

Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2015

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Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2015

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Table of Contents

PREFACE	1
MAP-GRAPHIC: NEW TERRORISM HOT SPOT.....	4
TERRORISM IN NORTH AFRICA & THE SAHEL IN 2015.....	5
REGIONAL THREAT ASSESSMENT.....	5
TERRORISM’S GROWING REGIONAL PROFILE: CASE STUDIES.....	8
CONCLUSIONS & SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS.....	15
CHRONOLOGY: INCIDENTS OF TERRORISM IN THE MAGHREB & SAHEL	18
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	31
ABOUT THE AUTHOR	42
ABOUT THE ACADEMIC CENTERS.....	43

Preface

Humanity has always been challenged by natural and man-made disasters. Over time, every community, country, and region has been threatened by both “mother nature” and the human instigations of extremism and violence from individuals or collective sources.

These calamities have been studied academically for many years in order to learn lessons from the past, identify potential future natural and man-made catastrophes, and arrive at recommendations for preventative policies and actions to be carried out at governmental, intergovernmental, and nongovernmental levels.

More specifically, 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 U.S. and abroad, conducted research dealing with Africa’s security concerns and their global implications. 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 Ibadan in Nigeria, was awarded a Rockefeller Foundation grant for scholars from around the world to conduct a collaborative study exploring solutions to conflicts in Africa and elsewhere. This project resulted in the 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 The George Washington University, and for nearly 18 years by the International Center for Terrorism Studies (ICTS) at the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies (PIPS) in Arlington, VA., and the Inter-University Center for Legal Studies (IUCLS) at the International Law Institute (ILI) in Washington, DC.

Three academic reports are noteworthy. The first, “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 the Conflict Management Program at the John Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies on March 31, 2009. This initial study was guided by a bipartisan panel, including former Secretary of State Madeleine 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 a brewing security crisis from erupting there.

Another study, “Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2014,” was published in February 2015 by IUCTS. It represented the Sixth Annual Report in a series 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 regional and global strategic security implications. This report concluded that trends in Africa lead to quite pessimistic conclusions about the short-term future, as the region is engaged in a generational and socio-cultural conflict that afflicts the global community. Indeed, events in 2015 point to the

growing “arc of instability” stretching across the region, with consequences beyond any country’s borders (<http://www.iucts.org/publications/reports/>).

Focusing international attention on the region can help enable the seeds of conflict resolution, political accommodation, economic and social development, and national reconciliation to emerge and counter the forces of instability and chaos. To be sustainable and effective, these solutions require an integration of global and local resolve and resources. Without an effective menu of responses to the challenges of terrorism and instability, their impact will only continue to grow as a threat to the world community.

The third report, “The Current Security Challenges in Africa,” (published in October 2014) included the views of several ambassadors from the region who participated at academic seminars organized by the IUCTS. Ambassador Mohamed M. Tawfik (Egypt), Ambassador Rachad Bouhlal (Morocco), and Ambassador (Ret.) Al Maamoun Baba Lamine Keita (Mali) made presentations at the 16th Annual Event on “International Cooperation in Combating Terrorism: Review of 2013 and Outlook for 2014,” held at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. on January 24, 2014. Ambassador Maowia O. Khalid (Sudan) and Ambassador Jean Kamau (Kenya) were speakers at the Ambassador’s forum held at PIPS on May 27, 2014 (<http://www.iucts.org/publications/reports/>).

It should also be mentioned that in light of the United States-Africa Leaders Summit, held on August 4-6, 2014 in Washington, D.C., the IUCTS decided to initiate a new academic program titled “Investing in the future of Africa.” The goals of this effort are to:

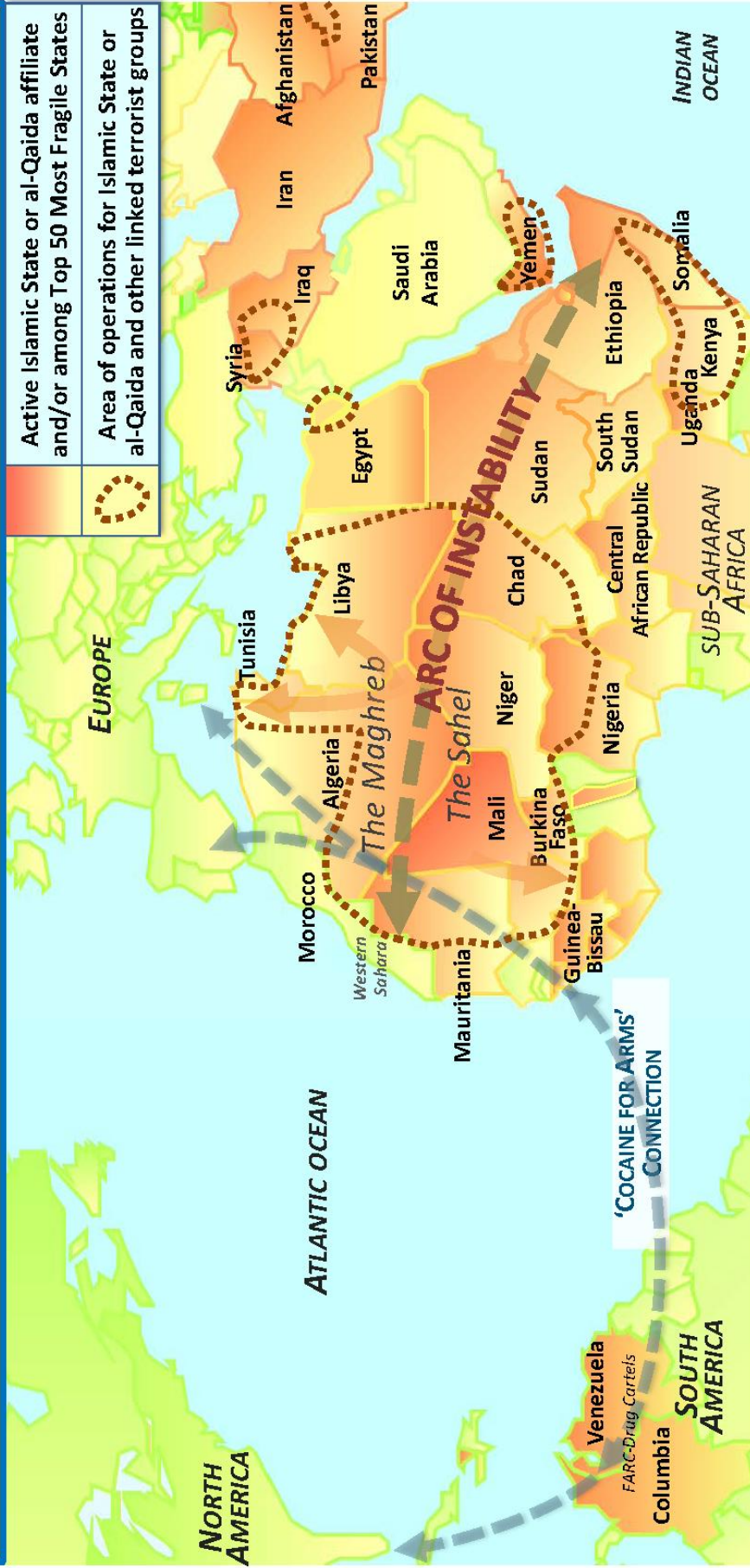
- Refocus on Africa-U.S. ties to provide insights that strengthen the strategic relationship between the continent and the United States.
- Promote awareness of political, ethnic, religious, military, and security trends that could impact the prospects, courses, and the consequences of conflicts in Africa in order to influence and encourage the implementation of peace and security.
- Address strategies for resolving the root causes of conflict and terrorism, including food insecurity, famine, marginalization, discrimination, and poverty, thereby promoting peace in African nations committed to democracy, free enterprise, transparency, and the rule of law.
- Provide strategic insights concerning U.S.’s strategy for sub-Saharan Africa that promotes peace and security; democracy and governance; economic growth, trade and investment; education; and cultural inclusion.
- Contribute to establishing high-level policies, documentation of good practices, and the provision of technical support in the priority sectors of the region.
- Focus on U.S.-Africa partnerships and sustainable development through information exchange, research, analysis, documentation, and compilation of databases.

Finally, some acknowledgements are in order. Appreciation is due to many colleagues and our global partners who provided valuable data and insights for our study. Michael S. Swetnam (CEO and Chairman, PIPS), and General (Ret.) Alfred Gray (Chairman, Board of Regents, PIPS) deserve special gratitude for their continuing inspiration and support. Professor Don Wallace, Jr., Chairman of the International Law Institute, has offered legal guidance. Our internship team during the academic year 2015 and Spring 2016, ably

coordinated by Sharon Layani (Research Associate at the IUCTS), provided useful research and administrative support. Members of the team included Laura Blackerby (American University), Genevieve Boutilier (University of Maryland Baltimore County), Matthew Brenner (University of Maryland), Julie Byrne (The Catholic University of America), Dor Cohen (Brandeis University), Andrew J. Coley (Quinnipiac University), Brandon Cordero (State University of New York at Albany), Caitlin Davis (Duquesne University), Patrick Tully Devereux (University of California, Los Angeles), Jacob T. Fuller (The University of Oklahoma), Elinoram Hafner (University of Maryland), Elizabeth Howard (University of Mary Washington), Julia Johnson (Johns Hopkins University), Ethan Kannel (Cornell University), Dan Layman (Georgetown University), Matthew Leger (State University of New York at Albany), Ruben Lopez-Chavez (University of California, San Diego), Daniel Marfurt-Levy (George Mason University), Veeravaroon Mavichak (American University), Nicholas Norberg (Georgetown University), Faith Pollard (University of Mary Washington), Eric Pons (Emory University), Benjamin Schaefer (Hofstra University), Andrew Tabas (Georgetown University), Rohit P. Tallapragada (Georgetown University), Tyler J. Townes (Central Michigan University), and Joel Wickwire (University of Oregon School of Law).

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NEW TERRORISM HOT SPOT: AFRICA'S 'ARC OF INSTABILITY'



“Terrorism in North Africa & the Sahel in 2015”
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SOURCES: 1) “Country Reports on Terrorism 2009,” *US State Department*, August 2010; and “Country Reports on Terrorism 2010,” *US State Department*, August 2011
 2) “Failed States Index 2010,” *Foreign Policy and The Fund for Peace* (AFP), Oct. 27, 2010; and “Al-Qaeda activity in West African desert” (map), AFP, June 26, 2011;
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Terrorism in North Africa & the Sahel in 2015

Regional Threat Assessment



Two major security challenges that brutally characterized 2015 have inflicted grave human, political, social, economic, and strategic costs to the region and beyond. The first is the Ebola crisis in West Africa that presented a stark public health emergency. The second is radical extremism and violence that affects almost every nation on the continent and has global reach. The report analyzes each of these natural and man-made threats — and their potential interplay — at both regional and international levels. In addition, several case studies are presented for countries particularly impacted by terrorism and other forms of violence. Finally, select policy recommendations are offered.

A. Ebola Crisis: Epidemic Threatens Security, Extremists Take Note

Human history and culture provide multiple references to deep-seated security concerns. One source notes: “To him was given the power over a quarter of the earth with the right to kill by the sword and famine, by pestilence and wild beasts” (Revelations 6:8). Shakespeare contributed this insight: “We make guilty of our disasters the sun, the moon, and the stars, as if we were villains by necessity, fools by heavenly compulsion” (King Lear, Act I, Scene II).

In recent years, Africa has experienced more than its share across a broad range of health challenges, including cholera, leprosy, malaria, smallpox, typhoid fever, and most recently, the Ebola virus in West Africa. According to the United Nations' Geneva-based World Health Organization (WHO), the Ebola outbreak that began in 2014 has already killed 11,315 people as of January 2016. In light of the high human cost, the WHO established a special fund for such emergencies.

It is becoming increasingly evident that the Ebola threat or other pandemics cannot be isolated from looming man-made dangers. According to various intelligence reports, some terrorist groups have plans to utilize the disease as a biological weapon by stabbing targeted enemies with infected needles. The intentions and capabilities for radical extremist actors to resort to any future obtainable “super” instruments of death and destruction should be pondered with the gravest of concern by all nations.

The U.S. did not keep its distance. To combat Ebola at its source, the Department of Defense dispatched 3,000 medical personnel to West Africa to build treatment centers and train local staff. Several other Ebola cases and “wake up” calls in Europe, Latin America, and elsewhere have reminded the international community that outbreaks of infectious diseases require better preparation to avert any future “surprises,” and that health security is a national, regional, and interregional security concern.

This realization, that human and man-made health disasters can be exploited, prompted the creation in 2014 of a non-partisan “Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense,” co-chaired by Senator Joseph I. Lieberman and Governor Thomas J. Ridge. In October 2015, the panel (that was institutionally co-hosted by the Hudson Institute and the IUCTS) published a report on “A National Blueprint for Biodefense: Leadership and Major Reform Needed to Optimize

Efforts." Addressing the "President, Congress, and the America People," this study, *inter alia*, observed that "The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (also known as ISIL and Daesh) is devastating the Middle East while espousing the value of biological weapons for their ability to cause massive loss of life."¹

In the face of these and related dangers, the panel offered over 30 recommendations and action items focusing on the need for the United States to provide leadership to achieve coordination, accountability, collaboration, and innovation in biodefense. Hopefully, such a framework might stimulate similar efforts on regional and global levels.

B. Terrorist Threats: 2015 and Beyond

Since 9/11, a disturbing trend of security challenges with global reach from non-state actors has emerged in the Maghreb, Sahel, and other parts of Africa. It has been brutally demonstrated by the escalation in violent attacks mounted by an expanding array of lawless transnational militant groups, ranging from Mali to Somalia and beyond. The militants, motivated by ethnic, racial, religious, tribal, and national ideologies, include extremist groups such as al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Boko Haram, Ansaru, Ansar Dine, Ansar al-Sharia, the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MJUAO), al-Mourabitoun, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MLNA), al-Shabaab, other militant recruits, and displaced persons. It is in this connection that the emergence of the "Islamic State" (also known as ISIS, ISIL, and Daesh), whose goal is establishing a "caliphate" across the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and Asia, is of ominous concern.

According to the United Nations sources as well as intelligence reports, over 40 terrorist organizations around the world have sworn allegiances and support to Daesh. In the Maghreb, Sahel, and elsewhere in Africa, some 20 groups have affinity links to the newest evolving network. Suffice to mention the Soldiers of the Caliphate in Algeria, the Islamic State in Libya (Darnah), the Jund al-Khilafah in Tunisia, Boko Haram in Nigeria, al-Shabaab Jubba Region Cell Bashir Abu Numan in Somalia, al-I'tisam of the Koran and Sunnah in the Sudan, and Egypt's Jamaat Ansar Bait al-Maqdis in the Sinai.²

More broadly, our 2014 risk assessment report revealed that indigenous terrorist attacks have jumped up an alarming 25 percent over 2013's previous record high to a total of 289 incidents, representing a more than 800 percent rise in operations by AQIM and other extremist movements in the region following September 11, 2001. During the 2014 survey period, the most affected countries were Libya (with 201 incidents), Mali (with 35 incidents), Tunisia (with 27 incidents), and Algeria (with 22 incidents).

In addition to these statistics, other attacks were recorded in Nigeria, the Central African Republic, and Somalia. Also, the security situation worsened with the spillover of jihadists returning from fighting in Iraq and Syria with al-Qa'ida and Daesh affiliates.

The 2015 report recorded a total of 206 incidents—lower than the 2014 total figure of 289. Nevertheless, the overall strategic impact regionally and globally was far more dangerous last year than previously and this trend is continuing into the first several months of 2016. Again, the most targeted countries were Libya (with 100 incidents), Mali (with 49

¹ "A National Blueprint for Biodefense: Leadership and Major Reform Needed to Optimize Efforts" (October 2015), p. iv.

² <http://unitedwithisrael.org/united-nations-isis-has-34-affiliates-worldwide/>

incidents), and Tunisia (with 17 incidents). The least affected were Niger (16), Chad (15), and Algeria (9).

In sum, the proliferation of radical political and social actors are becoming increasingly linked, formally or informally, in a “holy alliance” of “like-minded” movements, as well as “strange bedfellows” intent on trafficking, kidnapping, and violent extremism. Most worrisome, this deadly transnational terrorist network is expanding across a widening “arc of instability” that extends from the Atlantic to the Red Sea, and into the Middle East, Asia, and beyond. 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 links to other continents, such as Europe and North America.

Of growing concern for African security interests are the increasing links and flow of recruits between these regional extremists and the so-called "Islamic State" in Syria and Iraq, as well as al-Qa'ida affiliates and allies across the region. In Algeria, Gouri Abdelmalek (or Khaled Abu Suleimane), the leader of a splinter group of AQIM, has sworn loyalty to the "Islamic State." In Morocco, a French recruiter, associated with Jabhat al-Nusra in Syria and Ansar al-Sharia in Libya, has been arrested by government security services. And a spokesman for the "Islamic State" called on fighters in the Sinai to mount operations against Egypt's security forces: “Rig the roads with explosives for them. Attack their bases. Raid their homes. Cut off their heads. Do not let them feel secure.”³

Finally, according to the latest public data available in March 2016, some 38,000 Sunni fighters from over 120 countries have participated in the wars in Iraq and Syria. In Libya alone, where terrorist camps exist, as many as 6,500 extremists were already trained for future attacks. The remaining question is when and where these operatives will strike and what are the likely strategic implications regionally and globally.⁴

³ <http://www.cnn.com/2014/09/22/world/meast/isis-threatens-west/>

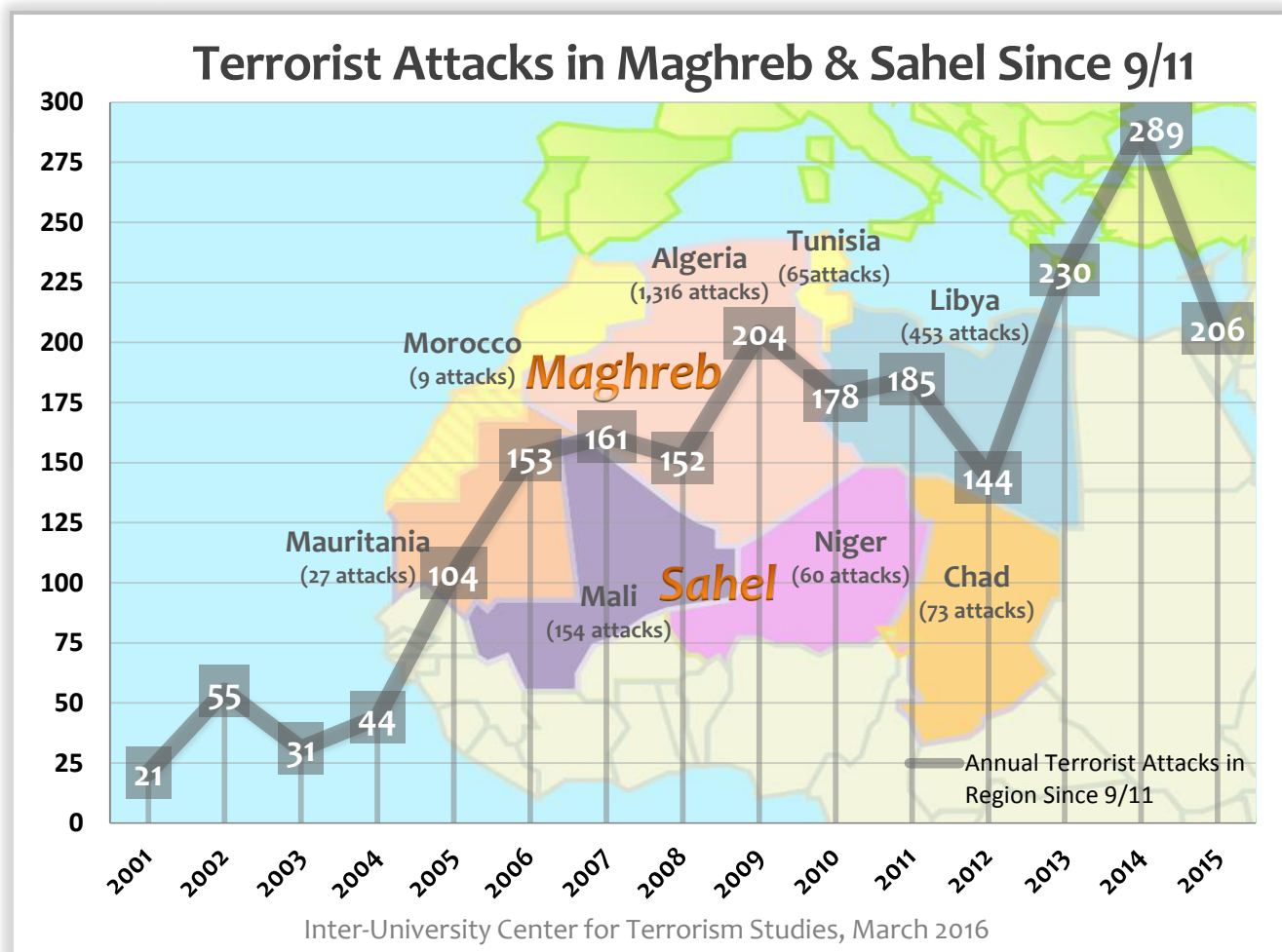
⁴ Open-Source data provided by Homeland Security Committee of the U.S. Congress, “Terror Threat Snapshot” (March 2016). <https://homeland.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/March-TTS.pdf>

Terrorism's Growing Regional Profile: Case Studies



Case studies of the most targeted countries illustrate the nature, intensity, and impact of terrorism in 2015 and the potential outlook for 2016.

Clearly, the national cases examined not only threaten the security interests of individual countries but also have negative implications for regional neighbors as well as the Middle East and elsewhere.



Libya

In North Africa, Libya represents the most insecure nation due inter alia to its porous land and maritime borders, unstable political institutions following the collapse of Gaddafi's regime, and the increase in the number of foreign fighters reinforcing indigenous extremist groups and militias. In January 2015, for instance, Daesh established a jihad training ground around Sirte, leveraging the country's instability and lack of unified government. Moreover, the "Islamic State of the Tripoli Province" (ISTP) was reportedly involved in the major assault on the luxurious Corinthia Hotel in Tripoli with a high cost in human lives among Libyans and foreigners. The attack was apparently undertaken in retaliation for the 2013 arrest of Abu Anas al-Libi by American commandos. Libi, an al-Qa'ida key operative, was accused of involvement in the 1998 bombing of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that killed 224 people. He died in a New York hospital while awaiting trial.

Moreover, during the year, local groups such as Ansar al-Sharia and numerous Daesh-affiliated operatives resorted to a wide-range of attacks, including kidnappings, arson, shootings, bombings, shelling, assaults, assassinations, and executions.

For example, members of the "Tripolitania Province of the Islamic State" in September 2015 attacked a prison in Tripoli in an attempt to free their comrades held at the facility. This however failed and the attackers were killed.

Libyan politicians, police, military personnel, clergymen, educators, journalists, business people, women, children, and others have been victimized. Additionally, an unprecedented number of foreigners residing, working, or visiting Libya have been specifically selected as targets. Some of the incidents include the abduction and killing of dozens of Coptic Egyptian workers, the capture of Indian medical staff, and the bombings of various embassies and firing on diplomatic convoys.

By early 2016, it became apparent that Libya has become a major base for Daesh, with reportedly some 5,000 fighters. What is also a particular concern is that the chaotic environment in Libya threatens to export instability elsewhere in Africa and beyond. In fact, it has been established that several groups are controlling the exodus of those fleeing war zones across the Mediterranean to Italy. It is not surprising therefore that the United States and its European allies are currently involved in a multilateral security effort to support a Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) to stabilize the country and bring its borders under control. Algeria and Tunisia are particularly concerned with the spillover. Algeria has assigned thousands of its troops to guard its eastern border against infiltration, and Tunisia has built a perimeter wall along its border with Libya to protect against terrorists and smugglers.

Mali

In Mali, similar persistent instability in the war-torn northern part of the country underscored the continuing volatility even three years after French forces recaptured the major cities and some of the territory in the north that had been seized by al-Qa'ida affiliate groups. During early 2015, civilians were ambushed and killed, government forces targeted, and African members of a U.N. peacekeeping mission were attacked by militants.

Other security concerns continued throughout the year. Al-Qa'ida fighters, the nomadic and ethnic minority Tuareg rebels, and unidentified armed men engaged in low-level attacks as well as in more elaborate operations against civilians, Malian forces, and UN convoys and barracks. Additionally, Ansar Dine killed 11 Malian soldiers at an outpost, an outspoken critic of militant Islam was gunned down by unidentified assailants, and three French special forces were injured in landmine blast in northern Mali.

To be sure, the most dramatic, sophisticated, and costly assault in 2015 took place in Bamako, Mali's capital, when armed members of al-Mourabitoun, an al-Qa'ida affiliated group, seized the luxury Radisson Blu Hotel. Some 170 guests and staff members were held hostage and some 27 people were killed, including an American aid worker and a member of the Belgian Parliament.

Two factors contribute to Mali's lingering instability. First, the failure of the government to find suitable political solutions for its internal security concerns. And second, the continuing flow of combatants and weapons from Libya.

In the face of these challenges, eleven Africa countries are contributing forces, however modest, to the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. Moreover, it is also encouraging that the international community has expanded its regional efforts to combat terrorism through the endeavors of the Sahel Multilateral Planning Group that includes the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, and Italy.

Tunisia

In Tunisia, more than five 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," the country is still vulnerable to both domestic and foreign terrorist threats. Despite its emerging democracy, Tunisia still faced security challenges in 2015. During the year, operations targeted police officers, soldiers, customs agents, clergymen, politicians, ordinary people, and tourists. Mention should be made of attacks by Daesh members, trained in Libya, on the Bardo National Museum in Tunis in March and a beach hotel in Sousse in June killing and wounding dozens of foreign visitors, many from Europe.

In the face of this worrisome concern, the United States Africa Command is currently providing Tunisia with counterterrorism training as well as improved capabilities in related fields such as intelligence and border security (e.g. electronic surveillance system).

Niger

An AQIM franchise and elements of the MUJAO and Tuareg continued to be active within Niger's borders. The past year marked an increase in attempted kidnappings and the use of modern military equipment by terrorist groups. Also, Boko Haram became much more aggressive in southern Niger, making regular incursions into the country and recruiting young men and gang members as soldiers. In addition, Niger currently hosts more than 40,000 Nigerian refugees. It is not surprising that Niger's President Mahamadou Issoufou told the United Nations several years ago that "Africa should not be Balkanized" and the international community needed to focus on defense, democracy, and development.⁵

Algeria

In Algeria, where the number of terrorist attacks fell to 12 in 2015 after 22 incidents in 2014, the country is still facing ongoing security challenges guarding its frontiers, particularly in the southwest, where AQIM and other militant and criminal groups engage in cross-border arms and drug trafficking. In early 2015, the Algerian army arrested a cell of a dozen extremists in the South where they were planning an attack with the support of operatives based beyond its borders.

Although some operations were mounted during the year by AQIM and other "unknown" attackers on civilian and military personnel, the relatively few incidents indicate impressive counterterrorism improvements by the Algerian security forces. Modest acknowledgement is also due to the U.S. Africa Command that is providing Algeria with counter-Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and forensic training.

Chad

Although the security situation in Chad seemed to improve in prior years, the country still remained vulnerable to terrorist attacks. In 2015, some 15 incidents were recorded. Boko Haram operatives were mostly responsible for kidnappings, bombings, and killings of civilians, including children, in villages, market places, and other areas.

Other victims included numerous Nigerian refugees who fled to Chad. For example, in October 2015, five coordinated suicide attacks killed some 36 people and wounded 50 others.

In response to continuing threats, the Chadian military have been battling Boko Haram operatives in cross-border exchanges. Additionally, Chadian forces have launched airstrikes against terrorist bases in Nigeria. During 2015, the Africa Union also authorized the establishment of a Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), which included Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria, to combat Boko Haram. The United States, France, the United Kingdom, and the European Union are providing counterterrorism support for this effort.

⁵ <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48844#.vmpCqWR4pNt>

Other Maghreb and Sahel Countries

In the other two Maghreb and Sahel countries, no major terrorist attacks were recorded in 2015.

In Morocco, four related security concerns are noteworthy. First, the country continued to face criminal networks recruiting operatives for AQIM. Second, the government warned that members of the Polisario (a separatist group based in Algeria) are colluding with AQIM and MUJAO, as well as cooperating with both Boko Haram and al-Shabaab. Third, security services arrested suspected militants accused of recruiting fighters and raising funds for two al-Qa'ida affiliates, Ansar al-Sharia in Libya and Jabhat al-Nusra in Syria. Fourth, Rabat denounced Islamic extremism in general and online in particular and has been training imams from other African countries on preaching a more tolerant Islam. Morocco expressed related concerns, reporting that some 1,200 citizens had returned to the country after fighting for al-Nusra or the "Islamic State." It also expressed its "total solidarity" with front-line countries such as Egypt and Jordan in their counterterrorism activities.

In Mauritania, despite an apparent absence of major attacks in 2015, the threat nevertheless continues from AQIM and other terrorists who are engaged in kidnappings and cross-border assaults. For instance, a security crisis developed in January when Islamic radicals captured guards and demanded the release of prisoners. The government complied.

In addition to other isolated incidents of violence in the country, a growing humanitarian concern is the situation in southeastern Mauritania where 50,000 Malian refugees reside. Since the government is unable to deal unilaterally with the problem, the United Nations agencies urged other nations to provide further assistance.

West, Central, and East Africa Countries

Clearly the "arc of instability" is stretching across a broader region beyond the Maghreb and Sahel. This spread of extremist violence is no more evident than in West, Central, and East Africa. Once again, Nigeria, the continent's most populous nation, was the prime example of destabilization and bloodshed. Boko Haram (meaning "western education is sacrilege" in the Hausa language) continued to mount terrorist attacks and seek to impose its version of radical Islamic law in that country and beyond.

As Boko Haram established in March 2015 an alignment with Daesh, known as the Islamic State-West Africa Province (ISWAP), this major extremist movement increased its complex and deadly attacks in the region. Targeting civilians, including children, women, and the elderly, is of special growing humanitarian concern. For example, during a New Year's service a suicide bomber detonated a blast at a Christian church. Schools were destroyed and young boys were taken captive. It was reported that approximately 2,000 civilians were killed in Baga in January 2015, where attackers burned almost the entire town. As a direct result of assaults by Boko Haram, thousands of Nigerians have fled their homeland into neighboring countries such as Niger, Chad, and Cameroon.

Undoubtedly, Boko Haram will continue to remain a threat to the government of Nigeria in the coming years as well as to the neighboring countries. For instance, in 2016, two female bombers, reportedly members of Boko Haram, struck a mosque in Maiduguri, a major city, killing 22 civilians and injured 35 others.

These and other recent attacks confirm that although the Nigerian military forced Boko Haram out from many of its bases in the northeast, the group's threats are continuing with greater frequency. It is not surprising therefore that Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari decided to join the Islamic military coalition to combat violent extremism under the leadership of King Salman bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia.

Other regional nations are also affected by sub-state threats. In Cameroon, Boko Haram directly attacked the northern part of the country, putting a half-million people at risk of starvation by forcing them to abandon their harvests. In view of the deteriorating security situation, Cameroon's president Paul Biya requested international assistance to cope with the growing challenges in the region.

Also, in the Central African Republic, the sectarian violence between Muslim and Christian militias is expanding. This highly unstable country is on the brink of a religious war conducted by rival militia groups, which has also resulted in attacks on foreigners and the U.N. peacekeeping mission (MINUSCA).

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, led by President Joseph Kabila, has been equally subjected to internal violence perpetrated by groups such as Burundian and Rwandan rebels, as well as the Ituri Resistance Force (FRPI). U.N. peacekeepers are unable to establish law and order and facilitate democratic elections in the country.

The risks of episodes of unrest and violence in other countries such as the Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, the Sudan, and South Sudan also contain the seeds for wider regional instability.

Insecurity challenges are particularly evident in East Africa. In Somalia, al-Shabaab escalated its assaults in 2015. Somali policewomen were beheaded, and a Christmas party at Mogadishu's AMISOM base was attacked. Other military bases were also targeted, and car bombs exploded in civilian towns. What is of particular concern is that al-Shabaab includes not only Somali nationals, but it has also recruited citizens from Kenya, Syria, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Russia, Finland, Sweden, and elsewhere. The "Islamic State" also counts on al-Shabaab's loyalty and support.

In view of these and other challenges, it must be assumed that the Federal Government of Somalia will increasingly rely on the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to provide greater security support in the future.

Kenya, next door, remains vulnerable to terrorist attacks. In 2014 and 2015, numerous attacks were perpetrated in the country, including kidnappings, bombing of churches and other sites, and ambushes of police and military units. This pattern of violence is likely to continue in 2016.

In neighboring Uganda, security concerns are related to two aspects. First, the country is facing Islamist rebels in its restive eastern region, as well as terrorist challenges from al-Shabaab fighters from Somalia. Secondly, Uganda is playing a critical role in regional efforts to resolve South Sudan's security challenges. In 2014, Uganda dispatched 1,440 soldiers to serve under AMISOM. And last year, Kampala began the trial of a dozen individuals charged with terrorist offenses, including murdering clerics and recruiting new members.

In sum, the "long-arm" of radical Islamist terrorism was increasingly evident in 2015 and continues in 2016, as it extends its reach across the African Continent and beyond. The expanding activities of groups associated with al-Qa'ida (e.g. AQIM) as well as the emerging

self-declared "Caliphate of the Islamic State," operating in the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and elsewhere, are consistently developing and exposing regions that pose an unprecedented threat to the security interests of the United States and its friends and allies. In many respects, 2015 represented a milestone year for the breakdown of the post-cold war system by terrorists and insurgent forces that have become a dominant focus for security concerns in the region. The question is whether the worst is yet to come.

Conclusions and Selected Recommendations

It is hoped that this report, with its emphasis on North Africa and the Sahel, will encourage greater strategic attention and focused policy initiatives in the region, to enable the seeds of conflict resolution, political accommodation, economic and social development, and national reconciliation to emerge and mitigate instability and chaos. These solutions, to be sustainable and effective, require the commitment and coordination of local and international actors to resolve and provide resources. Without an effective menu of responses to the security challenges of terrorism and instability highlighted in this report, the impact will only continue to grow as a threat to the global community.

More specifically, because of the growing political uncertainty and instability in the Maghreb, Sahel, and bordering areas during 2015, many of the recommendations made in the previous six published reports are not just relevant, but increasingly urgent. The Sahel and bordering countries continue to have large areas of ungoverned space where terrorists and other radicals move with impunity along well-traveled smuggling and supply routes that defy ongoing interdiction efforts.

The manifold security threats emanating from those countries in Africa covered in this report have additionally been compounded by security challenges in neighboring nations. Egypt, for example, has faced both persistent domestic as well as terrorist activity in the Sinai Peninsula. The Daesh branch in Sinai is conducting major attacks against the security forces and tourist targets. In October 2015, its members even blew-up an aircraft full with Russian nationals, including women and children, thus, broadening the dangers inter-regionally.

It is noteworthy that several terrorist incidents in early 2016 also have broader global implications. First is the attack on the Burkina Faso hotel in January where 28 were killed, including American, Canadian, Dutch, Portuguese, Swiss, and Ukrainian nationals. And the second is the assault on a beach front resort in the Ivory Coast, killing not only Ivorians but also citizens from France, Germany, Lebanon, Macedonia, and Nigeria.

With so much uncertainty and widening challenges, it is imperative that the international community, in particular the West, work diligently with regional authorities to implement and expand security capabilities. In addition, focus must be placed on political, social, and economic development programs to generate more effective antidotes to the poisons that are growing threats 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. Significant increases in regional terrorist attacks since 9/11 is being fed by the greater instability found in weak and transitioning states. This report does not recommend that the U.S. take upon itself the role of arbiter of regional security issues. Rather, it is a reminder that America's vital interests in the region and those of its friends and allies are under assault by extremists who are doing us harm and want to inflict more damage in their wake.

To be sure, there are no "silver bullets" in combating terrorism, instability, and insecurity. The scope of what must be done is quite broad, and the report's

recommendations cover both hard and soft solutions. They include a variety of tactical and strategic steps that are needed to improve security and stability in the region, ranging from reducing the presence and impact of terrorism and other forms of violence to expanding the capacity for transparent, effective local leadership. The following recommendations are not fully inclusive, but hopefully provide a useful framework for continued discussion and action.

Four major recommendations are suggested for short- and long-term policies and actions:

First, broaden United Nations and other international efforts in helping Africa prepare unilaterally and collectively to respond to future infectious diseases and related health security challenges;

Second, take proactive steps with regional and global partners to prevent future radicalization, instability, and violence;

Third, reinforce the security capabilities of local and regional leaders with both hard and soft power; and

Fourth, invest in human and economic development to enhance national and regional security.

These broader recommendations must necessarily be implemented through a coordinated combination of smaller and larger steps. They include the following selected measures:

1. Strengthen U.S. and NATO intelligence assets by broadening cooperation through AFRICOM, NATO's Partnership for Peace, and other modalities that supply and support training, equipment, and monitoring of resources throughout the region.
2. Continue to expand U.S. counterterrorism technical assistance and training to internal security personnel.
3. Host programs to provide assistance over the longer term to support inclusive political dialogue and the robust empowerment of civil society to advance consensus-building and the development of conflict-resolution mechanisms.
4. Work to settle intra-regional conflicts that provide openings for extremists to exploit and impede security and economic cooperation such as the Western Sahara dispute and the problem of refugees in the Polisario-run camps in Algeria. Also, collaborate with the global donor community to conduct a census of the camps to ensure that humanitarian aid is not diverted, from this location or elsewhere, for military purposes or personal enrichment.
5. Support country-specific reforms and regional programs, such as the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law in Malta that provides legal training for law enforcement officials, as well as efforts to promote human rights, economic development, independent judiciaries, and transparency in governance.
6. Recognize the importance of and provide quiet encouragement to Muslim leaders in promoting the practice of a moderate Islam, as well as counter-radicalization programs

that limit the appeal of extremist recruiters, in particular from the so-called "Islamic State."

7. Continue critical infrastructure programs such as Power Africa and the Trans-Africa Highway through foreign assistance and investments from the U.S. private sector in public-private sector partnerships.

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

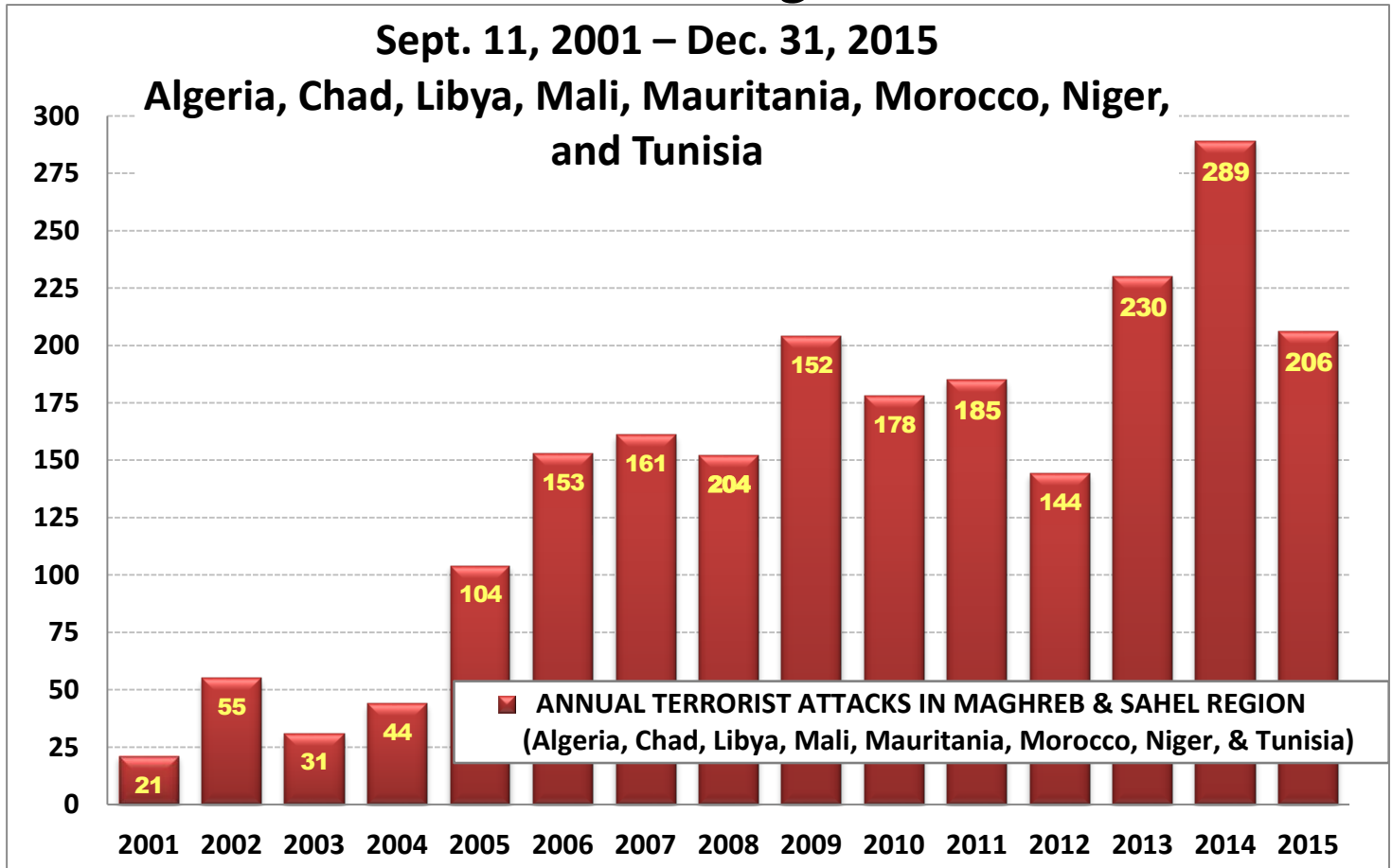
9. Promote regional trade and investment by expanding the US-Morocco Free Trade Agreement to include goods and products from North, West, and Central Africa.

10. Expand foreign assistance programs through U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), and similar agencies to help develop young leaders in the public and private sectors.

Finally, these recommendations recognize that the region's security requirements can only be fulfilled by accepting the need for consistent and well-defined steps. To be sure, achieving these objectives is not solely a U.S. responsibility. America's engagement will be effective only if it can partner with friends and allies, in Europe and elsewhere, to implement the measures that, over time and with strong local participation, can greatly reduce the security threats emanating from these regions in turmoil, which stretch across Africa and beyond.

The war the international community, particularly the West, is waging is generational, institutional, and unavoidable. With America's partners in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and other regions, there are solutions that can be achieved based on shared values and mutual interests. While the nations of the Maghreb and Sahel manage their 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.

CHRONOLOGY: Incidents of Terrorism in the Maghreb & Sahel



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

TIMELINE	YEAR	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
NORTH & WEST/CENTRAL AFRICA NATIONS	Totals: 2,157 attacks	21 attacks	55 attacks	31 attacks	44 attacks	104 attacks	153 attacks	161 attacks	152 attacks	204 attacks	178 attacks	185 attacks	144 attacks	230 attacks	289 attacks	206 attacks
ALGERIA	1,316	20	54	28	39	93	120	110	121	185	168	164	132	51	22	9
CHAD	73				3	6	28	14	6		1					15
LIBYA	454						1						6	145	201	100
MALI	151			1	1	2	3	10	11	9	4	8	5	16	35	49
MAURITANIA	27				1	3		4	4	6	2	7				
MOROCCO	9			2				5				2				
NIGER	60						1	18	9	4	3	3	1	1	4	16
TUNISIA	65	1	1						1			1		17	27	17

INCIDENTS OF TERRORISM IN MAGHREB & SAHEL:

Chronology from September 11, 2001 to December 31, 2015 (Updated with 2015 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

2010: <http://www.potomacinstitute.org/images/ICTS/2011REPORTUPDATEMaghrebSahelTerrorism.pdf>

2011: <http://www.terrorismelectronicjournal.org/app/download/5656752982/2012-special-update-report-full-report-terrorism-in-africa-from-9-11-to-arab-spring-icts-potomac.pdf?t=1328807615>

2012: <http://www.potomacinstitute.org/images/TerrorismNorthAfricaSahelGlobalReach.pdf>

2013: <http://www.potomacinstitute.org/images/TerrorismNAfricaSahel2013.pdf>

2014: http://www.potomacinstitute.org/images/ICTS/IUCTS_2015FINALTERRORISMNAFRICASAHEL2014.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 reported or 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-terror 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 15 years tracked since Sept. 11, 2001. The 2015 Chronology below includes those countries experiencing incidents during the past calendar year — Libya, Mali, Tunisia, Niger, Chad, and Algeria — listed by order of frequency of attacks. See table on preceding page and hyperlinks above for incidents experienced by Mauritania and Morocco in other years.

2015

Libya

December 31, 2015

The head of security at the foreign ministry is said to have been shot dead by Islamic State gunmen at one of their checkpoints near Al-Nawfaliya, east of Sirte. His brother was also killed in the incident and his brother's wife seriously wounded. It is reported that they tried to speed through the Islamic State checkpoint, but were caught in a hail of gunfire.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/12/31/senior-foreign-ministry-official-killed-by-is/>

December 29, 2015

The head of the Counter Crime Agency in Zliten was killed when a bomb exploded under his car. No one has claimed responsibility for the murder.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/12/30/criminal-intelligence-director-in-zliten-murdered/>

December 26, 2015

A powerful IED exploded at the Municipal Guard headquarters in the Shiha District in Derna, causing significant damage to the building, but no casualties. While there was no claim of the attack, it was likely perpetrated by Islamic State sleeper cells in the neighborhood.

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=204324366575240&id=100553250285686&substory_index=0

December 19, 2015

A bomb exploded at the military intelligence headquarters in Sabratha injuring two security guards and causing extensive damage to the building. No one so far has claimed responsibility for the attack.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/12/19/explosion-in-sabratha-mayor-plans-state-of-emergency/>

November 30, 2015

The head of the Libyan judiciary escaped an assassination attempt in Al-Bayda. An explosive device, believed to be a hand-made bomb, is reported to have exploded under his car. However he was not in it at the time and no one else was hurt.

<http://www.libyaobserver.ly/crimes/judge-survives-assassination-attempt-al-bayda>

November 25, 2015

Three people were murdered in Ajdabiya, all were involved in security and one was a Salafist. Islamic State and the Ajdabiya Revolutionaries' Shoura Council are accused of the wave of killings.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/11/25/murders-continue-in-ajdabiya/>

November 10, 2015

Three Islamic State gunmen were killed as their car passed on a land mine in Al-Fatayeh district, eastern Derna. Media sources from Derna explained that those mines were planted by the Islamic State group in an attempt to prevent Derna Shura Council revolutionaries from advancing toward the district.

<http://libyaobserver.ly/news/militants-killed-their-own-mines>

November 10, 2015

A car bomb exploded at a checkpoint on the coastal road just outside Khoms. One guard was immediately killed but two others who were among the seven wounded are said to have since died from their injuries. The attack has all the hallmarks of an Islamic State operation, but their involvement was not confirmed.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/11/11/car-bomb-in-khoms-kills-three-guards/>

Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2015

November 8, 2015

Two Serbian embassy staff members were abducted in Libya when their diplomatic convoy, including the Ambassador, came under fire in the coastal city of Sabratha. The Ambassador was able to escape.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/libyaNews/idAFL8N1330U020151108?sp=true>

October 29, 2015

An Ajdabiya imam - who was an outspoken critic of the Islamic State - was murdered when a car bomb exploded beneath his vehicle. An Islamic State web site later claimed responsibility.

<http://www.islamedianalysis.info/libya-anti-is-imam-sheikh-suleiman-kabylie-killed-by-ajdabiya-car-bomb/>

October 29, 2015

A Libyan cameraman working for the Chinese news agency Xinhua has disappeared and is feared to have been kidnapped in Tripoli.

<https://www.cpj.org/2015/11/cpj-concerned-for-safety-of-photojournalist-missin.php>

October 23, 2015

Rockets his protestors in Benghazi's Kish Square who gathered to demonstrate against a UN-proposed peace deal and power-sharing agreement, killing 12 and wounding 30. Among the dead and the injured were one officer and other members of the army loyal to its Commander-in-Chief Khalifah Haftar. Militants from Ansar Al-Sharia and the Islamic State have been blamed, but their involvement has not been confirmed.

<http://cctv-africa.com/2015/10/24/libya-kish-square-massacre-toll-rises-to-nine/>

October 19, 2015

A bomb exploded in Benghazi's Birkah district wounding two sanitation officials, one critically. It is not known who was responsible for the explosive device, which was left close to the sports city bridge.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/10/19/bomb-explodes-in-benghazi-two-injured/>

October 17, 2015

The nephew of a Salafist imam, declared an apostate by the Islamic State, was killed and his uncle badly injured by an Ajdabiya car bomb. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack saying that he deserved to die because he was an apostate.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/10/18/ajdabiya-car-bomb-injures-imam-and-kills-his-nephew/>

October 15, 2015

Two people were killed and another four injured when a randomly fired missile hit an apartment block in Benghazi's Kish district. The Benghazi Revolutionaries Shoura Council, which includes Ansar Al-Sharia, was reported to have threatened to launch missiles at nearby Kish Square if anyone dared turn up to a planned protest there.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/10/16/84632/>

October 7, 2015

An explosion went off next to the parliament in the capital, Tripoli, as lawmakers were in session. No casualties were reported.

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/152342/World/Region/In-Libya,-explosion-near-Tripoli-parliament-during.aspx>

September 18, 2015

A suicide squad of four militants loyal to Islamic State managed to penetrate an air base on the outskirts of Tripoli that serves as the Libyan capital's only working airport and launched an attack on the headquarters of an Islamist militia that is opposed to them.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/islamic-state-launches-attack-on-libyan-airport/2970636.html>

September 17, 2015

Two Indian medical staff were seized at the Ibn Sina Hospital in Sirte by Islamic State militants.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/09/19/one-of-two-seized-sirte-indian-medics-is-free-report/>

September 16, 2015

A local civil society activist was assassinated in Ajdabiya. He was shot in front of his house after returning from maghreb (evening) prayers. Local sources blamed the killing on the largely Islamist Ajdabiya Revolutionaries' Shoura Council (ARSC).

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/09/17/ajdabiya-activist-murdered/>

September 14, 2015

A car bomb went off outside Bab Tajoura Brigade and close to the Ministry of Planning in Souq Al-Joma'a district of Tripoli on Monday. No casualties were reported in the attack.

<http://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/car-bomb-near-planning-ministry-tripoli>

September 9, 2015

Four children, all under 10 years of age, were killed and two others injured when a mine exploded at their school in Benghazi's Benina district.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/09/10/benghazi-school-children-killed-in-mine-explosion/>

September 9, 2015

A car bomb exploded near Al-Habda al-Khadra prison in the Libyan capital where former officials of Gadhafi's regime, including the dictator's son, were being held. There was also an interior ministry brigade headquarters located there. No one was hurt.

<http://dunyanews.tv/en/World/297991-Bomb-hits-near-Libya-prison-holding-former-Kadhafi>

September 6, 2015

Islamic State militants allegedly abducted two Indians from Sirte, one of them a hospital worker, and took them to an unidentified location by blindfolding them. They were later released.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/in-dia/Two-Indians-kidnapped-in-war-torn-Libya-Foreign-ministry/articleshow/48987837.cms>

Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2015

August 31, 2015

A car bomb went off in Tripoli in front of the headquarters of Mellitah, an oil and gas joint venture between Italy's ENI and Libyan state oil firm NOC. The explosion damaged the buildings around the ENI complex and burned three cars, though no one was hurt.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/08/31/us-libya-oil-blast-idUSKCN0R01KR20150831#zRSmmQfwlRqUEWPV.99>

August 31, 2015

A special forces commander was killed and three members of his unit injured in a mine blast in Al-Laythi district of Benghazi.
<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/0/139346/World/0/Search.aspx?Text=%20Al-Laythi>

August 13, 2015

Islamic State began shelling Sirte's residential district No. 3, killing 38 members of the Farjan tribe. It is said to be the only area in the town not under Islamic State control.
https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/08/13/is-kills-38-in-sirte-threatens-to-use-gas-hor-members-call-on-international-community-for-help/?utm_source=August+14+2015+EN&utm_campaign=8%2F14%2F2015&utm_medium=email

August 11, 2015

Fighting broke out following the murder by Islamic State of a Salafist cleric, Khalid bin Rajab Ferjani, the imam at the town's Cordoba Mosque. Islamic State had managed to take over all the mosques in the town with the exception of those run by Salafists who have refused to hand them over. The imam is said to have been one of those who rejected Islamic State demands.
https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/08/13/is-kills-38-in-sirte-threatens-to-use-gas-hor-members-call-on-international-community-for-help/?utm_source=August+14+2015+EN&utm_campaign=8%2F14%2F2015&utm_medium=email

August 9, 2015

Islamic State opened fire on a group of women demonstrators in Sirte, injuring some and arresting five. Locals had reported that Islamic State had warned that it would open fire on or arrest any demonstrators supporting the former regime.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/08/09/is-fires-at-womens-sirte-demonstration/>

August 5, 2015

The Islamic State is reported to have killed a judge whom it seized a week and a half ago. A body, said to be that of Salem Mohammed Al-Namli, a member of Khoms' Court of Appeals, was found near Sirte.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/08/05/is-kills-captured-judge-report/>

July 31, 2015

Seven Libyan soldiers were killed when Islamic State militants stormed a checkpoint manned by forces loyal to the official government.
http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/af-rica/2015/08/01/Seven-Libyan-soldiers-killed-in-clashes-with-ISIS.html?utm_source=August+3+2015+EN&utm_campaign=8%2F3%2F2015&utm_medium=email

July 31, 2015

Four Indian nationals were held by Islamic State militants at a checkpoint about 50 km outside Sirte. Two were released shortly afterwards.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/07/31/india-libya-islamicstate-idUSKCN0Q50RY20150731>

July 28, 2015

Five Libyan soldiers were killed by a suicide bomber in Benghazi. The suicide bomber was disguised as a refugee.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/07/28/suicide-bomber-hidden-among-benghazi-refugees-kills-five-soldiers/>

July 28, 2015

Nine Libyan soldiers were killed in the eastern city of Benghazi by a suicide bomber and in ensuing clashes between troops and Islamist fighters.
http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKCN0Q30KA20150729?utm_source=July+29+2015+EN&utm_campaign=7%2F29%2F2015&utm_medium=email

July 25, 2015

A judge and member of Khom's Court of Appeal was seized by gunmen from the Islamic State when he was stopped at the checkpoint manned by them at Harawa, 70km east of Sirte.
http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-08/06/c_134485152.htm

July 23, 2015

Islamic State militants allegedly executed an Egyptian Christian they seized a week ago near Nufaliya.
<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/2015/07/30/islamic-state-executes-another-copt-in-libya/>

July 22, 2015

Two car bombs exploded in Libya's eastern city of Derna.
<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/07/22/Two-car-bombs-explode-in-eastern-Libyan-city-of-Derna.html>

July 21, 2015

A mortar round believed to have been fired by Islamic State militants hit the Benghazi Medical Centre, injuring a foreign nurse.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/07/21/indian-nurse-injured-in-bmc-mortar-attack/>

July 20, 2015

Four Italian construction workers have been kidnapped near an industrial complex owned by the Italian energy giant Eni in the western Libyan city of Mellitah.
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2015/07/20/italians-kidnapped-libya/30403021/>

July 19, 2015

The Islamic State group announced on social media that it has kidnapped three Christian Africans in Libya; an Egyptian, Ghanaian and Nigerian. The three were kidnapped from Noufuiyah in the southeast of the city of Sirte.
<http://www.thecairopost.com/news/160203/news/is-kidnaps-3-christian-african-including-egyptian>

July 18, 2015

Islamic State gunmen seized a Sirte social media activist and executed him in public.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/07/18/daesh-murder-facebook-moderator-for-a-post/>

Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2015

July 12, 2015

In Sirte, Islamic State militants began demolishing houses of politicians who oppose them. It is reported that at least a dozen homes were looted and then destroyed, either by explosive placed within the buildings or by fire from RPGs. One of the wrecked properties, in the town's Swawa district, belongs to GNC member Mohamed Abduljaleel Al-Shawesh.

<http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/top-news-us-wants-drones-to-combat-islamic-state-in-libya-us-confirms-tunisia-s-non-nato-ally-status>

July 8, 2015

A senior military intelligence officer was killed in Misrata when a bomb concealed in his car exploded.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/07/09/14-Killed-in-clashes-in-Libya-s-Benghazi.html>

July 6, 2015

A bomb exploded inside Misrata Air Defense Base. Sources say the bomb was planted and exploded under three useless aircraft. No casualties were reported in the explosion. Islamic State militants claimed responsibility.

<http://aviation-safety.net/wikibase/wiki.php?id=177599>

July 4, 2015

Three suicide car bombs were detonated in the Shihah and Bab Tobruk neighbourhoods, west of Derna, killing 10 civilians and injuring 15 others. The attack was carried out by Islamic State militants.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/07/04/Five-killed-in-east-Libya-car-bomb-attack.html>

June 21, 2015

A booby-trap killed five soldiers in Benghazi. The men were entering a building in Suq Al-Hoot when a hidden landmine was detonated.

<http://www.libyaherald.com/2015/06/21/benghazi-booby-trap-slays-five-soldiers/#axzz3doSjVZhk>

June 13, 2015

A suicide bomber blew himself up in Derna, killing at least three people and wounding five more.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/06/13/us-libya-security-idUSKBN00T0P420150613>

June 12, 2015

Seven people were shot dead and 30 people wounded at a protest against Islamic State in the eastern Libyan city of Derna.

<http://www.arabnews.com/middle-east/news/761101>

June 9, 2015

Four Misratan militiamen were killed and several wounded when Islamic State forces overran Sirte's Gulf Power station.

<http://www.libyaherald.com/2015/06/09/is-overrun-sirte-power-station-as-misratan-brigade-retreats/#axzz3cg9UX67R>

June 3, 2015

Eight Eritrean Christians were seized by Islamic State militants in an ambush attack near Oum Walid outside Tripoli.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3116667/ISIS-kidnap-86-Eritrean-Christians-people-smuggling-caravan-Libya-stopping-trucks-quizzing-Koran-Muslim.html>

May 31, 2015

A suicide attack claimed by Islamic State killed five security personnel and wounded eight others outside the Libyan city of Misrata.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/libya/11641903/Islamic-State-group-claims-Libya-suicide-attack.html>

May 30, 2015

Two soldiers and two civilians died in two IED attacks near Derna.

<http://www.libyaherald.com/2015/05/30/double-ied-explosion-kills-four-near-derna/#ixzz3c7qedGLP>

May 29, 2015

Islamic State militants attacked a security checkpoint near Derna.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/29/us-libya-security-idUSKBN00E21720150529>

May 26, 2015

The prime minister of Libya's internationally recognized government survived an assassination attempt. Assailants fired shots at his car and wounded one of his bodyguards following a demonstration.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/27/world/middleeast/libyan-prime-minister-survives-assassination-attempt-amid-protests.html?_r=0

May 22, 2015

Islamic State militants kidnapped a North Korean doctor and his wife in Al-Noufleya, eastern Sirte, while they were on their way to Tripoli after having finished work in Jalu hospital.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2015/05/485_179547.html

May 21, 2015

Two Misratan guards were killed and three others injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up at Checkpoint 60, south of the city.

<http://www.libyaherald.com/2015/05/31/is-suicide-bomber-kills-four-at-misrata-checkpoint/#axzz3bod7MrvT>

May 21, 2015

Militants, said to be local fighters supporting Islamic State, blew up two of the checkpoint gates outside Ajdabiya.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/05/21/bombers-destroy-two-checkpoints-at-ajdabiya-after-local-pro-islamist-commander-is-killed/>

May 19, 2015

One person was killed and seven were wounded in a suicide bombing claimed by Islamic State militants in the eastern Libyan town of Qubbah.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/19/us-libya-security-idUSKBN0040SF20150519>

May 14, 2015

RPGs were fired at the runway of Sebha Airport.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/05/14/sebha-airport-reopening-stymied-by-early-morning-rpg-attack/>

May 12, 2015

Four children were killed by a mortar round in Benghazi. Islamic State militants claimed responsibility for that attack.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/14/us-libya-security-idUSKBN0NZ26D20150514>

May 12, 2015

A man was killed and 12 others injured in missile attacks on Benina airport.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/05/12/three-children-killed-in-benghazi-random-rocket-attack/#ixzz3ZzCYEYn3>

Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2015

May 10, 2015

Benghazi's downtown Tibesti Hotel was struck by three rockets. There were no casualties as the hotel is closed at present.

<http://www.libyaherald.com/2015/05/12/three-children-killed-in-benghazi-random-rocket-attack/#axzz3a267WMNr>

April 29, 2015

Islamic State militants in Libya have killed two Tunisian journalists kidnapped last year.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/29/libya-security-tunisia-idUSL5N0XQ70520150429>

April 27, 2015

Islamic State militants have slit the throats of five journalists, kidnapped last year, who had been working for a Libyan TV station in the eastern part of the country.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/27/us-libya-security-idUSKBN0N11V820150427?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>

April 22, 2015

A Libyan television journalist involved in coverage of fighting between Islamist militias and pro-government forces in Benghazi was assassinated.

<http://news.yahoo.com/libyan-journalist-shot-dead-benghazi-084155550.html>

April 21, 2015

Two Libyan army bomb disposal experts were killed in Leithi as they were trying to diffuse booby-trap explosives left by members of the Islamist coalition, the Benghazi Revolutionaries' Shoura Council (BRSC). They were deactivating a device in Khaleej Street when a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at them.

<http://www.libyaherald.com/2015/04/21/bomb-disposal-experts-killed-in-benghazi/#axzz3Y3JsFd64>

April 20, 2015

A bomb exploded outside Spain's embassy in the Libyan capital without causing injuries, an attack later claimed by the Islamic State group.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/04/21/Bomb-explodes-outside-Spanish-embassy-in-Libya.html>

April 20, 2015

ISIS released a 29-minute video showing the terrorists executing 30 Christians in Libya.

<http://www.thenewstribe.com/2015/04/20/terrorism-isis-executed-30-christians-in-libya/>

April 15, 2015

A bomb car exploded in Tobruk outside the building housing both the new locally-based Libya Wataniya TV and military intelligence. One person was wounded.

<http://www.libyaherald.com/2015/04/15/a-new-car-bomb-in-tobruk/#axzz3XU3kov2d>

April 13, 2015

The Moroccan ambassador's residence next to the embassy in Tripoli's Ben Ashour district was attacked by an RPG missile. No one was hurt, and Islamic State claimed responsibility.

<http://www.libyaherald.com/2015/04/13/moroccan-embassy-attacked-is-claims-responsibility/#axzz3XC8nS9yU>

April 12, 2015

Unidentified gunmen fired shots at the South Korean embassy in Tripoli, killing two local security guards. Militants claiming loyalty to Islamic State said they were behind the attack.

http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/12/gunmen-attack-south-korean-embassy-libya-tripoli-islamic-state?utm_source=April+13+2015+EN&utm_campaign=4%2F13%2F2015&utm_medium=email

April 5, 2015

Six people were killed and 21 injured when a suicide car bomb was detonated at the Sadada checkpoint in the east of the city of Misrata.

<http://www.libyaherald.com/2015/04/05/suicide-car-bomb-kills-6-injures-21-at-misrata-checkpoint/#axzz3WYnPWbji>

March 30, 2015

One person was killed and three were wounded in a bombing attack on oil workers in Zawiya, Libya.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/461498/pinoyabroad/news/filipino-killed-in-libya-attack-dfa>

March 25, 2015

The Islamic State group's affiliate in Libya said it played a role in a string of suicide car bombings that killed 12 people in the eastern city of Benghazi.

<http://news.yahoo.com/islamic-state-affiliate-claims-libya-bombings-killed-12-080614599.html>

March 16, 2015

Islamic State kidnapped about 20 medical workers with the Ibn Sina Hospital in Sirte, during an attack on the facility.

http://www.cnn.com/2015/03/16/africa/isis-libya-kidnapped-medical-workers/index.html?utm_source=March+18+2015+EN&utm_campaign=3%2F17%2F2015&utm_medium=email

March 15, 2015

A bag of explosives went off at a checkpoint next to a Janzour security building in a Tripoli suburb, wounding five policemen.

http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/16/us-libya-security-idUSKBN0MB0YD20150316?utm_source=March+16+2015+EN&utm_campaign=3%2F16%2F2015&utm_medium=email

March 15, 2015

A car bomb exploded in the western city of Misrata. The bomb targeted a force tasked with fighting Islamic State militants.

http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/16/us-libya-security-idUSKBN0MB0YD20150316?utm_source=March+16+2015+EN&utm_campaign=3%2F16%2F2015&utm_medium=email

March 15, 2015

Militants loyal to Islamic State claimed a bomb attack on a police checkpoint in Tripoli.

http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/16/us-libya-security-idUSKBN0MB0YD20150316?utm_source=March+16+2015+EN&utm_campaign=3%2F16%2F2015&utm_medium=email

Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2015

March 6, 2015

Nine foreign workers were taken hostage by the Islamic State after a Libyan oil field was attacked. Gunmen invaded the al-Ghani oilfield, just south of the city of Sirte, killing 11 guards, and beheading a number of them before local forces fought back to retake control.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/isis-blamed-after-9-foreign-workers-missing-in-attack-on-libyan-oil-field-10094051.html>

February 23, 2015

Entissar al-Hassaeri, a well-known woman member of civil society was killed in Tripoli along with her aunt, Amal Mazdawi.

<http://news.yahoo.com/body-female-libya-activist-found-car-boot-security-193447798.html>

February 22, 2015

Militants claiming loyalty to Islamic State said they were behind a rocket strike on the eastern Labraq airport.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/22/us-libya-security-iran-idUSKBN0LQ0DX20150222>

February 22, 2015

Militants claiming loyalty to Islamic State said they were behind a bomb attack on the residence of the Iranian ambassador in the Libyan capital.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/22/us-libya-security-iran-idUSKBN0LQ0DX20150222>

February 20, 2015

Three early morning car bombings killed 35 people.

<http://www.libyaherald.com/2015/02/20/guba-car-bombs-slaughter-35/#axzz3TLqavNZP>

February 20, 2015

Forty-one people were killed in a series of Islamic State bomb blasts aimed at retaliation against Egypt.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/massive-car-bomb-kills-dozens-in-libya-1424430675>

February 16, 2015

At least 35 Egyptians were kidnapped in a round-up at various locations in areas controlled by Ansar Al-Sharia and Islamic State.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/02/16/breaking-news-more-egyptians-being-kidnapped/>

February 14, 2015

A bomb hit a pipeline leading to the country's largest oil field, al-Sarir, disrupting the flow of oil to ships at a coastal terminal. No group claimed responsibility.

<http://sweetcrudereports.com/2015/02/15/libya-warns-of-oil-shutdown-as-attacks-escalate/>

February 13, 2015

Three people were killed and 15 wounded by a bomb explosion during a wedding celebration.

<http://www.trt.net.tr/francais/afrique/2015/02/13/libye-3-personnes-en-f%C3%AAte-tu%C3%A9es-par-une-bombe-164730>

February 6, 2015

Three people were killed and 20 injured after a suicide bomber blew himself up in Benghazi.

<http://www.libyaherald.com/2015/02/06/suicide-car-bomber-killed-in-benghazi/#axzz3TLqavNZP>

February 6, 2015

A jeep filled with explosives killed two people and wounded around 20 in Benghazi. Soldiers fired rifles and a rocket-propelled grenade at the Toyota as it sped toward a military base in what an army commander said was a suicide bombing. The vehicle exploded, killing a man and a boy as well as the driver.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/06/us-libya-security-idUSKBN0LA0PH20150206>

February 4, 2015

Suspected Islamic State gunmen killed 12 people, among them two Filipino and two Ghanaian nationals, after storming a remote Libyan oilfield. Victims were beheaded or shot.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/05/libya-security-idUSL6N0VF00V20150205>

February 3, 2015

Unknown assailants threw an explosive device at the Sudanese embassy from their passing vehicle. The device failed to explode and was later defused.

<http://www.libyaherald.com/2015/02/03/tripoli-revolutionaries-brigade-again-attacked-report/#axzz3SxatQQ7R>

February 2, 2015

One person was killed and two others were wounded when a car bomb exploded in Tripoli.

<http://news.yahoo.com/libyan-car-bomb-targeting-tripoli-militia-kills-one-151942584.html>

January 27, 2015

Gunmen claiming to belong to Islamic State attacked the Corinthia hotel, the unofficial headquarters of the antigovernment of Omer A-Hassi, killing three guards and detonating a car bomb in the car park.

<http://www.libyaherald.com/2015/01/27/update-corinthia-hotel-attack/#axzz3SCqnLXbb>

January 20, 2015

A local administration official escaped unhurt after gunmen opened fire at him in Sirte.

<https://www.enca.com/africa/gunmen-kill-security-chief-libyas-sirte>

January 19, 2015

The Islamic State claimed responsibility for setting fire to Tripoli's largest supermarket. One man was injured.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/01/19/huge-blaze-destroys-tripolis-largest-supermarket/>

January 15, 2015

An executive from Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC), who represents his country in the OPEC cartel, is believed to have been abducted in the militia-held capital Tripoli.

<http://news.yahoo.com/libyan-opecrepresentative-missing-tripoli-181458194.html>

January 12, 2015

The Islamic State group's branch in Libya has claimed the abduction of 21 Christians as Egypt confirmed that 20 of its citizens were being held in the country, having been abducted in two separate incidents.

http://news.yahoo.com/jihadists-claim-abduction-21-christians-libya-monitor-155334583.html;_ylt=AwrBJR5J.rRUdylAI5vQtDMD

January 9, 2015

The Tripoli office of Al-Naba TV has hit by at least one RPG missile, which blew out part of the front of the building. No casualties were reported.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/01/09/rpg-fired-at-al-naba-tv-hq-in-tripoli/>

Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2015

January 8, 2015

Islamic State's Libya branch has posted images claiming the execution of two Tunisian journalists, Sofiene Chourabi and Nadhir Ktari. The journalists were kidnapped in September while producing a report from eastern Libya.

<http://www.tunisia-live.net/2015/01/08/isis-in-libya-claims-execution-of-two-tunisian-journalists/>

January 4, 2015

An Iraqi professor at the University of Sirte was kidnapped along with his three sons from their home.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/01/04/iraqi-professor-kidnapped-in-sirte/>

January 3, 2015

In the Libyan city of Sirte, 13 Coptic Egyptian workers were kidnapped. Daily News Egypt reported that the Islamic State in Tripoli released photos of the captured Egyptians. Their deaths were later confirmed by the Libyan parliament.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-30666475>

Mali

December 15, 2015

Militants shelled UN barracks in Gao. No casualties or damage were reported.

<https://www.modernghana.com/news/661697/1/militants-shell-un-camp-in-mali-officials.html>

November 28, 2015

Unknown attackers fired rockets at a United Nations peacekeeping base in northern Mali, killing three people inside.

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mali-attacks-idUSKBN0TH03M20151128?utm_source=November+30%2C+2015+EN&utm_campaign=11%2F30%2F2015&utm_medium=email

November 28, 2015

A French soldier, part of the 3,500-strong Barkhane anti-terrorism force operating across the Sahel, and a UN peacekeeper were killed by landmines.

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mali-attacks-idUSKBN0TH03M20151128?utm_source=November+30%2C+2015+EN&utm_campaign=11%2F30%2F2015&utm_medium=email

November 24, 2015

A UN vehicle hit an explosive device about 25 km from Timbuktu, killing one civilian staff member.

<http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20151124/news/311249758/>

November 20, 2015

Gunmen stormed the Radisson Blu Hotel in Bamako, seizing scores of hostages and leaving bodies strewn across the building.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/21/world/africa/mali-hotel-attack-radisson.html?_r=0

November 11, 2015

An explosive device was set off at the entrance of a building for an NGO in Menaka, causing material damage.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52552>

November 3, 2015

Suspected jihadists opened fire on a canoe, injuring one, presumably in response to the military's arrest of four suspected jihadists that day.

<http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20151104-offensive-mali-mopti-attaque-jihadiste-koufa-pirogue-fait-blesee>

October 24, 2015

A landmine exploded, killing three civilians and wounding two peacekeepers near Tessalit.

<http://www.trtworld.com/mea/3-civilians-killed-2-un-peacekeepers-injured-in-mali-10113>

October 13, 2015

Three French special forces were injured in a landmine blast somewhere in "the north".

<http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/3-members-of-French-special-forces-hurt-in-Mali-mine-blast-army-20151015>

October 6, 2015

One person was killed and four kidnapped in a village in the Gao region when Tuareg separatists targeted family members of Tuaregs aligned with the government.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ba648ea362914aed879bb63179328274/inter-communal-violence-kills-1-north-mali-4-kidnapped>

September 19, 2015

A gun attack blamed on jihadists in central Mali near the border with Burkina Faso left two policemen and two civilians dead. The victims were killed by armed Islamists on motorcycle in the village of Bih, about five kilometres (three miles) from the Burkina Faso border.

<http://news.yahoo.com/four-killed-mali-attack-blamed-jihadists-100932209.html>

September 1, 2015

Two soldiers were killed when armed men attacked a military outpost near Timbuktu.

http://malijet.com/actualite_dans_les_regions_du_mali/rebellion_au_nord_du_mali/135599-deux-militaires-tu%C3%A9s-dans-l%E2%80%99attaque-d%E2%80%99un-poste-de-l%E2%80%99arm%C3%A9e-%C3%A0-tomb.html

August 22, 2015

Two MINUSMA peacekeepers were injured when their vehicle hit a landmine.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51698#.Vr04L1rSMM>

August 13, 2015

Imam Elhadji Sekou Ba, an outspoken critic of the rise of Islamist militants in central Mali, was gunned down on his doorstep.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/08/19/us-mali-violence-idUSKCN0Q019320150819#X8icC8RhQSpHrPf8.99>

August 10, 2015

A blast killed three Malian soldiers when their vehicle hit an IED.

https://news.vice.com/article/two-militant-groups-make-dueling-claims-to-deadly-hotel-siege-in-mali?utm_source=August+13+2015+EN&utm_campaign=8%2F13%2F2015&utm_medium=email

August 9, 2015

Gunmen killed 10 civilians in an attack on the village of Gaberi in northern Mali.

http://www.france24.com/en/20150809-mali-deadly-attack-villagers-north-civilians-jihadists-militants-al-qaeda?utm_source=August+10+2015+EN&utm_campaign=8%2F10%2F2015&utm_medium=email

Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2015

August 7, 2015

A hostage situation and ensuing battle between attackers and soldiers at a Mali hotel resulted in 12 dead, including five Malian soldiers.

http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/08/africa/mali-hotel-siege/?utm_source=August+10+2015+EN&utm_campaign=8%2F10%2F2015&utm_medium=email

August 4, 2015

An attack by terrorists killed 11 Malian soldiers at an outpost about 140 km from Tombouctou. The assailants are from the terrorist group Ansar Dine.

<http://www.jeuneafrique.com/253280/politique/onze-soldats-tues-attaque-nord-mali/>

July 24, 2015

A MINUSMA camp in Aguelhoc was targeted by mortar fire by suspected Islamist militants. No casualties or damage was reported.

<https://minusma.unmissions.org/attaque-sur-le-camp-de-la-minusma-%C3%A0-aguelhoc>

July 2, 2015

An ambush on a convoy of U.N. peacekeepers in Mali resulted in six people killed and five more wounded. The attack took place on a road about 45 kilometers southwest of the city of Timbuktu, and was later claimed by AQIM.

http://www.voanews.com/content/us-un-condemn-mali-attack-claimed-by-al-qaida/2847260.html?utm_source=July+3%2C+2015+EN&utm_campaign=7%2F03%2F2015&utm_medium=email

June 28, 2015

Armed men attacked and briefly took control of a village in Mali's southern region of Sikasso, close to the border with Ivory Coast.

http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/06/28/us-mali-fighting-idUSKCN0P810820150628?utm_source=June+29%2C+2015+EN&utm_campaign=6%2F29%2F2015&utm_medium=email

June 27, 2015

Suspected Islamist fighters attacked a town in western Mali near the border with Mauritania, leaving three soldiers and nine attackers dead.

http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/06/28/us-mali-fighting-idUSKCN0P810820150628?utm_source=June+29%2C+2015+EN&utm_campaign=6%2F29%2F2015&utm_medium=email

May 28, 2015

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) said it was behind a landmine explosion targeting a UN convoy. Three Burkina Faso peacekeepers were wounded when their convoy triggered at least one mine, thought to be freshly laid, in the Timbuktu region.

http://news.yahoo.com/aqim-islamists-claim-two-attacks-against-un-mali-223003683.html?utm_source=June+1+2015+EN&utm_campaign=6%2F1%2F2015&utm_medium=email

May 25, 2015

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) said it was behind a rocket attack on a MINUSMA base in northern Mali.

http://news.yahoo.com/aqim-islamists-claim-two-attacks-against-un-mali-223003683.html?utm_source=June+1+2015+EN&utm_campaign=6%2F1%2F2015&utm_medium=email

May 20, 2015

An unidentified gunman shot at United Nations vehicles in Mali's capital Bamako and targeted a house where U.N. staff were staying, wounding a guard.

<http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCAKBN0051S020150520>

May 6, 2015

A vehicle hit an explosive device near the MINUSMA camp in Kidal and two civilians were injured.

<https://minusma.unmissions.org/en/attack-minusma-camp-kidal>

April 29, 2015

Two soldiers and a civilian were killed when gunmen attacked the village of Goundam in northern Mali. Gunmen entered the town firing their weapons and went to the headquarters of the national guard detachment, where they shot its head, his deputy and his nephew.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBNONK13G20150429>

April 28, 2015

Tuareg rebels shot at United Nations peacekeepers outside the town of Timbuktu. The shooters allegedly claimed that they mistook the UN troops for Malian government soldiers.

http://www.voanews.com/content/mali-tuareg-rebels-fire-on-un-peacekeepers/2737676.html?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

April 23, 2015

Seven UN peacekeepers were wounded when a mine exploded.

<https://mali-web.org/crise-malienne/sept-casques-bleus-blesses-dans-le-heurt-dune-mine-a-anefis-les-soldats-onusiens-ont-du-pain-sur-la-planche>

April 17, 2015

Two drivers were shot dead in an attack on a peacekeeping supply convoy in northern Mali. The attack took place some 15 kilometers (nine miles) from the main city of Gao. A third person was wounded.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3044754/Two-UN-drivers-killed-northern-Mali-convoy-attacked.html>

April 15, 2015

A suicide bomber attacked a UN barracks in northern Mali, killing three civilians and wounding 16 people, including several peacekeepers.

<http://news.yahoo.com/three-killed-suicide-attack-peacekeepers-mali-161519815.html>

April 12, 2015

Two Malian soldiers were killed and others were wounded when their vehicle struck a landmine in the center of the West African nation.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/r-two-mali-soldiers-killed-others-injured-in-landmine-explosion-2015-4#ixzz3cb7HCJtg>

April 7, 2015

The UN support mission in Mali, MINUSMA, suffered a landmine explosion that injured two UN peacekeepers in Kidal.

<http://sputniknews.com/africa/20150407/1020593161.html>

April 3, 2015

Two armed men on motorcycles attacked a village, firing at the police station and town hall. They killed two civilians and injured a gendarme.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3026270/Civilian-killed-northern-Mali-rocket-attack.html>

March 31, 2015

A Red Cross worker was killed during a terrorist attack on an aid truck in Mali.

<http://dunyanews.tv/index.php/en/World/270927-Red-Cross-worker-killed-in-terrorist-attack-on-aid>

Tunisia

March 24, 2015

A bomb exploded in an uninhabited house in Gao. The house was previously inhabited by MUJAO fighters during the occupation of the region in 2012.
<http://sahelien.com/viewer?id=551169ece69fb503c000040>

March 18, 2015

Al-Qaida fighters shot a man in the head in front of villagers and then decapitated the victim. They accused him of working with French forces in Operation Barkhane.
<http://www.ksl.com/?nid=235&sid=33958217>

March 10, 2015

Two Malian civilians were kidnapped by jihadists as they tried to drive towards Niger.
<http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20150312-trois-civils-maliens-enlevés-jihadistes-frontiere-nigerienne-mujao>

March 9, 2015

A UN peacekeeper and 2 children were killed after terrorists shelled a UN base in northern Mali after an attack in Bamako.
<http://www.9news.com.au/world/2015/03/09/02/16/un-peacekeeper-and-two-children-killed-in-mali-attacks>

March 8, 2015

The MINUSMA camp in Kidal suffered an attack of more than 30 rockets and shells, killing three and wounding 12.
http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20150308-mali-morts-casque-bleu-minusma-tirs-mortiers-obus-kidal/?aef_campaign_date=2015-03-08&aef_campaign_ref=partage_aef&dlvrit=1112231&ns_campaign=reseaux_sociaux&ns_linkname=editorial&ns_mchannel=social&ns_source=twitter

March 7, 2015

In northern Mali an explosion targeted a river police headquarters. A crowd later lynched two suspected of placing the homemade bombs.
http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20150308-mali-morts-casque-bleu-minusma-tirs-mortiers-obus-kidal/?aef_campaign_date=2015-03-08&aef_campaign_ref=partage_aef&dlvrit=1112231&ns_campaign=reseaux_sociaux&ns_linkname=editorial&ns_mchannel=social&ns_source=twitter

March 7, 2015

Five people were killed by terrorists in a restaurant in Bamako, Mali.
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/08/world/africa/5-killed-at-a-nightclub-attack-in-mali-capital.html?_r=0

February 4, 2015

An army vehicle hit a mine near Timbuktu.
<http://news.yahoo.com/fresh-skirmishes-between-rival-militias-mali-165701303.html>

January 30, 2015

An armed group attacked the Kano village, kidnapping 20 - 50 and killing one with a rocket. The villagers were all released shortly after thanks to pressure by MINUSMA.
<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0L511020150201>

January 28, 2015

Suicide bombers and armed attackers killed about a dozen people in an assault on rebel positions in northern Mali.
http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-31021892?utm_source=January+29+2015+EN_02&utm_campaign=1%2F29%2F2015&utm_medium=email

January 9, 2015

Seven Senegalese UN peacekeepers were injured when their vehicle hit an explosive device while driving near Kidal airport.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mali-un-blast-idUSKBN0K110N20150109>

January 6, 2015

Suspected Islamist militants killed one person in an attack on Djoura, a village about 465 km northeast of Bamako.
<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/162035>

January 4, 2015

Eight UN peacekeepers from Niger were injured, three seriously, when their vehicle hit an explosive device on the road between Menaka and Ansongo.
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-2896437/Six-UN-peacekeeping-troops-injured-Mali-blast.html>

January 3, 2015

The mayor of a town in northern Mali died from wounds sustained in an ambush that killed his son.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/01/03/us-mali-security-idUSKBN0K0K620150103>

November 24, 2015

A suicide bombing by the Islamic State group killed a busload of presidential guards.
http://in.reuters.com/article/tunisia-security-idINKBN0TE0P920151125?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=New%20Campaign&utm_term=*Mideast%20Brief

November 13, 2015

Islamist militants beheaded a Tunisian teenager in the central province of Sidi Bouzid and sent his head to his family after accusing him of spying for the military.
<http://af.reuters.com/article/tunisiaNews/idAFL8N13A0QC20151115>

October 12, 2015

A shepherd was kidnapped and executed by a group of armed men allegedly belonging to Okba Ibn Nafaa Brigade. The militant group accused the shepherd of being a spy.
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201510131844.html>

October 8, 2015

A lawmaker from Tunisia's ruling secular party escaped an assassination attempt when a gunman riddled his car with automatic rifle fire from a passing vehicle.
<http://af.reuters.com/article/tunisiaNews/idAFL8N12822H20151008>

August 30, 2015

An imam was killed by suspected Islamist militants in Jebel Semmama.
<http://archive2.mosaiquefm.net/fr/index/a/ActuDetail/Element/56702-meurtre-de-l-imam-de-sbeitla-le-ministere-des-affaires-religieuses-presente-ses-condoleances?Source=RSS>

August 23, 2015

A customs agent was killed and three others were injured in Bouchebka, near the Algerian border, in an attack by an al-Qaeda-affiliated group.
<http://www.jeuneafrique.com/259038/politique/tunisie-douanier-tue-attaque-revendiquee-groupe-lie-a-al-qaida/>

Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2015

August 19, 2015

Two Islamist militants riding a motorbike shot dead a Tunisian police officer in the beach resort of Sousse, where a gunman killed 38 people in June.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/africa/2015/08/20/Militants-kill-one-policeman-in-Tunisian-resort.html>

August 17, 2015

Four soldiers were wounded after a landmine planted by "terrorists" exploded during an army sweep on Mount Mghila in the Kasserine region.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/08/18/Two-soldiers-killed-by-landmine-in-west-Tunisia.html>

June 27, 2015

A landmine exploded in Touiref, Kef governorate, without causing any human or material losses. The mine exploded after the passage of military vehicle.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201506290208.html>

June 26, 2015

A gunman disguised as a tourist opened fire at a Tunisian hotel, killing 39 people including Britons, Germans, and Belgians as they lounged at the beach in an attack claimed by Islamic State.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/06/26/us-tunisia-security-idUSKBN0P61F020150626>

May 18, 2015

A landmine exploded on Mount Ouergha in Kef, on the path of a cattle herd, without causing victims. A cattle herd entered into a field of landmines planted by militant groups who had been holed up on Mount Ouergha, in the governorate of Kef. National Guard and army units went to the scene to help the shepherd and his cattle leave the landmine field.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201505200165.html>

April 30, 2015

A landmine exploded on Mount Salloum, in the governorate of Kasserine, without causing any human or material losses.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201504301460.html>

March 22, 2015

A Tunisian soldier was killed and two others injured when their vehicle hit a landmine "planted by terrorist elements" in a mountainous western region near the Algerian border.

<http://news.yahoo.com/soldier-killed-jihadi-mine-western-tunisia-225118347.html>

March 18, 2015

23 people were killed during a terrorist attack claimed by Islamic State in Tunisia's Bardo Museum.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-31960926>

February 28, 2015

An unspecified number of people were injured when a group of terrorists attacked a customs patrol center near the Tunisia-Algeria border.

http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/unposte-frontiere-tunisien-attaque-par-des-terroristes-28-02-2015-288617_109.php

February 17, 2015

Four Tunisian gendarmes were killed by a "terrorist attack" carried out near the Algerian border in an area where a jihadist group is active.

http://www.elwatan.com/international/tunisie-quatre-gendarmes-tues-dans-une-attaque-armee-a-la-frontiere-algerienne-18-02-2015-287855_112.php?utm_source=dvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

January 12, 2015

The general secretary of the Republican police union Rouissi Mohamed was the target of an assassination attempt at his home.

<http://www.leconomistemaghreb.com/2015/01/12/tunisie-mohamed-rouissi-cible-dune-tentative-dassassinat/#sthash.ePNP7cWG.dpuf>

Niger

November 29, 2015

Boko Haram killed four, injured two, and burned about 50 homes in a cross-border raid.

<http://news.yahoo.com/boko-haram-jihadists-torch-50-homes-kill-four-153919840.html>

October 27, 2015

Boko Haram militants killed 13 civilians in Ala, a village situated about 30 kilometers from Diffa.

<http://sahelien.com/viewer?id=5630e0dbf8438d4d7f0000c1>

September 24, 2015

An attack by Boko Haram militants on a border village in southeastern Niger killed 15 civilians.

<http://news.yahoo.com/15-civilians-killed-boko-haram-attack-se-niger-231308297.html>

July 18, 2015

Boko Haram jihadists killed 16 civilians in an attack on a southeast Niger village, near the Nigerian border.

<http://news.yahoo.com/16-niger-villagers-killed-boko-haram-attack-official-161454213.html>

July 11, 2015

Suspected Boko Haram militants launched an attack on the prison in the southern Niger town of Diffa, in an apparent bid to free fellow members of the Nigerian Islamist group held there.

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKCN0PM00020150712?utm_source=July+13+2015+EN&utm_campaign=7%2F13%2F2015&utm_medium=email

July 9, 2015

Boko Haram slit the throats of five civilians during a targeted attack against workers from the Diffa area who were working near Bosso.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/niger/boko-haram-brutally-kills-5-civilians-niger>

June 23, 2015

Boko Haram killed five people and injured four others in an attack on a town near Bosso. The militants used guns and set fire to victims, homes, and vehicles as well as the central market.

<http://news.yahoo.com/five-people-killed-boko-haram-attack-southeast-niger-180936294.html>

June 18, 2015

Boko Haram militants attacked two villages in Niger's Diffa region, close to the border with Nigeria, killing at least 38 people.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/united-states-condemns-boko-haram-raids-niger/2830367.html>

Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2015

May 5, 2015

Boko Haram killed at least five civilians and burned houses and vehicles in an attack on Koukoudou village. They also looted homes and shops before withdrawing back into Nigeria.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-nigeria-violence-niger-idUKKBN0NS28920150507>

April 25, 2015

Boko Haram militants attacked troops from Niger on an island base in Lake Chad in a raid believed to have taken a heavy toll on the army.

[http://news.yahoo.com/heavy-toll-feared-boko-haram-attacks-niger-army-](http://news.yahoo.com/heavy-toll-feared-boko-haram-attacks-niger-army-025611101.html?utm_source=April+27+2015+EN&utm_campaign=4%2F27%2F2015&utm_medium=email)

[025611101.html?utm_source=April+27+2015+EN&utm_campaign=4%2F27%2F2015&utm_medium=email](http://news.yahoo.com/heavy-toll-feared-boko-haram-attacks-niger-army-025611101.html?utm_source=April+27+2015+EN&utm_campaign=4%2F27%2F2015&utm_medium=email)

March 2, 2015

Boko Haram burned down a village near Bosso, killing two fishermen.

<http://www.ubalert.com/VPUb>

March 1, 2015

Boko Haram attacked the islands of Kouiklewa, Tombon Bouka, and another island near Tombon Bouka on the Nigerien side of Lake Chad, and at least 19 civilians died of bullet wounds, fire, and drowning.

http://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2015/03/02/niger-attaque-de-boko-haram-sur-une-ile-du-lac-tchad_4586023_3212.html

February 26, 2015

Two people aboard a horse-driven cart were killed in Niger when they ran over a mine thought to have been planted by Islamist Boko Haram insurgents.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/26/us-nigeria-violence-niger-idUSKBN0LU1NR20150226>

February 24, 2015

Two Niger soldiers were killed and four others wounded when their vehicle hit a mine.

<http://nigerdiaspora.net/les-infos-du-pays/politique-niger/politique-niger/item/69748-niger-2-soldats-tues-4-blesses-dans-l-explosion-d-une-mine-source-securitaire>

February 8, 2015

A suicide bomber detonated in the border town of Diffa, killing at least one.

<http://www.dw.de/boko-haram-crosses-nigeria-border-for-assault-in-niger/a-18243373>

February 6, 2015

Boko Haram attacked the Nigerian border towns of Diffa and Bosso.

<http://www.dw.de/boko-haram-crosses-nigeria-border-for-assault-in-niger/a-18243373>

Chad

December 5, 2015

A triple suicide bombing on an island in Lake Chad killed at least 27 people and left more than 80 wounded.

<http://news.yahoo.com/triple-suicide-attack-kills-27-lake-chad-island-141801619.html>

November 8, 2015

Boko Haram is suspected of involvement in the killing of at least two people in a village in Chad after a suicide bombing.

http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-34771128?utm_source=November+10%2C+2015+EN&utm_campaign=11%2F10%2F2015&utm_medium=email

October 10, 2015

Five coordinated suicide bombings in neighboring Chad killed at least 36 people and wounded some 50 others in a village near Lake Chad that is home to thousands of Nigerians who have fled the extremist violence. A man, two women, and two children carried out the attacks.

[http://news.yahoo.com/cameroon-blames-boko-haram-suicide-bombings-kill-9-](http://news.yahoo.com/cameroon-blames-boko-haram-suicide-bombings-kill-9-131448279.html?utm_source=October+13%2C+2015+EN&utm_campaign=10%2F9%2F2015+fr&utm_medium=email)

[131448279.html?utm_source=October+13%2C+2015+EN&utm_campaign=10%2F9%2F2015+fr&utm_medium=email](http://news.yahoo.com/cameroon-blames-boko-haram-suicide-bombings-kill-9-131448279.html?utm_source=October+13%2C+2015+EN&utm_campaign=10%2F9%2F2015+fr&utm_medium=email)

July 27, 2015

Boko Haram are suspected of kidnapping some 30 people in Katikine village, near lake Chad.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-nigeria-violence-chad-idUSKCN0Q11XA20150727>

July 27, 2015

At least 13 suspected Boko Haram militants and three civilians were killed after insurgents raided several remote localities around Lake Chad.

http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/07/27/us-nigeria-violence-chad-idUSKCN0Q11XA20150727?utm_source=July+28+2015+EN_02&utm_campaign=7%2F28%2F2015&utm_medium=email

July 13, 2015

Suspected Boko Haram militants aboard a motorboat attacked an island in Lake Chad, killing several children who were koranic students.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/chadNew/s/idAFL5N0ZU32E20150714>

July 11, 2015

An explosion about 30 kilometers north of N'Djamena killed one person.

<http://www.france24.com/en/20150711-deadly-suicide-attack-rocks-chadian-capital-boko-haram?dlvrit=66745>

July 11, 2015

A man dressed in a woman's burqa blew himself up in the main market in Chad's capital N'Djamena, killing 15 people and injuring 80. Chad has blamed Boko Haram.

<http://www.france24.com/en/20150711-deadly-suicide-attack-rocks-chadian-capital-boko-haram?dlvrit=66745>

July 6, 2015

Boko Haram attacked the village of Memorom on Lake Chad, killing at least three and wounding around 12.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-07/09/c_134394649.htm

July 5, 2015

For the second night in a row, suspected Boko Haram fighters have killed 13 civilians in a surprise attack on Tiskra village.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/haram-slit-throats-26-civilians-chad-150708171934359.html>

July 4, 2015

Suspected Boko Haram fighters have killed 13 civilians in a surprise overnight attack on Merom village.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/haram-slit-throats-26-civilians-chad-150708171934359.html>

Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2015

June 15, 2015

At least 27 people were killed and more than 100 wounded when four attackers blew themselves up outside the police headquarters and academy in N'Djamena, the capital of Chad.
<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/chad-many-killed-suspected-boko-haram-twin-attacks-ndjamena-police-1506189>

April 6, 2015

Seven villagers who were returning from a weekly market were killed by Boko Haram militants.
http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-07/09/c_134394649.htm

April 3, 2015

Fighters from Nigeria's Boko Haram insurgency fleeing an offensive by soldiers from Chad and Niger launched a rare attack on Chadian soil, killing seven people.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-nigeria-violence-chad-idUSKBN0MU11420150403>

February 12, 2015

Nigerian Boko Haram militants have carried out an attack on Chad, the first such assault on Chadian soil. Fighters crossed Lake Chad in four motorboats and attacked a village, and were pushed back by Chadian troops after killing several people.
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-31453951>

Algeria

December 17, 2015

A homemade explosive device detonated near a patrol car near the village Erriha El-Beida.
<http://www.aps.dz/regions/33477-tlemcen-explosion-d%E2%80%99une-bombe-artisanale-au-passage-d-une-patrouille-de-gendarmerie-nationale>

October 19, 2015

AQIM said that it had killed Fajr Ag Sidi Mohammed, in their hiding place in Bourj el-Barajneh in Algeria, for spying for France in Mali.
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3336943/AQIM-Islamists-say-killed-two-men-spying-France.html>

October 9, 2015

AQIM said that it had killed Mohammed Ag Abdellah, in their hiding place in Bourj el-Barajneh in Algeria, for spying for France in Mali.
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3336943/AQIM-Islamists-say-killed-two-men-spying-France.html>

July 26, 2015

During the night an army barracks in Oued Chaaba was attacked by terrorists using handmade mortars. There were three minor injuries.
<http://www.tsa-algerie.com/20150726/batna-oued-chaaba/>

July 16, 2015

A militant ambush killed 11 soldiers in a northern region of Algeria. The incident occurred in a forested area of Ain Delfa, 150 miles southeast of the capital Algiers.
http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2015/07/19/Islamist-militants-kill-11-soldiers-in-Algeria-ambush/7831437352594/?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

June 4, 2015

AQIM claimed responsibility for an attack that killed four members of a local neighborhood watch brigade.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-algeria-security-idUSKBN00N0QL20150607>

June 4, 2015

AQIM claimed responsibility for a roadside bomb that killed an Algerian army colonel and wounded two others.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-algeria-security-idUSKBN00N0QL20150607>

March 18, 2015

Unknown militants attacked two civilian trucks that were providing a military barracks with food supplies in Akerrou, 70 km east of Tizi Ouzou. A man died and others were injured in the attack.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/apres-l-attentat-contre-un-citoyen-a-akerrou-forte-mobilisation-a-larbaa-nath-irathen-21-03-2015-290382_109.php

February 1, 2015

A 62-year-old shepherd was killed by a bomb that a group of terrorists left along the side of the road.
<http://www.tsa-algerie.com/2015/02/01/un-berger-grievement-blesse-dans-lexplosion-d-une-bombe-pres-de-tizi-ouzou/>

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