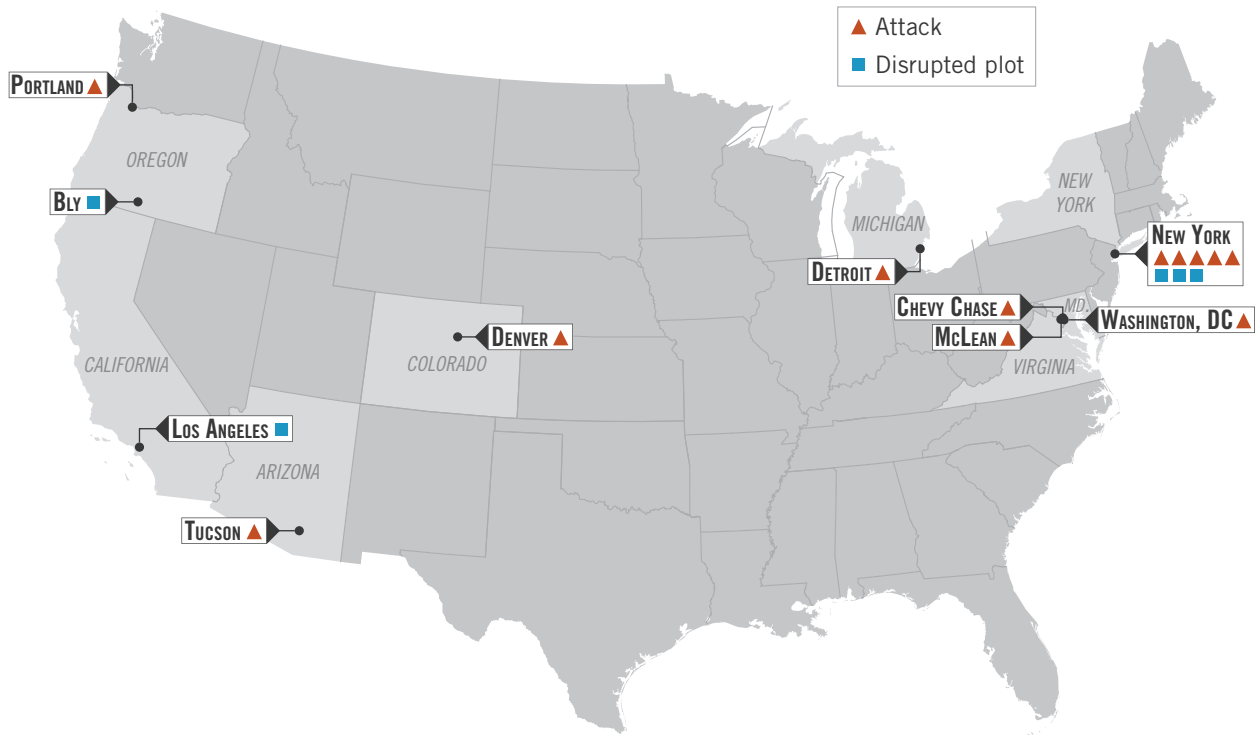


(U) Sunni Extremist Attacks and Plots in the US Before 9/11

(U//FOUO) NCTC assesses that the Sunni extremist threat to the US before 9/11 was characterized by diverse extremist organizations and lone actors motivated by multiple ideological narratives and other factors, including Salafi jihadism, Palestinian nationalism, theological disputes within Islam, anti-Semitism, and anti-Hindu sentiments. We have identified a dozen successful attacks, four disrupted plots, and one attempt to set up an extremist training camp in the US between 1973 and 2001, underscoring the persistent threat from al-Qa'ida-associated extremists, Palestinian terrorist groups, and Sunni extremist lone actors in the decades leading up to 9/11. These extremists chose a wide array of targets, with the majority of their attacks before 1993 focused on Hindu, Jewish, or Muslim individuals or institutions. Most attacks after that date were against civilian or US Government targets, because of al-Qa'ida-associated extremists' focus on indiscriminate mass casualty attacks. In some cases, we lack clear insight into the attackers' motivations because of information gaps, and FBI disagrees about the motivations underlying two of these attacks.

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(U) Sunni Extremist Attacks and Plots in the US Before 9/11 *(continued)*

DATE	ATTACK/PLOT GROUP CASUALTIES	DESCRIPTION	 ATTACK	 DISRUPTED PLOT
DEC 1999	 MILLENNIUM AIRPORT PLOT LOCATION: Los Angeles, CA GROUP: Al-Qa'ida CASUALTIES: None	(U) Algerian national Ahmed Ressam, who attended an al-Qa'ida training camp in Afghanistan, planned to conduct an IED attack at Los Angeles International Airport. Customs agents arrested him when they found 130 pounds of explosives in his car as he was disembarking from a ferry that had crossed from Canada into Washington State. Ressam, sentenced to 37 years in prison, told US authorities he departed al-Qa'ida's Khaldan camp with \$12,000, a bomb-making notebook, and instructions to carry out an attack in the US.		
OCT 1999	 OREGON TRAINING CAMP LOCATION: Bly, OR GROUP: Al-Qa'ida CASUALTIES: None	(U) UK-based, al-Qa'ida-affiliated radicalizer Abu Hamza al-Masri sent two followers—UK citizen Haroon Aswat and Swedish citizen Oussama Kassir—to Bly, Oregon, to establish a training camp and recruit US-based individuals for al-Qa'ida. About a dozen individuals engaged in target practice at the camp before the extremists abandoned the effort. UK and Czech authorities later extradited Aswat, Kassir, and al-Masri to the US, where they were convicted on terrorism charges.		
JUL 1997	 BROOKLYN SUBWAY PLOT LOCATION: New York, NY GROUP: Unaffiliated CASUALTIES: None	(U) Palestinians Gazi Ibrahim Abu Mezer and Lafi Khalil were plotting to conduct suicide attacks with pipe bombs on a subway train when the NY Police Department arrested them based on a tip from their roommate. Mezer, who had illegally entered the US from Canada and told US officials he intended to kill as many Jews as possible, was sentenced to life in prison, and Khalil was convicted of immigration fraud.		
FEB 1997	 EMPIRE STATE BUILDING ATTACK LOCATION: New York, NY GROUP: Unaffiliated CASUALTIES: One dead, six injured	(U) Motivated by anger against Israeli actions, Palestinian Ali Hassan Abu Kamal opened fire using a handgun on tourists on an observation deck of the Empire State building. He committed suicide before police arrived.		
MAR 1994	 ATTACK ON JEWISH STUDENTS LOCATION: New York, NY GROUP: Unaffiliated CASUALTIES: One dead, three injured	(U) Rashid Baz, a cab driver from Lebanon, shot at a van carrying 15 Jewish students crossing the Brooklyn Bridge. He was found guilty on one count of murder and 14 counts of attempted murder and sentenced to 141 years in prison.		
JUN 1993	 NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PLOT LOCATION: New York, NY GROUP: Al-Qa'ida CASUALTIES: None	(U) An al-Qa'ida cell planned to conduct coordinated attacks against the UN and FBI buildings in New York, the Lincoln and Holland tunnels, and the George Washington bridge. FBI arrested five members of the cell who were building explosives in a garage in Queens. Ten conspirators were eventually convicted—including the mastermind, Egyptian 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman, also known as the Blind Shaykh—who was sentenced to life without parole.		








(U) Sunni Extremist Attacks and Plots in the US Before 9/11 *(continued)*

DATE	ATTACK/PLOT GROUP CASUALTIES	DESCRIPTION	 ATTACK	 DISRUPTED PLOT
FEB 1993	▲ WORLD TRADE CENTER BOMBING LOCATION: New York, NY GROUP: Al-Qa'ida CASUALTIES: Six dead, 1,042 injured	(U) Ramzi Yousef and his US-based associates built and detonated a VBIED in the parking garage under the World Trade Center. They were motivated by the perceived harm the US had done to the Palestinian people. During the next two years, six of the seven identified plotters were arrested and sentenced to life in prison. US person Abdul Rahman Yasin fled to Iraq after the attack and remains at large.		
JAN 1993	▲ CIA HEADQUARTERS ATTACK LOCATION: McLean, VA GROUP: Unaffiliated CASUALTIES: Two dead, three injured	(U) Mir Aimal Kasi, a native of Pakistan, shot CIA employees in their vehicles waiting to enter the agency's main entrance before he fled the scene and traveled to Pakistan. He was arrested in Pakistan in 1997, brought back to the US, and executed in November 2002.		
FEB 1991	▲ MURDER OF AL-QA'IDA ASSOCIATE LOCATION: New York, NY GROUP: Al-Qa'ida CASUALTIES: One dead	(U) Unidentified attackers ^a fatally shot and stabbed Mustafa Shalabi, who ran the al-Kifah Center in Brooklyn that served as the principal US office of an al-Qa'ida-linked charity that supported the Afghan jihad. Although we do not know who perpetrated this killing, Shalabi and the Blind Shaykh had quarreled about the center's allocation of funding and the Blind Shaykh publicly denounced Shalabi, who made preparations to leave the US days before he was killed.		
NOV 1990	▲ ASSASSINATION OF US-ISRAELI RABBI LOCATION: New York, NY GROUP: Al-Qa'ida CASUALTIES: One dead	(U) Egyptian-born US person El Sayyid Nosair fatally shot controversial rabbi and politician US person Meir Kahane—a former member of the Israeli Parliament whose party was banned for racist positions—in a New York City hotel. Nosair was found guilty on weapons charges and later convicted of being a member of the al-Qa'ida cell planning the New York City landmarks plot.		
JAN 1990	▲ MURDER OF ARIZONA IMAM LOCATION: Tucson, AZ GROUP: Al-Qa'ida / Jama'at ul-Fuqra ^b CASUALTIES: One dead	(U) Glen Francis, a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago, and US person James D. Williams, a member of the Jama'at ul-Fuqra extremist group, killed US person Dr. Rashad Khalifa, a biochemist and imam whose preaching had angered fundamentalist Muslims. Francis and Williams were convicted of murder, and US person Wadih el-Hage, an American al-Qa'ida member later imprisoned in connection with the bombing of the US Embassy in Tanzania in 1998, was indicted for lying about the murder and allegedly playing a role in the plot.		
AUG 1984	▲ HARE KRISHNA ATTACK LOCATION: Denver, CO GROUP: Jama'at ul-Fuqra CASUALTIES: None	(U) US person James D. Williams, the leader of a Fuqra cell in Buena Vista, Colorado, firebombed the Hare Krishna Hindu temple. He was sentenced in March 2001 for his role in the bombing and in the 1990 assassination of Dr. Rashad Khalifa, an Arizona imam.		

^a(U//FOUO) FBI does not concur with including this attack because the attacker is unidentified and, therefore, the attacker's motivations are unknown.

^b(U) Jama'at ul-Fuqra originated in Pakistan but operated mostly in the US. During the 1980s and 90s, it gained notoriety for its criminal and extremist activities. The Department of State designated it as a terrorist group in 1999.

(U) **Sunni Extremist Attacks and Plots in the US Before 9/11** *(continued)*

DATE	ATTACK/PLOT GROUP CASUALTIES	DESCRIPTION	 ATTACK	 DISRUPTED PLOT
AUG 1983	AHMADIYYA ARSON ATTACK LOCATION: Detroit, MI GROUP: Jama'at ul-Fuqra CASUALTIES: One dead	(U) Two Fuqra members fatally shot the secretary of the local chapter of the Ahmadiyya Movement—an Islamic revival movement that some Muslims consider heretical—and set fire to its headquarters. The two attackers, US persons William Cain and Calvin Jones, died in the fire.		
JUL 1983	HOTEL RAJNEESH BOMBING LOCATION: Portland, OR GROUP: Jama'at ul-Fuqra CASUALTIES: None	(U) US person Stephen Paster, a Jewish convert to Islam from Los Angeles, bombed Hotel Rajneesh, which was owned by an Indian guru. An investigation of Paster's home uncovered weapons and bomb-making instructions. He was convicted in 1985 and upon his release from prison fled the US for Pakistan.		
MAR 1977	DC HOSTAGE SIEGE LOCATION: Washington, DC GROUP: Unaffiliated ^c CASUALTIES: One dead, two injured	(U) A dozen members of a Muslim group that split from the Nation of Islam took more than 150 people hostage at the headquarters of a Jewish organization, a mosque, and a government building in Washington, DC. The attackers killed a new reporter and injured a police officer and then-City Council member US person Marion S. Barry. The attackers demanded that officials ban a film about the Prophet Muhammad and turn over seven individuals incarcerated for murdering family members of the group's leader. The Egyptian, Iranian, and Pakistani ambassadors to the US helped to end the hostage standoff.		
JUL 1973	ASSASSINATION OF ISRAELI DIPLOMAT LOCATION: Chevy Chase, MD GROUP: Black September Organization ^d CASUALTIES: One dead	(U) Unidentified assailants ^a fatally shot Israeli Colonel Yosef Alon, who was on a three-year assignment in the US as a military attache, outside his home. A PLO radio broadcast that day announced that Colonel Alon had been shot in retaliation to Israel's killing of the leader of the Black September Organization several days earlier.		
MAR 1973	PLOT AGAINST ISRAELI TARGETS LOCATION: New York, NY GROUP: Black September Organization CASUALTIES: None	(U) Khalid Dahham al-Jawari—a Black September operative—parked three VBIEDs next to Israeli banks and JFK Airport with timers set to detonate during the arrival of Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir. The bombs failed to explode because of circuitry issues. Jawari was arrested in Rome and convicted in New York in 1991, released from prison in 2009, and deported to Sudan.		

^c(U) We do not know to what extent Sunni extremist ideology influenced the attackers.

^d(U) The Black September Organization was a terrorist arm of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), and it primarily was driven by nationalist rather than religious motivations. The group's most notable attack was the killing of eleven Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games. We do not know to what extent Sunni extremism may also have motivated the Black September Organization operatives who conducted attacks in the US in 1973.

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