

Global Terrorism 2013

Below is a chronicle of major acts of terrorism that occurred during 2013.

January

- January 1 A bomb on a motorcycle exploded at the Ayesha Manzil intersection near Jinnah Ground, close to the headquarters of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement's headquarters. The attack took place after a party rally and a speech by its leader Altaf Hussain. Many of the injured were reported to have been hit by ball bearings. The explosion caused damage to nearby vehicles and buildings, and was reportedly heard from several kilometres away. Local hospital staff reported that at least 5 of the injured were in critical condition.
- January 1 Four unidentified gunmen ambushed a car carrying medical NGO workers working for Ujala. Six women and a man were shot dead, while the driver was injured, according to the local police chief. Though the Pakistani Taliban denied responsibility, the police were investigating possible links to the group or other Islamist movements. The World Health Organization also suspended its work on polio vaccinations.
- January 3 A car bomb killed 28 Shia pilgrims and injured 60 others as they were returning from Karbala; while in the capital Baghdad a roadside bomb exploded near a minibus, killing four pilgrims and left 15 wounded.
- January 3 A car bomb exploded at a petrol station in the center of Syria's capital of Damascus, killing and injuring dozens of people.
- January 10 A string of bombings hit Pakistan, killing 126 and leaving scores injured. A bombing at a crowded market in Quetta killed 12 and injured 47 in an attack claimed by a Balochistan separatist group. Later, twin blasts took place in quick succession at a snooker hall. A total of 92 people were killed in these attacks, including 9 policemen, 25 rescue workers and 3 journalists who perished in the second one. In addition, an explosion at a Tableeghi Jamaat seminary in the Swat Valley, outside of Saidu Sharif, killed 22 people and wounded 60.
- January 13 A roadside bomb killed 14 Pakistani soldiers near Miranshah in the border region of North Waziristan, one day after Taliban leader Hakimullah Mehsud called for a halt on attacks against the Army in the area, opting to focus on NATO forces in Afghanistan instead.
- January 15 Two large explosions struck an area between the Aleppo University halls of residence and the faculty of architecture, killing 82 and injuring scores more as students were gathering for the first day of exams. Syrian State TV accused rebels of launching a surface-to-air missile at the area, while opposition activists said government jets had bombed the campus.
- January 15 A suicide bomber killed a prominent Sunni MP and six others in Fallujah, two days after Finance Minister Rafi al-Issawi survived an assassination attempt in the same city. The parliamentarian, Ayfan Sadoun al-Essawi, was an important member of the Sahwa committee in Fallujah and part of the opposition to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.
- January 16 A suicide bomber detonated a truck full of explosives next to the headquarters of the Kurdistan Democratic Party in Kirkuk, killing 26 and leaving 204 injured. A similar attack against

another Kurdish office in Tuz Khormato killed 5 and wounded 40. Roadside bombings and shootings in other areas, including Baghdad, Tikrit and Baiji, left at least 24 dead and dozens injured.

- January 16 Suspected Islamic militants shot dead 5 people and injured 3 others at a restaurant in Kenya's eastern city of Garissa. Authorities said they believed the gunmen belonged to the Somali al-Shabaab group, as the victims included a senior prison warden, fitting a pattern of previous attacks.
- January 16-19 Al-Qaeda-linked militants under the command of Mokhtar Belmokhtar took more than 800 people hostage at a remote gas facility in Algeria. After a tense 4-day standoff with the Algerian Army and at least 2 assaults, the crisis ended, with at least 40 hostages and 29 militants confirmed dead, while 685 Algerian workers and 107 foreigners were freed.
- January 20 A group of gunmen attacked the convoy of Alhaji Ado Bayero, the Emir of Kano, killing 4 and injuring 14 others, including two of his sons. In addition, militants from the Boko Haram breakaway group Ansaru ambushed a Nigerian Army convoy in Kogi State, killing 2 officers and injuring 8 others. The troops were heading to Mali to assist in the ECOWAS mission as part of the conflict against Jihadist groups.
- January 21-23 Suspected Boko Haram militants murdered 31 people over the course of 3 days, including 18 hunters selling bushmeat, who were shot at market in Damboa on January 21. Five people were shot in Kano on the next day as they were playing board games. At least 8 civilians were killed in Maiduguri on January 23, as gunfire was reported from parts of the city.
- January 21 A suicide bomber detonated a truck full of explosives at a building used by a pro-government militia in the central Syrian city of Salamiyah, located in Hama Governorate. At least 42 people were killed and dozens more wounded, with militia members and civilians among the casualties. On January 30 the Al-Nusra Front claimed responsibility for the attack.
- January 22 A wave of attacks in and around Baghdad killed at least 26 and left more than 50 injured. Bombings and shootings took place in the capital, as well as Taji and Mahmoudiyah.
- January 23 A suicide bomber blew himself up during a funeral for a politician's relative in the city of Tuz Khormato, killing 42 and leaving 75 others wounded. Other attacks across central and northern Iraq killed 7 people and injured 8 others.
- January 26 A suicide bomber killed 10 policemen and injured 9 others in the northeastern Afghan city of Kunduz. Among the victims were the city's counter terrorism and traffic police chiefs. Later, a police patrol carrying 3 Taliban members suspected of planting bombs hit an IED near Kandahar. Eight policemen and 2 of the suspects were killed, while six officers and the other detainee were injured.
- January 28 A suicide bomber rammed his explosives-laden vehicle into a Yemeni Army checkpoint near the city of Rada in the central Al Bayda' province, killing 11 soldiers and injuring 17 others.
- January 29 A former al-Shabaab member who had supposedly "defected" attempted to enter the Villa Somalia with an explosive vest strapped to him. When guards at the gate stopped him, he detonated the device, killing two of them and injuring dozens more. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was abroad at the time, while Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon, whose house was near the site of the blast, was not injured.

February

- February 1 A motorcycle packed with explosives was detonated in front of a police station in the Pacific port city of Tumaco, killing at least 5 people and injuring 20 others. Government officials placed the blame on FARC, although no group has so far claimed responsibility. Ten soldiers were killed in a mortar attack close to the same city in October 2011.
- February 8 A car bomb exploded next to a cafe in the center of the Somalian capital, killing 15 and injuring more than 20. Islamist group Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack and two days later officially joined al Qaeda.
- February 10 Two huge bombings shook the city of Aleppo, targeting the security and military headquarters in the Syrian city. Government sources and state media said the blasts were caused by two suicide car bombs. Among the 28 victims were 24 members of the security forces and 4 civilians, and at least 235 others were wounded. The Al-Nusra Front to Protect the Levant later claimed responsibility for this and other attacks in Syria.
- February 11 A homemade bomb exploded in a house on the outskirts of Peshawar, killing 7 and injuring 3 more.
- February 13 An Israeli diplomat's car exploded near the Indian prime minister's residence in New Delhi on Monday, injuring the wife of an embassy staff member and at least three other people, in what appeared to be a coordinated, two-pronged terror attack against Israeli missions in India and Georgia. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu immediately blamed the strikes on Iran and Lebanon-based Hezbollah.[59] In an investigation report, Delhi Police concluded that the perpetrators were members of Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps.
- February 17 A suicide bomber on a motorcycle blew himself up close to a crowded marketplace in the frontier town of Parachinar in the Kurram Valley close to the border with Afghanistan. At least 39 people were killed and almost 70 injured in the attack, with a significant number of casualties remaining in a dangerous condition.
- February 19 A bomb killed seven members of a pro-government militia and critically injured five others in northwestern Pakistan, near the Afghan border.
- February 19 A suicide car bomber killed 19 police officers and cadets in front of a Baghdad academy in the deadliest attack in the country since 27 January. At least 26 others were injured in the blast, most of them new recruits for the security forces.
- February 22 President Alexander Ankvab survived an assassination attempt on his way to work after a roadside bomb exploded and was followed by an ambush that included firing by a machine gun and grenade launchers. The presidential guard claimed one person died and another was seriously injured, though the media two people died and another was injured.
- February 22 At least 60 people were killed and scores more injured after a string of near-simultaneous attacks across Baghdad and several other cities in the north and south of the country. Witnesses reported more than 10 explosions within the capital that killed at least 32, mainly targeting police patrols and crowded shopping areas in Shiite neighborhoods. A number of car bombs and shootings were reported throughout Iraq, including Kirkuk, Baqubah, Tikrit, Hilla, Taji and Dujail. The Islamic State of Iraq took responsibility for the attacks two days later and promised to disrupt the upcoming Arab League Summit.
- February 23 A powerful bomb at a bus stand killed at least 12 people and injured dozens more, including 10 left in critical condition. Local officials were investigating whether the incident was a

suicide bombing or just a car equipped with a bomb. Initial reports suggest that at least 45 kg of explosive material was used together with mortar shells aimed at maximizing the damage.

- February 24 Unidentified gunmen set off bombs in an attempt to help inmates break out of a prison in the northeast city of Gombe. After a lengthy firefight the attackers bombed a local police station, killing two officers. At least 10 others were killed in the violence, most of them civilians. On 16 February attackers stormed a prison in the central Kogi State, killing the warden and releasing 119 inmates, most of them members of Boko Haram.
- February 25 A remote controlled mine exploded in the northwestern Badghis Province, killing six members of the Afghan Army and injuring 12 more.
- February 25 A car bomb exploded in the southern port city of Mukalla just hours after president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Al-Hadi was sworn in, killing at least 26 and injuring dozens more. The attack took place in front of the old presidential palace and most of the casualties were members of the Republican Guard. The Yemeni offshoot of Al-Qaeda has taken responsibility for the bombing and blamed it on the atrocities committed by the presidential guard during the last few months.
- February 26 A suicide bomber drove his explosive-packed car into a church on the outskirts of the city of Jos, killing two and injuring 38 in the ensuing blast. Christian youths from the area later set up roadblocks and killed two Muslims in retaliation for the attack. An additional blast at a church outside the capital Abuja left at least five people wounded.
- February 27 A suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden vehicle into the gates of Jalalabad Airport, killing at least nine people in the ensuing blast. Six of the victim were civilians, two were airport guards and one was a member of the Afghan Army. At least 23 others (including 4 NATO soldiers) were injured in the attack which was claimed by the Taliban in revenge for the burning of copies of the Quran at the Bagram Airfield.
- February 27 A powerful bomb exploded in front of the main offices of Nepal Oil in the capital Katmandu, killing at least three people and injuring six more in the first major attack in the city in three years. The building targeted is very close to the fortified Singhadurbar complex housing several key ministries. A little-known militant organisation called the Unified National Liberation Front (Samyukta Jatiya Mukti Morcha) claimed responsibility the attack, which it claimed happened because of the government's inability to curb corruption and rising fuel prices.
- February 27 Six people were killed and 14 wounded after a homemade bomb placed on a motorcycle exploded after a political rally in the northwestern town of Nowshera.
- February 27 At around 6 p.m. on February 28, 2012, a group of eight Uyghur men led by religious extremist Abudukeremu Mamuti attacked pedestrians with axes and knives on a crowded street. Local police fought with Mamuti's group, ultimately killing all and capturing Mamuti. One police officer died and four police were injured, while 15 pedestrians died from Mamuti's assault and 14 more civilians were injured.