Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2013

Yonah Alexander

Fifth Annual Report

January 2014
Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2013

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Two major security and stability challenges are facing contemporary societies in Africa and elsewhere. The first stems from natural disasters such as earthquakes, famine, drought, and wildfires. The second is man-made threats, including crime, piracy, terrorism, ethnic and religious strife, and war.

Starting in the late 1960’s and subsequent three decades, the Institute for Studies in International Terrorism (ISIT), initially administered by the State University of New York system, in collaboration with educational bodies in the US and abroad, conducted academic work dealing with Africa’s security concerns and their global implications. For instance, in the early 1980’s ISIT, in cooperation with the Center for Strategic and International Studies at Georgetown University, the Institute for Social and Behavioral Pathology at the University of Chicago, and the University of Abadan in Nigeria, was awarded a Rockefeller Foundation grant to scholars from around the world to conduct a cooperative study on exploring solutions to conflicts in Africa and elsewhere. This project resulted in a publication of the book *International Violence* co-edited by Tunde Adeniran and Yonah Alexander (Praeger 1983).

Since that early academic effort, numerous seminars, conferences, and publications have been undertaken by the Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies (IUCTS), a consortium of universities and think tanks in more than 40 countries. This entity was subsequently administered by the Terrorism Studies program at George Washington University, and for the past 15 years by the International Center for Terrorism Studies (ICTS) at the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies in Arlington, Va. and the Inter-University Center for Legal Studies (IUCLS) at the International Law Institute (ILI) in Washington, D.C.

The current study, “Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2013,” published in January 2014 by IUCTS, represents the Fifth Annual Report focusing on terrorist threats in the Maghreb—Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia—as well as adjacent areas of the Sahel—Chad, Mali, Niger—and their strategic security implications regionally and globally. The first Special Report in this series “Why the Maghreb Matters: Threats Opportunities & Options for Effective U.S. Engagement in North Africa” was published by the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies and Conflict Management Program at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies on March 31, 2009. This initial study was guided by a bipartisan panel of experts, including former Secretary of State Madeline Albright, General (ret.) Wesley Clark, Ambassador (ret.) Stuart Eizenstat, Professor William Zartman, and other distinguished former officials and academics. The panel recommended more effective engagement in the region to prevent the brewing security crisis from erupting in the region and beyond.

This fundamental recommendation was also underscored in subsequent annual reports published in 2010, 2011, and 2012, which contained alarming statistics on the growing “arc of stability” in the region. The 2013 study hopefully provides data and analysis required for policymakers to unilaterally and collectively develop coherent and realistic strategies to combat the global expansion of terrorism.

Special appreciation is due to many colleagues in the United States, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and elsewhere who provided valuable data and insights for our study. In particular, mention should be made of the academic opportunity to participate at NATO’s Centre of Excellence—Defence Against Terrorism’s advance workshop on “Terrorist Threats in North Africa From NATO Perspective,” held in Ankara, Turkey, November 19-20, 2013. My colleagues Michael S. Swetnam, CEO & Chairman, Potomac Institute for Policy Studies and Professor Don Wallace, Jr., Chairman, International Law Institute, also deserve appreciation for their encouragement and support of our academic work. Our current Spring 2014 team at IUCTS, coordinated by Sharon Layani and with the support of James Nusse, has provided useful data. Bill Mays, Herbert Levine, and Mary Ann Culver have also contributed editorial guidance.

The author, the individuals, and the institutions listed above, cannot be held responsible for errors or any other consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this publication from the noted sources.
NEW TERRORISM HOT SPOT: AFRICA’S ‘ARC OF INSTABILITY’

"Terrorism in North Africa & the Sahel in 2013: Global Reach & Implications"
Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies, January 2014

SOURCES:
2) "Failed States Index 2010," Foreign Policy and The Fund for Peace, June 2010.
4) "Trans-Saharan Counterterrorism Initiative (TSCTI) / Pan Sahel Initiative, Intrinsic Forces" (map), GlobalSecurity.org, May 7, 2011.
Terrorism in North Africa & the Sahel in 2013

By Yonah Alexander

Regional Threat Assessment

Since 9/11, a disturbing trend of security challenges with global reach is emerging in the Maghreb, Sahel, and other territories in Africa. It is brutally demonstrated by the escalation in violent attacks mounted by a broad range of lawless subnational groups from Mali to Somalia and beyond. These perpetrators, motivated by ethnic, racial, religious, tribal, and national ideologies, include an expanding array of Al-Qaida-affiliated and like-minded extremist groups and their associates, such as Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Boko Haram, Ansaru, Ansar Dine, Ansar Al-Sharia, the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), al-Mourabitoun, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MLNA), Al-Shabaab, and militant recruits from the Polisario-run refugee camps and other displaced persons.

It is of particular ominous concern to the region as well as to global interests that these political and social entities constitute formally or informally a “holy alliance” of “like-minded” movements as well as “strange bedfellows,” operating in an “arc of instability” from the Atlantic to the Red Sea and elsewhere. The strategic map of the “new terrorism hot spots” included in this study provides visual evidence of activities in North, Central, West, and East Africa as well as the spillover to and from other continents.

More specifically, the statistical record of 2013 indicates that terrorist attacks in the Maghreb and Sahel increased an alarming 60 percent from the previous year, totaling 230 incidents region wide, the highest annual total in the region over the past twelve years.
Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2013

Regional Threat Assessment

Since 9/11, terrorist attacks by AQIM and other extremists have increased more than 600 percent from their low point. Countries most affected by new attacks in 2013 were Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, and Mali. These four countries are dealt with in a brief security survey later in this report.

It is in this context of increasing violence that the U.N. Security Council convened a special session in March 2013 and warned that an “arc of instability” was stretching across the Sahara and Sahel regions, and, “if left unchecked, it could transform the continent into a breeding ground for extremists and a launch pad for larger-scale terrorist attacks around the world.” And this spread of instability is no more evident than in those countries bordering the Sahara and Sahel regions that have come under increasing attacks and terrorist incidents.

Across the broader region, existing and emerging threats grew apace in 2013.

On May 23, 2013, Mokhtar Belmokhtar, who directed the deadly January 16, 2013 attack at In Amenas in Algeria, teamed up with the Mali-based MUJAO to conduct two attacks in Niger that killed 20 people at a military base and uranium-mine site supplying France’s nuclear power plants.

In Nigeria, the continent’s most populous nation, Boko Haram (meaning “Western education is sacrilege” in the Hausa language), continues to mount terrorist attacks and seeks to impose its version of strict Islamic law in the country. Additionally, Boko Haram operatives have been involved in hostilities in Mali and cooperate with AQIM and Al-Shabaab. Reportedly, links also have been established with Hizballah, allowing the Lebanese terrorist group to run a weapons armory in northern Nigeria.

Other African countries of concern bordering the Maghreb and Sahel in 2013 were Somalia, Kenya, the Central African Republic, and South Sudan. Al-Shabaab terrorists attacked the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya in September, killing some 59 civilians and injuring 125 more. The casualties included individuals from Kenya, Britain, France, China, Ghana, and Canada. And in December, fighting between rival ethnic groups in northern Kenya resulted in thousands of people fleeing into Ethiopia.

Meanwhile in Somalia, Al-Shabaab escalated its nearly routine attacks in different parts of the country. It is noteworthy that members of the group include not only Somali nationals but also citizens of Kenya, Syria, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Russia, Finland, and Sweden. The security situation in the country has apparently deteriorated to such an extent that the United States military secretly deployed advisors in Somalia last year for the first time since 1993 when 18 soldiers were killed in the “Black Hawk Down” disaster.

The anarchy and expanding sectarian violence between Muslims and Christian militias in the Central African Republic has drawn attention from regional political leaders and the UN to quell growing instability. By the end of 2013, the U.N. Security Council approved a resolution for joint military action by African and French forces to intervene in the country in order to restore stability and peace in the Republic, which is currently on the brink of religious warfare.
Another security challenge is the escalation of long-standing conflicts involving terrorism and other forms of violence in the Republic of South Sudan that have tribal overtones. The government of democratically elected President Salva Kiir is battling against an alleged coup initiated by a rival leader Riek Machar, a former Vice President.

This mutiny threatens to plunge the newest country in Africa into a costly civil war ultimately affecting the interests of other regional nations (e.g., Uganda) and the international community at large (e.g., United Nations Peacekeeping Forces in Africa).

To be sure, the “arc of instability,” involving terrorists, insurgents, and militant forces has also affected quite dramatically the North African nation of Egypt. After the ouster of President Mohamed Morsi in July 2013 by General Abdel Fatah El Sisi, extremist groups initiated terrorist attacks within the country, including in the Sinai Peninsula.

For instance, on December 23, a car bomb destroyed the police headquarters in Mansura, killing 16 people and injuring 140. Two days later the military-backed interim government labeled the Muslim Brotherhood a “terrorist movement.” It is expected that this designation will encourage members of existing affiliated groups such as Ansar Jerusalem (also known as Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis) to escalate their operations against Egypt at home and abroad.

The “long-arm” of Jihadist terror is increasingly evident beyond the African continent. Most notable were the operations in 2013 planned and executed by Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) based in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. Moreover, an expanded involvement of Al-Qaida affiliated fighters, citizens of dozens of nations, are operating in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and elsewhere in Asia and the Pacific.

Thus, the developing vulnerable “underbelly” of these vast territories in 2013 and the first month of 2014 poses a significant threat to the interests of the United States, Europe, and their friends and allies everywhere.

While the statistical analysis in this report focuses on the Maghreb and Sahel states, the continuing challenges to stability in the broader reaches of Africa, driven by many terrorist and extremist groups, must be taken into account. Arms flowing from Gaddafi’s storehouses can be found in many areas of Africa and the Middle East.

Jihadis and Salafis across Africa through the Middle East to Malaysia and Indonesia exchange information, tactics, and operational priorities via the Internet. Humanitarian crises are exploited by militant groups to stock their gangs, expand criminal networks, and raise significant obstacles to reconciliation among warring groups and factions.

In many ways, 2013 is a milestone in the proliferation of the negative consequences of the breakdown in post-Cold War authoritarian regimes and conflict mismanagement by external and internal forces.
Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2013

Terrorism’s Growing Regional Profile:

Case Studies

Examination of terrorist threats in the Maghreb and Sahel in 2013 reveals a shifting geopolitical security threat environment. During 2012, jihadist and salafist attacks in Mali, Algeria, and Nigeria represented the gravest strategic challenges within the broader regional “arc of instability.”

Mali took its initial steps toward normalization, but growing security challenges due to the unfinished transitions borne in the Arab Spring saw Mali, Libya, Algeria, and Tunisia as the countries with the largest number of terrorist attacks in 2013.

Although these profiles represent the most troubling security challenges in the region, it would be foolish to ignore indicators of instability and conflict in the other countries of the region that had fewer or no reported incidents of terrorism in 2013—Chad, Mauritania, Morocco, and Niger.

In Chad, the security situation has steadily improved in the past few years, but the country has a long history of instability and is located in an increasingly dangerous neighborhood.

Mauritania continues to be threatened by AQIM and other terrorist groups operating in the region, who take advantage of porous borders to carry out attacks. The kidnapping threat likewise remains high.

While Morocco has been successful in combating terrorism – taking down a number of terrorist cells in 2013 – there is evidence of fighters from across the Maghreb are participating in jihadi activities in Syria.

As for Niger, it experienced one of the deadliest attacks of the year, when MUJAO detonated two car bombs simultaneously in a military camp and at a French-operated uranium mine.

The data tells an important story, but it is not the only story. Terrorist incidents are taking place in a broader environment of insecurity across the Maghreb and Sahel – and all countries of the region face varying, albeit serious threats.

The following brief assessments of the four countries with the highest incidents of terrorism nevertheless provide an important overview of the complex security challenges in these countries and might lead to better understanding of the regional and global implications in 2013 and beyond.
Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2013

Case Studies

Libya

In 2012, numerous political, religious, and tribal militias emerged in the power vacuum contesting the new Libyan government. These militias are being enabled by small arms as well as sophisticated weapons such as portable surface to air anti-aircraft missiles looted from Gaddafi’s armories during and after the revolution.

Clearly one of the most devastating terrorist attacks mounted by Al-Qaeda affiliates against U.S. interests took place on September 11, 2012 when the American Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other State Department officials were brutally murdered in Benghazi at the U.S. diplomatic mission.

This single act of violence is emblematic of the lawlessness and fragmentation of the country. In 2013, a total of 145 major terrorist attacks were recorded, including kidnappings, assassinations, bombings, and direct assaults on government facilities and personnel.

Clashes also were reported among different armed groups. In addition, government officials, police, security officers, and the military were frequently targeted. Ordinary citizens were also victimized as well as foreign workers and diplomats.

The violence will continue in 2014 as the battle over the country’ governance, balance of power among competing groups, and control of Libya’s oil fields intensifies. For example, The Council of Cyrenaica has already mapped out an autonomy plan for the eastern region, thereby threatening further destabilization.

Meanwhile, militant groups such as Ansar Al-Sharia are continuing to infiltrate, destabilize, and organize, waiting in the wings to turn Libya into the “Land of Jihad” with dire consequences for neighboring countries.
The number of terrorist incidents in Algeria fell to 51 in 2013 after reaching 132 attacks in 2012. This significant statistical shift can be accounted primarily to the lessons learned by the government from the most spectacular terrorist operation in the country’s decades-long history of bloodshed, namely, the January 16, 2013 assault on the gas field of Tiguentourine, near In Amenas, a region close to the Libyan border, located some 1,300 km from Algiers.

The Islamic Katiba militia (Al-Mouthalimun) led by Mokhtar Belmokhtar, who split from AQIM in 2012, and consisting of some 32 assailants of different nationalities (e.g. Algerian, Tunisian, Malian, Nigerian, Egyptian, and Canadian), took over areas of the large facility operated by companies from Algeria, France, Japan, Norway, and the U.K. The terrorists, who reportedly trained for two months in Mali and were heavily armed, held some 700 Algerians and 134 foreign nationals hostage. The attackers demanded, inter alia, the withdrawal of French forces from Mali and offered to free US captives in exchange for the release of the Egyptian leader Omar Abdel-Rahman and Pakistan’s top scientist Aafia Siddiqui.

Algeria ruled out negotiating with the terrorists and launched a military rescue mission on the day following the start of the siege. After some 50 hours of fierce fighting, Algeria announced that 685 Algerians and 101 foreigners had been freed by the operation, but the death toll was costly—11 Algerians and 37 foreign nationals (including three Americans, three Britons, and ten Japanese). Clearly, the strategic and tactical implications of the extraordinary international hostage crisis were fully assessed by Algeria. Its government has developed a series of security upgrades to improve its counterterrorism strategies. For instance, it has stationed 6,000 soldiers on the border with Tunisia to prevent terrorists from crossing the border, and is working with the International Oil Companies (IOCs) to train security forces for the energy installations that may combine government and private personnel.

Algeria nevertheless faces ongoing challenges in guarding its borders, particularly in the southwest, where AQIM and other criminal groups engage in cross-border terrorism and trafficking. AQIM and others have similarly sought to exploit the situation in the refugee camps run by the Polisario Front near Tindouf by actively recruiting there. There is thus growing danger of radicalization in the refugee camps run by the Polisario Front near Tindouf, which a report from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon in April warned were a “ticking time bomb.”

Despite the distractions of the upcoming presidential election, the Algerian military and security services are focusing a great deal of energy on securing its borders with Morocco, Libya, Mali, and Tunisia to reduce infiltration, the flow of arms and smuggled goods, and block access to the country.
Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2013

Case Studies

Tunisia

Three years after the “Jasmine Revolution” overthrew the autocratic regime of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and inspired other countries to rise up in the Arab Spring, Tunisia is still vulnerable to both domestic and foreign terrorist threats.

Although the security situation in the country has been marked by the absence of the large-scale violence seen in Libya and Syria, the widespread dissatisfaction with social and economic opportunities and the government’s inability to respond effectively is potentially explosive.

In 2013, the total number of terrorist incidents reached 17, indicating a worrisome trend of insecurity in the country. Most of the attacks seem to have a political coloration rather than large-scale public disruptions.

For instance, on February 6 an “unknown” gunman killed a government critic and leader of the opposition Democratic Patriots Party, Chikri Belaid. In June, the Defense Ministry warned of major terrorist operations.

The Prime Minister in late August declared that the terrorist organization Ansar Al-Sharia was planning a series of assassinations to establish an Islamic emirate.

In the face of these potential terrorist threats the government’s state of emergency was extended until June 2014. And in November, both Tunisia and Algeria called for establishing joint-mechanisms to combat terrorism and the proliferation of arms trafficking in the region.
Mali

In the exposed Sahel, a new failed state the size of Texas, with ominous strategic implications, emerged in Mali in 2012. This strategic threat was created initially when the secular Tuareg rebels, who fought alongside Gaddafi in Libya, returned home and joined indigenous forces to establish the MNLA.

Exploiting a March 2012 political coup in the capital of Bamako and capturing important towns in the north, including the historic city of Timbuktu, the Tuareg fighters, together with Islamic fundamentalist groups such as Ansar Dine, declared their independent Azawad state. This development sparked security concerns and outrage from neighboring countries, particularly Algeria and Niger, and international bodies including the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the United Nations.

By summer 2012, northern Mali had fallen under the control of various Salafi jihadist organizations including AQIM, MUJAO, Ansar Dine, Al-Qaida’s El Moulethemine Brigade, and the Libyan extremists of Ansar Al-Sharia. It was reported that AQIM was provided training, financial assistance, and weapons to its affiliates and had attracted an influx of recruits from the region including militants from the Polisario camps in Algeria, displaced refugees, and radicals from Western countries.

In January 2013, an international donor conference on Mali pledged over $450 million to help cover expenses of the Africa-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA) and to begin development projects in the country. Interim President Traore ruled out any negotiations with the Islamists, although he did indicate a willingness to hold talks with secular Tuareg rebels.

Meaning in 2013 a total of 16 terrorist incidents were counted. They included kidnappings, suicide bombings, car-bomb blasts, rocket attacks, and direct assaults on police and military forces, including U.N. peacekeepers.

It is noteworthy that as an element of a counterterrorism strategy both Mali and Morocco agreed in November 2013 to create religious projects to help prevent the spread of extremism.

Similarly, in 2013 France agreed to train the Malian police force and supply it with the needed equipment to combat terrorism in the country. Moreover, Germany, along with the other European Union members, offered to train the Malian army to support their military mission in fighting terrorism.
Conclusion

To say anything with certainty about prospects for reducing terrorism in North Africa, the Sahel, and adjoining regions in Africa is purely speculative and beyond the intention of this report.

Watching the trends leads one to be quite pessimistic about the short-term future. We are definitely engaged in a generational and socio-cultural conflict that is afflicting the global community and has consequences beyond any country's borders.

It is hope that this report, with its emphasis on North Africa and the Sahel, will encourage greater strategic attention and focused policy initiatives on the region to enable the seeds of conflict resolution, political accommodation, economic and social development, and national reconciliation to emerge and reduce the forces of instability and chaos.

These solutions, to be sustainable and effective, require an integration of international and local resolve and resources.

Without an effective menu of responses to the challenges of terrorism and instability highlighted in this report, the impact will only continue to grow as a threat to the global community.
Selected Recommendations

Due to the growing political uncertainty and instability in the Maghreb, Sahel, and bordering areas during 2013, many of the recommendations made in the previous four reports are still relevant. The Sahel and bordering countries continue to have large areas of ungoverned space where terrorists and other radicals move with alacrity along well-traveled smuggling and supply routes that defy ongoing interdiction efforts.

The manifold security threats emanating from the Maghreb and Sahel have now been reinforced by unrest in Egypt, Somalia, the Central African Republic, and South Sudan, in addition to the spillover of jihadists returning from the fighting in Syria and Iraq.

With so much uncertainty and such diverse challenges, it is imperative that the international community, particularly the West, work diligently with regional authorities to implement and expand security capabilities, as well as political, social, and economic development programs to generate antidotes to the poisons that are a growing threat to the stability, peace, and prosperity of the region.

Indeed, the stakes are too high for America to disengage from the Maghreb and the Sahel. The more than 600 percent rise in regional terrorism since 9/11 is being fed by the increasing instability in weak and transitioning states. This report does not recommend that the US reconfigure itself as the arbiter of regional security issues. Rather, it is a reminder that America’s vital interests in the region and those of our friends and allies are under assault by extremists and radicals who are doing us harm and want to inflict more damage in their wake.

As outlined in previous reports, there are no “silver bullets” in combating terrorism, instability, and insecurity. The scope of what must be done is quite broad, and these recommendations cover both hard and soft solutions, including a range of tactical and strategic steps that need to be taken to bring more security and stability to the region by reducing the presence and impact of terrorism and other forms of violence while enlarging capacity for transparent, effective local leadership. The following recommendations are not fully inclusive but hopefully provide a useful framework for continued discussion and action.

I. Take proactive steps with regional and global leaders to prevent further instability.

1. US and NATO intelligence assets must be strengthened by broadening cooperation through AFRICOM, Partnerships for Peace, and other modalities that supply and support training, equipment, and monitoring resources throughout the region.

2. Work towards the diplomatic resolution of the Western Sahara conflict and other outstanding disputes that inhibit both security and economic cooperation in the Maghreb and Sahel.

3. Cooperate with international monitors to conduct a census in the Polisario-controlled camps near Tindouf, Algeria, which pose a threat to regional security as a recruiting ground for terrorists and traffickers. The current Polisario military units should be disbanded and the refugees who have lived in those camps should be given an opportunity to migrate elsewhere in the region.
II. Reinforce the security capabilities of local and regional partners with hard and soft power.

1. Continue to expand US counterterrorism technical assistance to internal security personnel.

2. Host programs to provide assistance over the longer term in support of inclusive political dialogue and the robust empowerment of civil society to advance consensus building and development of conflict resolution mechanisms.

3. Continue to support regional and country-specific reforms that promote human rights, economic development, independent judiciaries, transparency, and the rule of law.

III. Invest in human and economic development to enhance regional and national security

1. Support critical infrastructure programs such as Power Africa and the Trans-Africa Highway through foreign assistance and investments from the US private sector in public private partnerships.

2. Working with international donor agencies, support “triangular aid” projects in areas of health, water, sanitation, power, primary education, and related necessities. Initiate and advance indigenous solutions whenever possible.

3. Promote regional trade and investment by expanding the US-Morocco Free Trade Agreement provisions to include products from North, West, and Central Africa.

4. Expand foreign assistance programs through U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), and the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) to build platforms for developing young leaders in the public and private sectors.

Big stakes, big risks can be managed by small significant steps

In sum, these recommendations indicate that the security requirements in the region will only be fulfilled by accepting the need for consistent and well-defined steps. To be sure, this approach is not solely the responsibility of the US. America’s mission will be accomplished provided it can partner with its friends and allies in Europe and elsewhere to work on these measures that, over time and with strong local participation, will greatly reduce security threats emanating from the regions in turmoil stretching across Africa and beyond.

The war the international community and particularly the West is waging is generational, institutional, and unavoidable. With America’s partners in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere, there are solutions that can be achieved based on shared value and mutual interests. While the Maghreb and Sahel nations manage local crises, America’s leaders should place more emphasis on building public support for the hard and soft power solutions that will make a difference regionally and globally.
Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2013

**CHRONOLOGY:** Incidents of Terrorism in the Maghreb & Sahel

**Sept. 11, 2001 – Dec. 31, 2013**

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

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

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<td>1 attack 17 attacks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chronology from September 11, 2001 to December 31, 2013 (Updated with 2013 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)


And for 2012: [http://www.potomacinstitute.org/attachments/article/1358/Terrorism_in_North_Africa_and_the_Sahel.pdf](http://www.potomacinstitute.org/attachments/article/1358/Terrorism_in_North_Africa_and_the_Sahel.pdf)

Methodology — Compilation of this comprehensive listing of Maghreb/Sahel terrorism is based on monthly review of respected news and think tank websites, including international media and national press in the countries monitored—Algeria, Chad, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, and Tunisia. “Terrorist incidents” counted are those where a recognized terrorist group is believed responsible, and results in death, injury, or kidnapping of civilians, government officials, or security services, or destruction of property, or threat to life and property where attacks are thwarted or bombs defused. Every incident includes the source cited.

Not included are acts of violence that occur in the context of explicit civil war or open armed conflict areas—as generally reported by the news media—and also terrorist losses in government counter-terrorism actions, or indigenous acts of religious extremism by ethnic and religious groups, including application of strict religious law. Lack of publicly available information likely results in undercounting in regions controlled by terrorists/extremists, with higher—though more accurate—relative counts where media outlets are more firmly established.

All eight countries have suffered terrorist incidents during the 13 years tracked since Sept. 11, 2001. The 2013 Chronology below includes those countries experiencing incidents during the past calendar year — Algeria, Libya, Mali, Tunisia and Niger. See table on preceding page and hyperlinks above for incidents experienced by Chad, Mauritania, and Morocco in other years.

### 2013

**November 27, 2013**
An Algerian civilian was injured during a botched kidnapping near Tizi Ouzou.

**November 26, 2013**
An Algerian trader was kidnapped in Illoula Oumalou.

**November 9, 2013**
Terrorists killed an Algerian trader at a fake checkpoint in Larbaatache, 30 km west of Boumerdes.

**November 6, 2013**
2 soldiers were seriously injured in a roadside bomb explosion near the town of Adekar in the Bejaia Province.

**October 15, 2013**
A bomb exploded near the national police headquarters in El Mayen, Bordj Bou Arreridj wilaya. No casualties or damages were reported.

**October 7, 2013**
Terrorists abducted an entrepreneur in Timdiouane, Jijel province.

**October 3, 2013**
A roadside bomb blast injured 3 civilians Thursday near Bouira. The explosion occurred as a minibus drove near a military barracks in Kadia.

**September 26, 2013**
A roadside bomb blast killed 2 brothers and injured their friend in Tebessa.

**September 21, 2013**
3 communal guards were injured in a blast near Bouira.

**September 8, 2013**
2 soldiers were killed in a bomb explosion near Tizi Ouzou.

**September 7, 2013**
2 workers were killed in a bomb explosion near Seddat.

**August 20, 2013**
A homemade bomb was found and disarmed in Delflys.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 11, 2013</td>
<td>4 Algerian policemen and a 23-year-old woman were injured when a roadside bomb exploded between Baghilia and Delys, east of Boumerdes.</td>
<td><a href="http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/08/12/newsbrief-02">http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/08/12/newsbrief-02</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 23, 2013</td>
<td>2 forest guards were killed and 2 others wounded by bomb in Sellala, Kaderia, Bouira.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tsalgerie.com/actualite/item/1284-deux-gardes-forestiers-tues-a-bouira-un-terroriste-abattu-a-bordj-bou-areridj">http://www.tsalgerie.com/actualite/item/1284-deux-gardes-forestiers-tues-a-bouira-un-terroriste-abattu-a-bordj-bou-areridj</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 18, 2013</td>
<td>Terrorists fired mortars at an Algerian army barracks in Lakhdaria, Bouira. ANP soldiers repelled the attack.</td>
<td><a href="http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/06/19/newsbrief-03">http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/06/19/newsbrief-03</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 30, 2013</td>
<td>An Algerian police officer was killed by Bouira terrorists.</td>
<td><a href="http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/05/31/newsbrief-01">http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/05/31/newsbrief-01</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 26, 2013</td>
<td>A bomb targeted a police patrol near Bouira. 2 police vehicles were damaged, but no one was injured.</td>
<td><a href="http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/05/27/newsbrief-03">http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/05/27/newsbrief-03</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 7, 2013</td>
<td>A bomb attack near Boumerdès left 2 security guards dead and several others wounded. The device was planted inside the canteen of a Kedda quarry.</td>
<td><a href="http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/05/08/newsbrief-02">http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/05/08/newsbrief-02</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23, 2013</td>
<td>2 soldiers were seriously wounded in a bomb near village of Adrar, Tizi Ouzou.</td>
<td><a href="http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/04/24/newsbrief-02">http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/04/24/newsbrief-02</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
April 20, 2013
3 police were wounded in a bomb explosion on the road between Theniet El Had and Youssoufia, Tissemsilt.

March 19, 2013
3 civilians were wounded in a bomb explosion in Ain Kehra, Skikda.

February 6, 2013
A group of 50 terrorists attacked an Algerian military barracks in Khemchela. The ANP troops were able to protect the facility and prevent any losses. The attack began with the kidnapping of 2 civilians, including a truck driver who supplied the barracks with food. During three hours of fighting, the army killed 2 attackers. 6 soldiers were wounded.
http://www.magharebia.com/coconon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/02/07/newsbrief-02

March 13, 2013
A man was wounded in a bomb explosion in Djebel Labiod, Tébessa.
http://www.elwatan.com/regions/est/actualite/nouvelles-de-tebessa-16-03-2013-206767_221.php

January 27, 2013
Heavily armed terrorists targeted a gas pipeline in Ain Chrikka, Djebahia, Bouira, attacking security officials responsible for site, killing 2 and wounding 7 others.

April 5, 2013
4 soldiers were wounded in a bomb explosion in Tiliouache, Mirzana.

January 16, 2013
4 police were wounded in a bomb attack on the road between Dellys and Baghila, Boumerdès.

April 3, 2013
The governor of Médéa province survived an assassination attempt by al-Qaeda terrorists in Mezghena. Terrorists opened fire on police officers who were securing the route for the governor’s convoy. 1 police officer was killed and 2 others wounded. The operation was followed by a bomb blast targeting an army vehicle that responded to the scene. No one was wounded in the bomb attack.

April 2, 2013
A homemade bomb planted by Algerian terrorists left a shepherd with serious injuries. The victim stepped on the device while grazing his flock in Amnal, Boumerdès.

February 17, 2013
An Algerian woman was seriously wounded in a bomb explosion near Thénia, Boumerdès. The victim reportedly stepped on the explosive device, buried by terrorists in an olive grove.
http://www.magharebia.com/coconon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/02/18/newsbrief-02

January 16, 2013
Islamist militants attacked a gas plant in In Amenas, near the border with Libya, sparking a four-day siege that resulted in the deaths of at least 48 foreigners. The militants first attacked two buses carrying foreign workers to the facility, killing 2, and then moved on to attack the gas facilities living quarters and main installation, taking over 100 foreign workers hostage and banning 700 Algerian workers from leaving the facility. The Algerian army subsequently launched a raid on the facility, killing all of the hostage-takers. In the aftermath of the raid, 2 hostages remain unaccounted for. Among the dead include foreign workers from the UK, the US, Colombia, Japan, the Philippines, Norway, Malaysia, and Romania. The Khaled Abu al-Abbas Brigade, led by Molkttar Belmokhtar, claimed responsibility.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-21114512

March 24, 2013
16 soldiers were wounded in a bomb explosion in Kef Khoudir, Biskra. The soldiers were aboard a troop transport vehicle which was targeted by the bomb.

February 11, 2013
3 civilians were wounded in a bomb explosion in Zarif El Waâr, Nègrine, Tébessa.

April 8, 2013
Soldiers defused a homemade bomb near the Lakhdaria railway station, north of Bouira. The device reportedly targeted the daily passenger train between Algiers and Bejaia.
http://www.magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/04/09/newsbrief-02

February 21, 2013
A soldier was wounded in a bomb explosion in Aïd El Kheir, Béjaïa.

March 5, 2013
A bomb blast in Tizi Ouzou wounded an Algerian army officer. The explosive device went off while soldiers were conducting a search operation between Azaza and Yakourene.
http://www.magharebia.com/coconon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/03/06/newsbrief-03

January 10, 2013
A civilian was wounded in a bomb explosion in Boualahdjeg, Jijel.
### Libya

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 9, 2013</td>
<td>An official from the passports office in Sirte was killed when gunmen fired on his car.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/12/10/passports-official-in-sirte-shot-dead/#axzz2nekcwrvC">http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/12/10/passports-official-in-sirte-shot-dead/#axzz2nekcwrvC</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 13, 2013</td>
<td>A bomb went off at a restaurant in Derna.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/12/13/bomb-blast-at-deerna-restaurant/#axzz2nekcwrvC">http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/12/13/bomb-blast-at-deerna-restaurant/#axzz2nekcwrvC</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 20, 2013</td>
<td>Colonel Fethallah al-Gaziri - the head of military intelligence in Benghazi - was shot dead Friday while in Derna for a family wedding.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/12/20/awi/features/2013/12/23/feature-01">http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/12/20/awi/features/2013/12/23/feature-01</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 21, 2013</td>
<td>A suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into a security checkpoint in Birsis, near Benghazi, killing at least 13 people. It was the first known post-revolution suicide bombing in Libya.</td>
<td><a href="http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/12/23/feature-01">http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/12/23/feature-01</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 29, 2013</td>
<td>3 soldiers died in Benghazi in the Sidi Khalifa district in clashes between the army and an armed group that was trying to enter the city from the east.</td>
<td><a href="http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/11/29/newsbrief-01">http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/11/29/newsbrief-01</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 5, 2013</td>
<td>An American teacher was shot dead while jogging in Benghazi.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/12/05/another-american-teacher-shot-dead-in-benghazi/#axzz2nekcwrvC">http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/12/05/another-american-teacher-shot-dead-in-benghazi/#axzz2nekcwrvC</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7, 2013</td>
<td>A retired senior security officer, Colonel Mustah Hamid Najam, was killed in a drive-by shooting in Benghazi.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/12/07/another-soldier-murdered-in-benghazi/#axzz2pAqm1Eq">http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/12/07/another-soldier-murdered-in-benghazi/#axzz2pAqm1Eq</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10, 2013</td>
<td>A car bomb blast left a 23-year-old civilian gravely injured. The victim was the son of a senior naval officer who had recently received threats.</td>
<td><a href="http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/12/10/newsbrief-02">http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/12/10/newsbrief-02</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 22, 2013</td>
<td>The head of security for Benghazi’s main University was killed by gunfire in the Salam district.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/12/22/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/12/30/newsbrief-01">http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/12/22/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/12/30/newsbrief-01</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 29, 2013</td>
<td>Security services found a decomposed headless body in the Hawari area. The corpse is believed to belong to Haji Attiya Al-Naali, the father of a senior Saïqa brigade officer, who was kidnapped in November.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/12/29/another-soldier-murdered-in-benghazi/#axzz2pAqm1Eq">http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/12/29/another-soldier-murdered-in-benghazi/#axzz2pAqm1Eq</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**November 28, 2013**
Gunmen sprayed a volley of bullets at soldiers leaving a Benghazi cafe. One soldier died after being shot in the head.

**November 26, 2013**
Ansar al-Sharia jihadists attacked the army headquarters and 2 security checkpoints in Benghazi.

**November 25, 2013**
Clashes between Libyan security forces and Ansar al-Sharia left at least 9 people dead.

**November 21, 2013**
A Benghazi police colonel escaped an assassination attempt. His brother was seriously injured in the car bombing.

**November 20, 2013**
Derna was left without electricity after a bomb attack on its thermal power plant. 4 members of the volunteer security service guarding the plant were injured in the blast, caused by a parcel bomb.
http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/11/20/electricity-strike-threatened-after-attack-on-derna-power-station/#axzz2necwrvC

**November 18, 2013**
Gunmen stormed a security operations office in the western Libya town of al-Ajlat, killing the head of the local military intelligence unit.
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/11/19/newsbrief-02

**November 18, 2013**
The head of Benghazi's Joint Security Room survived an assassination attempt after his motorcade was hit by a bomb blast.

**November 10, 2013**
A car bomb targeted a former police officer from the Derna Security Directorate, who survived.

**November 9, 2013**
Benghazi gunmen driving past an army checkpoint shot dead 2 Special Forces.

**November 9, 2013**
General Prosecutor for the Jebel Akhdar region, Mohammed Ainaas, was killed when an explosive device destroyed his car.

**November 6, 2013**
A bomb blast killed a major with Benghazi's General Intelligence Unit in the city's Al-Borka district.

**November 3, 2013**
A Benghazi car bomb killed military intelligence officer Suleiman al-Fissi.

**November 2, 2013**
A Benghazi cafe popular with women and families was bombed. No casualties but much of Rotana Cafe, in the Hadaiq district of Benghazi, was destroyed.
http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/11/02/women-friendly-cafe-in-benghazi-bombed/#axzz2mXHbKoPj

**October 29, 2013**
The civilian assistant of the Commander of Benghazi's Rapid Intervention Security Force, Mustafa Abdul salam Asnedl, was killed by gunfire outside a Benghazi hospital this morning.
http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/10/29/two-shootings-in-benghazi-one-man-killed-another-escapes-unharmed/#axzz2mXHbKoPj

**October 29, 2013**
A Benghazi Security Directorate officer, Idris Najem, escaped unharmed after his car was hit by a hail of bullets while he was driving to work. The incident happened in Benghazi's Al-Huwari district.
http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/10/29/two-shootings-in-benghazi-one-man-killed-another-escapes-unharmed/#axzz2mXHbKoPj

**October 29, 2013**
Security services found the body of kidnapped banker Abdul Latif Zwaia.
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/10/30/newsbrief-02

**October 28, 2013**
In Benghazi, gunmen opened fire on a protest tent outside the Tibesti Hotel, killing 2 people and seriously wounding 5 others.
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/10/30/newsbrief-02

**October 26, 2013**
A car bomb blew up outside a secondary school used as an electoral office in Benghazi's al-Hadaek neighborhood.
http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/10/26/car-explosion-in-benghazi/#axzz2mXHbKoPj

**October 25, 2013**
2 cousins of slain Colonel Mustapha al-Barghathi escaped an assassination attempt. The attack targeted the deputy head of the city's Crime Prevention Unit Abdussalam al-Barghathi. His brother Sulaiman was shot in the leg.
July 23, 2013
Benghazi’s Birkah police station has been attacked for the fourth time this year, injuring 3 prisoners held in police custody. The building was targeted with an explosive device that destroyed the front of the building.
http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/07/24/fourth-bomb-attack-on-benghazi-police-station-three-injured/

July 23, 2013
A rocket struck a residential area of Tripoli between the Corinthia hotel and a tower that houses the British, Canadian and Maltese embassies, as well as foreign companies.

July 19, 2013
A senior Libyan Air Force officer was found dead in Benghazi’s Quarsha district, a day after his abduction by masked gunmen. Colonel Aqla Mailoud al-Obaidi, head of the Search and Rescue division, was kidnapped after visiting the family of a fellow air force colonel murdered in Derna.
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/07/21/newsbrief-02

July 16, 2013
4 vehicles belonging to members of the military police were blown up by IEDs in Tripoli.

July 16, 2013
Unknown assailants killed Libyan Air Force Colonel Fathi Ali al-Ammami in Derna. Gunmen fired at the victim, who headed the search and rescue division, as he opened his store.

July 11, 2013
A leading revolutionary fighter turned army commander, Said Amer Gujil, was wounded in an assassination attempt as he was leaving the Bawabat Aljibs depot in Tripoli.
http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/07/11/37428/

July 8, 2013
A former Libyan colonel died when his booby-trapped car exploded in Benghazi. Hamed Buruki was a member of Moamer Kadhafi’s internal security services.

July 5, 2013
France’s honorary consul in Benghazi and his wife narrowly escaped assassination. Jean Dufriche was driving in Benghazi late Thursday night when gunmen pulled alongside his vehicle and fired at least 10 rounds into the car.

July 4, 2013
Unknown assailants shot Colonel Hamed Al-Hassi, Cyrenaica Transitional Council military chief, as he left a television station, where he had just conducted an interview. 2 of his colleagues were killed in the attack.
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/07/05/newsbrief-01

July 2, 2013
A police patrol on Dunai Street in Benghazi escaped injury when an explosive device was thrown at them from a vehicle with blacked-out windows.
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/07/03/newsbrief-01

July 2, 2013
A BMW exploded at a police checkpoint overnight on Benghazi’s Ashreen Street, leaving 4 policemen injured.
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/07/03/newsbrief-01

June 29, 2013
A hand grenade exploded outside the Pakistani embassy in the Sharqia district of Tripoli. The device damaged the gates, but no other damages or casualties were reported.
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/06/30/newsbrief-02

June 26, 2013
2 civilians were killed and 18 others wounded following 3 car bombings in Sabha. The blasts occurred outside the Mahmoud Khalil Café in the Agaid district, in front of the Fezzan Hotel and in a shopping area in the Qurtha neighborhood. The triple attack marked the first-ever car bombings in the southwestern city.

June 26, 2013
A car bomb explosion in Benghazi’s al-Majouri district killed a senior Libyan army intelligence officer. Colonel Junaa Musrati worked in the Benghazi Joint Security Room, which was set up earlier this year to tighten security amid a series of assassinations in the city.

June 25, 2013
6 soldiers were killed in an attack by unidentified gunmen on an army checkpoint south of the coastal city of Sirte.
http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/25/us-libya-army-idUSBRE95Q02020130625

June 25, 2013
The head of Al-Ruiymi prison in Ain Zara was assassinated outside his home near the prison.
http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/06/25/prison-chief-killed-in-tripoli/

June 20, 2013
A German engineer and his driver were shot in eastern Libya. The attack occurred as the foreign workers drove between Ajdabiya and Zwitina.
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/06/21/newsbrief-01
May 6, 2013
Unknown gunmen assassinated a navy officer in Benghazi. The shooting of Lieutenant Fadil Al-Kikli outside his home in the city’s Sabri district latest in series of assassinations targeting Libyan security and military officials. Al-Kikli was a former revolutionary; he had little or no connection with Kadhafi regime.
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/05/07/newsbrief-03

April 27, 2013
A bomb exploded outside Benghazi’s Birkah police station, another in a series of attacks on government institutions. The improvised explosive device caused significant damage, but no policemen were hurt in the attack.

April 26, 2013
Unknown gunmen attacked the defense ministry’s Uqba Ibn Nafi battalion in Derna, killing Faisal Omar Akrush, a battalion member.

April 23, 2013
An air force warrant officer was shot dead outside his Benghazi home.

April 23, 2013
A car bomb exploded just outside the French Embassy in Tripoli, injuring 2 French security guards and Libyan girl.

April 13, 2013
3 security officers were killed in an attack on the Sebha police station.
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/04/14/newsbrief-02

April 10, 2013
A former Gadhafi regime official was gunned down in Derna. Ali Al-Sharie, the former head of the local legislative body, was killed in a drive-by shooting as he was leaving the Hamza mosque.

April 5, 2013
A security guard was injured when a car bomb exploded in front of a government building in al-Bayda. The nearby buildings were damaged. The blast was followed by gunfire in the west of the town.
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/04/07/newsbrief-02

March 28, 2013
Unknown assailants bombed a major Sufi shrine in Tajoura, Tripoli. No one was wounded in the attack.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/03/28/libya-shrine-bombing-sufi-mausoleum_n_2971902.html

March 31, 2013
The chief of staff for the Prime Minister, Ali Ghatus, was kidnapped as he was returning to Tripoli from Misrata.
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/04/04/feature-02

March 7, 2013
Several hundred gunmen stormed Alasema TV in Tripoli’s Gurgi district, vandalized the building, and kidnapped 5 members of the staff, including the channel’s manager and its chief executive officer.
http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/03/07/tripoli-tv-station-attacked-officials-kidnapped/

May 5, 2013
Armed men shot at GNC President Muhammad Magarief’s vehicle as he tried to leave a meeting in southern Tripoli. His vehicle was armored and he was able to escape the assassination attempt unharmed.
http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/03/06/magarief-vehicle-swap-at-gnc-backfired/

February 12, 2013
The head of the Arab Contracting Union, Abdulrahman Abdullah Hussein, and his Sudanese driver were kidnapped by armed men on Airport Road in Tripoli. Hussein was released after several days, but the fate of his driver remains unknown.
http://www.cnn.com/2013/02/18/world/africa/libya-un-kidnappings.html

February 10, 2013
Colonel Mahmoud Al-Jaaber of the national fire service was kidnapped from his Tripoli office. He has not been found.
http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/02/13/newsbrief-02

February 3, 2013
Libyan gunmen kidnapped the head of the national identity card program, Naji Bazena was taken from his office in Ras Hassan district of Tripoli.

January 31, 2013
A bomb exploded at a Benghazi police station. No casualties or major damage to the Al-Birkah facility were reported.

January 29, 2013
An unused UN building in Benghazi’s Ghut Shaal district was hit by two homemade bombs, but there are no reported injuries.

January 26, 2013
A local councilman was shot and killed by armed men in a car as he left a mosque in the city center of Misrata.

January 24, 2013
The nephew of Omar El-Hariri, a leading figure in the National Transition Council, was assassinated in Benghazi.

January 15, 2013
Salah al-Waziri, the former head of a unit in oil facilities protection, was assassinated in the Al-Liti area of Benghazi.
November 30, 2013
A suicide bomber blew himself up near troops from the UN mission in Mali (MINUSMA). No casualties were reported in the failed attack near Menaka. http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/12/02/newsbrief-02

November 2, 2013
2 French journalists from Radio France were slain in N. Mali, just hours after being abducted by terrorists. They were found about 12 kilometers outside Kidal. http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/11/04/feature-02

October 23, 2013

October 30, 2013
Mali jihadists shelled the Gao airport, but failed to injure Malian and French soldiers stationed at the site. http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/10/31/newsbrief-04

September 29, 2013
A suicide bomber left 4 civilians dead, as well as the 2 bombers, who blew up their vehicle in front of a Malian military base on the outskirts of Timbuktu. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/30/timbuktu-suicide-bombing-mali_n_4018456.html

May 4, 2013
5 Islamist suicide bombers targeted a military patrol near Gao, leaving 2 Malian soldiers and the attackers dead. http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/05/05/newsbrief-05

April 12, 2013
A suicide bomber killed at least 3 Chadian soldiers in Kidal. http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/04/14/newsbrief-05

February 27, 2013
6 government allies were killed in a suicide bomber at a checkpoint in Kidal. http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/militia-official-6-killed-in-suicide-bombing-in-kidal-in-northern-mali/2013/02/27/3cc133e8-80c2-11e2-a671-0307932de8de_story.html

February 22, 2013
3 civilians were killed in a twin suicide car bombing in Inhalili, near Tessalit. The "kamikaze vehicles" targeted civilians and members of Touareg rebel group MNLA. http://www.magharebia.com/coconon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/02/22/newsbrief-02

February 21, 2013

February 8, 2013
A suicide bomber attacked the Bourem checkpoint in Gao, killing himself and wounding a Malian soldier. http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/feb/08/mali-first-suicide-bombing

January 7, 2013
Ansar al-Din, led by AQIM chiefs, launched an assault on the army in Savare, 600km southwest of Gao. The armed Islamists captured at least 12 government soldiers in the attack. http://www.magharebia.com/coconon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/01/08/newsbrief-01

January 2, 2013
The interim head of the criminal investigation office was kidnapped by armed men in Bengazi. http://www.elwatan.com/international/un-responsable-de-la-brigade-criminelle-a-etre-enleve-a-benghazi-04-01-2013-198207_112.php

January 6, 2013
General National Congress (GNC) President Muhammad Magarief survived an assassination attempt unharmed at his home in Sabha. There has been no claim of responsibility for the attack. http://news.yahoo.com/head-libyas-parliament-survives-assassination-attempt-151132665.html

January 12, 2013
Italian Consul-General Guido de Sanctis survived an armed attack in Bengazi. Unknown gunners shot at the consul's armoured car outside the Tibesti hotel. http://magharebia.com/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/01/15/newsbrief-02

January 14, 2013
A policeman died Monday after a bomb hit his patrol car in the centre of Bengazi. According to witnesses in the Kish area near Fuwahhat, the device was tossed from a passing vehicle. http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/01/17/feature-03

January 15, 2013
An RPG was fired at a commando forces vehicle in Bengazi, killing the driver. http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/features/2013/01/17/feature-03

December 25, 2013
Several terrorists were involved in a rocket attack in the city of Gao. http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/12/27/newsbrief-04

December 14, 2013
2 UN soldiers were killed in a car bomb attack near a bank in Kidal. http://www.franceinfo.fr/monde/nord-dumali-au-moins-deux-soldats-de-la-ou-tues-dans-un-attentat-1248889-2013-12-14

December 1, 2013
A suicide bombing left 4 civilians dead, as well as the 2 bombers, who blew up their vehicle in front of a Malian military base on the outskirts of Timbuktu. http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/10/31/newsbrief-04

May 10, 2013
Suspected Islamists attacked a military camp in Menaka with a car bomb. No one was wounded in the attack, as the Nigerien soldiers stationed there destroyed the vehicle. http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/05/10/us-mali-attack-idUSBRE9490DT20130510

May 10, 2013
3 suicide bombers attacked a checkpoint in Gossi, injuring 1 soldier. The 3 bombers were killed by soldiers at the checkpoint. http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/05/10/us-mali-attack-idUSBRE9490DT20130510

May 10, 2013
5 Islamist suicide bombers targeted a military patrol near Gao, leaving 2 Malian soldiers and the attackers dead. http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/05/05/newsbrief-05

April 12, 2013
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6 government allies were killed in a suicide bomber at a checkpoint in Kidal. http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/militia-official-6-killed-in-suicide-bombing-in-kidal-in-northern-mali/2013/02/27/3cc133e8-80c2-11e2-a671-0307932de8de_story.html

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January 6, 2013
General National Congress (GNC) President Muhammad Magarief survived an assassination attempt unharmed at his home in Sabha. 3 of his guards were injured in the attempt. http://news.yahoo.com/head-libyas-parliament-survives-assassination-attempt-151132665.html

January 12, 2013
Italian Consul-General Guido de Sanctis survived an armed attack in Bengazi. Unknown gunners shot at the consul’s armoured car outside the Tibesti hotel. There has been no claim of responsibility for the attack. http://magharebia.com/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/01/15/newsbrief-02

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2 UN soldiers were killed in a car bomb attack near a bank in Kidal. http://www.franceinfo.fr/monde/nord-du-mali-au-moins-deux-soldats-de-l-onu-tues-dans-un-attentat-1248889-2013-12-14

Mali
Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2013

**Niger**

**May 23, 2013**
Suicide bombers detonated 2 car bombs simultaneously, 1 inside a military camp in the city of Agadez and another in the remote town of Arlit at a French-operated uranium mine, killing a total of 26 people and injuring 30. A surviving attacker took a group of soldiers hostage, and authorities were attempting to negotiate their release. Both attacks were claimed by MUJAO.


**November 12, 2013**
2 security agents were reported injured when a group of 7 Salafists, hiding in an abandoned house, opened fire on a security patrol with Tunisian National Guardsmen in Nagg, Kebli governorate.


**October 16, 2013**
2 Tunisian barracks were attacked by armed terrorist groups at the border with Algeria. Both barracks are part of a border surveillance system set up with the Algerians. No one was injured.

http://www.tsa-algerie.com/actualite/item/2353-deux-attaques-terroristes-repoussees-a-la-frontiere-tunisienne

**Tunisia**

**December 2, 2013**
A mine blast killed a Tunisian army officer in Jebel Chaambi. The military engineer died while trying to defuse the device.

http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/12/03/ne wsbrief-01

**November 22, 2013**
Salafists attacked the imam at the Rahman mosque in Midoun, Medenine governorate.


**November 19, 2013**
Assalants opened fire on the El Kef National Guard security patrol on the road to Saklet Sidi Youssef. No casualties were reported. Two Salafists were later arrested.


**November 17, 2013**
A land mine explosion injured a woman in Henchir Enhal, north of Jebel Chaambi. According to Tunisian security forces, the mine was “recently” planted.


**October 30, 2013**
A suicide bomber blew himself up in the Tunisian tourist resort of Sousse.

http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/30/us-tunisia-blast-idUSBRE99T0DV20131030?irpc=932

**October 16, 2013**
A land mine explosion injured 2 Tunisian army officers in Jebel Chaambi region.

http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/30/us-tunisia-blast-idUSBRE99T0DV20131030?irpc=932

**September 23, 2013**
Tunisian security services thwarted a bomb attack against Sousse-based radio station Jawhara FM.


**September 22, 2013**
Libyan gunmen attempted to storm Tunisia’s border post in Mkissem.

http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/09/17/ne wsbrief-02

**July 31, 2013**
A roadside bomb went off as a national guard patrol passed south of Tunis. The remote-controlled bomb exploded just after midnight near Mhamdia. The blast caused no casualties.

http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/07/31/ne wsbrief-02

**January 12, 2013**
8 soldiers were killed in ambush near the Algerian border. The attack took place on Mount Chaambi, some 300 kilometers south of Tunis.

http://www.cnn.com/2013/07/30/world/africa/tunis-violence

**July 27, 2013**
An improvised bomb went off in Laoulette, Tunis just hours before Mohamed Brahimi’s burial, damaging a National Guard vehicle. No one was injured in the explosion.


**July 25, 2013**
Opposition politician Mohamed Brahimi was assassinated outside his home in Ariana. Authorities blamed the attack on radical Islamists with ties to al-Qaeda.


**June 6, 2013**
2 Tunisian army officers were killed and 2 others wounded in a mine explosion in Dhogra, in the Jebel Chaambi region. The blast occurred during the army campaign to hunt down terrorists holed up in the mountain forests near Algeria.

http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/06/06/ne wsbrief-01

**April 29, 2013**
A land mine explosion injured 2 members of the National Guard in the Kasserine region, near the Algerian border. A second detonation later that day wounded another soldier.

http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/newsbriefs/general/2013/04/30/ne wsbrief-01

**February 6, 2013**
Tunisian opposition leader Chokri Belaid of the Unified Democratic Nationalist party was assassinated outside his home in Tunis by a man who fled on a motorcycle.

http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/feb/06/tunisian-politician-shot-dead

**July 29, 2013**
A security patrol was struck by a landmine in Mount Chaambi, near the Algerian border. 3 soldiers were injured in the attack.

http://www.cnn.com/2013/07/30/world/africa/tunis-violence
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY FROM 2013

For additional readings and resources, go to: http://www.potomacinstitute.org/attachments/article/1358/Terrorism_in_North_Africa_and_the_Sahel.pdf

Books:


Articles and Reports:


Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2013


ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Professor Yonah Alexander serves as a Senior Fellow at the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies and Director of its International Center for Terrorism Studies as well as 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, Chicago, and Roosevelt, he held many academic appointments in the United States and abroad. Moreover, Professor Alexander lectured extensively in Europe (e.g. Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Moscow, Oxford, Paris, Stockholm), the Middle East and Africa (e.g. Amman, Ankara, Cairo, Istanbul, Jerusalem, Rabat), Asia (e.g. Astana, Beijing, Bishkek, Colombo, New Delhi, Seoul, Tokyo), and elsewhere in Latin America and the Pacific.

Professor Alexander is the founder and editor-in-chief of five international journals: Terrorism, Political Communication and Persuasion, Minority and Group Rights, NATO’s Partnership for Peace Review, and Terrorism Knowledge Base (Electronic).

He published over 100 books, including Al-Qa’ida: Ten Years After 9/11 and Beyond (2012). 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.
Academic Centers

Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies (IUCTS)
Established in 1994, the activities of IUCTS are guided by an International Research Council that offers recommendations for study on different aspects of terrorism, both conventional and unconventional. IUCTS is cooperating academically with universities and think tanks in over 40 countries, as well as with governmental, intergovernmental, and nongovernmental bodies.

International Center for Terrorism Studies (ICTS)
Established in 1998 by the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, in Arlington, VA, ICTS administers IUCTS activities and sponsors an internship program in terrorism studies.

Inter-University Center for Legal Studies (IUCLS)
Established in 1999 and located at the International Law Institute in Washington, D.C., IUCLS conducts seminars and research on legal aspects of terrorism and administers training for law students.

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