become definitive.<sup>15</sup> It is a mistake, however, to think that the logistical and operational dismantling of RS marks the end of revolutionary terrorism in Greece. Other post-17N groups such as the "Sect of Revolutionaries" and "Conspiracy of the Cells Fire" are almost certain to take the baton of violence from the RS.<sup>16</sup>

It is critical, therefore, that Greek security forces rely less on luck to stop future terrorists and more on a coherent counterterrorism strategy and an integrated counterterrorism capability. Whatever lies ahead, each new group and each terrorist campaign serves as a reminder that Greece has one of the most sustained problems of political violence anywhere in Europe. Indeed, only days after the arrests of Maziotis and his alleged collaborators, graffiti appeared on numerous walls in central Athens warning, "Nothing is finished, it all continues."

Dr. George Kassimeris, Senior Research Fellow in Conflict and Terrorism at Wolverhampton University, England, is the author of Europe's Last Red Terrorists: The Revolutionary Organization 17 November (New York University Press) and editor of Playing Politics with Terrorism: A User's Guide (Columbia University Press).

# Recent Highlights in Terrorist Activity

May 1, 2010 (UNITED STATES): A car bomb was discovered in New York City's Times Square after street vendors noticed smoke coming from a Nissan Pathfinder. The bomb had been ignited, but failed to explode, and authorities were able to disarm the device before it could cause any casualties. On May 2, the Pakistani Taliban purportedly took credit for the attempted attack, in a statement posted on Islamist web forums. The statement read, "The Pakistani Taliban announces its responsibility for the New York attack in revenge for the two leaders [Abu `Umar] al-Baghdadi and [Abu Hamza] al-Muhajir and Muslim martyrs." Despite the claim of responsibility, it was not immediately clear whether the Pakistani Taliban were involved in the failed attack as a number of conflicting reports later emerged. - Reuters, May 2

May 1, 2010 (PAKISTAN): A suicide bomber detonated his explosives in Pakistan's Swat Valley, killing two people. The incident occurred after security forces surrounded the bomber near Mingora's Sohrab Khan market. The Swat faction of the Pakistani Taliban later claimed credit for the attack. – *Reuters, May 1; The News International, May 3* 

May 1, 2010 (PAKISTAN): A bomb attached to a tricycle exploded in Quetta, Baluchistan Province. The remotely-detonated explosive targeted a police van, causing injuries to six people. – *AFP*, *April 30* 

May 1, 2010 (SOMALIA): Two bombs ripped through the crowded Abdala Shideye Mosque in Mogadishu's Bakara Market, killing at least 30 people. According to one witness interviewed by Voice of America, "a high-ranking member of al-Shabab, an Islamist insurgent group with ties to al-Qaida, was the target of the attack. Fuad Mohamed Qalaf, also known as Fuad Shongole, was reportedly inside the mosque as the bombs went off." Shongole survived the attack, and accused U.S. security companies of organizing the blasts. – Voice of America, May 1; Garowe Online, May 4

May 2, 2010 (AFGHANISTAN): U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton identified the conditions required for reconciliation with Afghan Taliban fighters. Speaking to a U.S. reporter, Afghan Taliban fighters who want to come "to the other side" need to "renounce Al-Qaeda. They have to renounce violence. They have to give up their arms. And they have to be willing to abide by the Afghan constitution." – *AFP*, *May 1* 

May 2, 2010 (AFGHANISTAN): A roadside bomb ripped through a minibus in Paktia Province, killing eight Afghan civilians including women and children. *– al-Jazira, May 3* 

May 3, 2010 (UNITED STATES): U.S. authorities arrested Faisal Shahzad as he tried to flee the United States on a Dubai-bound jet. Shahzad, a Pakistani-American, is the key suspect in the May 1 failed car bombing in New York City's Times Square. Authorities said that Shahzad, who is 30-years-old, admitted his role in the plot, and he claimed that he received explosives training in Pakistan. Reports from Pakistan after Shahzad's arrest state that a handful of individuals were arrested for possible connections to the plot. Shahzad is the son of a retired senior Pakistani Air Force officer. - New York Times, May 4; New York Times, May 5

May 3, 2010 (AFGHANISTAN): A suicide bomber attacked Forward Operating Base Chapman, a U.S. military facility in Khost Province. One civilian was killed in the blast. The Taliban claimed responsibility. Camp Chapman is the site of the December 2009 suicide bombing that killed seven CIA operatives. – *al-Jazira, May 3; CNN, May 3* 

May 3, 2010 (IRAQ): The U.S. military announced the arrest of Abu Abdullah al-Shafi'l, the alleged leader of Ansar al-Islam, a militant jihadist group. He was arrested by Iraqi security forces in Baghdad. – *CNN*, *May* 4

May 3, 2010 (PAKISTAN): Hakimullah Mehsud, the head of Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, appeared in a new video posted on Islamist web forums. It was the first time that Hakimullah has been seen alive since reports of his death from a U.S. drone strike in January 2010. – *New York Times, May 3* 

May 3, 2010 (YEMEN): Yemeni authorities announced that preemptive military strikes in recent months have killed more than 35 al-Qa`ida operatives in the

<sup>15</sup> Personal interview, adviser to the minister of Public Order, Athens, Greece, April 26, 2010.

<sup>16</sup> The Sect of Revolutionaries first appeared in February 2009 with an armed attack on a police station in Korydallos, southeastern Athens, a few weeks after the December 2008 killing of teenager Alexis Grigoropoulos by a police guard in central Athens.

country. Dozens of al-Qa`ida suspects were also arrested during the time period. - UPI, May 3

May 4, 2010 (IRAQ): Iraqi police arrested a Saudi Arabia-born al-Qa`ida leader in western Mosul. The leader was identified as Mohamed Mahmoud Salama, and authorities believe that he entered Iraq in 2004. – *RTTNews, May 4* 

May 4, 2010 (LITHUANIA): Prosecutors announced that a Lithuanian woman, Egle Kusaite, has been detained since October 2009 on suspicion of ties to radical Islamist groups and plotting a suicide attack against a Russian military target. Prosecutors allege that Kusaite, who is 20-years-old, has links to terrorist groups in Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom. If found guilty, she could receive a prison sentence of up to 10 years. – *AP*, *May* 4

May 5, 2010 (SWEDEN): According to United Press International, "Sweden's security service says it fears more than 20 young Swedes have been recruited by an al-Qaida-linked extremist group [al-Shabab] to fight in Somalia." The report also noted, "About 400,000 to 500,000 people in Sweden have roots in Muslim countries, security officials estimate." - UPI, May 5

May 5, 2010 (AFGHANISTAN): Taliban suicide bombers and armed militants attacked government buildings in southern Afghanistan's Nimroz Province. At least three Afghan police officers and one provincial council member were killed in the assault on the provincial capital. All of the nine militants, who were reportedly dressed in police uniforms, were also killed. – *New York Times, May 5* 

May 6, 2010 (AFGHANISTAN): The Afghan Taliban ordered mobile phone operators in northern Kunduz Province to shut down their networks during the night. A Taliban spokesman explained that U.S. and NATO forces were using the networks to locate Taliban fighters. Mobile phone operators complied with the demands after the Taliban destroyed several phone towers. – *Reuters, May 6* 

May 6, 2010 (INDIA): The lone surviving gunman in the November 2008 Mumbai attacks, Ajmal Kasab, was sentenced to death by an Indian court. - *NDTV*, *May* 6

May 6, 2010 (NORTH AFRICA): Al-Qa`ida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) demanded that imprisoned group members be set free in exchange for the release of a French national held since April. The Frenchman was kidnapped from Niger. – *AFP*, *May* 6

May 7, 2010 (AFGHANISTAN): The Australian military announced that it captured the Taliban leader responsible for kidnapping *New York Times* journalist David Rohde. The leader, Mullah Atiqullah, was apprehended in April. Rohde, who was kidnapped in November 2008, managed to escape his captors in June 2009. – *AAP*, *May* 7

May 9, 2010 (RUSSIA): A vehicle, driven by a suicide bomber, exploded near a marine infantry checkpoint in Dagestan, located in Russia's North Caucasus region. Only the bomber died in the blast. - *AFP*, *May* 8

May 9, 2010 (YEMEN): The British Embassy in Sana`a reopened. The embassy was closed after the April 26, 2010 attempt to assassinate the United Kingdom's ambassador to Yemen. - *AFP*, *May* 9

May 9, 2010 (PAKISTAN): Authorities stopped a man passing through airport security in Karachi after discovering electrical wiring, two batteries and a switch in his shoes. The suspect identified as Faiz Mohammad, a 30-yearold civil engineer reportedly from the North-West Frontier Province—was planning to board a Thai International Airways flight to Muscat, Oman. Despite the circuitry in his shoes, no explosives were found. – *Telegraph, May 10; AHN, May 10* 

May 10, 2010 (BELGIUM): A court sentenced Malika el-Aroud, a widow of one of the men who assassinated Afghan commander Ahmad Shah Massoud in 2001, to eight years in prison for leading a cell that used the internet to recruit people to join terrorist training camps on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. Her current husband, Moez Garsalloui, received the same sentence in absentia since he is still at large. Several other suspects in the cell were also convicted and sentenced. – *Reuters, May 10; BBC, May 10*  May 10, 2010 (IRAQ): Security checkpoints across Baghdad were attacked by gunmen in speeding vehicles, who apparently used silencers in the shootings. The wave of shootings killed a number of Iraqi soldiers and police. – *Voice of America, May 10* 

May 10, 2010 (IRAQ): Two suicide bombers killed at least 13 people at a market in al-Suwayra, located 30 miles southeast of Baghdad. – *Reuters, May 10* 

May 10, 2010 (IRAQ): Two suicide bombers in vehicles detonated their explosives at a textile factory in Hilla, Babil Province. As police and emergency personnel arrived at the scene, a third suicide bomber detonated his explosives causing further casualties. At least 45 people died in the blasts. – *Reuters, May* 10; AP, May 11

May 10, 2010 (IRAQ): Three bombs ripped through southern Iraq's Basra Province, killing an estimated 30 people. – *Reuters, May 10; AP, May 11* 

May 11, 2010 (IRAQ): Speaking after a wave of violence tore through Iraq on May 10, U.S. Brigadier General Ralph Baker said that the attacks serve as "a wakeup call to the Iraqi security forces that they can't rest on their laurels in terms of their recent successes." Baker said that the string of attacks, which killed more than 100 people in one day, show "that al Qaeda still possesses a limited ability for command and control across the country." – *Reuters, May 11* 

May 11, 2010 (IRAQ): A roadside bomb killed five Iraqi police officers near a Baghdad market. According to press reports, "Police were lured to the scene by the explosion of a first roadside bomb in the Doura district of southern Baghdad and were caught in the detonation of a second." – *Reuters, May 11; Reuters, May 12* 

May 11, 2010 (PAKISTAN): Two U.S. unmanned aerial drone strikes killed at least 24 suspected militants in North Waziristan Agency of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. - *Voice of America, May 11* 

May 12, 2010 (IRAQ): A bomb exploded in a grocery store in a Shi`a area of Baghdad, killing three people. – *Reuters, May 12* 

May 12, 2010 (IRAQ): A car bomb exploded outside a café in a Shi`a area of Baghdad, killing seven people. – *Reuters, May 12* 

May 12, 2010 (YEMEN): Al-Qa`ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AOAP) reportedly claimed responsibility for the attempted assassination of Britain's ambassador to Yemen on April 26, 2010. The suicide bombing against the ambassador's convoy failed to injure the diplomat. According to the purported AQAP statement, the attack targeted "the so-called British ambassador, who leads the war against Muslims in the Arabian Peninsula on behalf of his state. Britain is America's closest ally in its war on Islam, and it is the one which called the London Conference. in which it plotted against the Arabian Peninsula." - Reuters, May 12

May 13, 2010 (RUSSIA): The Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) announced that three suspects accused of organizing the Moscow metro suicide bombings of March 2010 were killed by authorities. "Unfortunately we were not able to detain them alive," said Alexander Bortnikov, the head of the FSB. "They offered armed resistance and were destroyed." Bortnikov did not explain when the incident occurred. – *Radio France Internationale, May 13* 

May 13, 2010 (RUSSIA): A bomb killed eight people in Dagestan, located in Russia's North Caucasus region. As stated by Agence France-Presse, "The victims were workers who were sent to fix a cell phone mast that had been blown up the previous day by unidentified attackers in the district of Sergokalinsk, investigators said." – *AFP*, *May* 13

May 13, 2010 (PAKISTAN): A Pakistani anti-terrorism court acquitted nine men accused of involvement in the suicide bomb attacks on Lieutenant General Mushtaq Baig and an army bus in February 2008, citing insufficient evidence. Baig, the Pakistan Army's surgeon general, was killed in the attack, along with seven other people. The attack on the army bus killed six people. Both attacks occurred in Rawalpindi. – *AFP*, *May* 13

May 13, 2010 (SOMALIA): Ras Kamboni, the most powerful faction part of Somalia's Hisbul Islamiyya insurgent coalition, has officially cut its ties to the group. The split occurred after reports that the Ras Kamboni faction signed a secret deal with the Somali government and neighboring Kenya. According to Voice of America, "Ras Kamboni will be led by Ahmed Madobe, who replaced hard line Islamist Hassan Turki last year as the group's military commander." The news report further explained, "After Ras Kamboni's conservative Islamist leader Hassan Turki defected to al-Shabab in February, Madobe declared that the extremist group [al-Shabab] was Somalia's greatest enemy." – Voice of America, May 13

May 14, 2010 (AFGHANISTAN): Militants killed five Afghan security guards escorting a fuel truck convoy on the main highway in Ghazni Province. - New York Times, May 15

May 14, 2010 (IRAQ): The Islamic State of Iraq appointed "Abu Suleiman" as its new minister of war, replacing Abu Ayyub al-Masri, who was killed during a U.S.-Iraqi military strike in April 2010. Abu Suleiman's first statement threatened "polytheistic rejecters," referring to Iraqi Shi`a, and said that "dark days soaked with blood" lie ahead. – *AP, May 14* 

May 14, 2010 (IRAQ): A suicide bomber blew up an explosives-laden vehicle outside a sports stadium in the predominately Shi`a town of Tal Afar, Ninawa Province. Ten people were killed in the blast. – *BBC*, *May* 14; *AP*, *May* 14

May 14, 2010 (INDONESIA): Indonesia's national police chief announced that authorities foiled an assassination attempt against the country's president. Indonesian authorities allege that the plot involved Islamists with ties to al-Qa`ida-linked groups. – *CNN, May 14* 

May 15, 2010 (AFGHANISTAN): An Afghan Taliban spokesman claimed that the group kidnapped and killed four Afghan interpreters because they allegedly worked for the U.S. military and a Western contractor. The men, kidnapped in Khost Province, were participating in a wedding at the time of the incident. The groom was among those killed. – *New York Times, May 15* 

May 15, 2010 (IRAQ): The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) purportedly announced that it has appointed new leaders to replace those lost in the U.S.-Iraqi operation on April 18, 2010 that killed Abu Ayyub al-Masri, the head of al-Qa`ida in Iraq, and Abu `Umar al-Baghdadi, the head of the ISI. According to the statement, the new leaders are "Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi al-Husseini al-Qurashi, the Emir of the Believers of the Islamic State of Iraq" and "Sheikh Abu Abdullah al-Hassani al-Qurashi is his prime minister and deputy." – AFP, May 16; Reuters, May 16

May 15, 2010 (PAKISTAN): Armed gunmen purportedly dressed as police officers kidnapped 25 people in Kurram Agency of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. Twenty-three of the hostages, however, were released by May 17, and officials were working to secure the release of the final two hostages. - *BBC*, *May* 17

May 15, 2010 (YEMEN): Various press reports state that Navf Muhammad al-Qahtani, a senior leader of al-Qa`ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), was killed in a firefight with Saudi security forces the previous month. According to the Guardian, "The time and place of Qahtani's death are not yet known, but a member of al-Qaida's leadership in Yemen has confirmed that he was killed and said the group would officially announce the loss in the coming week." In a later report, U.S. officials told Fox News that al-Qahtani accidentally blew himself up while "messing with a bomb." - Guardian, May 15; Fox News, May 21

May 16, 2010 (AFGHANISTAN): Rahman Gul, a prominent Muslim religious leader pushing for peace in Afghanistan, was assassinated in Kunar Province. His brother and a relative were also killed in the attack. – *al-Jazira*, *May* 17

May 16, 2010 (AFGHANISTAN): Three suicide bombers launched a coordinated attack against a police headquarters in Kandahar Province. The first bomber detonated an explosives-laden motorbike outside the compound, destroying the perimeter wall. The remaining two suicide bombers then entered the compound and opened fire on policemen. The two bombers eventually exploded, possibly as a result of police gunfire. Four policemen were wounded during the attack. The night-time attack was claimed by the Afghan Taliban. – *AFP, May 16* 

May 16, 2010 (YEMEN): A new audio statement from Nasir al-Wahayshi, the head of al-Qa`ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), appeared on Islamist websites. During the speech, al-Wahayshi

defended the Yemeni-American Muslim cleric Anwar al-`Awlaqi, stating that al-`Awlaqi is currently "among his supporters, crowds of Muslims who are angry at your [United States] oppressive policies and they will never hand him over. They know very well that it is hypocrisy and a betrayal to hand him over to the infidels. The sheikh is in good hands and we will protect him in every way." – *CNN*, *May* 16

May 16, 2010 (SOMALIA): Militants launched mortars at a Somali parliament meeting in Mogadishu, killing at least 16 people, mostly civilians. Lawmakers were meeting in the parliament building for the first time since it was renovated. It does not appear that the parliament building itself was hit by the shelling. - Voice of America, May 16; AFP, May 16

May 17, 2010 (YEMEN): Qasim al-Raymi, the military chief for al-Qa`ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), released a new audio message stating that the United States has given the group "1,000 reasons" to attack the U.S. homeland. Al-Raymi was reacting to the death of Jamil Nasser Abdullah al-Ambari, who headed AQAP's cell in Abyan Province. Al-Ambari was killed in March by Yemeni forces, reportedly with the help of U.S. intelligence. – *AFP*, *May* 17

May 18, 2010 (UNITED STATES): U.S. President Barack Obama's top counterterrorism adviser, John Brennan, suggested that U.S. citizens who fight alongside al-Qa`ida and the Taliban are "legitimate targets" for lethal strikes. "Individuals shouldn't be able to hide behind their U.S. passport, their U.S. citizenship," Brennan said. "If they present a threat and challenge to us, we need to make sure that we're able to address that threat appropriately so that they are prevented from carrying out murderous attacks." He further said, "If they have a rifle or a grenade or something that's going after our troops in Afghanistan, to me, they're a legitimate target. If they... plan to carry out attacks against the United States, against American citizens from somewhere else, they are part of that enemy that is trying to prosecute a war against us." - Reuters, May 19

May 18, 2010 (AFGHANISTAN): A Taliban suicide bomber in a vehicle targeted a U.S. convoy in Kabul, killing five U.S. soldiers, a Canadian colonel, and at least 12 Afghan civilians. - Washington Post, May 20

May 18, 2010 (PAKISTAN): A suicide bomber in a vehicle targeted a police van in Dera Ismail Khan District of the North-West Frontier Province, killing 12 people. - *Reuters, May 18; Canwest News Service, May 18* 

May 19, 2010 (UNITED STATES): Khalid Ouazzani, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Morocco, pleaded guilty to providing support to al-Qa`ida by sending approximately \$23,500 to the group. Ouazzani, a used car dealer in Kansas City, swore allegiance to al-Qa`ida in 2008. He faces up to 65 years in prison without parole. – *Reuters, May 19* 

May 19, 2010 (AFGHANISTAN): The Afghan Taliban launched a brazen predawn attack against Bagram Air Base. Approximately 20-30 Taliban fighters launched rockets and grenades at the base. One U.S. contractor was killed and nine U.S. soldiers wounded. Ten Taliban fighters were killed. – *Washington Post*, *May* 20

May 20, 2010 (GLOBAL): Al-Qa`ida second-in-command Ayman al-Zawahiri released a new audiotape praising two al-Qa`ida leaders recently killed in Iraq. Al-Zawahiri said that Abu Ayyub al-Masri and Abu `Umar al-Baghdadi revived jihad in Iraq, and he compared them to early Islamic leaders. – *Reuters, May 20* 

May 20, 2010 (AFGHANISTAN): The Afghan government announced the arrest of the Afghan Taliban's shadow governor for northern Samangan Province. The shadow governor was identified as Mullah Gulistan. – *Reuters, May 20* 

May 20, 2010 (IRAQ): A suicide bomber killed three people at a checkpoint in Mosul, Ninawa Province. – *AFP*, *May* 20

May 20, 2010 (IRAQ): Gunmen killed two policemen at a checkpoint in Mosul, Ninawa Province. – *Reuters, May 20* 

May 20, 2010 (PAKISTAN): Taliban fighters strapped explosives to two men accused of being U.S. spies and blew them up during a public execution in North Waziristan Agency of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. – *Reuters*, *May 21*  May 21, 2010 (UNITED STATES): U.S. Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair officially resigned his post. - *CBS/ AP, May 20* 

May 21, 2010 (AFGHANISTAN): Four militants attacked a police post in Paktika Province, killing at least one policeman. All of the militants were killed. – *Reuters, May* 20; *BBC, May* 21

May 21, 2010 (IRAQ): A suicide bomber in a pickup truck attacked a commercial strip in a predominately Shi`a town in Diyala Province, killing at least 21 people. - New York Times, May 21

May 22, 2010 (UNITED STATES): A report in the *Los Angeles Times* stated that "Pakistani and U.S. investigators cited growing evidence Saturday that a Pakistani army major had been in cellphone contact with a man [Faisal Shahzad] who allegedly attempted to bomb Times Square in New York [on May 1], including the possibility that they spoke shortly before the failed bombing." One of the phone calls may have "occurred as the Pakistani American was allegedly parking his SUV rigged with propane tanks, fertilizer and fireworks." – *Los Angeles Times, May 23* 

May 23, 2010 (GLOBAL): Yemeni-American cleric Anwar al-`Awlaqi released a video message encouraging Muslims to kill Americans, stating that "the American people, in general, are taking part in this [the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan] and they elected this administration and they are financing the war." The video was produced by al-Qa`ida in the Arabian Peninsula's media arm. Al-`Awlaqi is believed to be hiding in Yemen. – *AP, May 23* 

May 24, 2010 (AFGHANISTAN): Afghanistan's intelligence agency said it has arrested seven people part of a Talibanlinked "terrorist group" responsible for the deadly May 18, 2010 suicide attack in Kabul. – *Dawn, May 24* 

May 24, 2010 (YEMEN): A government airstrike targeting an al-Qa`ida hideout accidentally killed a provincial councilman and two of his bodyguards. Angry tribesmen reacted to the strike by attacking government buildings, blowing up an oil pipeline and threatening to destroy the Marib oil facility. – *AP*, *May* 25

### **CTC Sentinel Staff**

### Editor-in-Chief

Erich Marquardt Senior Editor, CTC

### **Editorial Board**

COL Michael J. Meese, Ph.D. Department Head Department of Social Sciences (West Point)

COL Cindy R. Jebb, Ph.D. Deputy Department Head Department of Social Sciences (West Point)

LTC Reid Sawyer Director, CTC

Christopher Heffelfinger FBI Fellow, CTC

#### CONTACT

Combating Terrorism Center U.S. Military Academy 607 Cullum Road, Lincoln Hall West Point, NY 10996 Phone: (845) 667-6383 Email: sentinel@usma.edu Web: www.ctc.usma.edu/sentinel/

\* For Press Inquiries: (845) 667-6383

#### SUPPORT

The Combating Terrorism Center would like to express its gratitude to its financial supporters, for without their support and shared vision of the Center products like the CTC Sentinel could not be produced. If you are interested in learning more about how to support the Combating Terrorism Center, please visit http://www.ctc.usma. edu/support/ or call Wayne Richardson at West Point's Association of Graduates at 845-446-1553. May 25, 2010 (IRAQ): Approximately 15-20 gunmen stormed into a Baghdad street of goldsmiths, shooting customers and shopkeepers while grabbing cash and gold. A total of 15 people were killed in the daytime raid. The attack was blamed on al-Qa`ida in Iraq. – Los Angeles Times, May 26; AP, May 25

May 25, 2010 (MAURITANIA): A court sentenced three al-Qa`ida suspects to death after finding them guilty of murdering four French tourists in 2007. - *RTTNews*, *May* 25

May 26, 2010 (UNITED STATES): Hosam Smadi pleaded guilty in a Dallas federal court to attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction. Smadi, who is Jordanian, admitted leaving what he thought was a truck bomb underneath a Dallas skyscraper in September 2009. The truck bomb, however, was a decoy provided by FBI agents posing as al-Qa`ida members. - *AP*, *May 26* 

May 26, 2010 (RUSSIA): A bomb ripped through a crowd gathered in Stavropol, killing seven people. According to the Associated Press, "Russia's Investigative Committee said in a website statement that the blast occurred near an outdoor cafe that served as a cultural center. A renowned Chechen dance company was scheduled to perform there 15 minutes after the blast struck." – *AP*, *May 26*; *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, May* 27

May 27, 2010 (UNITED STATES): Adnan Babar Mirza was convicted in a Houston federal court of conspiring to aid the Taliban and of illegal possession of firearms. Mirza, a 33-year-old Pakistani, came to the United States as a student. He faces up to 10 years in prison. – *New York Times, May 27* 

May 27, 2010 (AFGHANISTAN): Maulana Fazlullah, the leader of the Pakistani Taliban faction in the Swat Valley, may have been killed during a clash with Afghan police in Nuristan Province. Taliban sources, however, insist that Fazlullah is still alive. – *New York Times*, *May* 27

May 27, 2010 (PAKISTAN): Taliban fighters stormed the home of a progovernment Pakistani tribal elder, killing him, his wife and his son before destroying the house. The incident occurred in Bajaur Agency of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. - *AFP*, *May 26* 

May 27, 2010 (KENYA): Al-Shabab militants from Somalia launched an attack on a village in Kenya. Several people in the village were wounded, and it was not immediately clear why al-Shabab attacked the village. – *Voice of America, April* 28

May 28, 2010 (PAKISTAN): Militants attacked two mosques in the heart of Lahore, killing more than 90 members of the city's minority Ahmadi community. Police said that the militants belonged to the Pakistani Taliban and were trained in the country's northwest tribal region. A Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility for the attack. - *Time Magazine, May 28; Washington Post, May* 30; Daily Times, May 30

May 28, 2010 (YEMEN): Al-Qa`ida in the Arabian Peninsula named Othman Ahmed al-Ghamdi as a new senior member of the group. Al-Ghamdi is reportedly a former detainee at Guantanamo Bay who was released from the facility in 2006. – *Reuters, May 28* 

May 29, 2010 (AFGHANISTAN): A suicide bomber detonated his explosives in Kabul, but failed to cause any casualties. – *AFP*, *May* 29

May 31, 2010 (PAKISTAN): According to the *Washington Post*, "A U.S. official said there is 'strong reason' to believe that Mustafa Abu al-Yazid, known as Sheik Saeed al-Masri, apparently was killed by a CIA drone strike in Pakistan's tribal belt within the past two weeks." Al-Yazid was considered the "number three" in al-Qa`ida, "with a hand in everything from finances to operational planning." – *Washington Post, June 1* 

May 31, 2010 (PAKISTAN): Gunmen disguised in police uniforms stormed a Pakistani hospital caring for victims of the May 28 attacks on Ahmadi mosques in Lahore. At least four people were killed during the shootout between the militants and security forces. - *AFP*, *May 31* 

The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and not of the U.S. Military Academy, the Department of the Army, or any other agency of the U.S. Government.