

COUNTERTERRORISM WEEKLY

FOR AMERICA'S PROTECTORS

20-26 APRIL 2016



(U) This section provides a comprehensive look at a terrorist group(s) or leader(s), and/or CT tools and literature.

(U) This section consists of in-depth counterterrorism press articles including context and background information.

(U) Assessments are written by seasoned NCTC Directorate of Intelligence Analysts.

(U) Comments are written by NCTC Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team, comprised of law enforcement and first responders.

(U) This section informs readers on methods terrorists are utilizing overseas which could be employed domestically.

(U) This section includes press articles with concise summaries for rapid consumption.

SPOTLIGHT 3

(U) Booklet Provides "Creative Innovations to Target Americans"

ON POINT 5

- 1 **UNITED STATES:** (U) Director of National Intelligence (DNI) Addresses ISIL Threats
- 2 **MASSACHUSETTS:** (U) Two Charged in Superseding Terrorism Indictment
- 3 **MINNESOTA:** (U) Man Pleads Guilty to Supporting ISIL
- 4 **CANADA:** (U) Two Arrested for Trying to Join Terror Group
- 5 **AUSTRALIA:** (U) Teen Charged With Planning ANZAC Day Attack
- 6 **UNITED KINGDOM:** (U) "Justified Concern" on ISIL Nuclear Plot
- 7 **UNITED KINGDOM:** (U) Court Sentences Two for ISIL-Inspired Plot
- 8 **UNITED KINGDOM:** (U) Questioning of Suspects Extended
- 9 **BELGIUM:** (U) Paris Bomb Suspect Charged in Brussels Police Shootout
- 10 **BELGIUM:** (U) Attack Suspect Receives Additional Charges
- 11 **GERMANY:** (U) Authorities Charge ISIL Member
- 12 **SPAIN:** (U) Man Arrested for Plotting Attack
- 13 **SWEDEN:** (U) Sweden's Security Service (SAPO) Investigating Potential Threat
- 14 **ISRAEL:** (U) HAMAS Responsible for Bus Bombing
- 15 **SYRIA:** (U) Senior Ahrar Al-Sham Commander Killed
- 16 **AFGHANISTAN:** (U) Senior Taliban Commander Killed
- 17 **PAKISTAN:** (U) Police Arrest Suspect in Daniel Pearl Murder Case
- 18 **BANGLADESH:** (U) AQIS Kills Two in Dhaka
- 19 **BANGLADESH:** (U) ISIL Kills Professor
- 20 **MALI:** (U) Authorities Arrest Hotel Attack Planner
- 21 **SOMALIA:** (U) ISIL Attacks African Union Forces Outside Mogadishu

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES 11

- (U) Female Terrorists Could Help Stop Terror Attacks
- (U) UK Expanding Program on How to React to Terror Attacks
- (U) Court Appoints New Position to Oversee UK Prisons
- (U) France Pledges 20-Minute Response to Attacks
- (U) Cannes Security Drill Ahead of Film Festival
- (U) Belgium Urges EU Help Gathering Social Media Data
- (U) ISIL Sharing Weapons and Tactics With Boko Haram in Africa
- (U) Tehrik-E Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Kills Minority Minister

PARTING SHOTS 14

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COUNTERTERRORISM

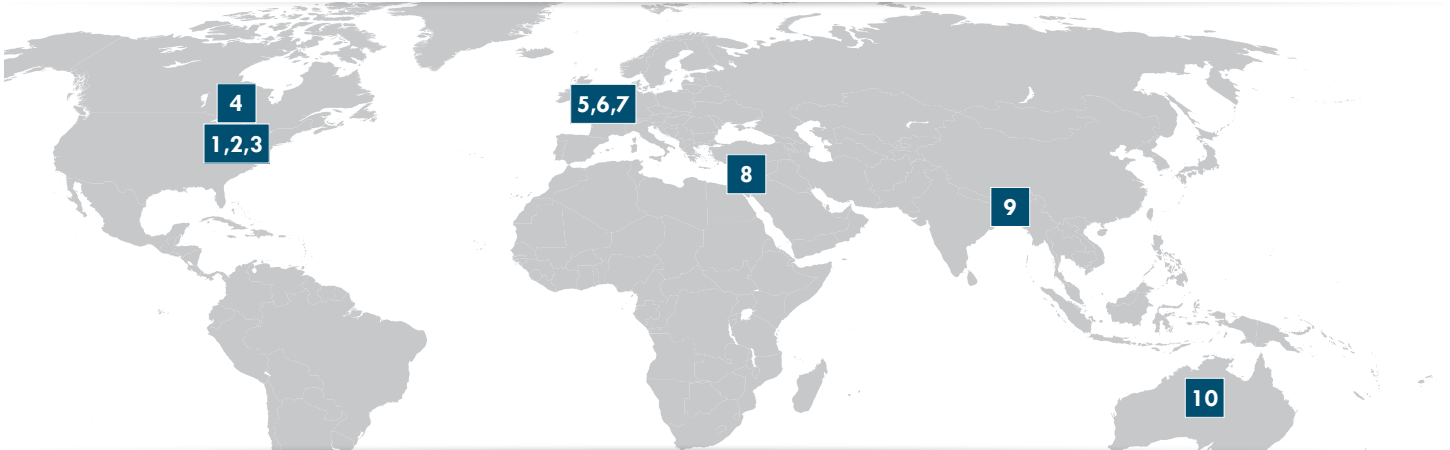
FOR AMERICA'S PROTECTORS

WEEKLY

20-26 APRIL 2016

EXECUTIVES' VIEW

HIGHLIGHTS



- 1 MINNESOTA:** (U) A man pleaded guilty to conspiring to provide material support to ISIL. He was part of a group in Minnesota's Somali community who recruited and inspired each other to join ISIL. Six defendants also pleaded guilty in the case. [\[pg. 5\]](#)
- 2 OHIO:** (U) A US District judge in Cincinnati, Ohio, found a suspect—accused of plotting to attack the US Capitol—competent to stand trial. [\[pg. 15\]](#)
- 3 MASSACHUSETTS:** (U) Two men were charged in Massachusetts in a superseding indictment with conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism transcending national boundaries. They were charged with conspiring with each other and co-conspirators to provide material support to ISIL. [\[pg. 5\]](#)
- 4 CANADA:** (U) Two men appeared in court for allegedly attempting to travel through Turkey to “international conflict zones” to participate in a terrorist group. [\[pg. 5\]](#)
- 5 UK:** (U) Two men received life prison terms for their part in an ISIL-inspired plot to kill police officers in drive-by shootings in London. [\[pg. 6\]](#)
- 6 BELGIUM:** (U) November 2015 Paris attacks suspect Salah Abdeslam was charged for his involvement in a gunfight with Brussels police. The gunfight—which occurred one week before the 22 March metro and airport attacks—resulted in the death of one officer. [\[pg. 7\]](#)
- 7 BELGIUM:** (U) A Swedish national—charged with “terrorist murders” for his involvement in the March Brussels attacks—was also charged for his involvement in the November 2015 Paris attacks. [\[pg. 7\]](#)
- 8 SYRIA:** (U) Majed Hussein al-Sadeq, Ahrar al-Sham's chief of staff—was killed in a suicide bombing in Idlib province. Al-Sadeq held several posts in Ahrar al-Sham before becoming its chief of staff. [\[pg. 8\]](#)
- 9 BANGLADESH:** (U) AQIS in Bangladesh claimed responsibility for the 25 April killings of a US Agency for International Development employee and his associate. [\[pg. 9\]](#)
- 10 AUSTRALIA:** (U) Authorities charged a teen, 16, with planning a terror attack against ANZAC Day celebrations. The teen was charged with one count of planning a terrorist act. He pleaded not guilty. [\[pg. 6\]](#)

SPOTLIGHT SUMMARY

(U) BOOKLET PROVIDES “CREATIVE INNOVATIONS TO TARGET AMERICANS”

(U) On 6 April, a Twitter user posted a 52-page Arabic-language booklet titled “Creative Innovations to Target Americans.” The booklet included suggestions and recommendations to launch attacks on US soil while remaining unnoticed to show attacking the US is “not impossible.” (TWITTER)

SPOTLIGHT

(U) Booklet Provides “Creative Innovations to Target Americans”

(U) On 6 April, Twitter user “Abu-Abd-al-Karim Al-Gharbi” posted a 52-page Arabic-language booklet titled “Creative Innovations to Target Americans.” The booklet included suggestions and recommendations to launch attacks on US soil while remaining unnoticed to show attacking the US is “not impossible.” Topics included “bombing bridges, burning forests and crops, blocking traffic, sabotaging water sources, causing terror, using insects and animals,” among several other recommended ways to attack. The posting was part of the recently launched hashtag #America_is_the_snake’s_head.

- (U) The author endorsed disguising one’s religion when necessary and suggested using children to gather information because they were less likely to be detected. He also recommended using bribery and fraud to fund operations and gain access to targets.
- (U) Critical industries, such as food, communication, and transportation were mentioned as potential targets.
- (U) The booklet suggested setting fire to “agricultural crops” and locations near populated areas, factories, and mines. Further, it recommended choosing older buildings, using flammable materials to set the fire, and then disabling the fire alarm system to limit individuals’ time to escape. (TWITTER)

NCTC Comment: (U//FOUO) This reporting serves as a reminder for state and local first responders of the need for robust, collaborative risk analysis and assessments in their respective areas of responsibilities. In a resource-scarce environment, risk analysis may be used to help state and local partners implement intelligence-led operations to par down the multitude of potential threats in their respective jurisdictions. The process involves concentrating resources to address more imminent, credible, or specific threats vice attempting to address every threat, which would quickly become unsustainable. This reporting also highlights several points for state and local first responders to take into consideration.

- (U//FOUO) The first is the continued support by foreign terrorist organizations, to include their official propaganda, for “lone wolf” actors to conduct attacks in the Homeland, which places domestic first responders in a critical position to detect and report suspicious activity which may disrupt attack plotting.
- (U//FOUO) Second is the emphasis on creativity and deception, which serves to remind first responders terrorist tactics continually evolve and attempt to adapt to current security protocols, including the use of non-traditional means of attack. The use of bribery and fraud as a source of funding and access for operations should remind first responders, especially law enforcement, traditional criminal activities are often used to fund terrorist activities and to keep this potential nexus as a possibility during the investigative process.
- (U//FOUO) Third, the mention of critical industries such as food, communication, and transportation reinforces the high profile of these industries and the critical role private sector partners play in homeland security.

(U) In 2012, AQAP—in *Inspire* Magazine #9—expressed interest in using arson, and specifically wild land fires, as a tactic against the Homeland to cause casualties, economic damage, and resource depletion. An article encouraged readers to use “ember bombs” to start fires where there is a high level of housing in forested areas, specifically suggesting the US state of Montana, the UK, Australia, and Israel, as well as NATO members. It recommended the use of incendiary bombs, ideally “more than 30” at a time, and gave specific instructions for their construction and use. (BBC)

SPOTLIGHT

continued

(U//FOUO) Finally, while fire receives less attention than explosives as a terrorist weapon, terrorist ideology considers it a viable component of attack planning. Fire will likely remain a consideration for inclusion in terrorist plots, as its use requires no specialized skills or training, and its precursors are inexpensive, legal, and readily available.

- (U//FOUO) Despite modern upgrades in fire protection and early warning devices, security professionals and first responders must remain aware of the latest tactics and trends, so routine inspections can incorporate checks to discover efforts to delay or obstruct fire protection systems—fire alarms, sprinklers, fire pumps, and stand-pipe systems—beyond code required testing.
- (U//FOUO) First responders should maintain a high level of familiarization with building fire suppression systems and the key components of those systems to include main water shut-off valves (OS&Y valve positions), fire department connections (FDC), combined sprinkler/standpipe systems, and stand-alone standpipe systems. A first responder's increased familiarization with fire protection systems may lead to early recognition of signs system tampering or disabling has occurred. First responders should also be familiar with specific building types and current fire protection systems. Equally important, first responders should identify which buildings lack fire protection systems coverage and/or have code violations involving building occupancy type, construction, and types of fire loads (contents within a structure).
- (U//FOUO) First responders should also conduct periodic inspections, unannounced site visits, and pre-planning sessions to identify any target hazards while also establishing relationships between private sector building representatives and fire protection supervisors. **(JCAT PERSPECTIVE)**

ON POINT

1 UNITED STATES: (U) Director of National Intelligence (DNI) Addresses ISIL Threats

(U) On 25 April, DNI James Clapper addressed how past intelligence leaks accelerated ISIL's sophistication of encryption techniques by "about seven years" and clandestine terrorist cells. Clapper noted cells in Germany, Italy, and the UK were plotting future attacks, underscoring the need for EU nations to improve information sharing.

- (U) Clapper said ISIL was aware of its surveillance by western intelligence agents and made efforts to communicate through new, commercially available encrypted applications and software. Clapper warned the latest advancements "had and is having a major, profound effects on our ability" to collect intelligence, "particularly against terrorists."
- (U) To disrupt attacks, Clapper recently promoted the message to heighten awareness on the need to share intelligence information in Europe. He added, "The challenge we have (in detecting terrorist plots) is we are only seeing a snapshot...we don't have a total picture at all times. If we did, these plots would be thwarted."
(CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR)

2 MASSACHUSETTS: (U) Two Charged in Superseding Terrorism Indictment

(U) On 21 April, ^{USPER}David Daoud Wright*, 26, and ^{USPER}Nicholas Alexander Rovinski*, 25, were charged in a superseding indictment with conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism transcending national boundaries.

- (U) Wright and Rovinski were charged with conspiring with each other, known and unknown conspirators, and ^{USPER}Usamah Abdullah Rahim, 26, Wright's uncle, now deceased, to provide material support to ISIL and commit acts of terrorism transcending national boundaries.

- (U) The superseding indictment alleged Wright began discussing ISIL's call to kill non-believers in the US with Rahim and Rovinski, and they began plotting and recruiting members for their "martyrdom" operation. Simultaneously, Rahim was communicating with ISIL members overseas, including now deceased ^{UKPER}Junaid Hussain. (DEPT. OF JUSTICE)

3 MINNESOTA: (U) Man Pleads Guilty to Supporting ISIL

(U) On 25 April, ^{USPER}Hamza Naj Ahmed, 21, pleaded guilty to conspiring to provide material support to ISIL.

- (U) Ahmed changed his plea in US District Court in Minneapolis after ^{USPER}Adnan Abdihamid Farah, another defendant in the case, accepted a plea deal.
- (U) Six defendants pleaded guilty in the case. Three remaining defendants—^{USPER}Guled Ali Omar*, ^{USPER}Mohamed Abdihamid Farah*, and ^{USPER}Abdirahman Yasin Daud* pleaded not guilty and were scheduled to go on trial 9 May. A tenth man was at-large and believed to be in Syria.
- (U) The men were part of a group in Minnesota's Somali community who recruited and inspired each other to join ISIL. (AP, FBI PRESS RELEASE)

4 CANADA: (U) Two Arrested for Trying to Join Terror Group

(U) On 21 April, ^{CANPER}Kadir Abdul and ^{CANPER}Samuel Aviles appeared in an Ontario court for allegedly attempting to travel to "international conflict zones" to participate in a terrorist group.

- (U) On 15 April, authorities arrested Abdul and Aviles in Toronto after the pair allegedly planned to travel through Turkey to international conflict zones.
- (U) The men's case was scheduled for 20 May. They were released on certain conditions and were not charged with any criminal offenses. (GLOBE AND MAIL)

* The charges listed are currently allegations. As in any criminal case, the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON POINT continued

5 AUSTRALIA: (U) Teen Charged With Planning ANZAC Day Attack

(U) On 24 April, police arrested and charged a Sydney, Australia, teen, 16, with planning a terror attack against ANZAC Day celebrations scheduled for 25 April. The teen was charged with one count of planning a terrorist act. He acted alone and was previously on authorities' radar. He pleaded not guilty to the charges.

- (U) Court documents indicated the teen was attempting to obtain a gun over the weekend as part of the alleged plot.
- (U) In 2015, police in Melbourne arrested five teens on suspicion of plotting an ISIL-inspired attack intended to coincide with the city's ANZAC service. (AP)

(U) ANZAC Day is an annual holiday in Australia and New Zealand marking the first major battle involving troops from both countries during World War I at Gallipoli in Turkey. (AP)

6 UNITED KINGDOM: (U) "Justified Concern" on ISIL Nuclear Plot

(U) In mid-April, EU and NATO security chiefs warned ISIL was plotting to conduct biological and nuclear attacks against Britain and Europe.

- (U) Jorge Berto Silva, the deputy head of CT for the European Commission, said there was a "justified concern" ISIL fighters in Syria and Iraq were trying to obtain substances of mass destruction such as biological, chemical, and radiological weapons.
- (U) In addition, ISIL was trying to develop new ways of avoiding security measures to conduct attacks, such as bombs implanted in human bodies and hacking driverless cars. (TELEGRAPH)

NCTC Comment: (U//FOUO) While aspirational, terrorist groups continue to express interest in pursuing the use of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) products to expand attack capabilities. Responses to calls involving CBRN development, testing, or attacks are highly challenging because the signs and symptoms of exposure may be the first warning of toxic material—symptoms which may not be initially evident—making a complete understanding of all indicators of hazardous materials modified for nefarious purposes critically important. First responders should consider illness or injuries resulting from exposure or experimentation by illicit actors with CBRN materials are often distinct. The recognition and reporting by front line personnel of individuals seeking treatment for illness or injuries consistent with nefarious experimentation with hazardous materials may result in the discovery of a terrorist plot. (JCAT PERSPECTIVE)

7 UNITED KINGDOM: (U) Court Sentences Two for ISIL-Inspired Plot

(U) On 22 April, ^{UKPER}Tarik Hassane and ^{UKPER}Suhaib Majeed, both 22, received life prison terms for their part in an ISIL-inspired plot to kill police officers in drive-by shootings in London.

- (U) Hassane and Majeed planned to shoot soldiers at an army base in west London or officers at a nearby police station using a pistol fitted with a silencer fired from a moped.
- (U) In March, Majeed was found guilty of conspiring to murder and preparing for acts of terrorism at London's Old Bailey Court. Hassane confessed to the same charges during his trial.
- (U) Hassane, a medical student nicknamed "The Surgeon," directed the plot from Khartoum, Sudan, where he was studying, contacting his school friend Majeed via encrypted communications, according to police. Hassane admitted traveling to Syria in 2013, and data from computers seized by police showed he pledged allegiance to ISIL in July 2014. (REUTERS)

ON POINT continued

8 UNITED KINGDOM: (U) Questioning of Suspects Extended

(U) On 21 April, West Midlands Police detectives received an extra seven days to question two men, aged 26, and a woman, 29, arrested on suspicion of terror offenses, as part of an investigation linked to the March Brussels and November 2015 Paris terror attacks.

- (U) Another man, ^{UKPER}Fazal Sajjad Younis Khan, 40, of Small Heath, was charged with possession of CS gas and was scheduled to appear before a Birmingham Magistrates' Court on 13 May. In addition, an unnamed man, 59, remained on bail with strict conditions during the investigation. **(BIRMINGHAM MAIL)**

9 BELGIUM: (U) Paris Bomb Suspect Charged in Brussels Police Shootout

(U) On 21 April, November 2015 Paris attacks suspect Salah Abdesalam, 26, was charged for his involvement in a gunfight with Brussels police. The gunfight—which occurred one week before the 22 March metro and airport attack—resulted in the death of one officer.

- (U) Abdesalam—already in custody for his involvement in the November 2015 Paris attacks—was formally charged by a judge with four counts of attempted murder. On 31 March, a Belgian court said Abdesalam could be extradited to France, and he was transferred on 27 April.
- (U) Abdesalam was accused of providing logistical support to the other Paris bombers, including his older brother, Brahim, who blew himself up in the Comptoir Voltaire café. Another suspected Paris accomplice, bombmaker Najim Laachraoui, was on the run with Abdesalam but blew himself up in the Brussels airport bombing, prosecutors said. **(NBC)**

10 BELGIUM: (U) Attack Suspect Receives Additional Charges

(U) On 9 April, Swedish national Osama Krayem, 23—charged with “terrorist murders” for his involvement in the March Brussels attacks—was also charged for his involvement in the November 2015 Paris attacks.

- (U) Krayem's fingerprints were reportedly found at several hideouts used during the preparations for the Paris attacks.
- (U) Authorities suspected Krayem of buying the bags used for the Brussels bombings. He was filmed on CCTV with Maalbeek metro station bomber Khalid El Bakraoui before the bomb detonated. **(GUARDIAN)**

11 GERMANY: (U) Authorities Charge ISIL Member

(U) As of late April, prosecutors charged German citizen Ali, 32, with being a member of a terrorist organization for allegedly joining ISIL in Syria.

- (U) In December 2014, Ali traveled to Syria, allegedly to try to get his three children back from an ISIL-controlled area, a month after his wife took them there without his knowledge. Upon arrival, Ali allegedly joined the group himself, serving in an administrative capacity dealing with new recruits and helping produce booby traps.
- (U) In November 2015, Ali was arrested at the Munich Airport when he returned with his children. An official date has not been set for trial. **(AP)**

ON POINT *continued***12 SPAIN:** (U) Man Arrested for Plotting Attack

(U) On 21 April, a judge ordered Moroccan citizen Mohamed Harrak, 26, to remain in jail for allegedly preparing a terrorist attack in Spain.

- (U) On 19 April, Harrak was arrested for plotting to conduct an attack which was aborted for reasons beyond his control. He also allegedly prepared to travel to Syria to join ISIL. He gathered military documentation, completed training, and took part in a form of combat simulation.
- (U) Harrak was also accused of spreading ISIL propaganda, recruiting fighters online, and helping organize travel routes. **(NY TIMES)**

13 SWEDEN: (U) Sweden's Security Service (SAPO) Investigating Potential Threat

(U) As of late April, SAPO had not confirmed reports of an alleged ISIL threat targeting Sweden.

- (U) "Right now we're gathering information and intelligence and coordinating with our national and international partners," said the SAPO press spokesman.
- (U) While the spokesman said SAPO had not been able to dismiss the threat, he noted SAPO was cooperating with the national police service, "That means we're sharing this information with them to see if they in turn can implement measures that fall under their remit." **(THE LOCAL)**

14 ISRAEL: (U) HAMAS Responsible for Bus Bombing

(U) On 21 April, Israeli authorities said HAMAS was responsible for the 18 April bus bombing in Jerusalem, and Palestinian Abdel Hamid Abu Srour, 19, conducted the attack. Srour was the only fatality in the attack. In addition, authorities arrested several HAMAS operatives allegedly connected to the attack.

- (U) An announcement on a HAMAS website said Abu Srour was a member of the group but stopped short of claiming responsibility for the attack. Israeli police said they arrested HAMAS members suspected of planning and executing the attack. **(AP, JERUSALEM POST)**

15 SYRIA: (U) Senior Ahrar Al-Sham Commander Killed

(U) On 23 April, Majed Hussein al-Sadeq, a.k.a. Islam About Hussein—Ahrar al-Sham's chief of staff—was killed in a suicide bombing in Idlib province. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

- (U) Al-Sadeq was killed with three other fighters from the group in a suicide attack against its headquarters in Binnish town, northeast of Idlib. "An unknown person parked his motorcycle near the headquarters then walked into a group of Ahrar al-Sham fighters and detonated his explosive belt," according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.
- (U) Al-Sadeq was a Syrian army officer who defected to join the opposition. He held several posts in Ahrar al-Sham before becoming its chief of staff. **(AFP)**

(U) Ahrar al-Sham is a leading member of the Army of Conquest alliance which controls Idlib along with al-Nusrah Front. (AFP)



(U) Photo of Majed Hussein al-Sadeq **(TWITTER)**

ON POINT continued

16 AFGHANISTAN: (U) Senior Taliban Commander Killed

(U) On 23 April, Afghan National Police conducted a special operation which killed Alamuddin, the deputy Taliban district governor for the Shinwari district of Parwan Province, Afghanistan.

- (U) Alamuddin was involved in terrorist activities in the district and other areas of Parwan, according to the Afghan Interior Ministry. (AL-ALAM NEWS NETWORK)



(U) Photo of Alamuddin. (TERRORMONITOR)

17 PAKISTAN: (U) Police Arrest Suspect in Daniel Pearl Murder Case

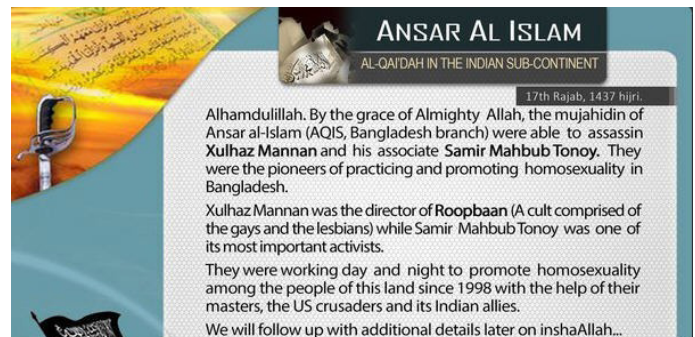
(U) As of 22 April, police—conducting a joint raid with intelligence agencies—arrested al-Qa'ida affiliate Abdul Rehman Sindhi, a close aide of Saud Memom, the accused facilitator in the murder of American journalist Daniel Pearl.

- (U) Sindhi—added to a UN Security Council sanctions list in 2012 for providing “facilitation and financial services to al-Qa'ida”—worked with Harkat-ul Jihad Islami, Jaysh-E-Mohammed, and Al Akhtar Trust. (GEO NEWS, REUTERS)

18 BANGLADESH: (U) AQIS Kills Two in Dhaka

(U) On 26 April, AQIS, Ansar al-Islam, claimed responsibility for the 25 April killings of Julhas Mannan—a US Agency for International Development employee, former US Embassy employee, and editor of Bangladesh's first gay rights magazine—and his associate, Tanay Majumder.

- (U) AQIS posted the claim on Twitter, saying Mannan and Majumder were “the pioneers of practicing and promoting homosexuality in Bangladesh.” (AP, REUTERS, TWITTER)



(U) AQIS, Ansar al-Islam, claim of responsibility. (TWITTER)

State Department/Diplomatic Security Service (State/DS): (U//FOUO) Bangladeshi terrorists continue their campaign of killing public figures who advocate values they consider “un-Islamic,” with three more attacks in the past three weeks. These terrorists aspire to conduct anti-Western attacks using firearms and possibly explosives although their current targets are still predominantly intellectuals or minorities who are killed using edged weapons, pistols, or crude grenades, according to an Office of Intelligence and Threat Analysis (ITA) assessment.

- (U//FOUO) The number of claimed terrorist attacks in Bangladesh since 1 January 2015 is 21. ISIL claimed 15 attacks with 13 deaths and AQIS claimed seven attacks with eight deaths. Several other significant terrorist incidents were never “claimed” since groups such as the ISIL-affiliated Jamaat ul-Mujhadeen sometimes do not claim their attacks.
- (U//FOUO) Preferred targets remain secularist bloggers, social activists, and religious minorities although foreigners have also been attacked. (STATE/DS)

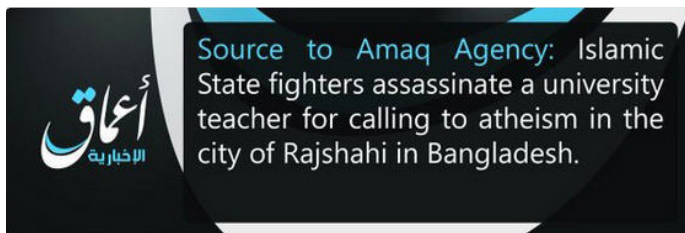
ON POINT continued

19 BANGLADESH: (U) ISIL Kills Professor

(U) On 23 April, ISIL killed English professor Rezaul Karim Siddique, 58, as he walked to the bus station from his home in Rajshahi.

- (U) Siddique was involved in cultural programs, including music, and set up a music school at Bagmara, a former stronghold of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen.

(AFP, TERRORMONITOR)



(U) ISIL's claim of responsibility. (AMAAQ AGENCY)

20 MALI: (U) Authorities Arrest Hotel Attack Planner

(U) On 21 April, the General Directorate of State Security announced it arrested Mauritian national Fawaz Ould Ahmeida, a main planner of the 20 November 2015 attack on the Radisson Blu hotel which killed 20.

- (U) The statement also said Ahmeida was a member of the al-Murabitun group and was plotting near-term attacks on Western targets. It also linked Ahmeida to a March attack on the EU military training mission's headquarters in Bamako, which killed one, and a March attack on the La Terrasse restaurant in Bamako, which killed five. (AP, RFI)

21 SOMALIA: (U) ISIL Attacks African Union Forces Outside Mogadishu

(U) On 25 April, militants conducted an attack targeting an African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) forces military vehicle in the Taridish area on the outskirts of Mogadishu. ISIL claimed responsibility for the attack, the first claim by the group in Somalia. AMISOM dismissed ISIL's claim, saying al-Shabaab was behind the attack but did not cause major damage. (DALSAN RADIO, TWITTER)

NCTC Assessment: (U//FOUO) This marks the first time ISIL claimed an attack in Somalia. Notably, ISIL claimed the attack with the header, "Somalia," rather than "Wilayah [Province] Somalia," indicating the group is not labeling the area an official province. (NCTC)



(U) Claim of responsibility. (AMAAQ AGENCY)



(U) ISIL claim of responsibility. (TWITTER)

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES

(U) Female Terrorists Could Help Stop Terror Attacks

(U) As of 25 April, psychologist Dr. Helen Gavin, of the University of Huddersfield plans to interview jailed female violent extremists around the world as part of a study to learn why they were inspired to conduct attacks.

- (U) Increasing numbers of women around the world are committing violent crimes and Gavin hopes to discover what motivated them.
- (U) Female suicide bombers are becoming a serious problem for security services, as increasing numbers of women are taking part in violent crimes. Girls and women make ideal suicide bomber recruits for terror chiefs because they can easily pass through checkpoints and slip into busy public places without arousing suspicion. **(MIRROR)**

NCTC Comment: (U) Explosive concealment methods may exploit factors associated with social norms of culture, religion, gender, or climate. First responders' and security professionals' understanding of current trends and IED concealment tactics allow for the development of adaptive security measures which may increase the chance of detecting new concealment techniques. **(JCAT PERSPECTIVE)**

(U) UK Expanding Program on How to React to Terror Attacks

(U) In mid-April, UK authorities announced the expansion of "Project Griffin," a system which trains approximately 100,000 workers each year on how to react to a terror attack.

- (U) A million workers in public limited companies based in crowded areas—such as city centers and sports and entertainment venues—will be trained how to respond to an attack.
- (U) The objective is the trained employees will train their colleagues. People working in the retail, hospitality, entertainment, and travel industries are particularly sought after to take part in the training.

- (U) There are plans in place to increase the number of armed police throughout the country, and counterterrorism officials suggested the military could be used if needed if there is a large scale attack. **(SKY NEWS)**

NCTC Comment: (U) Train-A-Trainer style programs have been adopted by first responders to ensure training is available to all, and reinforce coordination during responses. Training the public to assist with emergency response skills or counterterrorism awareness acts as a force multiplier. The "See Something, Say Something" campaign for suspicious activity reporting is an example of a public-private campaign to strengthen efforts to disrupt plots prior to an attack. Similar programs for security awareness, evacuation, and/or first aid can serve to prevent the loss of or save lives during the first critical minutes of an attack. **(JCAT PERSPECTIVE)**

(U) Court Appoints New Position to Oversee UK Prisons

(U) In late April, Claudia Sturt, one of the UK's top prison chiefs, was appointed as the Prison Service's first ever Director of Security, Order, and Counterterrorism, to combat the growing numbers of inmates being radicalized while in prison.

- (U) Justice Chief Michael Gove appointed Sturt in the new position, which was seen as an acknowledgment violent extremists were being bred in British jails. Sturt, the former governor of Belmarsh prison—which holds convicted terrorists—was scheduled to start immediately and had the task of reacting to the government's ongoing review into violent extremism in prisons.
- (U) Michael Spurr, the head of prisons in England and Wales, said the new role "will also coordinate response to the findings of the independent review of extremism which has been commissioned by the Secretary of State." **(MIRROR)**

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES continued

(U) France Pledges 20-Minute Response to Attacks

(U) On 19 April, Bernard Cazeneuve, France's Interior Minister, stated the government guaranteed a 20-minute response of police and military antiterrorism units to any future militant attacks, drawing on lessons learned from the November 2015 Paris attacks.

- (U) Specialist units will have new clearances to bypass the traditional division of responsibilities between police and military forces which hinder timely armed responses, Cazeneuve said. The measures will ensure a maximum 20-minute response to attacks on population centers anywhere in France, he added.
- (U) In addition, France planned to extend its state of emergency to ensure security at the month-long Euro 2016 soccer tournament, which begins 10 June. French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said, "Faced with an event this big...which must take place in conditions of security and which at the same time should be a celebration...we have to ensure security." (REUTERS)

NCTC Comment: (U) First responders should continue to evaluate and learn from past disrupted plots and successful attacks to maximize security and response plans and plan security measures, review security postures, and develop emergency response plans. Information sharing on tactics employed by attackers in recent attack plots can serve to provide a baseline understanding of tactics which might be used in an attack. Information sharing on the current operating picture will enhance understanding among first responders, which can improve the chances for interdiction. In addition, developing interagency mutual aid agreements can ensure adequate resources are available to handle multiple incident scenes as well as 911 calls for service unrelated to the event. (JCAT PERSPECTIVE)

(U) Cannes Security Drill Ahead of Film Festival

(U) On 21 April, police and two hundred volunteers took part in a security exercise involving would-be attackers storming the Festival Palace. The exercise was conducted ahead of the Cannes Film Festival, scheduled to begin 11 May. The simulated attack was one of several such exercises being staged in France following the November 2015 Paris attacks. (REUTERS)

NCTC Comment: (U) The range of tactics used by terrorists underscores the need for interagency exercises and training incorporating multiple scenarios to account for the complexity of a coordinated terrorist attack involving multiple attackers and/or targets. An effective response to a terrorist attack can be reinforced through interagency coordination, joint training between neighboring jurisdictions, and the understanding among first responders of current terrorist tactics, trends, and procedures (TTPs). Effective coordination further assists in promoting interoperability between agencies and private sector partners by prioritizing protective and supportive measures, while establishing common points of contact for mitigating incidents. (JCAT PERSPECTIVE)

(U) Belgium Urges EU Help Gathering Social Media Data

(U) On 25 April, Belgian Justice Minister Koen Geens stated terrorists use various social media platforms to communicate and urged the EU to help anti-terror investigators gather electronic data from social media to prevent attacks like the March Brussels attack.

- (U) Geens said in the past, governments could rely on telecommunications operators to cooperate with investigators, but social media firms were not as forthcoming. He said, "The EU needs to step in urgently to coordinate national responses and a discussion with providers." (AP)

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES continued

(U) ISIL Sharing Weapons and Tactics With Boko Haram in Africa

(U) In a 20 April meeting, Brigadier General Donald Bolduc, commander of US special operations in Africa, stated ISIL and Boko Haram clearly share “tactics, techniques, and procedures,” from the way they conduct complex ambushes and set IEDs to how they launch high-profile attacks on hotels.

- (U) Chadian authorities intercepted a large cache of different types of weapons, including machine guns, en route to Boko Haram from Libya.
- (U) Bolduc called the Lake Chad Basin region where Boko Haram is launching its insurgency as “ground zero” of the fight against violent extremism in Africa.
(INDEPENDENT)

(U) In 2015, Boko Haram swore allegiance to ISIL, and cooperation between the two groups is increasing.
(INDEPENDENT)

(U) Tehrik-E Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Kills Minority Minister

(U) On 22 April, gunmen on motorbikes stopped Sardar Soran Singh—minority affairs minister for Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province—in his car and killed him in the Buner district. TTP claimed responsibility for the attack.

- (U) “These activities will continue until implementation of Islamic system in Pakistan,” Muhammad Khurasani, TTP spokesman, said in an emailed statement.
- (U) Police, however, claimed the killing was ordered by a rival Sikh politician, whom they arrested with five other suspects. **(AFP, AP)**

PARTING SHOTS

1 WORLD: (U) ISIL Releases French Android App for Translated Material

(U) On 21 April, an-Nur Media Center—the French-language media division of ISIL—released an Android app for users to access translations of ISIL propaganda. The group posted a link for the app on Telegram and Twitter and indicated it was a beta version. **(SITE INTEL)**

2 UNITED STATES: (U) Pro-ISIL Hacking Group Claims it Hacked US State Department

(U) In late April, pro-ISIL hacking group United Cyber Caliphate (UCC) claimed it hacked the US State Department and posted information on 50 alleged employees. **(SITE CYBER SECURITY)**



(U) UCC's claim. **(SITE INTEL)**

3 UNITED STATES: (U) Homeland Security Committee Releases Terror Threat Snapshot

(U) In mid-April, the House Homeland Security Committee released its Terror Threat Snapshot summary of key terror threats to the US. Key points included:

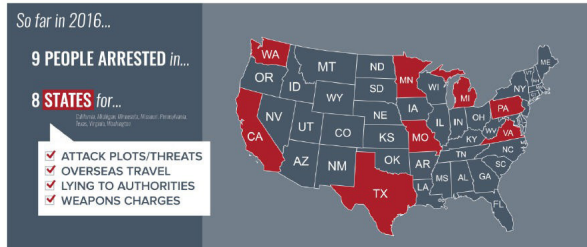
- (U) ISIL poses a threat to the US, its allies, and global security.
- (U) Al-Qa'ida and its allies seized terrain and regenerated aspects of their terror networks.
- (U) In 2016, nearly 30 detainees from Guantanamo Bay were released. **(HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE)**



**HOMELAND SECURITY
COMMITTEE**

**TERROR THREAT
SNAPSHOT**
APRIL 2016

THE ISIS TERROR THREAT IN AMERICA



Since 2014...

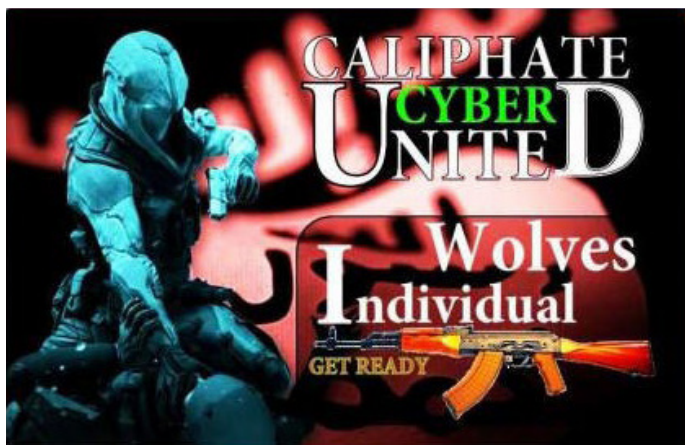
**84 TOTAL PEOPLE
ARRESTED in 24 STATES**

Arrests include: 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 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PARTING SHOTS continued

4 NEW YORK: (U) Pro-ISIL Hacking Group Posts Names and Addresses

(U) On 22 April, pro-ISIL hacking group United Cyber Caliphate (UCC) posted the names and addresses of more than 3,000 alleged New York residents, leaving the message “We Want them Dead.” (TERRORMONITOR, TWITTER)



(U) UCC's claim. (TERRORMONITOR)

5 OHIO: (U) Terror Suspect Competent to Stand Trial

(U) On 25 April, a US District judge in Cincinnati, Ohio, made a preliminary finding that ^{USPER}Chris Cornell*, a.k.a. Raheel Mahrus Ubaydah—accused of plotting to attack the US Capitol—was competent to stand trial. In January 2015, Cornell was indicted and charged with attempted murder of government officials, solicitation to commit an attempted murder, and trying to provide support to a terrorist organization. (USA TODAY)

* The charges listed are currently allegations. As in any criminal case, the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

6 GERMANY: (U) Court Rules Antiterrorism Law Unconstitutional

(U) On 21 April, Germany's federal constitutional court ruled antiterrorism laws were partly unconstitutional and demanded tighter control over surveillance. German Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière said the verdict did not simplify combating international terrorism. “How real the threat has become in Germany and Europe is shown by dreadful attacks of recent times, particularly Paris, Brussels, and Istanbul,” Maizière said. The law examined by the constitutional court was enacted seven years ago, Maizière noted. “Since then, the overall situation has gotten sharper.” (NY TIMES)

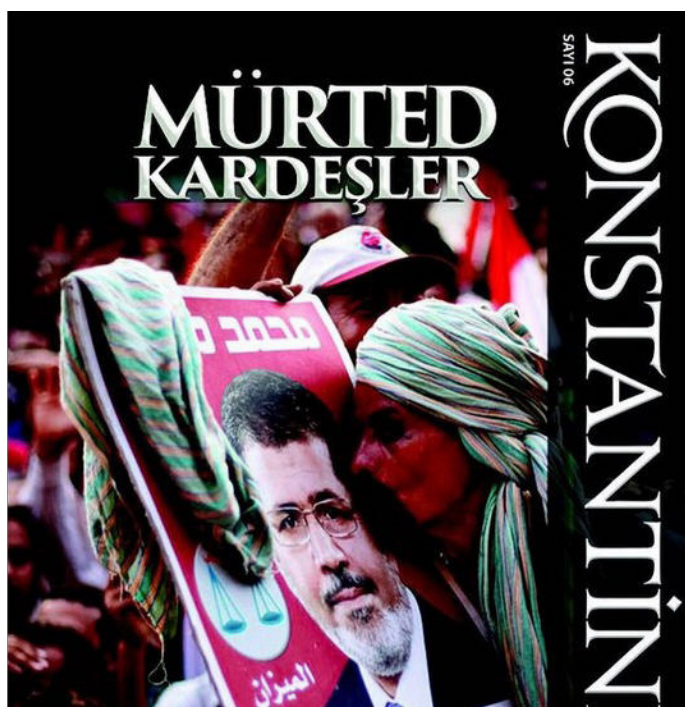
7 ISRAEL: (U) Would-Be ISIL Recruit Sentenced in Jerusalem

(U) On 19 April, Israeli Arab Fares Saritah, 19, pleaded guilty to attempting to join ISIL and travel to Syria and was sentenced to 15 months in prison. In April 2015, Saritah left Israel with his brother and cousin and planned to reach Syria through Turkey. He did not make it beyond the Istanbul airport, however, as his passport was expired. The Israeli Security Agency arrested him when he returned to Israel to renew his passport. (TAZPIT NEWS AGENCY)

PARTING SHOTS continued

8 **TURKEY:** (U) ISIL Releases 6th Issue of Turkish-Language Magazine *Konstantiniyye*

(U) On 22 April, a Twitter user posted a link to the 52-page sixth issue of Turkish-language magazine *Konstantiniyye*. ISIL's non-Arabic-language media arm, Al Hayat Media Center, produced the last magazine article which was titled "The Apostate Brotherhood." (TWITTER)



(U) *Konstantiniyye* magazine cover. (TWITTER)

9 **TURKEY:** US Embassy Issues Security Message

(U) On 26 April, the US Embassy in Ankara informed US citizens the government continued to receive credible indications terrorist groups were seeking opportunities to attack popular tourist destinations throughout Turkey and advised citizens to be mindful of the potential for danger in crowded public areas and at popular tourist destinations. (US EMBASSY)

10 **TURKEY:** (U) Three Killed in Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) Attack in East

(U) On 22 April, PKK militants detonated a bomb while a military vehicle was passing in Turkey's eastern province of Tunceli, killing three soldiers. Reinforcements from the ground and air were sent to the scene, and helicopters opened fire on militants attempting to escape. Forces conducted a security operation in the area. (DAILY NEWS)

11 **TURKEY:** (U) Authorities Detain Six ISIL Militants for Suspected Attack

(U) On 22 April, a Turkish official said authorities detained six suspected ISIL militants allegedly planning to conduct attacks in Konya. The suspects—all foreign nationals—were planning attacks against Turkish Government officials visiting Konya or against "strategic" locations in the city. (AP)

12 **TURKEY:** (U) Authorities Detain Eight ISIL Members on Syrian Border

(U) On 25 April, the Turkish provincial governor's office said authorities detained eight suspected ISIL members crossing from Syria into Gaziantep. Gaziantep borders the province of Kilis, which has seen repeated cross-border attacks from an ISIL-controlled area in Syria. (REUTERS)

13 **TURKEY:** (U) Authorities Deport Thousands of Suspected Violent Extremists

(U) As of late April, Turkish authorities deported more than 3,300 foreigners suspected of links to violent extremist groups—ISIL in particular—and another 41,000 foreigners were barred from entering the country in an effort to fight the group. Approximately 2,770 suspects—including 1,232 foreigners—were caught in police raids; 954 of them were being prosecuted. (AP)

PARTING SHOTS continued

14 **YEMEN:** (U) Troops, Saudi-Led Coalition Attack Al-Qa'ida

(U) On 24 April, security officials said hundreds of Yemeni troops launched an operation to drive al-Qa'ida and ISIL fighters out of southern coastal areas. The Yemeni forces received air support from the Saudi-led and US-backed coalition, which until now mainly targeted Shia Huthi rebels. Aircraft struck targets in Mukalla, an al-Qa'ida stronghold and the capital of Hadramawt province. The deployment was the latest operation against al-Qa'ida in Yemen's south. (AP)

15 **EGYPT:** (U) Militants Kill Six Egyptian Police Officers

(U) On 19 April, at least six Egyptian riot police were killed and 12 injured on the Sinai Peninsula, after a police vehicle was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. An Interior Ministry statement said only three soldiers were killed in the attack in the town of Sheikh Zuwaid, which recently experienced a series of clashes between the security services and militants believed to be part of ISIL's Egyptian franchise Wilayat Sinai. The attack was believed to be a retaliatory attack by militants. (LONDON AL-ARABY AL-JADEED)

16 **MALI:** (U) Ansar Dine Kidnaps, Releases Red Cross Staff

(U) On 22 April, Ansar Dine released three International Committee of the Red Cross staffers it kidnapped days before. The three staffers were kidnapped near Kidal in north Mali. (AP)

17 **NIGERIA:** (U) Suicide Attack Kills Seven

(U) On 21 April, a suicide attack killed at least seven people near a camp for those displaced by the Boko Haram conflict in northeast Nigeria. "There were two suicide bombers, both women," army spokesman Colonel Sani Usman told AFP. Usman said one of the women failed to detonate her explosives and was arrested despite being injured, but a civilian vigilante said the second bomber died of her wounds on her way to hospital. There was no immediate claim of responsibility; however, Boko Haram often conducts suicide bombings using women. (AFP)

18 **SOMALIA:** (U) Security Forces Capture Defected Al-Shabaab Leader

(U) On 24 April, Somali security forces captured Hassan Mohamed, a.k.a. Hassan Fanah—a wanted al-Shabaab leader—during a special operation in Mogadishu. In 2015, Fanah defected from al-Shabaab and joined ISIL. The National and Intelligence and Security Agency raided a house in Kahda district, where Fanah—accused by the federal government for planning several deadly attacks on SNA and African Union troops—was hiding for weeks from al-Shabaab. (SMN)

19 **SOMALIA:** (U) Al-Shabaab Conducts Seven Suicide Attacks

(U) On 24 April, Somali officials said at least seven suicide attacks occurred at an al-Shabaab base near the town of Baidoa in Somalia's southern Bay region. There was no indication of any casualties other than the bombers. In addition, Somalia forces backed by AMISOM foiled an imminent attack by al-Shabaab members at Raydable village, killing at least six al-Shabaab fighters and capturing three others before they could commit suicide during the raid. (MAREEG)

20 **AFGHANISTAN:** (U) Eight Suicide Vests Detonate Prematurely

(U) In late April, at least nine would-be suicide bombers were killed when their suicide vests detonated prematurely. The bombers were planning to conduct a coordinated attack in Kunduz before the incident. The Ministry of Interior said the group belonged to Mullah Wali, the commander of the Taliban group; however, the Taliban did not comment. (KHAAMA PRESS)

PARTING SHOTS continued

21 PAKISTAN: (U) Seven Policemen Killed in Karachi

(U) On 20 April, eight suspects on motorbikes killed seven law enforcement personnel guarding polio workers in Orangi Town. According to a Counterterrorism Department officer, Jamaat-ul-Agrar claimed responsibility for the attack, which may have been conducted in coordination with Lashkar-i-Jhangvi; however, the claims were not confirmed. Initial information revealed the police were the target, not the polio workers, and the same weapons were used in at least 27 killings in the vicinity in 2014 and 2015. (DAWN, AP)

22 PHILIPPINES: (U) New Travel Warning

(U) On 21 April, the Department of State warned US citizens to avoid all non-essential travel to the Sulu Archipelago and through the southern Sulu Sea, and to exercise extreme caution when traveling to the island of Mindanao due to continued terrorist threats, insurgent activities, and kidnappings. The US Embassy imposed strict restrictions on all but the most essential travel to the area, and US Embassy employees must receive special authorization from US Embassy security officials to travel to any location in Mindanao or the Sulu Archipelago. (DEPT. OF STATE)

23 PHILIPPINES: (U) Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) Kills Canadian Hostage

(U) On 25 April, the ISIL-linked ASG killed Canadian hostage John Ridsdel, 68, after the deadline for a ransom payment passed. Philippine President Benigno Aquino reacted to the killing, stating, "to the ASG and whoever may aid or abet them, you have chosen only the language of force, and we will speak to you only in that language." On 21 September 2015, Ridsdel was kidnapped along with Canadian Robert Hall, Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad, and Filipina Marites Flor; however, the status of those hostages was unknown. (DAILY STAR, MINDANAO EXAMINER, REUTERS)



NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER (NCTC)

NCTC serves as the primary organization in the US Government for integrating and analyzing all intelligence pertaining to terrorism possessed or acquired by the US Government (except purely domestic terrorism); serves as the central and shared knowledge bank on terrorism information; provides all-source intelligence support to government-wide counterterrorism activities; establishes the information technology (IT) systems and architectures within NCTC and between NCTC and other agencies that enable access to, as well as integration, dissemination, and use of, terrorism information.

NCTC serves as the principal advisor to the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) on intelligence operations and analysis relating to counterterrorism, advising the DNI on how well US intelligence activities, programs, and budget proposals for counterterrorism conform to priorities established by the President.