim the Chadian government rejected.

Outlook:
Chad’s future holds a number of potential positives and negatives. In terms of politics, Chad held its first ever municipal elections in January 2012, demonstrating a shift towards greater democracy. Despite low voter turnout, this election can be a confidence booster if there is an increase in political participation in Chad leading to some degree of reform.

Chad’s security situation is more complicated as a result of Muammar Gaddafi’s death. Prior to the Arab Spring, Libya and Chad had cordial relations, with Chad receiving both economic and military aid. There were reports during the rebellion in Libya that Chadian troops were fighting and moving weapons across the border into Libya. As a result, Chad and the Libya’s NTC have experienced more tension in their relationship. Chad must now deal with a lack of financial investment from Libya and confront the movement of weapons from Libya across the border into Chad. Many Chadians trapped in Libya are at risk of being persecuted as pro-Gaddafi fighters.
### CHRONOLOGY: Incidents of Terrorism in the Maghreb & Sahel

**Sept. 11, 2001 – Dec. 31, 2011**

*Algeria, Chad, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, and Tunisia*

#### Data Table: Terrorism Incidents in Maghreb & Sahel since Sept. 11, 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
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<th>2005</th>
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<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>North &amp; West/Central Africa Nations</strong></td>
<td>Totals: 1,288 attacks</td>
<td>21 attacks</td>
<td>55 attacks</td>
<td>31 attacks</td>
<td>44 attacks</td>
<td>104 attacks</td>
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<td>152 attacks</td>
<td>204 attacks</td>
<td>178 attacks</td>
<td>185 attacks</td>
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<td><strong>Algeria</strong></td>
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<td>54</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>93</td>
<td>120</td>
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<td>121</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>168</td>
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<td><strong>Chad</strong></td>
<td>58 attacks</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>Libya</strong></td>
<td>1 attack</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mali</strong></td>
<td>49 attacks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td><strong>Mauritania</strong></td>
<td>27 attacks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td><strong>Morocco</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Niger</strong></td>
<td>38 attacks</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td><strong>Tunisia</strong></td>
<td>4 attacks</td>
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**INCIDENTS OF TERRORISM IN MAGHREB & SAHEL:**

**Chronology from Sept. 11, 2001 to Dec. 31, 2011** — (Updated with 2011 incidents below)

For full listing from 9/11/01 to 12/31/09, go to: [http://www.potomacinstitute.org/attachments/524_Maghreb%20Terrorism%20report.pdf](http://www.potomacinstitute.org/attachments/524_Maghreb%20Terrorism%20report.pdf)


**Algeria**

**December 23, 2011**
3 factory workers were wounded in a bomb explosion in Tikiouane, Mizrana.

**December 25, 2011**
A woman was seriously injured when a roadside bomb exploded in Imkriyen, Boumerdès. The 53-year-old victim reportedly walked over the homemade device, planted near an olive grove.

**December 31, 2011**
Armed men attacked a bar in Tirtimine, Tizi Ouzou. The men extorted money from the bar’s patrons and owner.

**December 22, 2011**
A repentant terrorist was assassinated by armed men in Takdempt, Delys.  

**December 22, 2011**
Security forces diffused a bomb between Issers and Bordj Menaiel, Boumerdès.

**December 20, 2011**
Armed men kidnapped a young agricultural worker in Aït Yahia Moussa, Tizi Ouzou.

**December 16, 2011**
A gendarme was wounded in a bomb explosion in El Kalâa, Boumerdès.

**December 7, 2011**
Terrorists kidnapped an entrepreneur in Thala Amara, Tizi Ouzou.

**November 29, 2011**
Security defuse bomb in Aïr, Boumerdès.  

**November 20, 2011**
Bomb hurts 3 soldiers, Mizrana, Tizi Ouzou.  

**November 19, 2011**
Terrorists kidnap doctor in Aït Aissi, Tizi Ouzou.

**November 19, 2011**
2 policemen and civilian wounded in a bomb explosion in Thénia, Boumerdès.

**November 15, 2011**
Terrorists wearing security uniforms kidnap doctor in Aït Aissi, Tizi Ouzou.

**November 10, 2011**
Terrorist group attacks a gas station in Ath Laksour, Bouira.

**November 3, 2011**
Terrorists kill repentant terrorist in Douar Hadj Ahmed, Zemmouri, Boumerdès.

**November 1, 2011**
E-MT was killed by a terrorist group in Oued Zegguer, Aïn Kechra, Skikda. The ambulance was targeted by a roadside bomb, and following the explosion, the driver was shot and killed.

**December 16, 2011**
A pipeline security guard was killed and 2 others were wounded in a roadside bomb explosion in Aomar, Bouira.

**December 5, 2011**
2 soldiers were wounded in a bomb explosion in Seyar, Khenchela.

**November 29, 2011**
E-MT killed by a terrorist group in Oued Zegguer, Aïn Kechra, Skikda. The ambulance was targeted by a roadside bomb, and following the explosion, the driver was shot and killed.
November 2, 2011
Bomb targets national police in Aomar, Bouira. No one wounded in the blast.

November 1, 2011
Terrorist set fire to a bar in Carrière, Assi Youzef, Tizi Ouzou. Armed men extort money, stealing patron cell phones before starting blaze.

October 25, 2011
4 soldiers were wounded in a bomb explosion in Tadmait, Tizi Ouzou.

October 22, 2011
AQIM ofshoot kidnaps 3 Western aid workers from Polisario-run refugee camp near Tindouf, Western Algeria.

October 20, 2011
Roadside bomb wounds 4 Algerian gendarmes near Zeboudja, Bouira.

October 17, 2011
Roadside bomb kills Algerian woman in Ait Slimane, Boumerdès. Sister and small child wounded in attack.

October 13, 2011
Civilian shot, wounded by terrorists at false checkpoint in Bogni, Tizi Ouzou.

October 11, 2011
4 civilians were wounded in a roadside bomb blast in Mekla, Tizi Ouzou.

October 9, 2011
2 civilians were wounded in a bomb explosion in Beni Amran, Boumerdès.

October 6, 2011
2 soldiers were killed in a bomb attack in Azzefoun, Tizi Ouzou.

October 3, 2011
Terrorists attack a bar in Boghn, Tizi Ouzou. No injuries, but armed band extorts money from patrons.

October 1, 2011
Bomb injures policeman in Zattra between Zemmourri and Si Mustapha, Boumerdès.

September 30, 2011
Bomb kills soldier and policeman in Ammal, Boumerdès.

September 28, 2011
3 Sonelgaz employees were wounded in a bomb explosion in Athourri, Tigzirt, Tizi Ouzou.

September 27, 2011
An entrepreneur was kidnapped by an armed group in Naciria, Boumerdès.

September 24, 2011
2 people were wounded in a bomb explosion near the airport in Taher, Jijel. The terrorists launched RPGs at the site. No one was injured in the attack.

September 23, 2011
2 bombs targeting a military patrol exploded in Lemsara, Tighlit Bouksas, Zekri. No one was injured in the attack.

September 19, 2011
3 members of the security forces were wounded in a terrorist attack in Ain Kechra, Skikda.

September 15, 2011
A gnome and her son were injured when their vehicle was attacked by terrorists in Ouled Ziane, Légata, Boumerdès.

TIMELINE: Terrorist attacks in the Maghreb and Sahel - 2011
September 14, 2011
Communal guard member assassinated in Tamalous, Sidi Mansour, Skikda.

August 26, 2011

August 23, 2011

September 14, 2011
2 soldiers were wounded in a bomb explosion in Merine, Sidi Bel Abbes.

August 24, 2011

August 21, 2011
2 members of the GLD were wounded in a terrorist attack in El Annab, El Amra, Ain Defla.

September 12, 2011
2 communal guards seriously wounded in a terrorist attack in Kenoua, Skikda.

August 24, 2011
Terrorists shot and killed a repentant terrorist in Baghilia, Boumerdès.

August 21, 2011
A communal guard was killed by an army deserter in Beni Ksila, Bejaïa.

September 10, 2011

August 20, 2011
Security forces diffused a bomb in Tidjelabine, on the road between Boumerdès and Algiers.

September 10, 2011

August 18, 2011
Bomb kills communal guard, wounds 2 others in Ouéd Foudhil, Kadiria, Bouira.

September 6, 2011
Security forces diffused 2 bombs on the N12 Roadway near Hai Louz, Thenia.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/deux-bombes-desamorces-sur-la-rr-12-pres-de-thenia_17180.html

August 18, 2011
A communal guard was killed by armed terrorists in Oued Dejmaa, Ain Defla.

August 29, 2011

August 24, 2011
Terrorists assassinated a member of the GLD in Boudouaou, Boumerdès.

August 18, 2011

August 24, 2011
1 soldier was killed and 2 were wounded in a bomb explosion in Taouarga, Boumerdès. http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/boumerdenses-cinq-personnes-tuees-par-des-terroristes_17040.html

August 21, 2011
A communal guard was killed by armed terrorists in Oued Dejmaa, Ain Defla.

August 27, 2011

August 23, 2011

August 18, 2011
Terrorists kill 3 civilians, wound 2 others in El Vir, Maâttas, Tizi Ouzou, while attempting to kidnap a young girl when neighbors intervened and the terrorists opened fire. http://www.maghabrebia.com/coconu/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2011/08/19/newsbrief-03

TIMELINE: Terrorist attacks in the Maghreb and Sahel – 2011
August 18, 2011
Terrorists assassinate communal guards leader in Zemmouri, Boumerdès.
http://www.magharebia.com/cocon/a
wi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbri
efs/general/2011/08/19/newsbrief-03

August 18, 2011
Bomb blasts army convoy in Ait Maâlem, Azefoun, Tizi Ouzou, wounds 1 soldier.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/tizi-
ouzou-explosion-d-une-bombe-a-
azefoun-18-08-2011-136691_109.php

August 17, 2011
Terrorists kill civilian and policeman in Tallâ Bouane, Beni Aissi, Tizi Ouzou.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/beni-
aissi-tizi-ouzou-deux-morts-dans-une-
attaque-terroriste-17-08-2011-
136558_109.php

August 16, 2011
Security forces diffused two bombs in the center of the town of Bouira.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/bouira-
a-vecu-une-nuit-de-cauchemar_16927.html

August 16, 2011
A civilian was injured during a shootout between terrorists and ANP soldiers in Beni Aissi, Tizi Ouzou.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/tizi-
ouzou-un-citoyen-eneve-puis-libere-
aazagga-01-08-2011-134705_109.php

August 16, 2011
A roadside bomb blast killed an Algerian soldier and wounded 5 others in Thenia, Boumerdès.
http://www.magharebia.com/cocon/a
wi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbri
efs/general/2011/08/17/newsbrief-02

August 14, 2011
Suicide car bomber attacks police station in Tizi Ouzoub, injures 33, including 12 police.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/attenta-
t-kamikaze-a-tizi-ouzou-la-kabylie-frappee-

August 10, 2011
Terrorists execute one of three kidnap victims in Djouahra, Bouira.
http://www.magharebia.com/divers/terrorisme-un-homme-
egorge-pres-de-bouira_16886.html

August 9, 2011
2 gendarmes were wounded in a bomb explosion in Issers, Boumerdès.
http://www.elwatan.com/une/boumerde-
s-seux-gendarmes-blesses-dans-l-
explosion-d-une-bombe-a-issers-09-08-
2011-135610_108.php

July 31, 2011
A civilian was kidnapped by an armed group in Azazga, Tizi Ouzou. He was released the following day.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/tizi-
ouzou-un-citoyen-eneve-puis-libere-
aazagga-01-08-2011-134705_109.php

July 27, 2011
Security forces defuse two bombs at ANP barracks in Bendoufîl, Kadia, Bouira. The bombs were founded in the same location as those in the July 19th attack, which injured 11 soldiers.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/deux-bombes-
desamorcees-devant-un-caserne-a-
bouira_16695.html

July 26, 2011
A suicide bomber blew himself up in the center of Bouhazma, Béjaïa. No bystanders were wounded in the attack.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/beija-
a-un-terroriste-s-est-fait-exploser-a-
bouhazma-26-07-2011-134092_109.php

July 26, 2011
3 soldiers wounded in bomb attack while carrying out a sweep operation in Bousekala, Sidi Semiane, Tipaza.
http://www.spectre-
international.com/documents/W-
3124thto31stJuly2011.pdf

July 23, 2011
A member of Algeria’s self-defence groups was killed by terrorists close to his home in Ouled Ziane, Boumerdès.
http://www.magharebia.com/cocon/a
wi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbri
efs/general/2011/07/24/newsbrief-03

July 19, 2011
11 soldiers were wounded in a dual bomb attack near the ANP barracks in Ouled Benfodhil, Kadia, Bouira. 2 soldiers later died from their injuries.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/onze-
militaires-blesses-dans-l-explosion-de-deux-
bombes-a-bouira_16584.html

July 16, 2011
Suicide bombers carried out a double attack in Bordj Menaïel, Boumerdès. 2 people killed and 13 others wounded, 5 civilians and 8 policemen. Members of AQIM cell of Droukdel suspected in the attack, for which AQIM subsequently claimed responsibility.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/2-
morts-et-13-blesses-dans-un-double-
attentat-kamikaze-17-07-2011-
132951_109.php

July 15, 2011
ANP officer wounded in a firefight with terrorists in Boudekha, Khouchla.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/un-
oficier-de-l-anc-blesse-dans-un-
accrochage-16-07-2011-132795_109.php

July 14, 2011
5 soldiers wounded in a bomb attack in Baghliia, Boumerdès, just hours after a first bomb attack the evening before.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/deux-
militaires-tues-et-six-autres-blesses-a-
baghliia-16-07-2011-132794_109.php

July 13, 2011
2 soldiers were killed and 1 wounded in a bomb attack in Baghliia, Boumerdès.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/deux-
militaires-tues-et-six-autres-blesses-a-
baghliia-16-07-2011-132794_109.php

July 10, 2011
A member of the GLD was assassinated by an armed group in Oued Sbaâ, Sidi Bel Abbès.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/sidi-
bel-abbes-un-membre-des-gld-assassin-
par-un-groupe-arme-a-oued-sbaa-11-07-
2011-132315_109.php

July 8, 2011
2 gendarmes were wounded in a bomb explosion on Sidi Abdelaziz beach, Jijel.
http://www.magharebia.com/cocon/a
wi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbri
efs/general/2011/07/10/newsbrief-02

**TIMELINE: Terrorist attacks in the Maghreb and Sahel – 2011**
July 4, 2011
Shepherd killed by a bomb explosion in Djebel Boukheil, Ain Rich, M’sila.

July 4, 2011
Armed Islamists opened fire on police station in Ain El Hamam, Tizi Ouzou, killing 1 policeman, wounding 1 other.

July 3, 2011
Bomb targets gendarme patrol in Bordj Menaïel, Boumerdès. No injuries.

July 3, 2011
Terrorists fired RPG at communal guards branch in Ahmed Salem, Kerkera, Skikda. No one injured.

July 1, 2011
1 soldier killed, 2 injured in a bomb explosion in Nacira, Boumerdès.

July 1, 2011
4 policemen, 1 civilian wounded in a bomb attack in Azeffoun, Tizi Ouzou.

June 29, 2011
Security forces diffused a bomb found on Tassalast Beach, Tizgirt, Tizi Ouzou.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/une-bombe-desamorcee-sur-la-plage-tassalast-de-tizgirt_16324.html

June 27, 2011
1 soldier killed, 3 others wounded by bomb in Legata, Bordj Bou Arreridj.

June 25, 2011
2 ANP troops seriously injured by roadside bomb in Beni Zid, Collo, Skikda. Device buried near military camp, detonated remotely when soldiers approached.

June 23, 2011
1 soldier killed, 8 others wounded in a terrorist attack against a military convoy in Azagza, Tizi Ouzou. 1 civilian killed, 1 other wounded in firefight.

June 20, 2011
1 soldier and 2 legitimate defense guards were wounded in a bomb explosion in Fil-Fila, Skikda.

June 15, 2011
A member of the communal guard was wounded in a bomb explosion on the road between Timezrit and Nacira in Tizouighine, Boumerdès.

June 13, 2011
A soldier was killed and 2 others were seriously wounded in a bomb explosion in Taboudoucht, Aghrir, Tizi Ouzou.

June 5, 2011
3 soldiers killed, 2 others wounded in terrorist attack on an army post in Bellouta, Sidi Abdelaziz, Jijel.

June 4, 2011
4 policemen, 1 injured by bomb on road from Bordj Menaïel to Nacira, Boumerdès.

May 30, 2011
5 gendarmes wounded by terrorists during sweep operation in Kaf Kala, Ténès.

May 30, 2011
2 soldiers were wounded in a bomb explosion in Mizrana, Tizi Ouzou.

May 28, 2011
A communal guard was injured in a terrorist attack in Ath Saada, Tadmait, Tizi Ouzou. The rest of the unit was able to thwart further attack by killing the terrorist armed with a rifle and a bomb as he tried to enter the barracks.

May 23, 2011
2 soldiers were killed in a bomb explosion in Kadria, Bouira. The bomb was remotely-detonated.

May 23, 2011
A roadside bomb targeting a convoy of soldiers exploded in Azeffoun, Tizi Ouzou. No one was wounded in the remotely-detonated explosion.

May 15, 2011
1 soldier was killed and 2 others were wounded in a firefight with a terrorist group in Ath Yenni, Tizi Ouzou.

May 14, 2011
An entrepreneur was kidnapped by armed men at a false roadblock in Mechtras, Bogni, Tizi Ouzou.

TIMELINE: Terrorist attacks in the Maghreb and Sahel - 2011
May 13, 2011

May 11, 2011

May 11, 2011

May 9, 2011

May 8, 2011
A repitant terrorist was killed by an armed group in Delys, Boumerdès. http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/un-repenti-tue-par-un-groupe-armee-a-delys_15550.html

May 7, 2011

May 6, 2011

May 6, 2011

May 6, 2011

April 29, 2011

April 29, 2011

April 28, 2011

April 27, 2011

April 27, 2011
2 gendarmes were killed and another wounded in a bomb explosion in Boumelh, Cap Djinet, Boumerdès. http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/deux-gendarmes-tues-et-un-troisieme-blesses-a-boumerdes_15392.html

April 26, 2011

April 18, 2011

April 14, 2011

April 13, 2011

April 11, 2011

April 17, 2011

April 17, 2011

April 17, 2011
1 soldier was killed and 3 others were wounded in a firefight with terrorists in Djerrah, Ammal, Boumerdès. http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/un-militaire-tue-et-deux-terroristes-abattus-a-boumerdes_15252.html

April 15, 2011

April 17, 2011
April 14, 2011
April 13, 2011
April 11, 2011
April 7, 2011
April 6, 2011
April 7, 2011

April 6, 2011
Bomb injures public works official on road from Tigzirt to Dellys, Tizi Ouzou. http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/

April 3, 2011

March 26, 2011

March 22, 2011

March 22, 2011

March 17, 2011

March 17, 2011

March 14, 2011

March 9, 2011
A civilian was killed when he stepped on a bomb in Alt Chafaa, Azzefout. http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/un-homme-dechiquete-par-une-bombe-pres-d-azzefout_14733.html

March 8, 2011
5 civilians were killed in a bomb explosion in Selmana, Djelfa. http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/cinq-civils-tues-dans-l-explosion-d-une-bombe-pres-de-djelfa_14685.html

February 28, 2011

February 21, 2011

February 14, 2011

February 14, 2011

February 10, 2011

February 7, 2011

February 5, 2011

February 5, 2011

February 2, 2011

January 30, 2011

January 30, 2011
Security services defuse 8 bombs near scene of terror attack that killed a Tizi Ouzou communal guard earlier in day. Investigators found two devices hidden inside juice containers at schoolyard. http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2011/01/31/newsbrief-02

January 28, 2011

January 26, 2011

TIMELINE: Terrorist attacks in the Maghreb and Sahel - 2011

### Mali

| **December 20, 2011** | Armed Polisario militia kill man, abduct 3 in El Hank, N. Mali, 40 miles from Algeria. [http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=49540](http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=49540) |
| **June 28, 2011** | Landmine kills 3 civilians in Wagadou Forest, near Mauritanian border. [https://wits.nctc.gov/FederalDiscoverWITS/index.do?Rcv=Incident&R=25636&nav=Radius%25DCounty%25C4294948489%25C5Mali%26Nrc%3Did%2BB063%2Bdynam%2Bdisable%26N%3Dp_IncidentDate01-06-2011%26N%3D0%26Ns%3Dp_IncidentDate10-06-2011](https://wits.nctc.gov/FederalDiscoverWITS/index.do?Rcv=Incident&R=25636&nav=Radius%25DCounty%25C4294948489%25C5Mali%26Nrc%3Did%2BB063%2Bdynam%2Bdisable%26N%3Dp_IncidentDate01-06-2011%26N%3D0%26Ns%3Dp_IncidentDate10-06-2011) |

### Mauritania


### Timeline: Terrorist attacks in the Maghreb and Sahel - 2011
**Morocco**

**2011**

**July 21, 2011**
Member of Morocco’s auxiliary forces killed by terrorists at Algerian border, trying prevent attempt by four Algerian terrorists to infiltrate Morocco’s province of Jerada for food supplies.


**April 28, 2011**
Bomb explodes in Marrakech’s Djemma El-Fna Square, killing 15, wounding at least 20 others, many of them foreigners. Bomb, placed inside popular tourist café, was set off remotely. AQIM denied responsibility, but suspected in attack.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13226117

**Tunisia**

**2011**

**July 21, 2011**
A Libyan-American charity worker was kidnapped in the Tunisian city of Ras Jedir, close to the Libyan border.


**Niger**

**2011**

**September 16, 2011**
A soldier was killed and 2 others wounded in a clash with elements of AQIM in the Air mountains, located in the north of the country.


**June 12, 2011**
1 soldier was killed and 6 others were wounded in a skirmish between armed men and the military in Arlit. AQIM was suspected of perpetrating the attack.

http://www.jeuneafrique.com/Article/ARTJAWEB20110614083241/

**January 8, 2011**
2 French nationals found dead near Mali border with Niger. The two, seized the day before at a restaurant in the capital Niamey, were reportedly killed in a rescue operation involving French and Nigerien security forces. AQIM later claimed responsibility.


**Timeline:** Terrorist attacks in the Maghreb and Sahel - 2011
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