



Terrorist Attacks Against US Business

A statistical overview of international terrorist attacks against US business personnel and facilities from January 1968 through December 1981.

June 1982

Terrorism: *The threat or use of violence for political purposes by individuals or groups, whether acting for or in opposition to established governmental authority, when such actions are intended to shock or intimidate a target group wider than the immediate victims.*

International Terrorism: *(a) Terrorism conducted with the support of a foreign government or organization. (b) Terrorism directed against foreign nationals, institutions, or governments. International terrorism has involved groups seeking to overthrow specific regimes, to rectify perceived national or group grievances, or to undermine international order as an end in itself.*

Terrorist Attacks Against US Business

The number of international terrorist incidents against US business personnel and facilities increased steadily from 1968 to 1974, declined slightly in the mid-1970s, rose again in 1978 primarily due to attacks in Iran, and subsequently declined (see figure 1). These attacks resulted in 15 US businessmen dead and 62 wounded.

Trends

From January 1968 through December 1981, 30 percent of all international terrorist attacks against Americans were directed against businessmen or business installations. We recorded 953 international

Figure 1
International Terrorist Attacks Against US
Business Personnel and Facilities

January 1968–December 1981

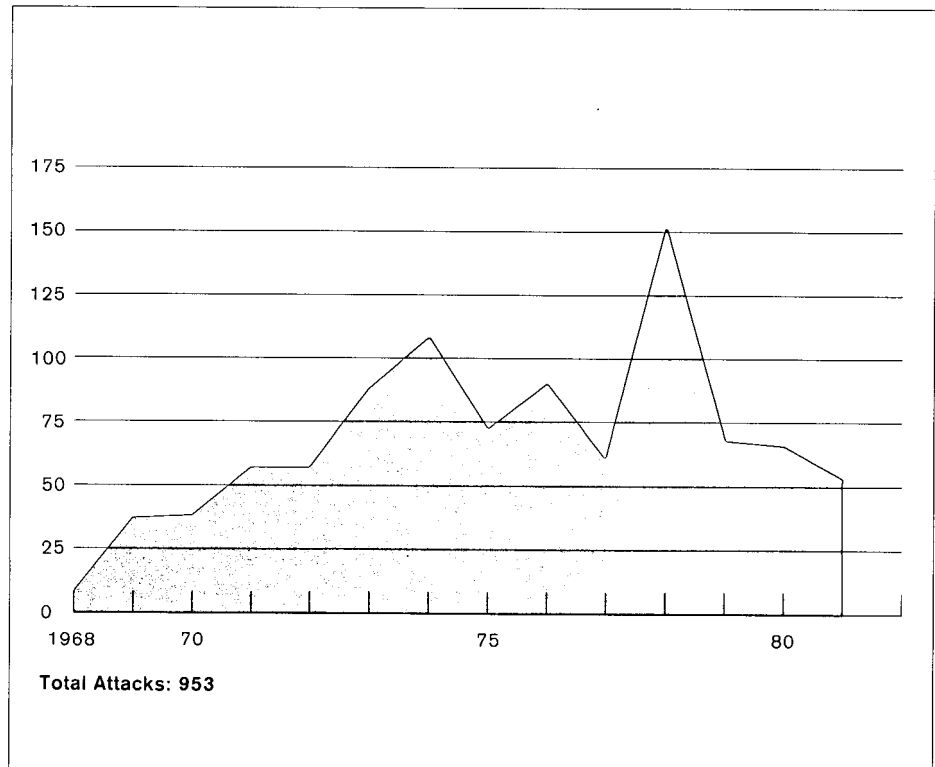


Table 1**International Terrorist Incidents
Against US Business, 1968-81**

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	Total ^a
Kidnaping	0	0	3	3	2	17	6	7	5	5	3	2	5	3	61 (6.4)
Barricade-hostage	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	5 (0.5)
Letter bombing	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	7 (0.7)
Incendiary bombing	0	0	6	27	1	8	18	4	17	5	27	15	3	7	138 (14.5)
Explosive bombing	5	34	24	23	47	42	72	52	32	35	53	28	24	29	500 (52.5)
Armed attack	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	3	3	7	1	3	0	23 (2.4)
Hijacking ^b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	6	14	5	28 (2.9)
Assassination	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	10	3	2	4	4	2	29 (3.0)
Sabotage	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7 (0.7)
Threat	1	0	4	0	2	13	2	3	16	4	51	6	7	0	109 (11.4)
Theft, break-in	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	6	1	0	0	16 (1.7)
Conspiracy	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4 (0.4)
Hoax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	7 (0.7)
Sniping	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	4	0	5	0	1	13 (1.4)
Other actions	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	6 (0.6)
Total	8 (0.8)	37 (3.9)	38 (4.0)	57 (6.0)	57 (6.0)	88 (9.2)	108 (11.3)	72 (7.6)	90 (9.4)	60 (6.3)	151 (15.8)	68 (7.1)	66 (6.9)	53 (5.6)	953 (100.0)

^a Figures in parentheses are percentages of the total.

^b Includes hijacking by land, air, and sea.

terrorist attacks against 128 different businesses. The proportion of attacks against US business declined somewhat during the last few years. In 1975, 40 percent of all recorded attacks against Americans were against business interests, but by 1980 attacks against American business had decreased to 24 percent of the total.

The annual number of attacks against US business has varied widely during the 14 years for which we have records, ranging from eight in 1968 to 151 in 1978. The number has been fairly stable, however, since early 1979, staying within a range of 50 to 70 attacks each year.

As is true of international terrorist attacks in general, most attacks directed at US business do not cause casualties. Only about 15 percent of all attacks recorded between January 1968 and the end of December 1981 resulted in death or personal injury.

Over 40 percent of the attacks against US business interests occurred in Latin America, with the remainder roughly divided among Western Europe, the Middle East, and North America. In all, US business interests have been attacked by international terrorists in 56 countries since January 1968.

In Latin America, businessmen are often victims of kidnapers attempting to collect ransom funds to support future terrorist operations.

Attacks in 1981

Fifty-three international terrorist attacks were directed against US business personnel and facilities in 1981, including 36 bombings, two assassinations, three kidnappings, and a barricade and hostage attack. One kidnaped businessman, Clifford Bevins, of Goodyear Tire Company

Table 2**Types of Terrorist Attacks
on US Business, 1968-81, by Region**

	North America	Latin America	Western Europe	Sub- Saharan Africa	Middle East and North Africa	Asia	Pacific	Total ^a
Kidnaping	0	50	1	6	1	3	0	61 (6.4)
Barricade-hostage	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	5 (0.5)
Letter bombing	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	7 (0.7)
Incendiary bombing	37	36	33	0	29	1	2	138 (14.5)
Explosive bombing	82	221	108	4	68	16	1	500 (52.5)
Armed attack	0	12	4	1	2	4	0	23 (2.4)
Hijacking ^b	22	2	0	0	1	3	0	28 (2.9)
Assassination	0	21	2	0	4	2	0	29 (3.0)
Sabotage	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	7 (0.7)
Threat	7	35	16	1	50	0	0	109 (11.4)
Theft, break-in	0	13	2	0	1	0	0	16 (1.7)
Conspiracy	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	4 (0.4)
Hoax	1	0	5	0	0	1	0	7 (0.7)
Sniping	0	6	0	0	5	2	0	13 (1.4)
Other actions	0	1	3	0	2	0	0	6 (0.6)
Total	153 (16.1)	407 (42.7)	176 (18.5)	12 (1.3)	170 (17.8)	32 (3.4)	3 (0.3)	953 (100.0)

^a Figures in parentheses are percentages of the total.

^b Includes hijacking by land, air, and sea.

was killed by leftist guerrillas in Guatemala on 13 August. The attacks occurred in 19 countries; 22 groups claimed credit for the attacks.

Types of Attack

International terrorists have used almost every type of violence against US business personnel and facilities, ranging from telephone threats to murder. We have recorded 645 bombings, 61 kidnapings, 29 assassination attempts, and 23 armed attacks directed against US business interests since January 1968 (see tables 1 and 2).

Bombings. Bombings were the most common type of attack, accounting for nearly 70 percent of all incidents recorded. Terrorists used incendiary or letter bombs as well as conventional explosives. The majority of the bombings did not cause significant damage. Bombings against US business facilities occurred in 38 countries,

with the greatest number occurring in Argentina, Iran, Italy, and Mexico. Bombings are a preferred method in part because explosives are relatively easy to obtain and the attacks normally involve little risk to the perpetrators.

Hostage Seizures. Since beginning 1968 there have been 94 attacks in which US business personnel were taken hostage against the satisfaction of monetary or political demands by international terrorists. Almost two-thirds of these were kidnapings, but seizure incidents also included skyjackings and hostage and barricade situations. The largest annual total of kidnapings and hostage seizures was 21 in 1980, almost four times the annual average for the 1968-81 period.

Financial demands were most often made for the release of business personnel, but other demands included the release of imprisoned terrorists, publicity for a political statement, or a safe getaway for the

terrorists. In over three-fourths of the hostage takings, the terrorists were able to achieve at least some of their demands.

The seizure of US businessmen by international terrorists has occurred every year beginning with 1970. Almost 60 percent of all hostage takings of US business personnel occurred in Latin America. We recorded business personnel held hostage in 20 countries, with the greatest number of incidents in Argentina, Guatemala, and Colombia. Thirty-six terrorist groups have claimed credit for these attacks.

Assassinations. Although handgun assassinations of US businessmen overseas are rare, they attract media attention, require a response from the local government, and have a strong impact on local business operations. We recorded assassinations each year after 1974, with the largest number in 1976. Although assassinations occurred in nine countries, most were in Latin America, particularly in Argentina and Guatemala.

Types of Companies Targeted

The US companies that have been the object of terrorist attacks run the gamut from well-known giants of world business to small enterprises. Oil firms, including Chevron, Mobil, Exxon, Gulf, and Texaco, have been frequent targets. International banks and financial enterprises, such as Chase Manhattan, the Chemical Bank of New York, Bankers Trust, Citibank, Bank of America, and American Express, are often hit—perhaps for symbolic as well as for more practical reasons. Another category of frequent victims includes companies associated in the public mind with the “American way of life.” Coca-Cola, Pepsi-Cola, Colgate-Palmolive, Ford, Chrysler, Macy’s, Sears, and McDonald’s fall in this group. Targets only slightly less popular

with terrorists are airlines (Pan American, Braniff), engineering firms (Bechtel), agricultural equipment companies (John Deere), and high-technology enterprises (IBM, Burroughs, Honeywell).

Incidents Resulting in Injuries or Deaths

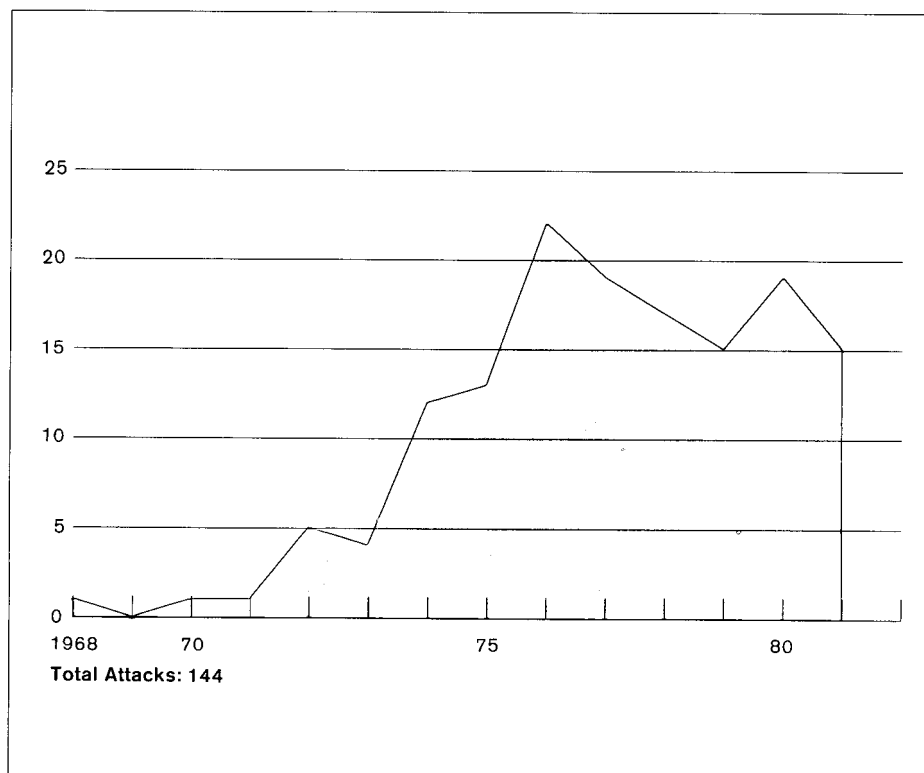
Attacks against US business personnel that cause casualties are almost always perpetrated by experienced terrorist organizations, provoke a response from the highest levels of government and corporate management, and command worldwide media attention.

We recorded 144 international terrorist attacks on American business personnel between January 1968 and the end of 1981 that caused death or injuries. The number of these attacks was highest during the mid-1970s when terrorist groups were active in Argentina, declined somewhat through 1979, increased slightly in 1980 due to attacks in Central America, and declined in 1981 (see figure 2). Since 1976 the number of attacks with casualties has fluctuated between 15 and 19 each year, with an annual average of 17 over the past five years. The rate during the first five months of 1982 indicates that this pattern is continuing.

Attacks against US business personnel resulting in casualties have occurred in 31 countries, with most taking place in Argentina, Iran, the United States, the Philippines, Mexico, and Guatemala. Sixty terrorist groups claimed credit for these attacks. Bombings and assassinations account for 75 percent of the attacks with casualties. Our records chronicle 27 assassination attacks and 82 bombings that caused casualties. Other categories of attacks—kidnapings, barricade and hostage situations, and skyjackings—account for only a small portion of the casualties.

Figure 2
International Terrorist Attacks Against US
Business That Caused Casualties

January 1968-December 1981



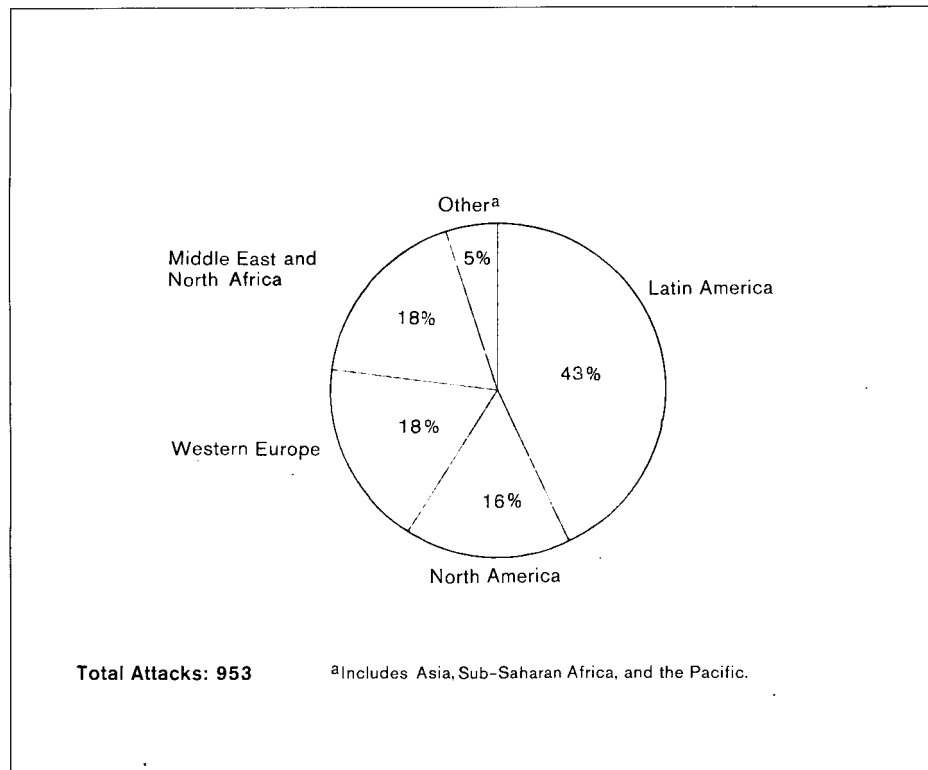
Location of Incidents

Since January 1968, incidents of international terrorism against US business personnel and facilities have occurred in 56 countries (see appendix A). More than 40 percent of the attacks occurred in only six countries, however, and the greatest number occurred in Argentina, primarily because the Montoneros routinely targeted US business interests during the early and mid-1970s. Other countries where a large number of attacks occurred were the United States, Iran, Mexico, Guatemala, and Italy. In the United States and Italy, the attacks were usually carried out by foreign rather than indigenous terrorists. In the United States, for example, terrorists from 10 countries carried out attacks against

business facilities or personnel. In Italy, Italian terrorists were involved in only 30 percent of the 59 attacks. In Argentina, Iran, Mexico, and Guatemala, the incidents were almost always the work of indigenous groups.

More than 60 percent of all incidents occurred in Latin America and Western Europe (see figure 3 and table 3). Most hostage takings and assassinations occurred in Latin America, and about one-third of the casualties were recorded there. Terrorist groups carried out attacks as symbolic action against US power, wealth, and influence in the region or in an attempt to undermine the local regime by attacking Americans.

Figure 3
Locations of International Terrorist Attacks
Against US Business, 1968-81



Although 176 terrorist attacks were recorded in Europe, only 9 percent resulted in casualties. As with all terrorist attacks, incidents involving US business are often carried out where they will receive the most publicity, and the large urban areas of Western Europe provide the perfect setting for such actions. Our records show that about one-third of all attacks in Western Europe involved European terrorists; terrorists from six non-European countries carried out most of the other attacks in the region.

International Terrorist Groups

A total of 98 terrorist groups (see appendix B) have claimed credit for attacks against US business personnel and facilities during the past 14 years. The Montoneros, an Argentine terrorist group that conducted most of its operations during the

mid-1970s, has claimed responsibility for more attacks than any other group. They conducted a wide range of operations against US businesses, including assassinations, kidnappings, and all types of bombings.

The Peoples Revolutionary Army also conducted numerous attacks against US business personnel in Argentina during the mid-1970s. Our records show that this group has not carried out an attack against American business since 1976.

Other groups that have carried out numerous operations include the 23 September Communist League in Mexico, a student association in Iran, and the Moro National Liberation Front in the Philippines.

Table 3**Geographic Distribution of International
Terrorist Attacks Against US Business, 1968-81**

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	Total
North America	2	1	1	19	10	4	13	21	11	13	26	6	17	9	153
Latin America	1	36	30	26	34	43	55	20	51	26	24	14	22	25	407
Western Europe	5	0	3	4	9	31	28	17	20	10	17	9	8	15	176
Sub-Saharan Africa	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	3	0	2	1	2	0	1	12
Middle East and North Africa	0	0	3	6	3	10	9	8	7	6	81	32	4	1	170
Asia	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	1	3	2	5	14	2	32
Pacific	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Total	8	37	38	57	57	88	108	72	90	60	151	68	66	53	953

Appendix A

**Locations of International Terrorist
Attacks Against US Business**

Abu Dhabi	Indonesia	Pakistan
Angola	Iran	Peru
Argentina	Ireland	Philippines
Australia	Israel	Portugal
Austria	Italy	Saudi Arabia
Belgium	Jordan	Spain
Bolivia	Kuwait	Sweden
Brazil	Lebanon	Switzerland
Chile	Lesotho	Syria
Colombia	Luxembourg	Trinidad and Tobago
Costa Rica	Malaysia	Tunisia
Dominican Republic	Martinique	Turkey
Egypt	Mexico	United Kingdom
El Salvador	Morocco	United States
Ethiopia	Netherlands	Uruguay
France	Netherlands Antilles	Venezuela
Greece	Nicaragua	West Germany
Guatemala	Norway	Zimbabwe
Honduras		
Hong Kong		

Appendix B

**Major Groups Claiming Responsibility
for International Terrorist Attacks
Against US Business Employees and Facilities**

This list includes names of organizations responsible either by claim or attribution for specific international terrorist actions noted in the statistics. The inclusion of any group should not be interpreted as an evaluation of that group's goals or motives. Some attacks may have been carried out without the approval, or even foreknowledge, of that organization's leaders. Also, claims of responsibility may be falsely made by opponents of the organization in an attempt to discredit it.

Some of the names listed are cover names for organizations wishing to deny responsibility for a particular action that may have yielded counterproductive results. Some names may have been used by common criminals to mislead police investigators or by psychotics seeking public recognition.

Acilciler (Turkey)	Forces Populaires de April 25 (Portugal)
Alacran Scorpion (Cuba)	Front for the Liberation of Aceh From Sumatra (Indonesia)
Al Saiqa (Palestine)	Front for the Liberation of Angola (Angola)
April 6th Liberation Movement (Philippines)	Front for the Liberation of Cabinda (Cabinda)
Arab Communist Organization (Palestine)	Front Line (Italy)
Arab National Action Organization (Worldwide)	Greek Anti-Dictatorial Youth (Greece)
Arab Nationalist Youth Organization for Liberation of Palestine (Palestine)	Greek Military Resistance (Greece)
Argentine Liberation Front (Argentina)	Greek People (Greece)
Armed Forces of National Liberation (Venezuela)	Guerrilla Army of the Poor (Guatemala)
Armed Revolutionary Party of the People (El Salvador)	International Revolutionary Movement (Worldwide)
Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (Armenia)	Iranian Peoples Strugglers (Iran)
Bandera Roja (Venezuela)	January 31 Popular Front (Guatemala)
Basque Fatherland and Freedom (Spain)	Japanese Red Army (Japan)
Basuto Land Congress Party (Lesotho)	Jewish Armed Resistance (US)
Black September (Palestine)	Kurdish Liberation Army (Iran)
Catalan Socialist Party for National Liberation (Spain)	Latin American Anti-Communist Army (Cuba)
Cayetano Carpio Movement (El Salvador)	Lebanese Revolutionary Guard (Lebanon)
Committee for Revolutionary Integration (Venezuela)	Left Acapulco Guerrillas (Mexico)
Communist Labor Organization (Lebanon)	Marxist-Leninist Armed Propaganda Unit (Turkey)
Cuban Action Communists (Cuba)	Montoneros (Argentina)
El Condor (Cuba)	Moro National Liberation Front (Philippines)
El Poder Cubano (Cuba)	Movement Brothers of Palestine (France)
Eritrean Liberation Forces (Eritrea)	Movement of the 19th of April (Colombia)
Farabundo Marti National Liberation Forces (El Salvador)	Movement of the Revolutionary Left (Peru)
Fatah (Palestine)	National Front for the Liberation of the Congo (Congo)
First of October Group of Anti-Fascist Resistance (Spain)	National Liberation Army (Bolivia)
	National Liberation Army (Colombia)

National Liberation Front (Brazil)	Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (Guatemala)
Omega 7 (Cuba)	Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers (El Salvador)
Organization of Revolutionaries (Venezuela)	Sandinista National Liberation Front (Nicaragua)
Orly Organization (Armenia)	Self Defense Against All Authority (France)
Pedro R. Botero Command (Cuba)	Terrorist Group of Badizardegun (Iran)
People's Resistance Army (Greece)	Towhid (Iran)
Peoples Revolutionary Army (Argentina)	Tupamaros (Uruguay)
Peoples Revolutionary Army (El Salvador)	Turkish Peoples' Liberation Army (Turkey)
Peoples Revolutionary Front (Philippines)	Turkish Revolutionary Youth Federation (Turkey)
People's Sacrifice Guerrillas (Iran)	United Front Guerrilla Action (Colombia)
Peronist Armed Forces (Argentina)	Venezuelan Revolutionary Party (Venezuela)
Poor Peoples Army (Mexico)	We Must Do Something (France)
Popular Front for the Liberation of Pales- tine (Palestine)	White Warriors (El Salvador)
Popular Liberation Forces (El Salvador)	Worker's Direct Action (France)
Popular Revolutionary Bloc (El Salvador)	Workers Party of Guatemala (Guatemala)
Popular Revolutionary Struggle (Greece)	Workers Self Defense Movement (Colombia)
Popular Revolutionary Vanguard (Brazil)	Young Proletarian Organization for Communism (Italy)
Proletarian Justice (Worldwide)	Youth Action Group (France)
Proletarian Squad (Italy)	23 September Communist League (Mexico)
Proletariat International (Italy)	3 October (Armenia)
Provisional Irish Republican Army (North- ern Ireland)	
Red Army Faction (West Germany)	
Red Brigades (Italy)	
Red Guerrilla (Italy)	
Revolutionary Action Front (Honduras)	
Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Colombia)	
Revolutionary Armed Squads (Italy)	

1973

14 April

Lebanon. Twenty members of the Lebanese Revolutionary Guard overpowered a guard and set explosive charges on 20 oil storage tanks belonging to the US-owned Caltex-Mobil Company in the Sidon area. One of the tanks was destroyed, two were badly damaged, and a fourth was slightly damaged. An army demolitions team removed charges from 16 other tanks. The group was protesting American support of Israel and appears to have consisted of males wearing masks.

30 April

Argentina. A bomb exploded in a Cordoba building owned by Goodyear, causing serious damage but no injuries. The Peoples Revolutionary Army later claimed credit for the attack.

18 June

Argentina. US citizen John R. Thompson, President and General Manager of Firestone Tire and Rubber Company's subsidiary in Buenos Aires, was kidnaped by several armed members of the Peoples Revolutionary Army. Thompson was abducted as he was being driven from the plant when the car was intercepted by about five autos carrying gunmen. The assailants smashed in the windows, seized Thompson, pushed the driver into a ditch, fired a few rounds in the air, and drove off. Thompson was released unharmed on 6 July after his company paid a \$3 million ransom.

4 October

Colombia. Fifty National Liberation Army guerrillas attacked a facility of Frontino Goldmines and kidnaped two US citizens who were employed there. In a letter received the next day by International Mining Company, the goldmines' owner, the group demanded a ransom of 4 million pesos (US \$168,990). The company attempted to pay the ransom, but Colombian authorities seized the money when the company representative tried to pay off the kidnapers. The Colombian Army rescued the two men on 7 March 1974 after surrounding the terrorists' hideout.

6 December

Argentina. Victor E. Samuelson, 37, manager of the Esso Argentina Oil Refinery at Campana, was kidnaped at gunpoint by members of the Peoples Revolutionary Army while he was having lunch at the company club restaurant. The group demanded a ransom of \$10 million to be paid in the form of food, clothing, and construction materials to poor neighborhoods across Argentina. The group later demanded an additional \$4.2 million in supplies to victims of floods. The group also demanded that a Peoples Revolutionary Army communique be printed by 12 Buenos Aires newspapers and in 30 others throughout Argentina. However, all but three papers in the capital refused,

fearing government reprisal. Unspecified problems made the payment of the goods unfeasible, and the company made a direct cash payment to the group of \$14.2 million on 11 March 1974, setting a record for political ransom payments as of that date. One military expert said the ransom money was enough to equip and maintain nearly 1,500 guerrillas for more than a year. Samuelson was released on 29 April and left for the United States on 12 June. The Peoples Revolutionary Army announced that it had donated \$5 million of the ransom money to the Revolutionary Coordinating Junta, a group composed of the Peoples Revolutionary Army of Argentina, the Revolutionary Left Movement of Chile, the National Liberation Army of Bolivia, and the Tupamaros of Uruguay.

1974

22 February

Greece. The People's Resistance Army placed five bombs in the Dow Chemical Plant at Lavrion, about 65 kilometers outside Athens. Four of the bombs exploded, causing material damage. Two Greek demolition experts were killed attempting to defuse the fifth bomb.

21 November

Peru. A bomb exploded in a Sears Roebuck store in Lima, causing \$30,000 damage and injuring 11. Police received an anonymous call warning of the bomb 30 minutes before the blast. In June 1975 the Lima press reported that the Revolutionary Vanguard, an extreme leftist group, was responsible.

15 December

France. Bombs exploded outside TWA offices in Paris. No injuries were reported in the attack. The Youth Action Group, an extreme rightwing organization, claimed credit saying that they were protesting the meeting in Martinique of the Presidents of France and the United States.

15 December

France. Bombs exploded outside Coca-Cola offices in Paris. No injuries were reported in the attack. The extreme rightwing Youth Action Group claimed credit saying that they were protesting the meeting in Martinique of the Presidents of France and the United States.

16 December

France. A bomb exploded at the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, shattering windows. No injuries were reported in the attack. The extreme rightwing Youth Action Group claimed credit saying that they were protesting the meeting in Martinique of the Presidents of France and the United States.

1975

11 April

Kuwait. The American Life Insurance Company office in Kuwait sustained considerable damage by a bomb. Kuwaiti press credited the blast to the Communist Labor Organization of Lebanon, which may be the Arab Communist Organization. Three of the terrorists responsible were arrested in July and sentenced in late December 1975 to prison terms of from three to 15 years, to be followed by deportation. Several other group members were arrested in July 1975 in Syria and Lebanon. Those in Syria were sentenced shortly after their arrest, and some were executed.

19 July

Mexico. Five armed terrorists claiming to be members of the 23 September League kidnaped an American Express executive outside his Mexico City house. He was released two days later after the payment of an \$80,000 ransom in Mexican pesos.

23 August

Ethiopia. Two Americans were killed when an Eritrean Liberation Forces mine exploded while they were driving on a road near Asmara on the way to the US transmitter facility. The duo were employed by Collins International Service Company, working under contract for the United States Navy at the facility.

30 August

Philippines. Two US employees of Boise-Cascade were kidnaped by Moslem dissidents at a timber concession near Zamboanga. They were released less than 24 hours later.

22 December

Ethiopia. Ronald Michalke, a US citizen employed by the Collins International Service Company at the Kagnew Communications base in Asmara, was kidnaped from his home, along with an Ethiopian servant, by five armed members of the Eritrean Liberation Forces. Osman Saleh Sabbi, Eritrean Liberation Forces Secretary General, claimed that he had persuaded the military group to drop a demand for a \$5 million ransom for their hostages, which at the time included five Americans. Michalke was released on 2 June 1976.

1976

27 February

Venezuela. William Niehous, 44, President of the Owens-Illinois Glassmaking operations in Venezuela, was kidnaped from his home by seven armed, uniformed men. The group tied up Mrs. Niehous and the couple's three teenage sons, and injected a sedative into Mr. Niehous. The group of Revolutionary Commandos—Operation Argimiro Gabaldon—claimed credit for the attack. The

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Owens company agreed to pay a \$116 bonus to each of its 1,600 employees in Venezuela and paid for publication of a leaflet, "Political Manifesto," in *The New York Times*, *Times of London*, and *Le Monde*. The Venezuelan Government announced that it would expropriate Owens' holdings, which amounted to \$25 million in its 18 years of operations in Venezuela. In March the guerrillas added a \$2.3 million ransom demand to which Owens said it was willing to contribute. Mrs. Niehous collected \$500,000 from her family and friends and offered it as a reward. The group holding Niehous said that he had been "arrested and imprisoned" and was to stand trial for "political and economic sabotage," being representative of a multinational corporation. It was alleged that the police intercepted the delivery of a ransom to the group's mailboxes. The negotiations with the kidnapers bogged down, and various reports claimed that the body of Niehous could be found in several locations. On 4 March 1977 a Venezuelan policeman was shot and killed while watching an apartment thought to be used by a suspect in the kidnaping. This followed a report that Niehous's wife had identified five of the guerrillas who had kidnaped her husband, including Carlos Rafael Rodriguez Lanz, also known as Commander Anibal, the leader of the Venezuelan Revolutionary Party—Armed Forces of National Liberation. Nearly 400 persons were detained in the case. The case continued unsolved in April 1978, when *The Washington Post* offered to serve as intermediary in negotiations. The terrorists responded with a communique asking whether the *Post* columnist would serve as negotiator anywhere in the world. Niehous was rescued by Venezuelan forces in June 1979.

1977

31 March

Colombia. The National Liberation Army exploded three bombs at the Bogota Sears store, causing minor damage, to commemorate the death of Alexis Umana, a university student killed during a confrontation with police in 1976.

1978

11 October

Iran. A pipe bomb exploded after being thrown through the window of a bus belonging to Bell Helicopter International in Isfahan. The bus, on its regular route, was carrying men and women to the residential area from Bell offices when a motorcycle pulled alongside, and one of two men tossed the bomb through an open window. Three Americans sustained minor injuries and were treated and released from the local hospital. Damage to the bus was minor.

30 November

Italy. A powerful time bomb exploded outside a warehouse of the International Business Machines Company in Bologna. The explosion smashed windows and a wall but caused no casualties. A group calling itself the Proletarian Squad later claimed responsibility.

1979

24 July

Turkey. A bomb exploded in the Istanbul offices of the US Wells Fargo Bank, causing damage but no injuries. The Revolutionary Left claimed credit. The bank had been involved in a controversial loan of \$125 million to Turkey, secured against various Turkish agricultural exports. The government was forced to repeal the agreement following accusations that it was mortgaging the country's products.

21 September

El Salvador. Dennis McDonald, 37, US Engineer and General Manager of Aplar, a subsidiary of Beckman Instruments of California, and Fausto Buchelli, a Puerto Rican, were kidnaped in San Salvador as they left their factory at 5:00 p.m. Two vehicles intercepted their car. Jose Luis Paz Viera, their Salvadoran driver and body-guard, was machinegunned to death by the attackers who stopped the Aplar van in front of a women's prison. The Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers claimed responsibility. During the week of 7 October, Beckman ran ads in a dozen foreign newspapers to satisfy the kidnapers' demand.

28 October

El Salvador. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Forces claimed credit for a bomb which exploded and caused heavy damage but no injuries at the Bank of America branch office in San Salvador. According to a communique left at the scene, the attack was to support the demands of Popular Revolutionary Bloc members who had taken over government ministries. The bank's general manager claimed the explosion caused at least \$120,000 in damage. According to a municipal policeman who witnessed the act, an automobile pulled up in front of the bank and four people jumped out of the car, leaving the driver. Two men guarded both sides of the bank, one planted the bomb, and one placed flyers under a rock.

1980

7 December

Guatemala. Clifford Bevins of Goodyear Tire Company was kidnaped by the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms. They demanded a ransom of \$10 million and denounced US policies in Guatemala. Bevins was murdered by members of the Guerrilla Army of the Poor when government security forces raided a hideout on 13 August 1981. They were apparently holding Bevins for the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms.

10 December

Turkey. A bomb exploded at the Pan American Airlines office in Izmir. No injuries were reported. Damage to the building included broken windows and some structural damage. Windows were also broken in several nearby buildings. No group has claimed responsibility for the incident.

17 December

El Salvador. The San Salvador office of the Bank of America was damaged by an explosion during the night of 17-18 December. The dynamite explosion also damaged nearby offices. The People's Liberation Forces claimed responsibility for the attack in a telephone call to a radio station.

29 December

Spain. Two time bombs went off in Madrid, one at Trans World Airlines and one at Swissair offices. Seven people were reported injured. Police said the Armenian terrorist group, 3 October, claimed responsibility. An anonymous caller termed the attacks retaliation for "a scheme planned by American intelligence" against a defense lawyer for Armenians who had been assaulted in Geneva several days before.

1981

30 April

Guatemala. A bomb, which exploded at the Chevron Oil Products depot in Guatemala City, ripped a large hole in the side of a gasoline storage tank containing 165,000 gallons of regular gasoline. There was no explosion of the contents; losses were estimated at \$500,000. Entrance to the facility was apparently gained by cutting through two chain link fences while the guards were changing shifts. Two full clips for an automatic rifle were found in the area after the fire was extinguished. A new organization, the January 31 Popular Front with connections to the Guerrilla Army of the Poor, claimed credit for the attack in a communique distributed to the media.

5 August

Guatemala. The Pan American World Airways office in downtown Guatemala City was destroyed when a large bomb exploded in it and caused a fire which gutted it and most of the seven-story building in which it was located. No injuries were reported in the early morning attack. The January 31 Popular Front claimed responsibility for the attack.

15 November

France. A late night explosion in Paris damaged a McDonald's restaurant. No injuries were reported from the blast that went off in the basement area. Two callers claiming membership in the September France and the Orly Organization notified the French press agency of the attack.

Office for Combatting Terrorism
Department of State