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SEPTEMBER 1998

# TERRORISM

## REVIEW

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CIA DI

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DI TR 98-009  
September 1998

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**National Security  
Information**

**Unauthorized Disclosure  
Subject to Criminal Sanctions**

**Dissemination Control  
Abbreviations**

**NOFORN (NF)**

**Not releasable to foreign nationals**

**PROPIN (PR)**

**Caution—proprietary information involved**

**ORCON (OC)**

**Dissemination and extraction of information  
controlled by originator**

**REL...**

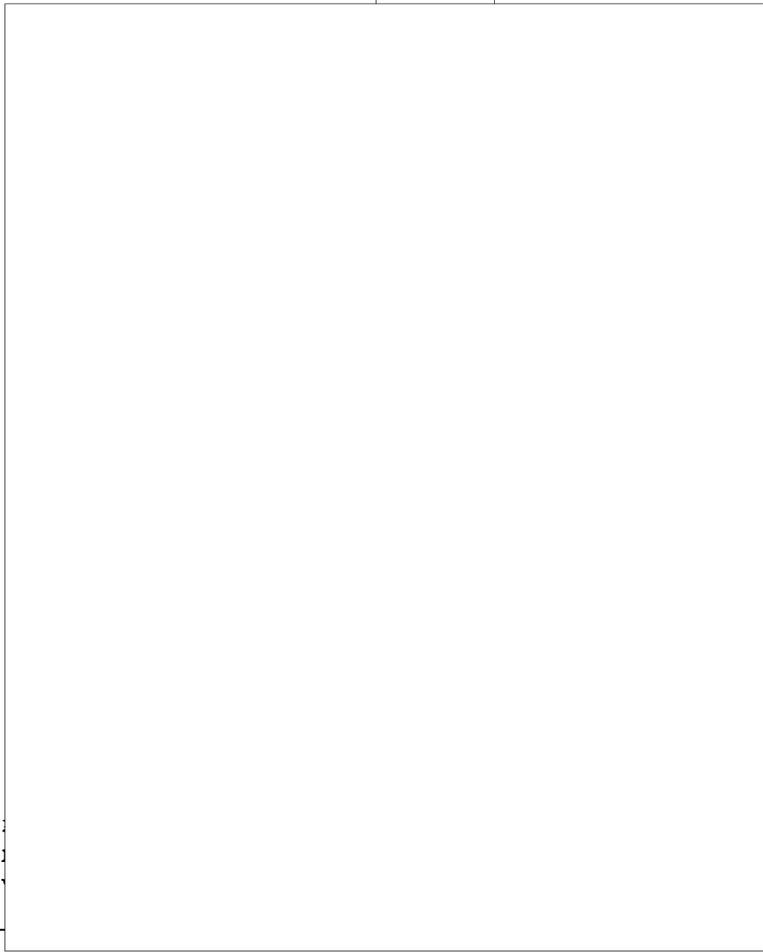
**This information has been authorized for release to...**


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**Terrorism Review**

Articles	US Faces Heightened Threat Environment Worldwide	Page
	<i>CTC</i>	1

There have been nearly 300 documented threats against US interests worldwide since the 7 August East Africa bombings and through 10 September, with about two-thirds coming in the three weeks after the 20 August US strikes against terrorist targets in Sudan and Afghanistan. Official US diplomatic facilities and personnel were the subject of 183 of the threats.



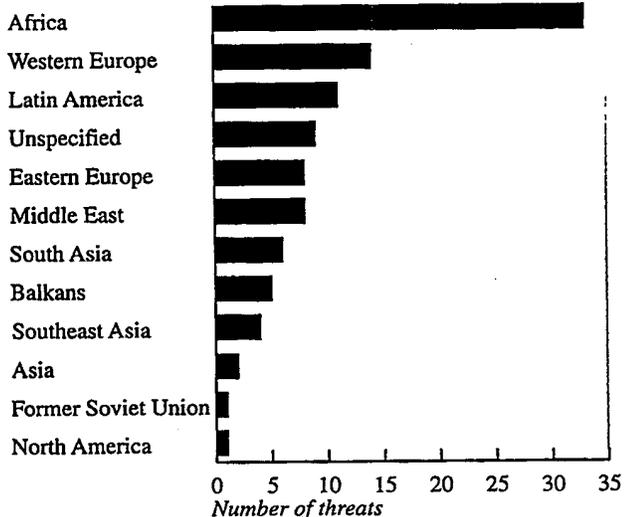
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Summary of Threat Information

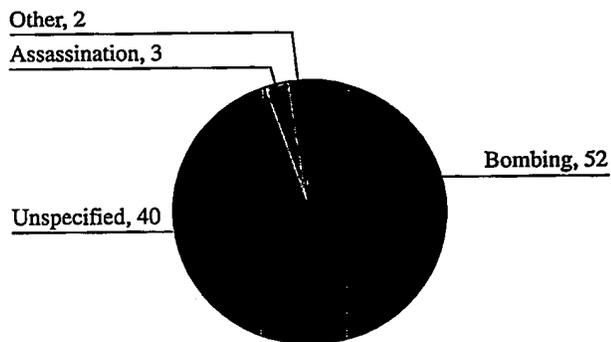
From the 7 August 1998 Africa Bombings to the 20 August US Action

By Region



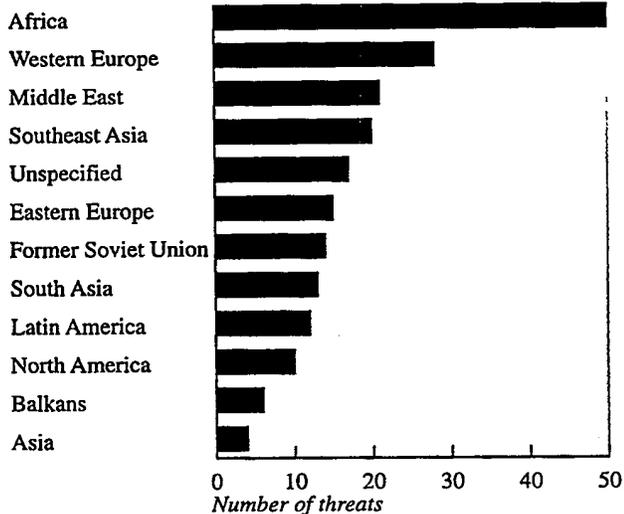
By Type

Number of threats



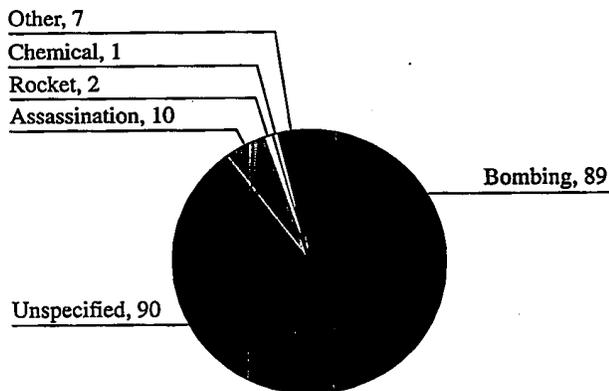
Since the 20 August US Action as of 10 September 1998, 1200 EDT

By Region



By Type

Number of threats



Note: The number of threats per region and the number of threats by type exceed the total number of threat reports (290) because several reports specify more than one region and more than one type of threat.

### US Faces Heightened Threat Environment Worldwide

We have documented nearly 300 threats against US interests worldwide since the 7 August East Africa bombings and through 10 September 1998.

Threats peaked one week after the US strikes in Afghanistan and Sudan and, as of 10 September, were approaching prestrike levels. Official US diplomatic facilities and personnel were identified as the targets in 183 cases, and 32 threats were aimed at US commercial, tourist, cultural, and nongovernment entities.

US interests in Africa received 83 threats between 7 August and 10 September, the highest of any region, with several warnings indicating possible bomb attacks against US Embassies there, particularly in Kampala, Uganda.

- Facilities and personnel in Western Europe received the second-highest number of threats, followed by the Middle East and Southeast Asia

The majority of threats before 20 August came from call-ins warning of imminent bomb attacks against US Embassies. After 20 August, however, we noted an increase in threats reported by press

Many of those threats did not identify specific targets.

- Other types of threats also increased in most regions after 20 August, including warnings of hijacking, kidnapping, rocket and chemical attacks, and assassination

Several US Embassies are concerned that persons volunteering information about terrorist plans or requesting travel information may actually be casing the facilities to help plan future terrorist attacks.

In addition to credible threats posed by Usama Bin Ladin and affiliated extremist groups such as the Egyptian Islamic Jihad and the Egyptian al-Gama'at al-Islamiyya, other groups of serious concern include People Against Gangsterism and Drugs—implicated in the 25 August Cape Town bombing—and Qibla. Both are South African Islamic groups that have called for retaliatory strikes against the United States for the US military operations in Sudan and Afghanistan.

US Embassies worldwide are taking heightened security precautions and have scaled back operations in areas where specific, credible threat information exists

US personnel in these localities have detected increased surveillance of personnel and facilities.

- Host governments have closed streets near several embassies, augmented local guard forces, and in some cases, leased land adjacent to US compounds to create buffer zones around US facilities.
- US Embassy officials are working with liaison and local police to pursue all leads to gain information about future terrorist operations from walk-ins, write-ins, and call-ins.
- Most of the threats, upon close examination, have lacked credibility, and many involve persons seeking reward money, visas, or resettlement.

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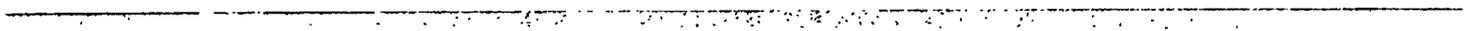




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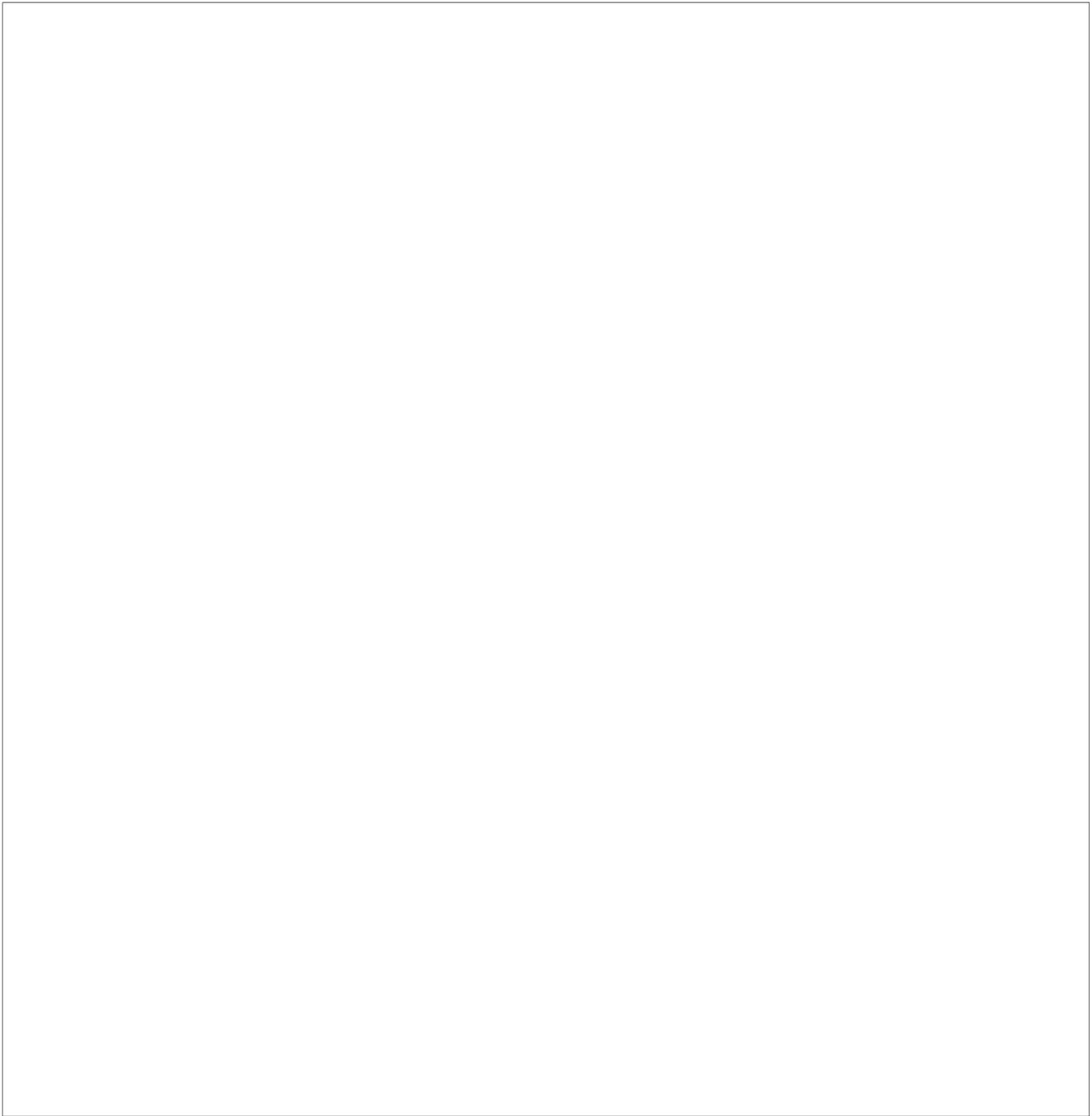


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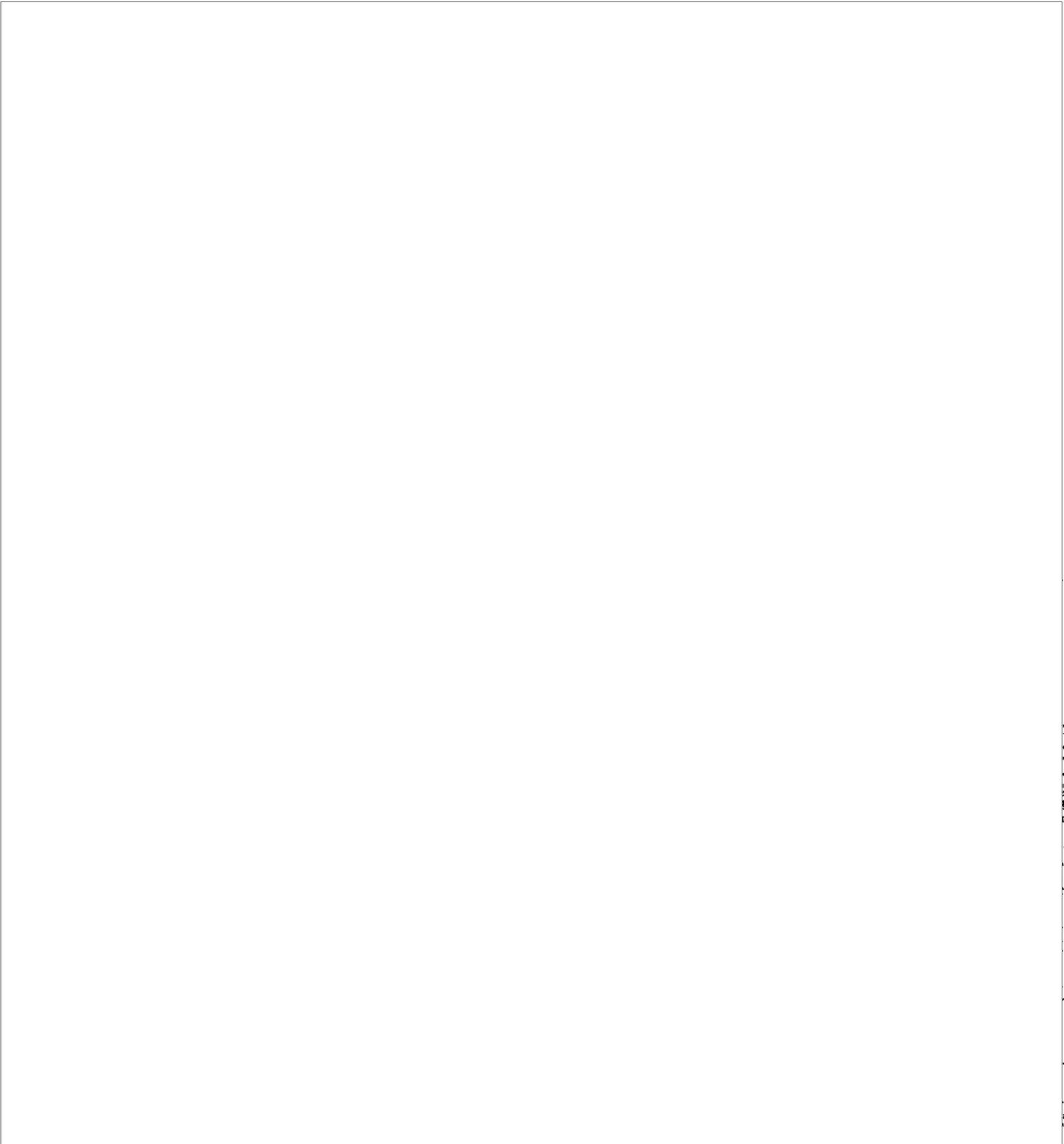
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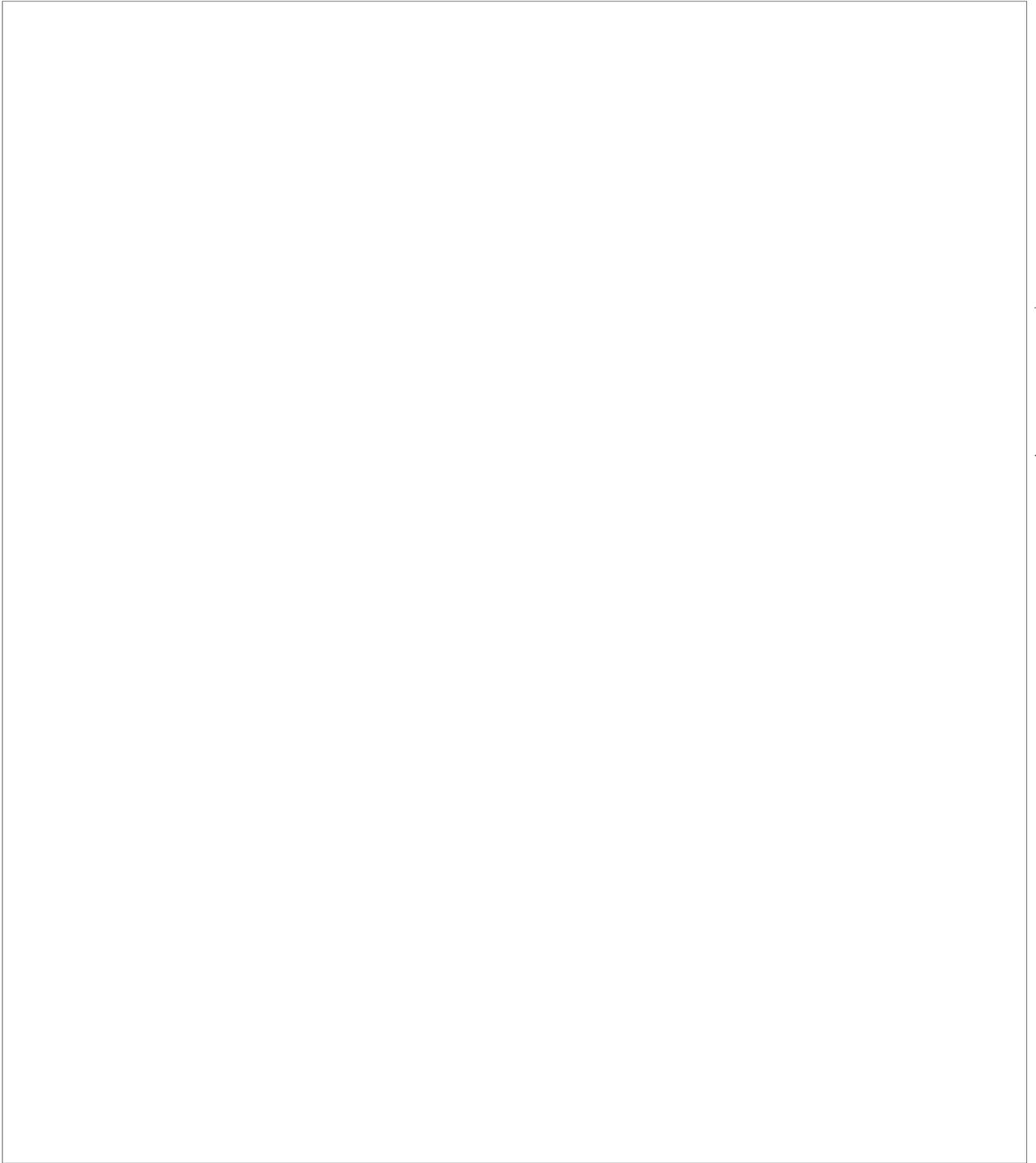




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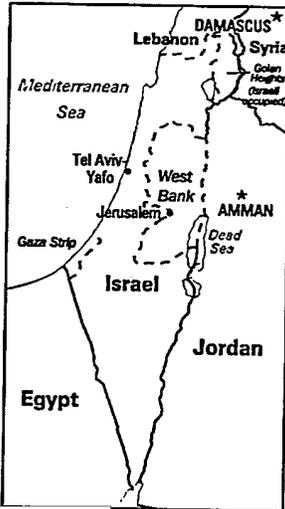
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Highlights [redacted]

Middle East

HAMAS Vows Revenge for Militants' Deaths [redacted]



HAMAS officials have vowed publicly to retaliate against Israel for the killing on 10 September of two of its military leaders, Imad and Adil Awadallah. Adil Awadallah headed HAMAS military operations in the West Bank, and his brother, Imad, was a key recruiter.

- HAMAS founder Shaykh Yasin warned the group will “painfully avenge” the deaths of the Awadallah brothers and called on the military wing to decide “when and how” to respond.

[redacted] Palestinian security services have declared “a near 100 percent” state of alert. [redacted]

HAMAS remains capable of staging operations despite the loss of the Awadallahs, the death of bombmaker Muhi al-Din al-Sharif in March, and several major arrests and weapons seizures over the past year by both Palestinian and Israeli security forces. HAMAS has demonstrated resilience in the past by launching attacks during the height of crackdowns and responding quickly to the assassination of bombmaker Yahya Ayyash in 1996 with a series of suicide bombings.

- At least two other leaders of HAMAS’ military wing—Mahmud Abu Hanud and Muhammad Dayf—remain at large. [redacted]

HAMAS’ unfulfilled threats to avenge the death of al-Sharif in March add to the pressure on the group to react quickly to the latest killings.

- [redacted] HAMAS founder Shaykh Yasin had taken a personal interest in Imad Awadallah—who escaped last month from a Palestinian Authority jail—threatening revenge if he were harmed or turned over to the Israelis. [redacted]

Latin America

Guerrillas in Colombia Release Two US Hostages [redacted]



Colombia's two principal guerrilla groups—the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN)—each released a US hostage in September. Three New Tribes Missionaries, kidnapped by the FARC in January 1993, remain the only US citizens held captive in Colombia, if they are still alive.

- The FARC's 53rd Front released Donald Lee Cary on 6 September. Guerrillas kidnapped Cary in March and refused to free him after the family paid a ransom in June. The family may have paid an additional ransom.
- The ELN's Jose Solano Sepulveda Front released US geologist Donald Riedel on 18 September after holding him for 20 months. His family paid at least \$885,000 in ransom. [redacted]
- The FARC kidnapped US missionaries Mark Rich, David Mankins, and Rick Tenenoff in January 1993. The terrorists have not provided proof of life since 1994, but information from a captured guerrilla indicates that the hostages were alive in FARC captivity in early 1996. However, FARC leaders have repeatedly denied that they kidnapped the US missionaries.
- The Colombian Government's anti-kidnapping czar, Ruben Dario Ramirez, has declared the New Tribes Missionaries "legally disappeared and probably dead." [redacted]

The insurgents' motive for releasing US hostages is unclear. The FARC probably released Cary because he was in poor health, and his family already had paid a ransom. The ELN may have freed Riedel when it realized his family had exhausted its financial resources. The releases probably were not intended as gestures of good will toward US citizens.

- [redacted] however, on 22 September the ELN made an overture through a representative of Spain's Socialist Party to establish contact with the US Government. The ELN probably did not free Riedel because it wanted to open a dialogue with Washington, but once the last US hostage was released, the ELN may have perceived an opportunity to develop contacts with US officials and enhance its legitimacy while it embarks on a peace process with Bogota. [redacted]

The release of the hostages does not signal a reduced threat to US interests in Colombia. An exact hostage count is not available, but multiple sources indicate that the FARC and ELN continue to hold collectively well over 300 hostages and have not renounced terrorist activity or pledged to refrain from kidnapping US citizens [redacted]

The Terrorism Diary for October and November

Below is a compendium of October and November dates of known or conceivable significance to terrorists around the world. Inclusion of a date or event does not indicate that we anticipate a commemorative terrorist event.

- 1 October 1985* **Tunisia, Israel, Palestinians.** Israeli bombing of PLO headquarters in Tunis.
- 3 October 1990* **Germany.** German Unity Day, official date of unification of West Germany and East Germany.
- 6 October 1973* **Israel, Arab World.** Arab-Israeli war begins.  
**Egypt.** Armed Forces Day (commemorates October War with Israel).
- 7 October 1930* **Peru.** Founding of the Communist Party of Peru, from which Sendero Luminoso evolved.
- 8 October 1967* **Cuba.** Heroic Guerrilla Day (death of Che Guevara in Bolivia).
- 23 October 1983* **Lebanon.** Bombing of the US Marine barracks in Beirut.
- 28 October* **Cyprus.** Greek National Day (observed by Greek Cypriot community).
- 29 October 1923* **Turkey.** Independence Day (proclamation of republic).
- 29 October 1973* **Cyprus.** Turkish Republic Day (observed by Turkish Cypriot community).
- 31 October 1984* **India.** Assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by Sikh bodyguards, triggering anti-Sikh riots throughout northern India.
- November 1983* **Peru.** Founding of Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) and People's Revolutionary Command (CRP).
- 13 November 1970* **Syria.** Hafiz al-Asad assumes power.
- 13 November 1995* **Saudi Arabia.** Bombing in Riyadh of the Office of Personnel Management/Saudi Arabian National Guard (OPM/SANG).
- 14 November 1935* **Jordan.** King Hussein's birthday.
- 17 November 1973* **Greece.** Student uprising at Athens Polytechnic University from which terrorist group Revolutionary Organization 17 November takes its name.
- 22 November 1943* **Lebanon.** Independence Day.

**26 November 1954**

**Sri Lanka.** LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) leader Velupillai Prabhakaran's birthday. Marks commencement of Heroes' Week celebrations in the LTTE.

**29 November 1945**

**Yugoslavia.** Republic Day.

**29 November 1947**

**Palestine.** Anniversary of the adoption of the resolution for Palestine partition by UN General Assembly.



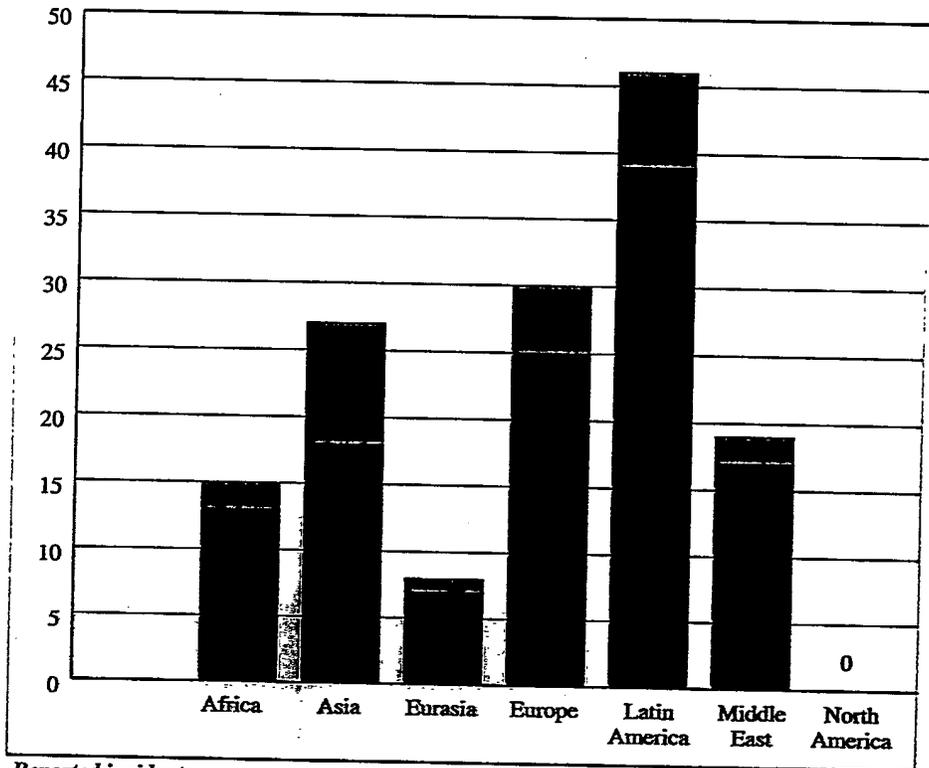
### Chronology of International Terrorism—July-August 1998

The following incidents have met the criteria for the Intelligence Community's Incident Review Panel since publication of the previous issue of the Terrorism Review. These incidents are the basis for the State Department's Patterns of Global Terrorism, published annually as the US Government's official record of international terrorism

#### International Terrorism Incidents by Region Since 1 January 1998

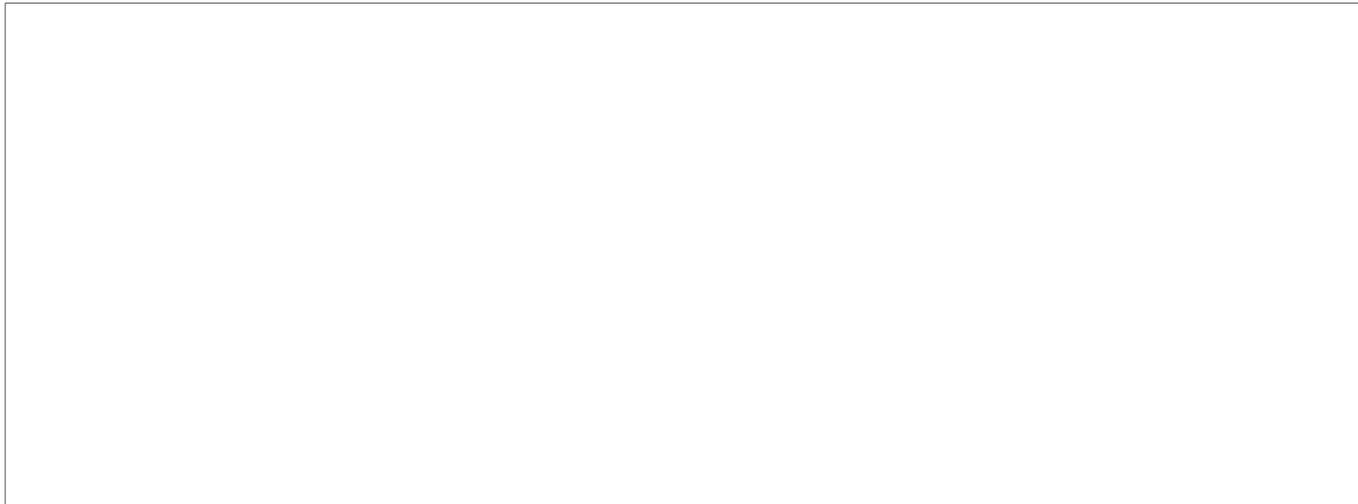
**Legend**

- Incidents in this issue
- Incidents in previous issues



**Reported incidents**

<i>This issue</i>	2	9	1	5	7	2	0
<i>Previous issues</i>	13	18	7	25	39	17	0



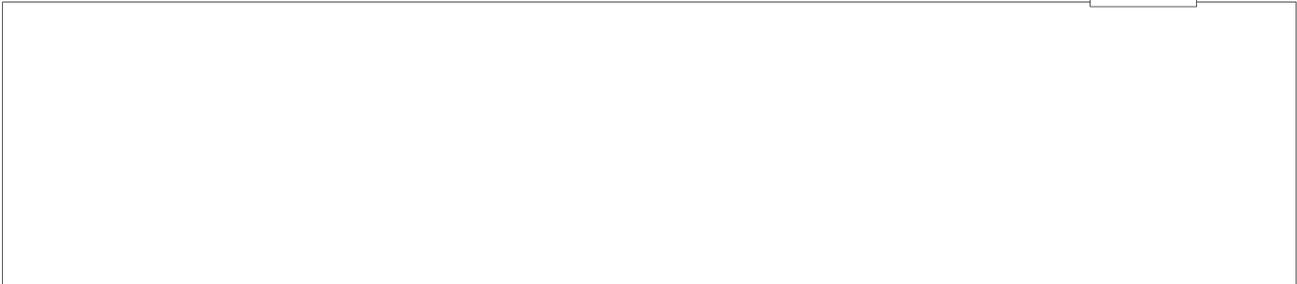
Asia

- 17 July**                      **India: An unidentified militant threw a grenade into the crowded Jehangir Chowk area in Srinagar, Kashmir, injuring 13 persons.** A police official stated that the grenade was thrown at a Border Security Force post but exploded in the road instead. No one claimed responsibility, but police believe the assailant is a Pakistani-backed separatist [redacted]
  
- 24 July**                      **India: A bomb exploded near the railroad tracks moments after the Shalimar Express passed by in Jammu and Kashmir, killing one soldier and injuring two civilians.** No one claimed responsibility, but Muslim militants are suspected. [redacted]
  
- 26 July**                      **India: A bomb exploded on an empty bus parked at the interstate bus terminal in New Delhi, killing two persons and injuring at least eight others.** The bomb destroyed the bus and caused major damage to six others. No one claimed responsibility, but police blame Muslim militants from Kashmir or Sikh extremists [redacted]
  
- 28 July**                      **India: Ten villagers were killed in an attack by suspected Muslim militants northwest of Doda, Kashmir.** Five persons are reported missing [redacted]

**India: In Doda, Kashmir, suspected Pakistani-backed Kashmiri rebels killed at least eight members of two Hindu families and wounded three others** [redacted]
  
- 4 August**                      **India: Gunmen with automatic rifles opened fire on a group of sleeping laborers at a construction site in Himachal Pradesh, killing 26 persons and wounding eight others.** As the militants headed back to Kashmir, they attacked a second group of workers in the village of Shatrundi, killing eight persons and wounding three others. Pakistani-backed separatists are suspected. [redacted]

**India: A grenade exploded in a crowded marketplace in Lal Chowk, Srinagar, Kashmir, injuring seven persons.** Pakistani-backed separatists are suspected. [redacted]

**India: Militants gunned down 19 persons near Surankot, Kashmir.** The victims were family members of a rival group that reportedly had been collaborating with Indian security forces. [redacted] the Harakat ul-Mujahidin (HUM) (the former Harakat ul-Ansar) is responsible [redacted]



**Europe**

**27 July**

**Greece: Arsonists set on fire two vehicles belonging to Italian Embassy officials in Athens, causing major damage.** Two similar attacks were carried out against auto dealerships carrying Italian vehicles on the same evening. A group calling itself *Arsonists for Social Consensus* claimed responsibility for the attacks [redacted]

**1 August**

**Northern Ireland: A 500-pound car bomb exploded outside a shoe store in Banbridge, injuring 35 persons and damaging at least 200 homes.** Authorities had received a warning telephone call and were evacuating the area when the bomb went off. The *Real IRA*, the Republic of Ireland-based military wing of the 32 *County Sovereignty Council*, claimed responsibility [redacted]

**15 August**

**Northern Ireland: A 500-pound car bomb exploded outside a local courthouse in Omagh's central shopping district, killing 29 persons and injuring more than 330 others.** On 17 August authorities arrested five local suspects of being involved with the bombing. The *Real IRA* claimed responsibility [redacted]

**Latin America**

**14 July**

**Colombia: Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels kidnapped an Ecuadorian citizen near Medellin.** The victim, a US resident, was en route to visit his family in Ecuador when he was abducted. The *FARC* is demanding his family pay a ransom of \$1 million for his release [redacted]

**18 July**

**Ecuador: The Indigenous Defense Front for Pastaza Province (FDIP) kidnapped three employees of an Ecuadorian pipeline maker subcontracted by a US oil company in Pastaza Province.** The group accuses the company of causing environmental damage in its oilfield developments in the Amazon. On 28 July the *FDIP* released one hostage, and on 29 July the group released the remaining two hostages [redacted]

**21 July**

**Colombia: Unidentified individuals bombed the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline in Aracua Department.** [redacted]

24 July *Colombia: FARC rebels bombed the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline in Arauca Province, spilling 3,000 barrels of crude.* [redacted]

28 July *Colombia: Unidentified guerrillas bombed the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline in Miramar, causing a spill of 2,500 barrels of crude.* [redacted]

3 August *Colombia: Unidentified guerrillas bombed the Xerox building in Medellin, causing property damage.* [redacted]

4 August *Colombia: FARC rebels bombed the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline near Saravena, causing oil to spill into the Aracua river.* [redacted]

Middle East

22 July *Yemen: An assailant, possibly associated with the Abu Nidal organization, murdered an Egyptian citizen in Sanaa. The victim, Muhammad Salah Sha'ban, was the Imam of Al-Husayni Mosque in Sanaa. The motive for the murder of Sha'ban-* [redacted] *-is unclear.* [redacted]

25 July *Yemen: A Yemeni shot and killed three Roman Catholic nuns, one Filipino and two Indians, in the Red Sea port city of Al Hudaydah. Press reports state that the assailant considers himself a Muslim fundamentalist and that he trained in Bosnia as a freedom fighter.* [redacted]

[redacted]

Summary of Indigenous Terrorism—August 1998

The incidents and situations below provide an overview of indigenous terrorism worldwide

**Africa**

**Uganda**

On 25 August, simultaneous bombings occurred on three buses that originated in the central bus terminal in Kampala, killing at least 50 persons and injuring several others

a long-dormant rebel group, the *National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (NALU)*, claimed responsibility in a call to a radio station.

On 26 August a bomb exploded on a bus near Mbarara, injuring one person. The bus originated in Kigali, Rwanda, and was en route to Kampala. No one claimed responsibility.

**Asia**

**Cambodia**

On 20 August, unidentified assailants fired automatic weapons and hurled a grenade into a group protesting election fraud outside the Interior Ministry building, killing one person and seriously injuring another. No one claimed responsibility for the attack

**India**

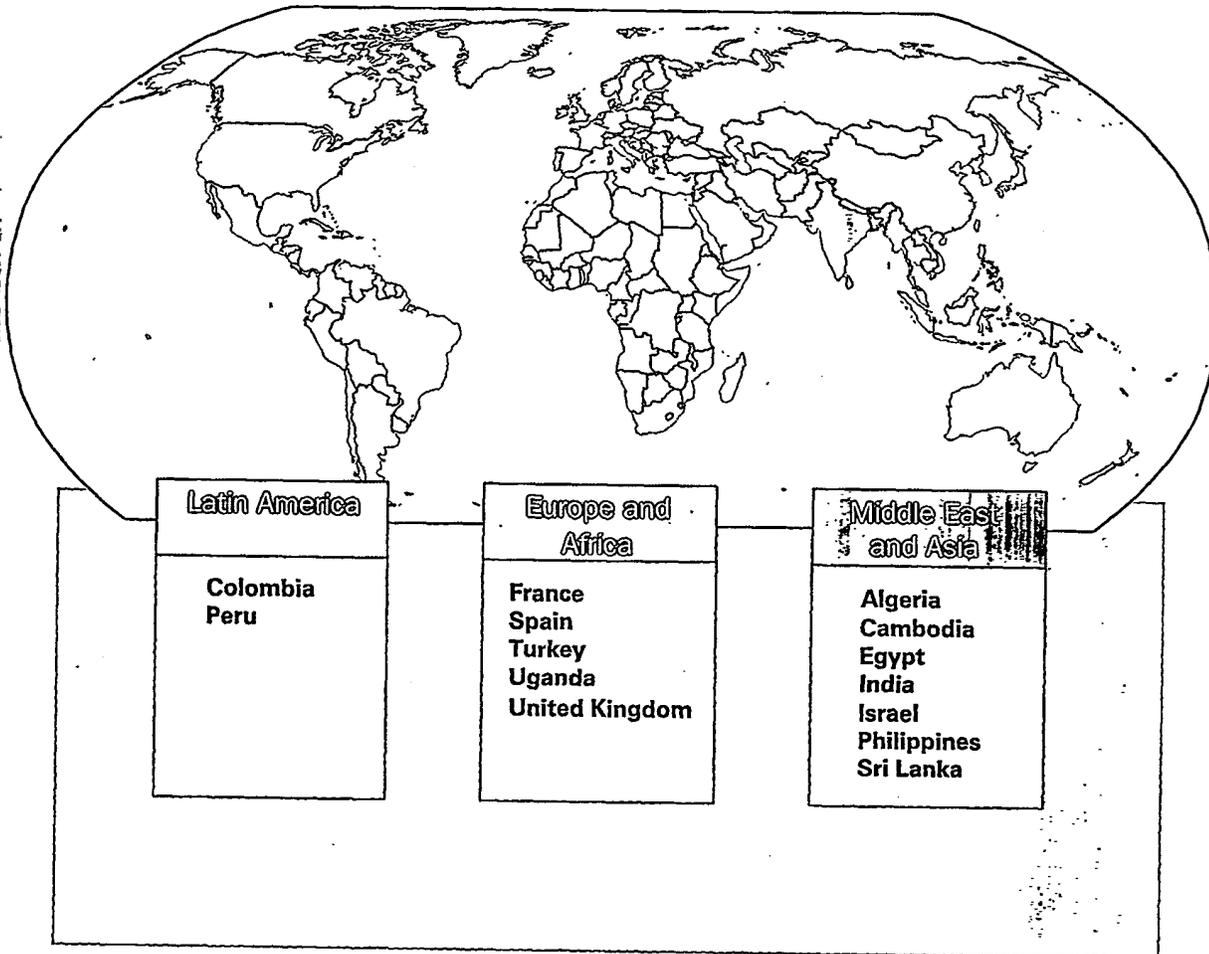
On 10 August in Nagaom, Assam, an Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) oil refinery was blown up, destroying five of the seven storage tanks but causing no injuries. No one claimed responsibility; however, suspect the involvement of the *United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA)*, which has targeted Assam's oil depots in the past.

A timed explosive device detonated at a crowded railway station in Guwahati, Assam, on 24 August, killing at least three persons and injuring 20 others. The bomb was hidden in a piece of luggage and left on the platform. Local newspapers reported that the *ULFA* claimed responsibility

**Philippines**

In two separate incidents in the Philippines, four persons were kidnapped by rebels from the *Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)*. On 18 August a doctor and her domestic helper were forced from their vehicle on Basilan Island. *ASG* is demanding \$23,000 for their release. *ASG* guerrillas attacked a mining camp in Zamboanga the next day, robbing the miners and taking two hostages. *ASG* is seeking an unspecified ransom for the two hostages.

**Selected Incidents of Indigenous Terrorism During August 1998**



Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.  
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**Sri Lanka**

On 17 August in Batticaloa, a timed device attached to a motorcycle detonated, injuring at least 17 persons and damaging a bank and two shops. No one claimed responsibility, but [redacted] the *Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)* are responsible. [redacted]

**Europe**

**France**

On 4 August in Saint-Palais, a bomb exploded outside a Banque Populaire branch, causing extensive damage. According to French press reports, the bomb used was similar to one employed in a previous attack claimed by *Iparraterek*, a small Basque separatist group that operates in southwestern France [redacted]

[redacted]

**Turkey**

On 4 August in Dihok, a bomb exploded inside the home of a Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) representative, killing him. [redacted] the *Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)* is responsible [redacted]

On 12 August in Mardin, *Kurdistan Peoples Liberation Army (ARGK)* members shot and killed a village guard during an ambush. [redacted]

A bomb exploded near a police van parked at Istanbul University on 14 August. The blast injured one police officer and three other persons, and damaged the van. The *Revolutionary People's Liberation Front (DHKP-C)* claimed responsibility for the attack. [redacted]

A time bomb planted by the PKK exploded in an oilfield owned by the Turkey Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) in Batman on 15 August, setting three oil wells on fire [redacted]

On 23 August in Mazgirt, 30 armed PKK members attacked a police station, killing one police officer. Two persons were injured by stray bullets [redacted]

**United Kingdom**

On 4 August unidentified gunmen attacked a Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) station in Lurgan, county Armagh. [redacted]

**Latin America**

**Colombia**

*National Liberation Army (ELN)* rebels kidnapped a senator at a roadblock near Urumita on 1 August. The ELN is demanding a commission to meet with recently displaced peasants to secure the senator's release. [redacted]

On 3 August in Anori, *ELN* rebels kidnapped the town's mayor during his visit to several villages [redacted]

*Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)* guerrillas bombed an electrical substation in Riosucio on 3 August, destroying transformers and other components of the power station and leaving Riosucio and nearby towns without electricity. [redacted]

**Peru**

On 8 August in Saposoa, 30 armed *Sendero Luminoso (SL)* rebels publicly executed the town's mayor and three of his supporters and wounded three other supporters [redacted]

**Middle East**

**Algeria**

*Armed Islamic Group (GIA)* militants killed 40 bus passengers in Fidh El-Klakh on 2 August at a roadblock [redacted]

A bomb exploded on a railway line in Ain Turki as the Algiers-Oran train passed by on 12 August, killing seven passengers and wounding 11 others [redacted]

A bomb exploded in El Khemis on 20 August, killing 13 persons and wounding 30 others [redacted]

A bomb exploded on 21 August on the El Marsa beach, killing two persons and injuring two others [redacted]

On 31 August in the Bab-el-Oued neighborhood of Algiers, a bomb exploded in a crowded open air market, killing 25 persons and wounding at least 61 others. The explosion occurred hours after the government announced it would open offices to investigate the disappearance of people during the six-year Islamic insurgency. No one claimed responsibility [redacted] suspect the *GIA*. [redacted]

**Egypt**

Gunmen killed a Coptic merchant and wounded three others in Deirut Nakhleh, Al-Minya on 3 August. The gunmen shot and killed another civilian as they fled. [redacted]

Gunmen broke into the garden of a Coptic family in Ezbat Hakim on 12 August, killing three persons and wounding two others [redacted]

**Israel**

On 27 August in Tel Aviv, a small bomb packed with nails and hidden in a trash can detonated, injuring 12 persons and damaging apartments and shops. The explosion occurred outside the Great Synagogue. [redacted] Palestinian militants for the blast; HAMAS denied any involvement. This is the first bomb attack in Tel Aviv since March 1997 [redacted]

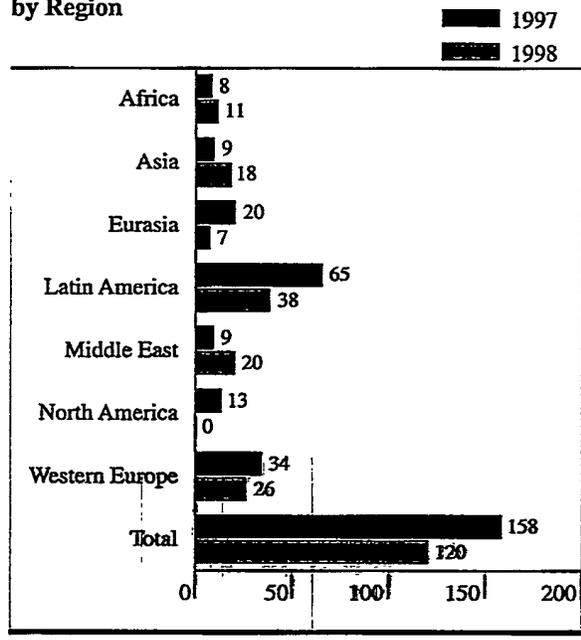
[redacted]

### Trends in Terrorism

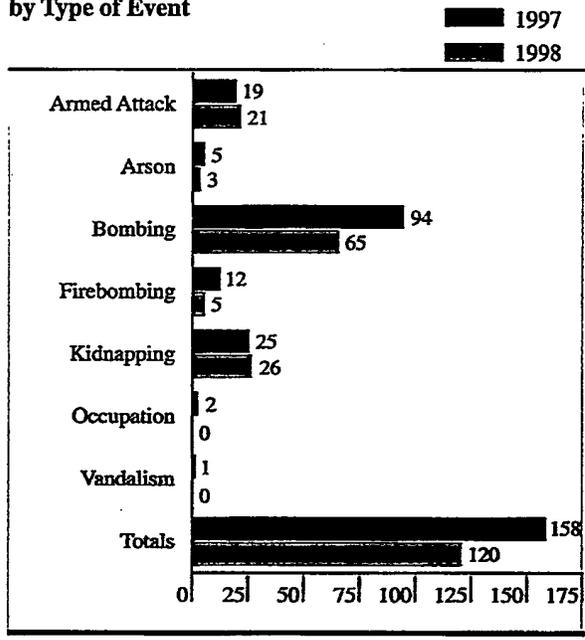
#### International Terrorism, First Half 1998: A Statistical Comparison With First Half 1997

Note scale changes

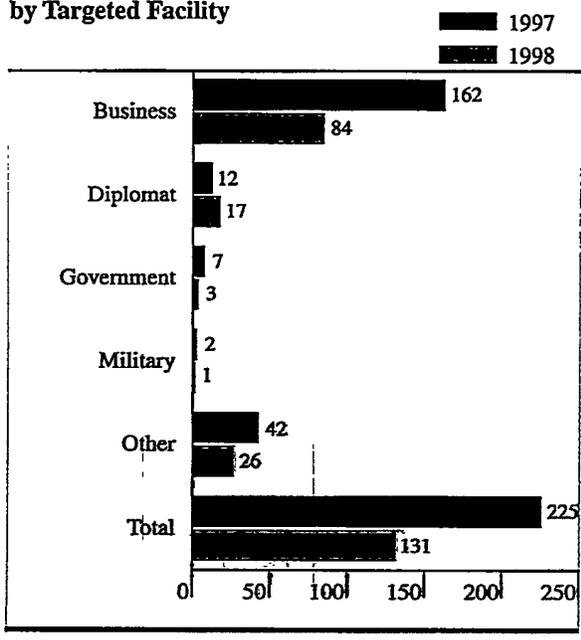
#### International Terrorist Incidents, by Region



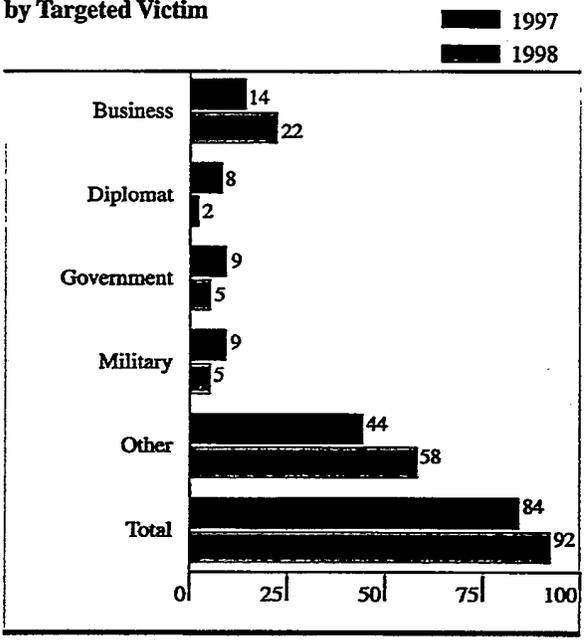
#### International Terrorist Incidents, by Type of Event



#### International Terrorist Incidents, by Targeted Facility

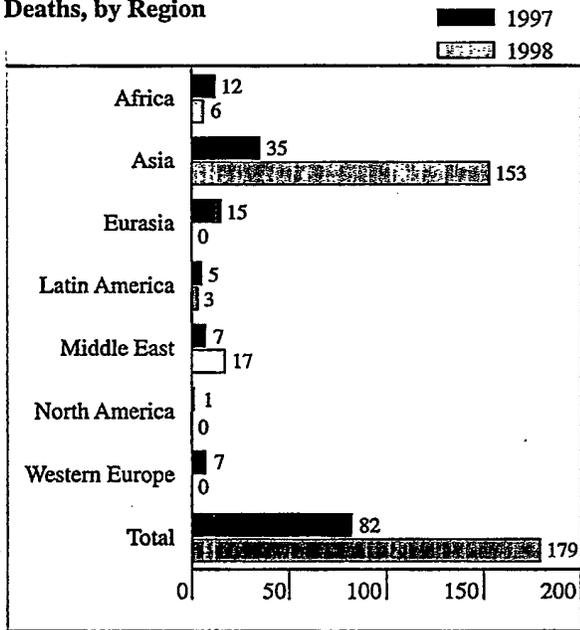


#### International Terrorist Incidents, by Targeted Victim

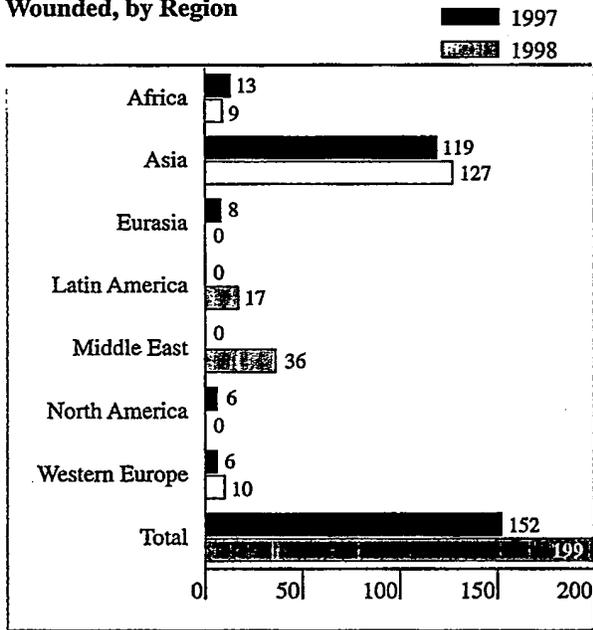


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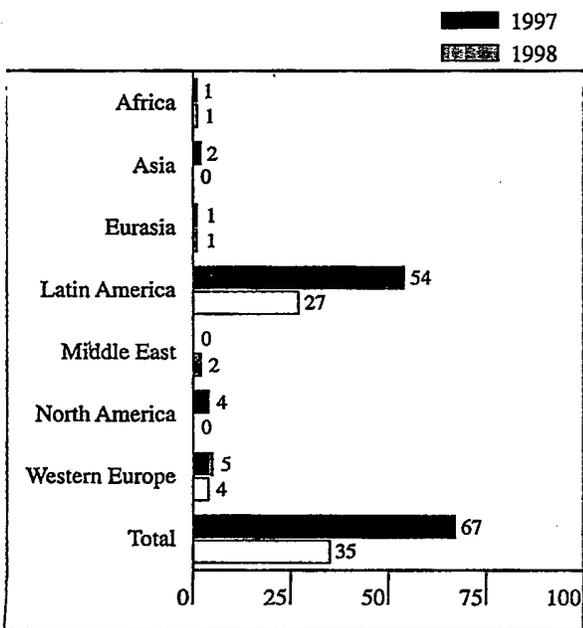
International Terrorist Incidents, Deaths, by Region



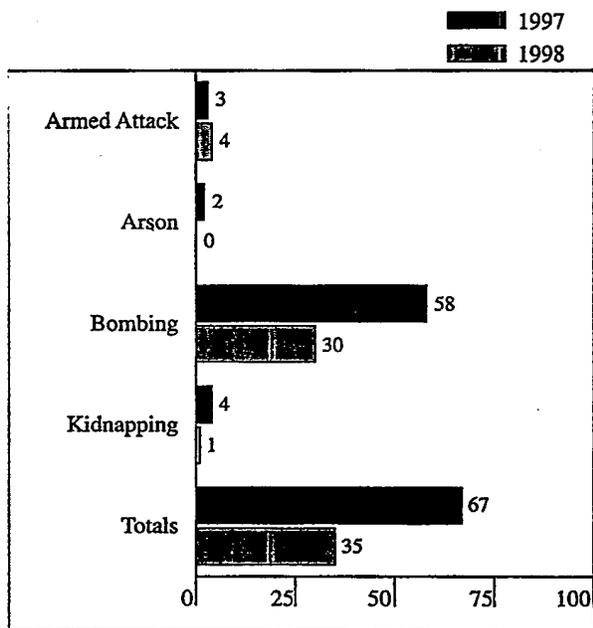
International Terrorist Incidents, Wounded, by Region



Anti-US Attacks, by Region

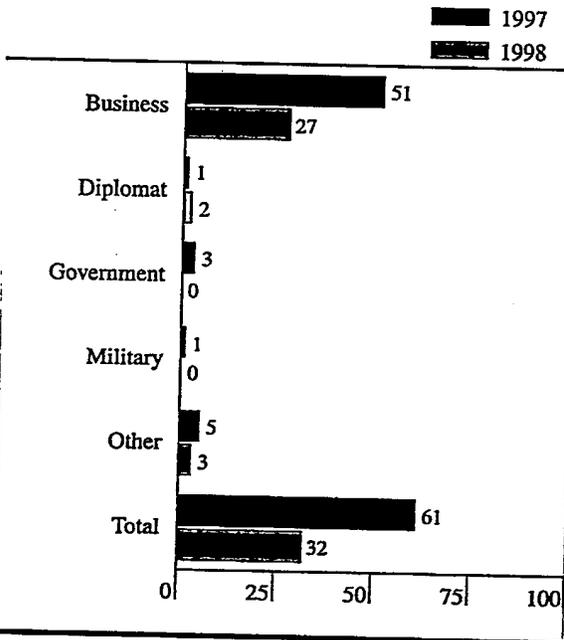


Anti-US Attacks, by Type of Event

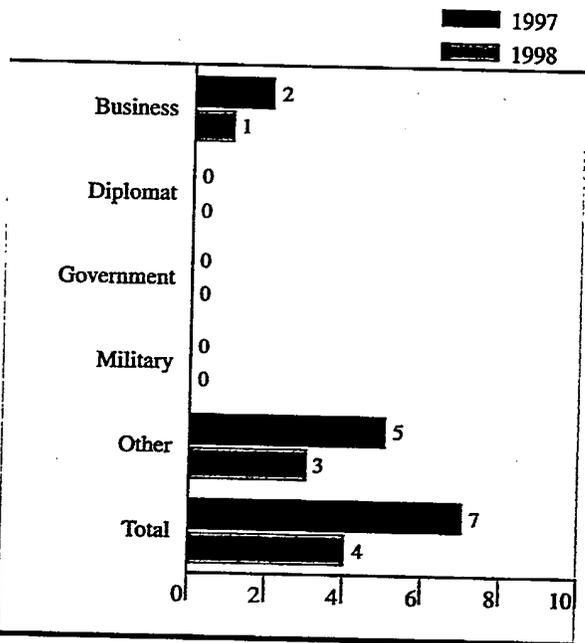


Note scale changes

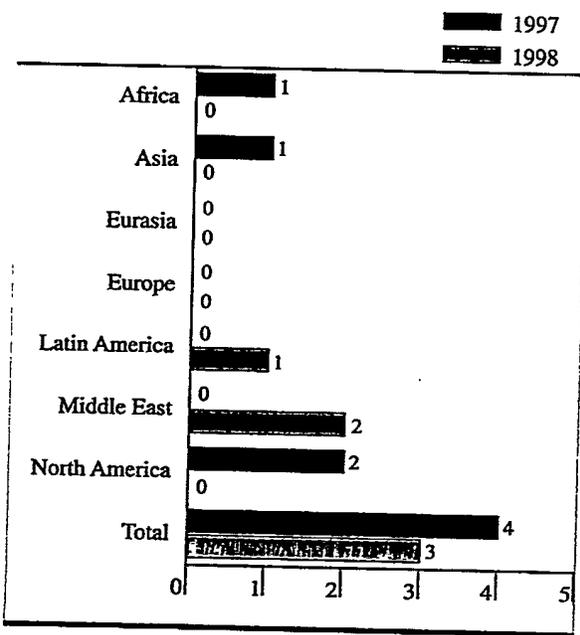
Anti-US Attacks, by Targeted Facility



Anti-US Attacks, by Targeted Victim



Anti-US Attacks, Wounded, by Region<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup> There were no deaths of US citizens in the first halves of 1997 and 1998.