

Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2016

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Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2016

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Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2016

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Preface

The current study on “Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2016” represents the eighth report on the issue and is part of my broader, longstanding engagement on security concerns in Africa and their global implications exemplified through academic experiences, seminars, conferences, publications, and testimonies in Congress. The report focuses on security challenges in the Maghreb—Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia—as well as adjacent areas such as Chad, Mali, and Niger and their regional and global strategic implications.

The first study, titled “Why the Maghreb Matters: Threats, Opportunities & Options for Effective U.S. Engagement in North Africa,” was published by the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies and the Conflict Management Program at the John Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies on March 31, 2009. This initial study was guided by a bipartisan panel, including former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, General (Ret.) Wesley Clark, Ambassador (Ret.) Stuart Eizenstat, Professor William Zartman, and other distinguished former officials and academics. The panel recommended more effective engagement in the region to prevent a brewing security crisis from erupting there.¹

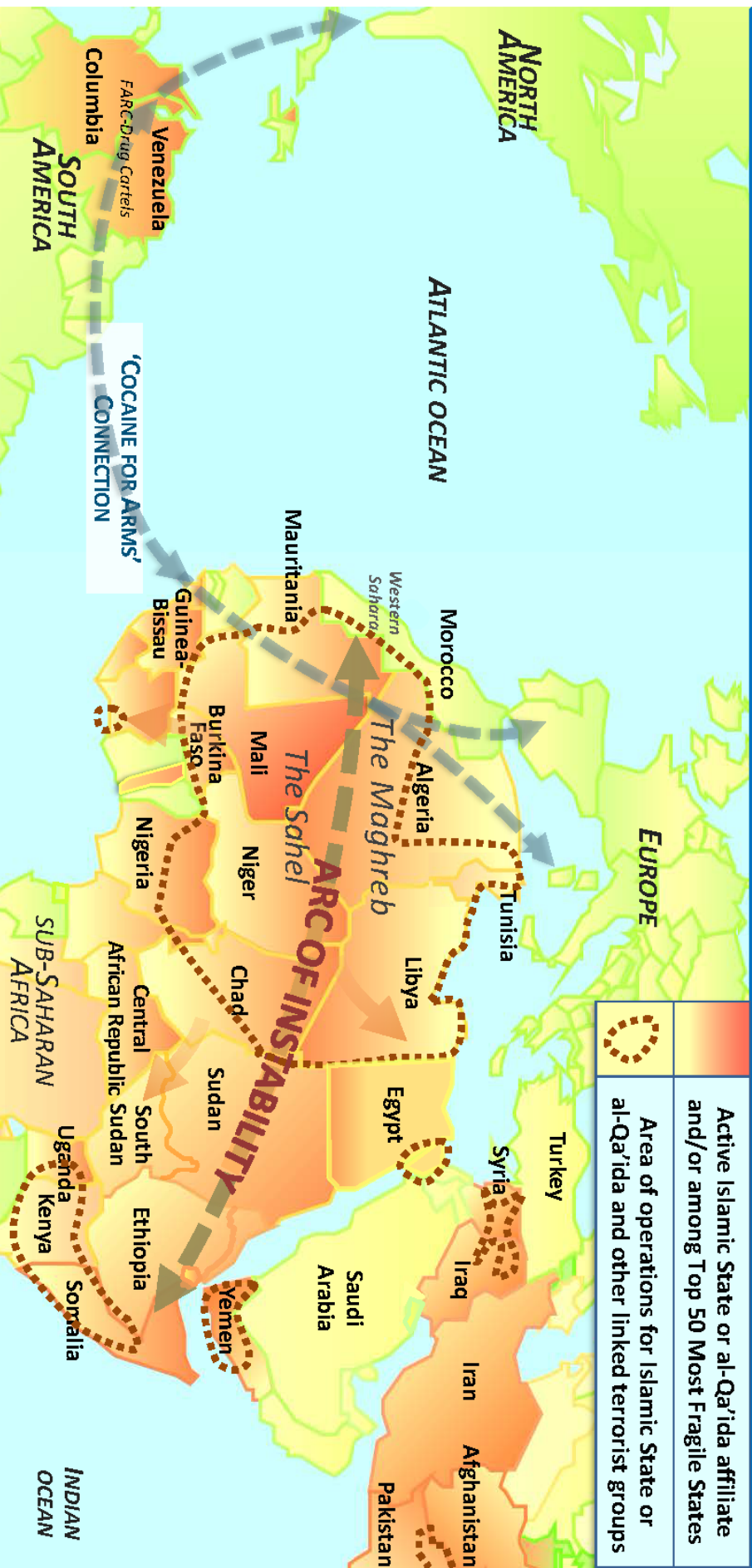
The latest annual report titled “Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2015,” was published in March 2016. This publication drew similar conclusions, thereby underscoring the pessimistic reality that the region is engaged in a generational socio-cultural conflict that impacts the global community. Indeed, events continue to point to a growing “arc of instability” across the region, with consequences beyond any country’s borders.²

Last year’s report also observed that focusing international attention on the region can help enable the seeds of conflict resolution, political accommodation, economic and social development, and national reconciliation to emerge and counter the forces of instability and chaos. The publication therefore recommended that, to be sustainable and effective, these solutions require an integration of global and local resolve and resources. Without an effective menu of responses to the challenges of terrorism and instability, these threats to the world community will only continue to grow.

This collective effort over the last eight years would not be possible without a committed team. Appreciation is due to many colleagues and our global partners who provided valuable data and insights for our study. Michael S. Swetnam (CEO and Chairman, PIPS), and General (Ret.) Alfred Gray (twenty-ninth Commandant of the United States Marine Corps; Senior Fellow and Chairman of the Board of Regents, PIPS) deserve special gratitude for their continuing inspiration and support. Professor Don Wallace, Jr. (Chairman, the International Law Institute), has offered legal guidance. Sharon Layani (Research Associate and Coordinator, IUCTS) and our spring 2017 intern team provided useful research and administrative support. Members of the team included Allison Davis (University of California, Davis), Ryan Dunbar (University of California, Los Angeles), Connor Garvey (The Catholic University of America), Soomin Jung (State University of New York at Albany), Ghislain Lunven (Sciences Po, Paris), Isaac Shorser (American University), and Benton Waterous (American University).

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TERRORISM HOT SPOTS: AFRICA'S 'ARC OF INSTABILITY'



“Terrorism in North Africa & the Sahel in 2016”

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Terrorism in North Africa & the Sahel in 2016

Regional Threat Assessment



Any regional and global holistic security assessment consists of a broad range of vertical and horizontal challenges.

This 2016 review analyzes these threats – and their potential interplay – at both regional and international levels. In addition, case studies of individual countries particularly impacted by terrorism and other forms of violence are presented. Lastly, select policy recommendations are offered, followed by a chronology of incidents of terrorism in 2016 and a selected bibliography.

Terrorist Threats: 2016 and Beyond

Although this study focuses mostly on terrorism-related threats, it is important to note that other security challenges, such as epidemics, famines, and refugee crises, are of grave concern for the continent.³

Since 9/11, a disturbing trend of security challenges from non-state actors with global reach has emerged in the Maghreb, Sahel, and other parts of Africa. It has been brutally demonstrated by the escalation in violent attacks mounted by an expanding array of lawless transnational militant groups, in countries ranging from Libya and Mali to Somalia and beyond.

The diverse perpetrators motivated by ethnic, racial, religious, tribal, and national ideologies, include extremist groups such as al-Qa’ida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Boko Haram, Ansaru, Ansar Dine, Ansar al-Sharia, the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MJUAO), al-Mourabitoun, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MLNA), al-Shabaab, as well as other militant recruits and displaced persons.

What is of particular concern is that under Ayman al-Zawahiri at al-Qa’ida Central, along with an AQIM led by Abu Musab Abdel Wadoud, several extremist groups, despite their distinct ethnic and tribal affinities, are expanding their regional and global networks.⁴ This tactical franchise is based on mutual goals and relationships, including shared finances, training, supply of weapons, and joint operations. For instance, on March 17, 2017, AQIM leadership congratulated its Mali-based subsidiaries for merging into the united entity named “Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen.” The participating factions included Ansar Dine, the Macina Battalion, and al-Murabitoun and Sahara divisions.⁵ Moreover, AQIM also sent a message to France stating:

We say to you that your oppression and persecution of the people and tribes of the Sahel and Sahara will only reinforce the brotherhood and unity among them... And it will do nothing but increase its perseverance on jihad and resistance against the attackers, and mount the Muslims; persistence to move the battle from our land to their lands, and from our cities to theirs, to make them live the fear that our people are living in our occupied lands.⁶

What complicates the strategic global challenge of defeating terrorism even further is the emergence of the “Islamic State” (also known as ISIS, ISIL, and Daesh), whose goal is to establish a “caliphate” across the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and Asia. Indeed, dozens of movements around the world have sworn allegiance and support to Daesh. In the Maghreb, Sahel, and elsewhere in Africa, over 20 groups have affinity links to the evolving network. These include the Soldiers of the Caliphate in Algeria, the Islamic State in Libya (Darnah), the Jund al-Khilafah in Tunisia, Boko Haram in Nigeria, al-Shabaab Jubba Region Cell Bashir Abu Numan in Somalia, al-I’tisam of the Koran and Sunnah in the Sudan, and Egypt’s Jamaat Ansar Bait al-Maqdis in the Sinai.⁷

Though our current 2016 risk assessment report revealed that terrorist attacks are down from the previous record high of 289 incidents in 2014, overall, terrorist incidents by AQIM and other extremist movements in the region have risen dramatically since September 11, 2011. The 235 total of incidents in 2016 thus represents a very real threat, particularly in the countries that have experienced large increases in violence in the past few years, such as Libya and Mali. During the 2016 survey period, the most affected countries were Libya (with 125 incidents), Mali (with 64 incidents), Tunisia (with 16 incidents), and Algeria (with 13 incidents).

In addition to these statistics, other attacks were recorded across Africa, in countries such as Nigeria, the Central African Republic, and Somalia. Adding to the already volatile security situation is the spillover of jihadists returning to their home countries after fighting in Iraq and Syria with al-Qa’ida and Daesh affiliates. Thus, in spite of the lower number of incidents, the overall strategic impact regionally and globally was far more dangerous in 2016 than previously, and this trend is continuing into the first three months of 2017.

In sum, the number of radical political and social actors is both proliferating and becoming increasingly linked, formally and informally, in a “holy alliance” of “like-minded” movements, as well as “strange bedfellows,” intent on trafficking, kidnapping, and violent extremism. Most worrisome, this deadly transnational terrorist network is expanding across a widening “arc of instability” that extends from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea, and into the Middle East, Asia, and beyond. The strategic map of the “new terrorism hot spots” included in this study provides visual evidence of activities in North, Central, West, and East Africa, as well as links to other continents, such as Europe and North America.

Of growing concern for African security interests are the increasing links and flow of recruits between these regional extremists and the so-called “Islamic State” in Syria and Iraq, as well as al-Qa’ida affiliates and allies across the region. For example, in July 2016, Morocco announced it arrested dozens of people suspected of plotting for the Islamic State.⁸ And in October 2016, the Islamic State released a video of Abu Walid al Sahrawi pledging allegiance to the caliphate.⁹

Finally, countries in the Maghreb and Sahel are not immune to the broader threat of violence emanating from Iraq and Syria. According to the latest public data available in December 2016, some 40,000 fighters from over 120 countries, including from countries covered in this report, have participated in the wars in Iraq and Syria.¹⁰ In Libya alone, where terrorist camps exist, as many as 6,500 extremists have already been trained for future attacks. The remaining question is when and where these operatives will strike and what are the likely strategic implications regionally and globally.¹¹

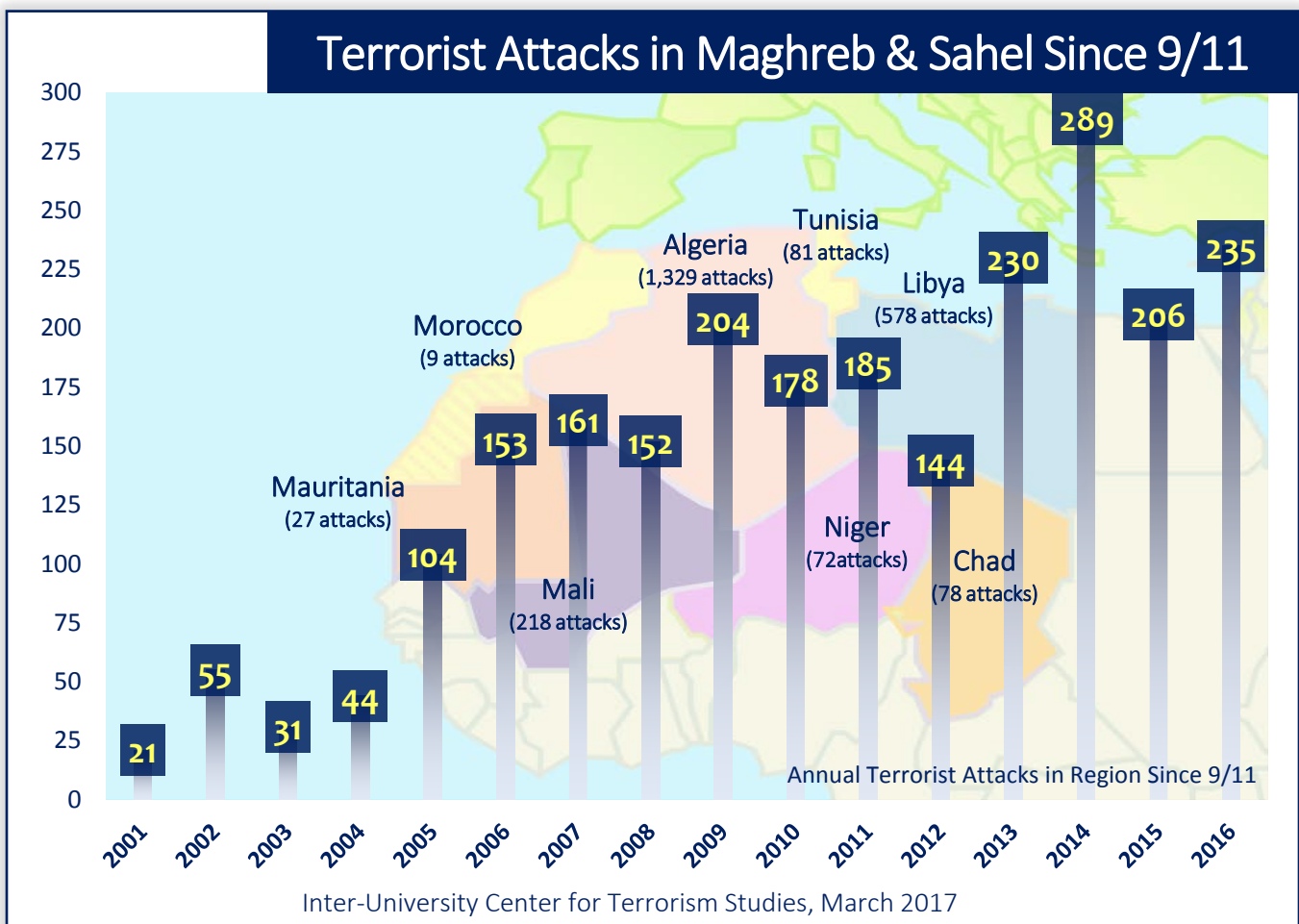
Terrorism's Growing Regional Profile: Case Studies



According to IHS Jane's 360 database, terrorist attacks worldwide in 2016 totaled 24,202, of which some 45 percent occurred in countries such as Syria and Iraq.¹² The IUCTS statistics compiled for the same year covering the Maghreb and Sahel regions in Africa registered 235 attacks. Yet this comparatively low figure is, indeed, misleading for two important security assessment considerations. First, this figure reflects a general upward trend of assaults registered regionally since 9/11. Additionally, any statistical analysis of terrorist threats must be based on assessing the multiple impacts of each incident in terms of the humanitarian, political, social, economic, and strategic costs.

Thus, the case studies of Libya, Mali, Tunisia, and Algeria that follow represent the countries most victimized. A brief discussion of other regional countries such as Chad, Morocco, Mauritania, and Niger is also provided. Additionally, some security-related references are made regarding other selected African nations, from Nigeria to Somalia.

In sum, the cases examined in this report are threats to the security interests of the individual countries and also have implications for regional neighbors as well as the Middle East and beyond.



Libya

In North Africa, Libya represents the most insecure nation due, *inter alia*, to its porous land and maritime borders, unstable political institutions following the collapse of Gaddafi's regime, the increase in the number of foreign fighters reinforcing indigenous extremist groups, and the expanding refugee crisis. More specifically, two rival governments have been established in the country's different regions. In the capital Tripoli in the west, the Government of National Accord (GNA) is backed by the international community.¹³ And in the east, Benghazi, Libya's second most populous city, is largely under the control of Libyan General Khalifa Haftar, who enjoys the support of Egypt and Russia.¹⁴ Clearly, the mounting internal divisions and the failure to form a unified government contribute to greater instability and continuing violence throughout the country.

Another significant challenge is the growing number of armed factions, including indigenous and foreign operatives. Dozens of these lawless and ideological militias control their own turf and are battling each other for increased power. For instance, in 2016, fighting continued over control of Sirte, where Daesh had set up a jihad training ground, leveraging the country's instability and lack of unified government.¹⁵

In 2016, it became apparent that Libya serves as a major base for Daesh, with reportedly some 5,000 fighters present in the country.¹⁶ What is also a particular concern is that the chaotic environment in Libya threatens to export instability elsewhere in Africa and beyond. Although considerable gains were made by the eastern-based Libyan National Army against Daesh and other Islamic operatives in 2016, security threats remain.¹⁷

In 2016, Daesh, AQIM and their affiliates as well as unaffiliated Islamic militants, resorted to a wide-range of attacks, including kidnappings, hijackings, arson, shootings, bombings, shellings, assaults, assassinations, and summary executions. The attacks targeted military camps, checkpoints, ammunition depots, oil fields and facilities, and hospitals. These incidents killed and maimed a cross-section of Libyan society, such as politicians, police, military personnel, clergymen, educators, journalists, and other civilians. Another target of choice was foreigners residing, working, or visiting in Libya. Nationals from Canada, Egypt, Eritrea, Italy, the Netherlands, the Sudan and Turkey were among the victims.

Aside from the high human toll of nationals and foreigners within Libya, additional costs resulted from the persistent "migration crisis." Indeed, "asylum seekers" and "refugees" from different African countries living in Libyan detention camps captured by various armed groups have been subjected to widespread human rights abuses.

Moreover, smugglers of migrants to European countries have also been accused of similar human rights violations (e.g., rape, starvations, and murder). The gravity of the migrant crisis is illustrated by the fact that in 2016, over 5,000 individuals, including women, children, and elderly, died on numerous small vessels from suffocating in overloaded holds, as well as from drowning in capsized boats. Despite this very high human cost, during the same year, a total of 181,436 successfully arrived in Italy via this Mediterranean route.¹⁸ Nevertheless, as of early 2017, the EU has been considering a proposal that advocates greater funding for programs returning migrants from Libya to their countries of origin.

In the face of these security challenges within and outside Libya, some modest collaborative responses on national, regional, and global levels are encouraging. For example, the United States and its European allies are engaged in multilateral efforts to support a unitary government in the country. And in early 2017, Algeria, Tunisia, Chad, Niger, Egypt, and the Sudan urged the different political factions in Libya to avoid using military force.¹⁹ Whether this conciliatory message will be implemented on the ground remains questionable.

Mali

In Mali, similar persistent instability in the war-torn northern part of the country underscored continuing volatility even four years after French forces recaptured the major cities and some of the territory in the north that had been seized by al-Qa'ida affiliate groups. Two factors contributed to Mali's lingering instability. First, there was the failure of the government to find suitable political solutions for its internal security concerns. And second, there is the continuing flow of combatants and weapons from Libya.

Indeed, in 2016, a total of 64 attacks were recorded, an increase from the over 49 incidents registered in 2015. AQIM, the nomadic minority Tuareg insurgent rebels of the separatist Coalition of Azawad movement, Ansar Dine operatives, and militants of the ethnic group the National Alliance for the Protection of Peul Identity and the Restoration of Justice (ANSIPRJ) were involved in the escalating violence in the country.²⁰

Aside from the above groups, special attention should be focused on the expanding terrorist network of Daesh in Mali. That is, many of the jihadist affiliates, such as a splinter group of al-Mourabitoun, have sworn an oath of allegiance to the self-declared "Islamic Caliphate." Its newest involvement in the country opens up more security vulnerabilities and therefore allows fewer options for conflict resolution.

To be sure, al-Qa'ida, Daesh affiliates, and the extremists have resorted to a wide range of operations, including kidnappings, shootings, bombing, ambushes, and facility attacks. These and other tactics have targeted security forces and civilians in 2016 and early 2017; the killed and wounded were members of Malian police and army, African and U.N. peacekeepers, French soldiers, ordinary citizens, and foreign aid workers.

Some examples are noteworthy. In December 2016, Ansar Dine members fired rockets at a "crusader" base in Kidal, causing human and material damage.²¹ Also in the same month, the Macina Battalion attacked a prison and freed all inmates.²² Moreover, in January 2017, al-Mourabitoun attacked a Malian military camp killing 47 and wounding 100 others.²³

In the face of these and other attacks, the Malian government extended a state of emergency several times, arrested some key leaders of various AQIM affiliates, and brought into the cabinet new members of rebel groups as part of the strategy to reduce jihadist violence in the country. Additionally, many African countries are contributing forces, however modest, to the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).²⁴ Moreover, it is also encouraging that the international community has expanded its regional efforts to combat terrorism through the endeavors of the Sahel Multilateral Planning Group that includes the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, and Italy.

Tunisia

In Tunisia, more than six years after the “Jasmine Revolution” overthrew the autocratic regime of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and inspired other countries to rise up in the “Arab Spring,” the country is still vulnerable to both domestic and foreign terrorist threats. Despite its emerging democracy, Tunisia still faces security challenges.²⁵ Although 16 incidents were recorded in 2016, the weak government in Tunis continues to face considerable potential threats from national extremists, as well as from its chaotic neighbor Libya.

More specifically, AQIM (the Tunisia branch) and Daesh and its affiliates are responsible for numerous security challenges in the country and beyond. During 2016, attackers targeted police, military servicemen, politicians, civilians, and visiting foreigners. What is even more ominous is the report that between 6,000 and 7,000 citizens have left the country to join the so-called “Islamic State” abroad and 15,000 suspected recruits were banned from traveling.²⁶

It is against these concerns that the Tunisian government and the international community have developed multiple counterterrorism responses. For example, a 125-mile barrier was constructed along its border with Libya.²⁷ It declared nationwide curfews during emergency situations. Security forces arrested terrorist cells and foiled potential plots. The military conducted raids against militants and seized their weapons. Courts sentenced dozens of terrorists for planning or mounting attacks. And the Tunisian authorities improved security at tourist resorts to prevent more massacres such as the June 2015 assault in Sousse where 38 people, mostly British, were killed.²⁸

International counterterrorism support has also expanded in 2016 and early 2017. The U.S. provided training to improve capabilities related to intelligence and border security, British Special Forces have assisted in the fight against Daesh, and France organized a security package that included military and economic aid.

Recognizing the added value of this and other support, in early 2017 Tunisia requested the EU and the global community to increase their help in the war against terrorism.

Niger

In 2016, Niger had a total of 12 terrorist attacks, down from 16 incidents in the previous year. Nevertheless, the country, under President Mahamadou Issoufou, still faced threats from AQIM franchise, elements of the MUJAO and Tuareg, and Boko Haram fighters. For example, in October 2016, “unidentified” operatives attacked a refugee camp in Tazalit, killing soldiers guarding the facility.²⁹ It is noteworthy to mention that Niger is hosting tens of thousands of refugees mostly from Mali and Nigeria.³⁰ Since Niger is unable to unilaterally confront terrorism threats, the multinational force consisting of units from Niger, Chad, Benin, Cameroon, and Nigeria is providing some military support. Additionally, non-regional nations, such as France, are also contributing support to the security concerns of Niger. Clearly, the international community needs to focus not only on defense strategies but also on strengthening social and economic developments and the rule of law.

Algeria

Although Algeria has suffered since 9/11 from terrorism more than any other regional country, the fact that only 13 attacks were registered in 2016 is a sign that President Bouteflika's government has been successful in improving its security capabilities over the years.

To be sure, aside from the continuing threats posed by AQIM and its affiliates such as al-Mourabitoun, Algeria is facing two other challenges.³¹ The Islamic State has announced its continued intentions to be active in the country.³² Also, the government expressed concern about the wave of conversions to Shiism that potentially endangers even further the status of religious tolerance and public order.

During 2016 and early 2017, Algeria has undertaken multiple defensive and offensive measures to counter smuggling of drugs and weapons, stop illegal migrants, and combat terrorism. The government's responses included building fences and walls along its borders with Libya, Tunisia, and Morocco; creating technical surveillance systems; arresting nationals and foreigners suspected of illegal activities; stopping new Daesh recruits from traveling to join the "Islamic Caliphate" wars; foiling attacks on the police, military, and civilians; and uncovering and destroying bunkers that are being used by terrorists for refuge and arms holdings.³³

On the international level, Algeria in October 2016 hosted the "5+5 Defense Initiative" meeting with the participation of Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia, France, Spain, Italy, Malta, and Portugal.³⁴ The government declared its willingness to strengthen global efforts to combat expanding security threats. And in March 2017, Algeria, in cooperation with Morocco, tightened its border controls in order to curb illegal migrant flows, particularly toward Libya.

Chad

Although the security situation in Chad has improved in 2016, during which only 5 incidents were recorded, in comparison to 15 attacks registered a year earlier, the country is still vulnerable to civil unrest and terrorist threats. For example, the election of long-time President Idriss Deby, winning his fifth term, triggered accusations by opposition Chadians of government corruption, censorship, arrests, kidnappings, and murder.³⁵ AQIM and its affiliates, including Ansar Dine, and Boko Haram operatives, were responsible for carrying out attacks in the country. Chadians, because their country is a member of the African Union's Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and participates in MINUSMA peacekeeping operations, were also singled out as targets of choice in Nigeria, Mali, and other countries. Bombings, mines, ambushes, firings, and direct assaults were frequently utilized tactics.

Another security concern is the grave humanitarian crisis in Chad. In July 2016, for instance, UN refugee camps in the country registered 5,643 people fleeing from regional conflicts.³⁶ Additionally, it has been reported that over a million Chadians are food-

insecure, and the population is potentially at risk for outbreaks of the Zika virus and other diseases, such as the waterborne guinea worm parasite.

To deal with the security challenges in Chad and elsewhere in the region, the government's declared policy is to combine counterterrorism measures (e.g., sealing its border with Libya in an effort to prevent jihadists from crossing into the country) with requesting additional U.S. and European support to cope with the lingering social and economic threats.

Other Maghreb and Sahel Countries

Unlike the foregoing disturbing findings regarding the terrorist threats in Libya, Mali, Tunisia, Niger, and Chad, the security situation in the other regional countries – Mauritania and Morocco – in 2016 is more encouraging. Yet despite the fact that no major attacks have taken place, a few related concerns deserve consideration.

Mauritania

Mauritania under President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz was spared from major terrorist attacks in 2016. Yet the desert country still faced short-term security threats. For instance, some Tuaregs who cooperated with the government had been executed by AQIM.³⁷ Also, Ansar Dine operatives based in Mauritania crossed into Mali, captured a prison, and released their comrades.³⁸

These and similar isolated incidents resulted in expanded governmental defense collaboration with other nations. Thus, an agreement was signed with Saudi Arabia that provided military, logistical support, intelligence-sharing, and other assistance. Additionally, Mauritania joined Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, and Niger to establish a task force to combat terrorism in the region and to seek financial help from European countries.

Finally, a related security challenge is the humanitarian crisis due to thousands of Malian refugees residing in southeastern Mauritania. Since the government is unable to unilaterally cope with the lingering problem, the United Nations and other organizations are urged to provide further support.

Morocco

In Morocco, the security challenge continues, as illustrated by recruiting operatives for AQIM and those engaging in illegal trafficking and money laundering activities. Radicalization efforts on social media and plans to establish Daesh networks in Morocco continue.

For instance, numerous Moroccan nationals who joined al-Qa'ida and the "Islamic Caliphate" abroad are returning home.³⁹ New recruits for these groups plan to travel to the Middle East and Europe. Also, thousands of migrants from different African countries have attempted to cross the Moroccan-Spanish border at Ceuta, thereby causing a considerable humanitarian burden on the country.⁴⁰ And the four-decades-long problem of Western

Sahara coupled with the challenge of the Polisario (a separatist group in Algeria), is yet to be resolved.

During 2016, Morocco continued to improve its counterterrorism capabilities, as demonstrated by multiple arrests of suspected terrorists, seizing weapons, and aborting violent plots. Particular mention should be made of the leadership of King Mohammed VI in denouncing terror and proposing the excommunication of Muslims who use their faith as justification for political violence. And in early 2017, Morocco banned the production and sale of the burqa out of concern that the shroud-like garment, which covers the entire face and body of Muslim women, would be exploited to mount terrorist attacks.⁴¹

In sum, Rabat's holistic security strategies, ranging from expanded international cooperation (e.g., joining the African Union) to developing tolerant Islamic approaches, seem to serve as a practical model to bring potential terrorist threats to manageable levels.

West, Central, and East Africa Countries: A Brief Assessment

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

In March 2015, Boko Haram established an alignment with Daesh, known as the Islamic State-West Africa Province (ISWAP). This major extremist movement increased its complex and deadly attacks in the region, targeting civilians, as well as government targets.

According to reports in 2016, Boko Haram has already caused some 20,000 deaths, the displacement of 2.3 million people, and \$9 billion in damage in Nigeria alone.⁴² It has also increased operations in neighboring nations, illustrated by an attack on two cities in Niger where approximately 50,000 people were forced to flee. Although President Muhammadu Buhari expanded military campaigns against Boko Haram both in Nigeria and beyond, the group is likely to continue its attacks with greater frequency throughout the region.

Other regional countries were also targeted in 2016. In Burkina Faso, a pro-AQIM group calling itself “Ansaroul Islam” attacked “Crusader forces” and threatened additional operations.⁴³ It is estimated that hundreds of thousands are at risk in Cameroon. In the Central African Republic, a sectarian war is being waged between Muslim and Christian militias, generating an expanding humanitarian disaster. And the Democratic Republic of Congo has been subjected to internal violence by groups such as Burundian and Rwandan rebels.⁴⁴

Unrest, terrorism, insurgency, and civil wars are also evident elsewhere. Al-Shabaab, through its al-Qa'ida and Daesh operatives, continues to attack the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) as well as military and civilian targets in Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia.⁴⁵ In South Sudan, the current civil war between rival political factions threatens immediate

starvation to 100,000 people and endangers an additional million citizens.⁴⁶ And Egypt, under President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, is still engaged in a continuing battle with extremism and terrorism against such groups as the Muslim Brotherhood and the Sinai-based Ansar Beit al-Maqdis, which pledged loyalty to Daesh.⁴⁷

In sum, the “long arm” of radical Islamist terrorism was increasingly evident in the Maghreb, Sahel, and beyond in 2016. It is expected that this trend will continue in 2017 not only throughout Africa but also in the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and the United States.

Conclusions and Selected Recommendations

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

More specifically, because of the growing political uncertainty and instability in the Maghreb, Sahel, and bordering areas during 2016, many of the recommendations made in the previous seven published reports are not just relevant, but increasingly urgent. The Sahel and bordering countries continue to have large areas of ungoverned space where terrorists and other radicals move with impunity along well-traveled smuggling and supply routes that defy ongoing interdiction efforts.

The manifold security threats emanating from those countries in Africa covered in this report have additionally been compounded by security challenges in neighboring nations. Indeed, in many respects, 2016 represents a milestone year for the emergence of non-state actors as a dominant focus for security concerns in the region. The question is whether the worst is yet to come.

With so much uncertainty and widening challenges, it is imperative that the international community, in particular the West, work diligently with regional authorities to implement and expand security capabilities. In addition, focus must be placed on political, social, and economic development programs to generate more effective antidotes to the poisons that are growing threats to the stability, peace, and prosperity of the region.

Clearly, the stakes are too high for America to disengage from the Maghreb and the Sahel. Increases in regional terrorist attacks since 9/11 are being fed by the greater instability found in weak and transitioning states. This report does not recommend that the U.S. take upon itself the role of arbiter of regional security issues. Rather, it is a reminder that America’s vital interests in the region and those of its friends and allies are under assault by extremists who are doing us harm and want to inflict more damage in their wake.

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

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

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

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

Second, develop a global strategy to cope with African-based grave humanitarian crises, particularly focusing on migration, refugees, and hunger challenges;

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

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

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

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

1. Strengthen U.S. and NATO intelligence assets by broadening cooperation through AFRICOM, NATO's Partnership for Peace, and other modalities that supply and support training, equipment, and monitoring of resources throughout the region.

2. Continue to expand U.S. counterterrorism technical assistance and training to internal security personnel.

3. Host programs to provide assistance over the longer term to support inclusive political dialogue and the robust empowerment of civil society to advance consensus-building and the development of conflict-resolution mechanisms.

4. Work to settle intra-regional conflicts that provide openings for extremists to exploit and impede security and economic cooperation such as the Western Sahara dispute and the problem of refugees in the Polisario-run camps in Algeria. Also, collaborate with the global donor community to conduct a census of the camps to ensure that humanitarian aid is not diverted, from this location or elsewhere, for military purposes or personal enrichment.

5. Support country-specific reforms and regional programs, such as the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law in Malta that provides legal training for law enforcement officials, as well as efforts to promote human rights, economic development, independent judiciaries, and transparency in governance.

6. Recognize the importance of, and provide quiet encouragement to, Muslim leaders in promoting the practice of a moderate Islam, as well as counter-radicalization programs that limit the appeal of extremist recruiters, in particular from the so-called "Islamic State."

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

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

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

10. Renew various foreign assistance programs through the new U.S. administration, as well as other government efforts, such as developing young leaders in the public and private sectors.

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

The war the international community, particularly the West, is waging is generational, institutional, and unavoidable. With America's partners in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and other regions, there are solutions that can be achieved based on shared values and mutual interests. While the nations of the Maghreb and Sahel manage their local crises, America's leaders should place more emphasis on building public support for the hard and soft power solutions that will make a difference regionally and globally.

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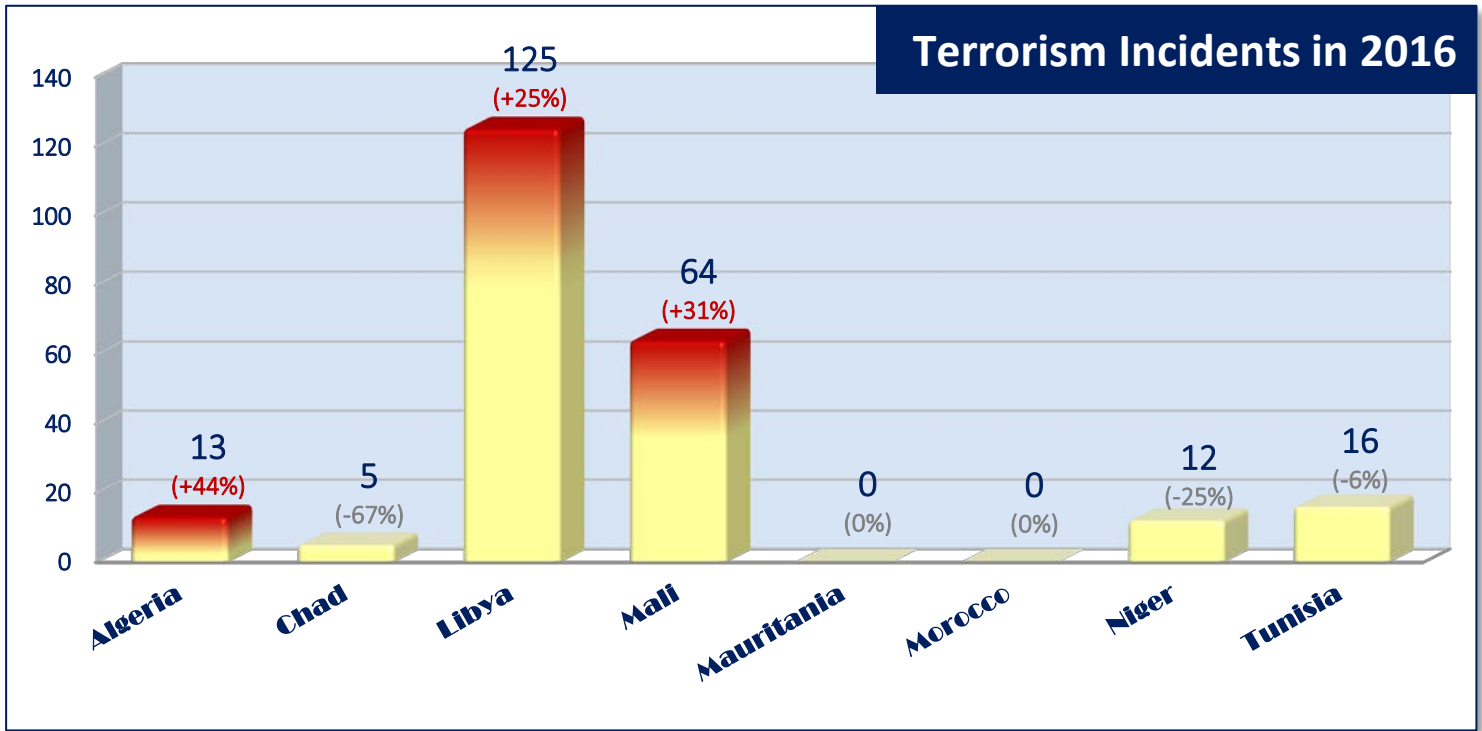
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Chronology: Incidents of Terrorism in the Maghreb & Sahel



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

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	TOTAL:
Algeria	20	54	28	39	93	120	110	121	185	168	164	132	51	22	9	13	1,329
Chad	0	0	0	3	6	28	14	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	15	5	78
Libya	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	145	201	100	125	578
Mali	0	0	1	1	2	3	10	11	9	4	8	5	16	35	49	64	218
Mauritania	0	0	0	1	3	0	4	4	6	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	27
Morocco	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	9
Niger	0	0	0	0	0	1	18	9	4	3	3	1	1	4	16	12	72
Tunisia	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	17	27	17	16	81
Total:	21	55	31	44	104	153	161	152	204	178	185	144	230	289	206	235	2,392

INCIDENTS OF TERRORISM IN MAGHREB & SAHEL:

Chronology from September 11, 2001 to December 31, 2016 (Updated with 2016 incidents below)

For full listing from 9/11/01 to 12/31/016, go to: http://www.potomacinstitute.org/attachments/524_Maghreb%20Terrorism%20report.pdf

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

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

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

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

2014: http://www.potomacinstitute.org/images/ICTS/IUCTS_2015FINALTERRORISMNAFRICASAHEL2014.pdf

2015: <http://www.potomacinstitute.org/images/TerrNASahel2015.pdf>

Methodology — Compilation of this comprehensive listing of Maghreb/Sahel terrorism is based on monthly review of respected news and think tank websites, including international media and national press in the countries monitored—Algeria, Chad, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, and Tunisia. “Terrorist incidents” counted are those where a recognized terrorist group is reported or believed responsible, and results in death, injury, or kidnapping of civilians, government officials, or security services, or destruction of property, or threat to life and property where attacks are thwarted or bombs defused. Every incident includes the source cited.

Not included are acts of violence that occur in the context of explicit civil war or open armed conflict areas—as generally reported by the news media—and also terrorist losses in government counter-terror actions, or indigenous acts of religious extremism by ethnic and religious groups, including application of strict religious law. Lack of publicly available information likely results in undercounting in regions controlled by terrorists/extremists, with higher—though more accurate—relative counts where media outlets are more firmly established.

All eight countries have suffered terrorist incidents during the 15 years tracked since Sept. 11, 2001. The 2015 Chronology below includes those countries experiencing incidents during the past calendar year — Libya, Mali, Tunisia, Niger, Chad, and Algeria — listed by order of frequency of attacks. See table on preceding page and hyperlinks above for incidents experienced by Mauritania and Morocco in other years.

2016 ALGERIA:

January 17, 2016

Four IEDs were discovered and destroyed by a detachment of the People's National Army in Bouira.
<http://www.aps.dz/en/algeria/10363-four-homemade-bombs-destroyed-in-bouira>

January 19, 2016

An IED exploded in Souk El Khemis, injuring two.
http://www.elwatan.com/regions/kabyli/bouira/bouira-une-explosion-d-une-bombe-fait-deux-blesses-20-01-2016-312483_145.php

February 1, 2016

Two soldiers were injured by an IED that exploded in a small village near Tizi Ouzou.
http://elwatan.com/actualite/yakouren-tizi-ouzou-deux-militaires-blesses-dans-l-explosion-d-une-bombe-artisanale-03-02-2016-313526_109.php

February 11, 2016

Security forces discovered and dismantled 18 IEDs near Ain Defla.
<http://www.aps.dz/algerie/36575-lutte-antiterroriste-destruction-de-18-bombes-de-confection-artisanale-%C3%A0-ain-defla-mdn>

March 16, 2016

An Islamist militant wearing a suicide bomb was shot dead before he could detonate his explosives near a police station in a small town of Maatkas, near Tizi Ouzou.
<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKCN0WSOC7>

March 18, 2016

At least two attackers fired rockets at a gas facility in the desert province of Ghardaia. No injuries were reported.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/ALGERIA_ATTACK?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

March 23, 2016

Algerian security forces patrolling the mountainous region around Maatkas, near Tizi Ouzou, killed a suicide bomber before he could detonate his explosives.
<http://www.africanews.com/2016/03/25/algerian-forces-avert-suicide-bomb-attack/>

April 15, 2016

Four soldiers were killed near Constantine in an attack carried out by armed militants, the day before the visit of the PM in the region.
<http://fr.le360.ma/monde/algerie-quatre-militaires-assassines-par-un-groupe-arme-a-constantine-68679>

April 25, 2016

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the killing of four Algerian soldiers in IED bombings in Jijel.
<https://news.siteintelgroup.com/Jihadist-News/is-claims-killing-four-algerian-soldiers-in-ied-attacks-in-jijel.html>

May 5, 2016

A civilian was mortally wounded by an IED near the town of Mechat, in a forested area known for homemade terrorist mines.
http://www.elwatan.com/regions/est/jijel/un-homme-perd-la-vie-dans-l-explosion-d-une-bombe-artisanale-08-05-2016-320436_130.php

Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2016

June 29, 2016

Algerian security services foiled an attempted attack on a mall in Setif, southeast of the capital Algiers, by an Islamist armed group.

<http://www.africanews.com/2016/06/29/algerian-security-foils-bomb-attack-on-mall/>

October 8, 2016

Islamic State militants detonated an explosive device adjacent to an army convoy as it passed near Tamalous in northeastern Algeria.

<http://aranews.net/2016/10/islamic-state-launches-first-operation-algeria/>

October 28, 2016

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the killing of an Algerian police officer while he was reportedly dining in a restaurant.

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2016/10/31/is-claims-killing-of-algerian-police-officer-manhunt-launched>

CHAD:

January 31, 2016

Boko Haram militants attacked the village of Guié, where a suicide bomber on a motorcycle blew himself up, killing one and injuring 32 others.

<http://www.africanews.com/2016/01/31/bloody-weekend-as-boko-haram-strikes-chad-nigeria/>

January 31, 2016

A suicide bomber killed two people and wounded 24 others in the village of Miterine.

<http://www.africanews.com/2016/01/31/bloody-weekend-as-boko-haram-strikes-chad-nigeria/>

August 25, 2016

Four Chadian soldiers have been killed after a mine, planted by Boko Haram Islamists, destroyed their vehicle.

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/08/chadian-troops-killed-boko-haram-mine/>

September 24, 2016

Four Chadian soldiers have been killed after an attack by Boko Haram Islamists near the Niger border.

<http://fr.africanews.com/2016/09/25/tchad-quatze-soldats-tues-samedi-a-la-frontiere-avec-le-niger/>

November 30, 2016

A suspected jihadist was arrested after shooting at Chadian policemen on duty in front of the US embassy in N'Djamena.

<http://www.africanews.com/2016/11/30/man-arrested-after-shooting-at-police-officers-outside-us-embassy-in-chad/>

LIBYA:

January 4, 2016

Islamic State militants carried out a suicide car-bomb attack on a military checkpoint at the entrance to the town of al-Sidra, killing two soldiers.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/04/isis-islamic-state-deadly-attack-libyan-oil-towns>

January 4, 2016

Islamic State militants attacked a Libyan oil port, killing two and setting a storage tank ablaze.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/libyaNews/idAFL8N1401U020160104?sp=true>

January 4, 2016

Islamic State militants have captured the Libyan town of Ben Jawad, close to the country's vital oil ports.

<http://www.france24.com/en/20160104-libya-islamic-state-group-oil-ben-jawad>

January 5, 2016

Islamic State militants attacked oil facilities in the so-called "oil crescent" along Libya's northern coast.

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/presses-assault-key-libya-oil-region-183111532.html>

January 7, 2016

At least 47 people were killed by a truck bomb targeting a police training center in the western city of Zliten.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-35249860>

January 7, 2016

An Islamic State militant drove an explosives-packed car into a checkpoint at the entrance to the town of Ras Lanuf, killing six people.

<http://www.firstpost.com/world/suicide-attack-on-libya-police-training-school-checkpoint-kills-56-2575408.html>

January 7, 2016

The mayor of Gharyan, south of Tripoli, was injured in an assassination attempt.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/01/08/gharyan-mayor-shot-but-not-seriously-wounded/>

January 8, 2016

An ambulance full of explosives detonated in Misrata, though security forces prevented it from reaching its target.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/01/09/misrata-ambulance-full-of-explosions-dealt-with-safely-during-serraj-visit/>

January 9, 2016

Artillery fire in Benghazi struck a key power station three times over two days. The station provides electricity to much of the country's east.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/africa/2016/01/09/Artillery-fire-hits-power-station-in-Libya-s-Benghazi.html>

January 10, 2016

Libyan oil installation guards repelled a maritime assault by Islamic State militants on Zueitina oil terminal in the north of the country.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/en/News/africa/2016/01/09/Article-3394624/IS-failed-maritime-attack-Libya-oil-terminal-guards.html>

January 12, 2016

Unknown militants attacked a militia checkpoint at the Mellitah compound of the oil terminal of ENI, Italy's National Hydrocarbons Body in Libya.

<http://www.africa-energy.com/libya-remains-divided-as-is-targets-vital-oil-infrastructure-0>

January 14, 2016

Islamic State militants exploded an IED on a pipeline south of Ras Lanuf, and kidnapped six locals.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/01/14/pipeline-blast-south-of-ras-lanuf-hostages-taken/>

January 16, 2016

Islamic State militants executed two young men in Sirte whom it accused of being Libya Dawn spies.

<http://www.libyanewstoday.com/is-murders-two-more-spies/>

Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2016

January 18, 2016

Two Islamic State militants were killed after they attempted to infiltrate Derna while wearing women's veils and explosive belts, planning to carry out a suicide attack.

<http://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/derna-shura-kills-two-suicide-attackers>

January 19, 2016

An armed group stormed the Libyan Constitution Drafting Assembly headquarters in the eastern city of Al-Bayda and ordered the staff to leave.

<http://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/armed-group-storms-constituent-assembly>

January 20, 2016

Islamic State militants in Benghazi conducted assaults in Sabri and Suq Al-Hud. Four soldiers were seriously injured defending a base located in a chocolate factory.

<http://cctv-africa.com/2016/01/21/woman-dies-and-soldiers-injured-in-benghazi-fighting/>

January 21, 2016

An attack by suspected Islamic State militants has caused fires at four storage tanks at Libya's Ras Lanuf terminal.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/libyaNews/idAFL8N1552TE>

January 22, 2016

Islamic State militants attempted a new incursion into Derna, but were beaten back by the local Mujahideen forces. Six Mujahideen fighters died in the clashes and a senior member of the Islamic State group was also killed.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/02/22/is-beaten-back-in-new-assault-in-derna/>

January 25, 2016

A man attempted to plant a bomb outside the Sudanese Embassy in the Gargaresh district of Tripoli. The device failed to detonate.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/01/25/police-seize-suspect-in-failed-sudanese-embassy-bombing/>

January 26, 2016

A civilian from Kikla was injured due to a land mine explosion in the city center.

<http://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/kikla-resident-injured-due-mine-explosion>

February 1, 2016

Militants attacked an oil pipeline south of the Libyan port of Zueitina.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/libyaNews/idAFL8N15G41Q>

February 2, 2016

Islamic State militants attacked and retook a much fought-over Pepsi factory.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/02/02/heavy-benghazi-fighting-as-is-counterattack/>

February 8, 2016

Ansar Al-Sharia claimed to have shot down a Libyan Air Force MiG-23 during an airstrike on Derna.

<http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/02/ansar-al-sharia-claims-to-have-downed-jet-flying-over-derna-libya.php>

February 12, 2016

The head of the Libyan elders' national reconciliation council escaped an assassination attempt. He was shot at from a passing car near the destroyed Tripoli International Airport but was not injured.

<http://www.libyanewstoday.com/leading-elder-shot-at/>

February 13, 2016

Islamic State Militants shot down a fighter jet in Benghazi.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2016/02/13/Mig-23-fighter-shot-down-over-Libya-s-Benghazi.html>

February 16, 2016

A member of the Wershafana Council of Elders was kidnapped in west Tripoli.

<http://www.libyanewstoday.com/warshafana-elder-kidnapped/>

February 18, 2016

The Fida oil field southeast of Sirte was attacked and two tanks set on fire.

Islamic State militants were blamed.
<https://www.yahoo.com/news/libyas-noc-warns-more-islamic-state-attacks-oil-133649992.html?ref=gs>

February 19, 2016

A local House of Representatives member Abdunabi Abdulmuali was seized by unknown gunmen after returning to Zawia from Tobruk.

<http://www.libyanewstoday.com/zawia-oil-refinery-closed-then-reopened/>

February 22, 2016

Islamic State militants in Sirte stoned three men to death and shot another in the head in the latest in a series of public executions.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/636959/ISIS-Daesh-Lybia-execution-three-men-blasphemy>

February 25, 2016

Islamic State militants briefly entered the center of the western city of Sabratha, beheading 11 members of local security forces and killing another six in overnight clashes before retreating.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-sabratha-idUSKCN0VX1AV>

February 26, 2016

A member of the security forces of Libya's recognized government was killed in a landmine blast in Benghazi.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3466252/IS-claims-deadly-car-bomb-Libyas-Benghazi.html>

February 26, 2016

A car bomb killed five members of security forces loyal to Libya's recognized government in Benghazi. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack in Hawari district.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3466252/IS-claims-deadly-car-bomb-Libyas-Benghazi.html>

March 4, 2016

The Tripoli home of Misratan politician Abdurrahman Sewehli was hit by a rocket.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/03/04/abdurrahman-sewehli-tripoli-home-rocketed/>

March 9, 2016

Islamic State militants attacked a checkpoint south of Misrata, killing three security personnel.

<af.reuters.com/article/libyaNews/idAFL5N16H5QL>

March 9, 2016

Suspected Islamic State militants briefly took control of a major road west of Sirte and south of Tripoli. Clashes ensued and the militants retreated.

<af.reuters.com/article/libyaNews/idAFL5N16H5QL>

Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2016

March 10, 2016

Islamic State militants set up a roadblock south of Mizdah and began arresting people travelling along the road. Local forces later drove the militants away.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/03/12/is-forces-at-mizdah-surrounded-claims-ina-amid-continued-fighting/>

March 14, 2016

Fifteen Egyptian workers have been abducted by Islamic State militants in Libya. The workers were abducted as they returned home from work in Tripoli.

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/fifteen-egyptian-workers-abducted-militants-libya-lawyer>

March 14, 2016

The leader of Khoms military council was kidnapped, along with an assistant and the Khoms customs director, near Tripoli's Salaheddin district. They were later released on the same day.

<http://www.libyanewstoday.com/khoms-military-leader-released-after-electricity-to-tripoli-cut/>

March 14, 2016

Suspected Islamic State militants staged an attack on a water plant near the major Sarir oil field in eastern Libya. Security forces foiled the attempted suicide car bombing by killing the driver, before engaging the attackers in clashes.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/libyaNews/idAFL5N16M5T6?sp=true>

March 16, 2016

A Libyan civil society activist was killed in a car bombing in Derna.

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/anger-after-assassination-veteran-libyan-activist-516081195>

March 16, 2016

The chairman of a Rahila fuel distribution company disappeared while on his way home to Zawia. He is presumed to have been kidnapped.

<http://www.libyanewstoday.com/rahail-a-chairman-kidnapped-in-tripoli/>

March 17, 2016

Islamic State militants were blamed for a dawn attack on Zliten prison which saw between 18-60 inmates escape. It appears to have begun when an RPG was fired against a gate.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/03/17/mass-zliten-jail-break-after-suspected-is-attack/>

March 25, 2016

Islamic State militants reportedly murdered three Libyan army soldiers in Sirte, though pictures released by the terrorists show only two men being killed with a shot to the back of the head.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/03/26/more-is-murders-in-sirte/>

March 25, 2016

Two Bangladeshis have been kidnapped in Tripoli, likely by Islamic State militants.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/03/26/more-is-murders-in-sirte/>

March 30, 2016

Gunmen stormed the Tripoli headquarters of satellite TV station Al-Nabaa, cutting its transmissions and forcing out its staff.

<http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/gunmen-storm-tv-station-in-libya-20160331>

April 2, 2016

Islamic State militants killed two guards in a hit-and-run oilfield attack south of Ras Lanuf.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/04/02/is-attacks-oilfield-murders-two-more-in-sirte-and-is-itself-attacked/>

April 13, 2016

A suicide bomber killed a member of the security forces at a checkpoint south of Misrata.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKCN0XA1YN>

April 13, 2016

Militants attacked a military camp between the coastal road and the town of Bani Walid, south-east of Misrata, killed five people, and seized weapons and ammunition.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKCN0XA1YN>

April 13, 2016

Mortar fire, claimed by Ansar al-Sharia in Benghazi, hit an army ammunition store in the city's central district of Juliana.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/04/13/clashes-continue-in-benghazi-as-militants-hit-ammunition-store-in-juliana-and-libya-air-force-strikes-back-in-garyounis/>

April 14, 2016

At least five soldiers died and six were injured in fighting around the Hawari cement factory in Benghazi. The casualties were caused by mines as troops sought to enter the plant.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/04/18/army-finally-takes-benghazis-hawari-cement-factory/>

April 16, 2016

Two guards were killed and four were kidnapped in an attack on the Tripoli home of Presidency Council member Ahmed Maetig. The assault on the house in was mounted by members of Haytem Tajouri's Tripoli Revolutionaries' Brigade.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/04/16/two-guards-die-as-ahmed-maetigs-tripoli-home-attacked/>

April 16, 2016

A former TV presenter survived an attempted assassination in Beida. The journalist, who had worked for Libya Awlan (Libya First) TV channel and is now working in radio, was hit by at least one bullet.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/04/16/failed-attempt-to-kill-journalist-in-beida/>

April 16, 2016

The finance manager of Afriqiyah Airways was kidnapped in Tripoli.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/04/16/afriqiyah-finance-manager-kidnapped-report/>

April 23, 2016

Islamic State militants clashed with a Libyan force guarding oil ports near Brega terminal, killing one guard and wounding four.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKCN0XL077>

Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2016

April 23, 2016

A Serbian worker was kidnapped in Libya while visiting Messla Oil Field, near the border with Egypt. He was later released.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-serbia-idUSKCN0XN1G0>

April 30, 2016

A Libyan army colonel was murdered by an unknown armed group near his home in Tarhuna.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/05/01/army-colonel-appointed-by-presidency-council-to-protect-defense-ministry-murdered-in-tarhouna/>

May 2, 2016

Three children died in a mine explosion in Benghazi's Gwarsha district. The mines are believed to be booby-traps left behind by militants who fled the area.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/05/02/four-children-die-in-gwarsha-explosion/>

May 5, 2016

Islamic State militants killed three members of local security forces in an attack on a checkpoint at Abu Grain, west of Sirte.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-idUSKCN0XW1SN>

May 5, 2016

Islamic State militants carried out a bomb attack in Baghla, killing two residents.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-idUSKCN0XW1SN>

May 6, 2016

Seven people were killed and 40 were wounded when shells hit a political rally in Benghazi. The attack is being blamed on the Islamic State.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/05/07/death-toll-in-benghazi-demonstration-attack-mounts/>

May 10, 2016

Islamic State militants executed two nurses it captured last month during fighting in Gwarsha.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/05/10/benghazi-nurses-executed-says-is/>

May 11, 2016

Islamic State militants attacked a highway checkpoint in Saddada. Two suicide bombers, one in a vehicle and one on a motorbike, blew themselves up at the checkpoint where troops had gathered.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-idUSKCN0XW1SN>

May 16, 2016

A Benghazi explosives diffuser was injured in the city's Sidi Faraj district, when called to deal with a mine planted at a house that had been used by militants.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/05/16/benghazi-iconic-sapper-injured-in-mine-blast/>

May 21, 2016

An officer was killed and two soldiers were wounded near Abu Grain when a mine exploded.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/05/22/is-mines-cause-more-casualties-at-abu-grain/>

May 27, 2016

The Benghazi Medical Centre was repeatedly shelled by either by the Benghazi Revolutionaries Shoura Council, which includes Ansar Al-Sharia, or by Islamic State militants.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/05/28/benghazi-medical-centre-shelled-again-as-kobler-labels-it-a-war-crime/>

June 1, 2016

Islamic State militants attempted to detonate a truck bomb near the Sirte Power Station. It failed to explode.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-06/03/c_135408508.htm

June 1, 2016

A Saiqa Special Forces' commander and a member of his team were killed in a mine explosion in Benghazi's Gwarsha district.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/06/02/benghazi-saiqa-commander-killed-in-mine-blast/>

June 2, 2016

Two Libyan soldiers were killed and 12 others injured in a suicide attack by Islamic State militants near Sirte.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-06/03/c_135408508.htm

June 2, 2016

Benghazi Medical Centre again came under mortar fire, with shells destroying at least three cars but causing no human injuries. The shelling is believed to be deliberate.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/06/02/bmc-again-hit-in-apparent-deliberate-targeting/>

June 3, 2016

A Misratan bomb disposal expert died as he sought to defuse an IED left behind on the outskirts of Sirte by Islamic State militants. Two members of his team were also wounded in the blast.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/06/03/misratan-bomb-disposal-specialist-killed-by-ied/>

June 5, 2016

A top Misratan commander was shot and killed by a sniper in what appears to have been an Islamic State ambush to the south of Sirte.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/06/05/misratan-commander-killed-as-is-camp-overrun/>

June 11, 2016

Islamic State militants attacked a Sirte port, which the group had lost to Bunyan Marsous forces the day before. The attack was repelled.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/06/11/is-retreats-into-sirte-centre-reported-cut-off/>

June 11, 2016

A car bomb exploded in Benghazi's Salmani district, killing two local residents and injuring six.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/06/11/benghazi-terror-explosion-kills-two-injures-six/>

June 12, 2016

A suicide bomber detonated near a group of pro-government fighters in Benghazi. At least one person was killed and four were wounded in the blasts.

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/isis-3-suicide-car-bombings-target-pro-government-forces-libyas-sirte-1565016>

June 12, 2016

Two explosions from cars driven by Islamic State suicide bombers targeted government forces in Sirte.

<https://sg.news.yahoo.com/bombers-hit-libya-pro-govt-forces-sirte-battle-114306772.html>

Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2016

June 13, 2016

Two people were killed and several others were injured in a suicide bomb attack in Abu Hadi, south of Sirte.
<http://en.apdnews.com/xinhua/423110.html>

June 14, 2016

A total of five pro-GNA forces were killed and 37 wounded as Islamic State militants hit positions west of Sirte attempting to re-capture Sirte port.
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3643165/Libyan-forces-face-jihadist-fightback-Sirte.html>

June 15, 2016

An Islamic State suicide car bomb attempt was prevented by Operation Bunyan Marsous forces in the west Sirte district of Zafraan.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/06/16/is-suicide-bomber-kills-10-at-abu-grain/>

June 15, 2016

Islamic State militants carried out a suicide bombing in southern Sirte, leaving two wounded.
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3643165/Libyan-forces-face-jihadist-fightback-Sirte.html>

June 16, 2016

Ten pro-unity government fighters were killed and seven were injured when an Islamic State suicide bomber struck a police station in Abu Grain.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/06/16/is-suicide-bomber-kills-10-at-abu-grain/>

June 16, 2016

Operation Bunyan Marsous reported that its forces had managed to destroy two Islamic State suicide car bombs in Sirte.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/06/16/is-suicide-bomber-kills-10-at-abu-grain/>

June 16, 2016

A member of Fursan Janzour brigade (Janzour Knights) was injured by a suicide car bomb in Zafraan roundabout, the west entrance of Sirte.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/06/21/the-rise-of-fighters-anger/>

June 17, 2016

Two soldiers with Operation Bunyan Marsous were wounded in an Islamic State suicide bombing in the Sirte area.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/06/17/93824/>

June 22, 2016

A car bomb exploded in the parking lot at Benghazi Medical Centre, but caused no injuries.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/06/23/benghazi-militants-spurn-safe-passage-for-wives-and-children/>

June 24, 2016

A car bomb exploded in front of the visitors' entrance at Benghazi's Al-Jalaa Hospital, killing five people and wounding 13.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/06/25/car-bomb-outside-benghazis-jalaa-hospital-kills-5/>

July 1, 2016

The Derna Mujahideen Shoura Council says that it killed three men it accused of being agent provocateurs, sent by the Libyan National Army to stir up dissension in the town.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/07/02/three-ina-operatives-killed-in-derna/>

July 2, 2016

Three Libyan government troops were killed in clashes with Islamic State militants in Sirte, after taking control of the city center.
<https://www.enca.com/africa/libya-forces-control-of-strategic-locations-in-sirte>

July 3, 2016

Two security officers died in a car bomb explosion in Benghazi's Fuwayhat district, suspected to have been detonated by Islamic State militants.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/07/03/two-security-officers-die-in-is-benghazi-car-bomb-attack-intended-target-survives/>

July 6, 2016

Three soldiers were killed, including the commander of the 210 Brigade, in a car bomb attack in Ganfouda.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/07/06/breaking-army-commander-slain-in-benghazi-car-bomb-attack/>

July 6, 2016

A suicide car bomb killed 12 soldiers in Benghazi.
<http://www.tripolipost.com/articledetail.asp?c=1&i=11095>

July 6, 2016

Fierce fighting was reported around Teachers' Beach, to the south-west of Ganfouda, where the 309 Brigade lost three men when militants launched a surprise attack.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/07/06/soldiers-die-in-surprise-ganfouda-attack/>

July 7, 2016

A bomb has completely wrecked the interior of the new terminal at Bani Walid's airport. It is unclear who was responsible for the destruction though locals are blaming Islamic State militants.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/07/07/blast-wrecks-inside-of-ban-walid-airport-terminal/>

July 9, 2016

A mine-clearance expert was killed in the Sabri district when trying to deal with a booby trap.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/07/09/benghazi-mourns-popular-demining-expert/>

July 10, 2016

Islamic State forces fired Grad missiles at a number of locations including the first, second, and third residential districts, and the university campus.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/07/10/94774/>

July 13, 2016

Libya's new defense minister has survived an assassination attempt by car bomb in Benghazi, while one of his guards was injured with shrapnel.
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3690346/Libyas-new-defense-minister-survives-assassination-attempt.html>

July 16, 2016

An experienced sapper was killed trying to defuse an IED in Sirte.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/07/18/misratan-planes-drop-leaflets-as-well-as-bombs-on-sirte/>

Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2016

July 21, 2016

TV reporter Abdulgader Fassouk was killed while covering the fighting in Sirte. He was shot by an Islamic State sniper. He was the second Libyan journalist to be killed in action in a month.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/07/21/journalist-among-those-killed-in-sirte/>

July 29, 2016

A suicide car bomb attack killed two members of the Libyan National Army in Benghazi's Gwarsha district and wounded another four. The attack was claimed by the Islamic State.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/07/30/is-claims-suicide-bombing-in-benghazi/>

August 2, 2016

A car bomb targeting security forces in Benghazi killed at least 15 people and wounded more than 30 others. The Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries claimed responsibility for the blast.

<http://www.france24.com/en/20160802-suicide-bomb-attack-kills-security-15-libya-benghazi>

August 8, 2016

In Brega city, 23 Egyptians were kidnapped by militants. They were freed 10 days later by Libyan special forces.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-08/12/c_135591210.htm

August 16, 2016

Members of the Shaafyin tribe, intent on freeing an alleged Islamic State supporter, kidnapped three members of the local military council in the far eastern Jebel Nafusa town of Emsalata.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/08/18/clashes-in-emsalata-after-is-suspect-arrested/>

August 17, 2016

The Islamic State group carried out nine suicide bombings in one day in a failed bid to hold a central district of Sirte, leaving nine pro-government fighters dead and 82 wounded.

<http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/isis-launches-wave-of-suicide-attacks-on-libya-forces-20160817>

August 18, 2016

Twin car bomb attacks killed at least 10 fighters with pro-government Libyan forces near Sirte, where they are battling to oust jihadists from the Islamic State group.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3747328/At-10-dead-car-bombs-hit-Libya-forces-near-Sirte.html>

August 20, 2016

A policeman was shot dead at Bir Ghanem, southwest of Tripoli, on the road from Aziziya to Yefren. Smugglers or Islamist militants are both suspected.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/08/20/smugglers-suspected-in-police-killing-at-bir-ghanem/>

August 23, 2016

At least one man died and at least five other people were injured in mortar attacks fired by militants in Benghazi.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/08/23/army-loses-more-men-as-benghazi-battle-continues/>

August 25, 2016

A tank driver blocked a suicide bomber from reaching a large group of troops in Ganfouda. Three soldiers died and at least 10 were injured in the blast.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/08/26/benghazi-car-bomb-kills-three-soldiers-but-terrorist-supply-boat-reported-sunk/>

September 16, 2016

An IED left next to an ambulance in Benghazi's Kish Square exploded while pro-LNA demonstrations were taking place. Two people were injured.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/09/16/explosion-in-benghazis-kish-square-as-pro-lna-demonstrators-call-for-kobler-and-serraj-to-be-sacked/>

September 19, 2016

Italian workers and a Canadian were abducted by an armed group in Ghat, southwestern Libya, near the site where they worked. They were later released.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN13108K>

October 2, 2016

Libyan forces repelled an attempted ambush, but lost at least eight of their men, as their battle with Islamic State militants encircled in their former stronghold of Sirte resumed.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-idUSKCN1220MD>

October 3, 2016

A Dutch journalist was shot in the chest by an Islamic State sniper while covering battles in Sirte.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/libya-dutch-journalist-feroerlemans-dies-sirte-161002192205488.html>

October 29, 2016

At least three people were killed and at least 12 injured in an explosion in Benghazi. A well-known TV host appears to have been targeted in the attack.

<http://www.dw.com/en/political-activist-among-dead-in-bomb-attack-in-benghazi/a-36200257>

November 15, 2016

At least 15 civilians were injured when a car bomb detonated in Benghazi.

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/africa/180233/car-bomb-injures-15-in-libyas-benghazi>

November 21, 2016

At least three people have been killed in the blast in front of a hospital in Benghazi.

<http://www.dw.com/en/several-dead-in-car-bombing-in-libyas-benghazi/a-36469971>

December 1, 2016

A suitcase bomb exploded in a crowded area of Benghazi Medical Centre, injuring four.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/12/01/suitcase-bomb-attack-inside-benghazi-medical-centre/>

December 2, 2016

At least two women, who seemed to be civilians surrendering to militia forces, blew themselves up in Sirte, killing four fighters and injuring more than a dozen others.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/12/02/is-uses-female-suicide-bombers-in-sirte/>

December 5, 2016

The Islamic State group ambushed two tanks at a checkpoint near Misrata.

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/12/05/after-4000-dead-and-wounded-bunyan-marsous-finally-beats-is-in-sirte/>

December 5, 2016

Fighters launched two suicide vehicles towards the Libyan National Army but both were destroyed by heavy gunfire before they could reach their targets.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/12/05/car-bombs-and-nine-soldiers-die-as-army-advances-in-benghazi/>

December 7, 2016

An alliance of Islamist and tribal fighters attacked Ben Jawad town near the coastal "oil crescent" but was then repelled.
<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2016/12/8/rival-forces-clash-over-libyas-oil-region>

December 7, 2016

An unidentified group launched a "double-tap" car bombing outside the Benghazi headquarters of Saiqa Special Forces, leaving 18 injured.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/12/07/terrorists-launch-double-tap-car-bombings-in-benghazi/>

December 18, 2016

A suicide bomb attack in Benghazi targeting forces loyal to military strongman Khalifa Haftar left at least seven dead and a further eight wounded.
<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2016/12/19/suicide-bombing-kills-haftar-troops-in-contested-benghazi-district>

December 20, 2016

Islamic State militants seized a remote pumping station on the Man-Made River, taking hostages and sacking the place before withdrawing.
<http://www.libyanewstoday.com/terror-attack-on-remote-mmr-pumping-station-report/>

December 21, 2016

A senior army officer was killed in a land mine explosion in Ganfouda district of Benghazi.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/12/21/two-more-bombs-explode-inside-benghazi-medical-centre/>

December 21, 2016

Two separate bombs exploded inside Benghazi Medical Centre. No one was seriously hurt in either explosion although damage was extensive.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/12/21/two-more-bombs-explode-inside-benghazi-medical-centre/>

December 21, 2016

A civilian woman was hit in the shoulder by a sniper in Sabri district of Benghazi.
<https://www.libyaherald.com/2016/12/21/two-more-bombs-explode-inside-benghazi-medical-centre/>

December 23, 2016

Two men used fake weapons to hijack a Libyan plane with 117 people on board, diverting it to Malta before releasing everyone and surrendering.
<https://www.yahoo.com/news/malta-pm-tweets-alerted-potential-hijack-plane-105853933.html>

MALI:

January 8, 2016

Gunmen abducted Swiss national Beatrice Stockly from her home in Timbuktu. She had also previously been kidnapped in April 2012 by Islamist fighters.
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3402205/Three-security-officers-killed-separate-Mali-attacks.html>

January 12, 2016

Unknown gunmen attacked Malian forces at a checkpoint near Gao, seizing weapons after Malian officers abandoned the post.
<http://maliactu.info/crise-malienne/gao-un-check-point-de-larmee-malienne-situe-au-bord-du-fleuve-a-ete-attaque-hier-soir-par-des-hommes-armes>

January 15, 2016

Two soldiers were killed when an aid convoy they were escorting was ambushed in northern Mali. Two of the assailants were also killed during the exchange, outside of Timbuktu.
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3402205/Three-security-officers-killed-separate-Mali-attacks.html>

January 15, 2016

Armed men attacked a market in Dioura in the central Mopti region, killing a guard from the Water and Forests Agency.
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3402205/Three-security-officers-killed-separate-Mali-attacks.html>

January 20, 2016

Gunmen killed three gendarmes in an overnight ambush near a town in central Mali.
<http://news.yahoo.com/three-mali-gendarmes-killed-armed-raid-central-mali-110641886.html>

January 21, 2016

Unidentified gunmen targeted weekly market at Bonna commune in Macina Circle. One civilian was killed and one gendarme was injured.
<http://news.abamako.com/h/116590.html>

January 21, 2016

Two rockets were fired at a MINUSMA camp in Aguelhoc. No casualties reported.
<http://maliactu.net/mali-nord-du-mali-lonu-victime-de-plusieurs-attaques/>

January 21, 2016

A MINUSMA vehicle struck an IED on the Ménaka – Ansongo transit route. No casualties reported.
<http://maliactu.net/mali-nord-du-mali-lonu-victime-de-plusieurs-attaques/>

January 25, 2016

Gunmen attacked the residence of the Public Prosecutor in Gao. A guard returned fire, killing one.
http://malijet.com/actualite_dans_les_regions_du_mali/rebellion_au_nord_du_mali/145147-nord-du-mali-des-assaillants-tentent-d%E2%80%99enlever-le-procureur-de-g.html

January 28, 2016

One soldier was killed and a second injured when a truck taking water to outlying army positions was attacked at a checkpoint near Timbuktu.
<http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL8N15C5SL>

January 28, 2016

A Malian military vehicle escorting a humanitarian convoy struck an IED between Gao and Gossi. Three Malian soldiers were killed.
<http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL8N15C5SL>

February 6, 2016

Al-Qaida claimed an attack on a UN mission police station in northern Mali that killed one Malian soldier.
<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/al-qaida-group-claims-attack-police-station-north-36757274>

Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahel in 2016

February 9, 2016

A Malian Military vehicle struck an IED in Mondoro, central Mali, near the border with Burkina Faso. Three Malian soldiers were killed and two were injured.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-35537974>

February 11, 2016

An alleged militant was killed while mishandling an IED between Gao and Sévaré.

<http://www.maliweb.net/la-situation-politique-et-securitaire-au-nord/un-poseur-de-mines-tue-1404602.html>

February 11, 2016

Two unknown militants executed an officer of the Water and Forests Agency in Sokolo, central Mali.

<http://www.malinet.net/flash-info/niono-un-agent-des-eaux-et-forets-froidement-execute-a-sokolo/>

February 11, 2016

Gunmen in two vehicles attacked a customs checkpoint in Hombori. Two civilians and one customs officer were killed.

<http://www.jeuneafrique.com/301504/politique/nord-mali-douanier-deux-civils-tues-hommes-armes-pres-de-hombori/>

February 12, 2016

A MINUSMA camp in Kidal was attacked, with at least five UN personnel killed.

<http://www.jeuneafrique.com/301754/politique/terrorisme-mali-camp-de-minusma-a-kidal-attaque-deux-casques-bleus-tues/>

February 12, 2016

Unknown militants ambushed Malian military convoy on Timbuktu – Goundam transit route. Three Malian soldiers were killed and two were injured.

http://malijet.com/actualite_dans_les_regions_du_mali/rebellion_au_nord_du_mali/147031-mali-trois-soldats-maliens-tues-dans-une-embuscade-de-jihadistes.html

February 16, 2016

Unknown gunmen assassinated the head of the Douassak Tuareg clan in Inekar, near Ménaka.

http://malijet.com/actualite_dans_les_regions_du_mali/rebellion_au_nord_du_mali/147723-inekar-ouest-dans-la-region-de-menaka-le-chef-de-fraction-tue-pa.html

February 18, 2016

A rocket targeted a MINUSMA camp in Tessalit, causing no casualties.

<https://minusma.unmissions.org/point-de-presse-jeudi-25-f%C3%A9vrier-2016>

February 19, 2016

Armed men attacked an army checkpoint in Mali, killing two soldiers.

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/162035>

February 19, 2016

An IED was discovered and dismantled in Kidal city.

<https://minusma.unmissions.org/point-de-presse-jeudi-25-f%C3%A9vrier-2016>

February 20, 2016

A MINUSMA logistics convoy struck an IED north of Tabankort while heading to Kidal. No casualties or damages were reported.

<https://minusma.unmissions.org/point-de-presse-jeudi-25-f%C3%A9vrier-2016>

February 23, 2016

Militants suspected to be members of AQIM attacked a Malian Army checkpoint in Léré. Three soldiers were reportedly killed and two were injured.

<https://www.lorientlejour.com/article/972139/mali-trois-militaires-maliens-tues-dans-une-attaque-dans-le-nord-source-militaire.html>

February 23, 2016

A Malian Army vehicle struck an IED near Doro while traveling to Gao. One soldier was injured.

<https://www.maliweb.net/echos-de-nos-regions/gao-un-convoi-militaire-malien-qui-se-deplacait-en-direction-de-gao-a-saute-sur-une-mine-hier-soir-1431052.html>

February 24, 2016

Unknown gunmen seized two International Red Cross vehicles while on a mission at Taboye, Gao region. The vehicles were later recovered.

<http://www.malinet.net/flash-info/gao-enlevement-de-2-vehicules-de-la-croix-rouge-par-des-hommes-armes/>

March 1, 2016

A MINUSMA vehicle struck an IED on the Aguelhoc-Tessalit transit route. Six peacekeepers were injured.

<https://minusma.unmissions.org/engin-explosif-6-casques-bleus-bless%C3%A9s-dans-le-nord-du-mali>

March 15, 2016

MINUSMA forces discovered an IED near Aguelhoc camp.

<https://minusma.unmissions.org/point-de-presse-jeudi-17-mars-2016>

March 21, 2016

Suspected jihadists tried to force their way through the entrance of Bamako's Nord-Sud Hotel, which serves as the headquarters for the European Union military training operation EUTM Mali. One attacker was killed as guards posted in front of the entrance opened fire.

<http://www.dw.com/en/trained-guards-prevent-mali-hotel-massacre/a-19133961>

March 23, 2016

A Malian Army vehicle struck an IED in Ménaka. At least one Malian soldier was injured.

<http://www.malinet.net/alerte/un-vehicule-4x4-des-forces-armees-maliennes-a-saute-ce-matin-sur-une-mine-a-menaka/>

April 4, 2016

Two gunmen targeted a Douentza official. The assassination attempt failed but one civilian was killed.

<http://sahelien.com/viewer?id=57040089e5f42f6a1700014a>

April 10, 2016

Unknown gunmen attacked a MINUSMA convoy in Timbuktu. Three civilian contractors were reportedly injured and three vehicles were burned.

<http://www.tamoudre.org/infos-dernieres-studio-tamani-25/developpement/>

April 12, 2016

A civilian vehicle struck an IED in Aguelhoc, killing one.

<http://www.maliweb.net/la-situation-politique-et-securitaire-au-nord/points-chauds-combattants-mnla-arretes-mardi-a-kidal-liberes-1528552.html>

April 12, 2016

The lead in a convoy of 60 vehicles approaching Tessalit hit a land mine, killing three French soldiers.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/b929b85aba2846a79548d09efaffe3ae/3-french-soldiers-killed-mali-mine-blast>

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April 16, 2016

Three International Red Cross workers were kidnapped and freed one week later.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3553746/Three-Red-Cross-staff-kidnapped-Mali-free.html>

April 23, 2016

Two Malian soldiers were killed and one was injured in an ambush on the Timbuktu–Goundam route. Ansar al-Din claimed responsibility.

<http://maliactu.net/nord-du-mali-deux-soldats-maliens-tues-dans-une-embuscade-sources-militaires/>

May 10, 2016

An armed group attacked a military camp overnight, killing two.

<http://www.globalpost.com/article/6768745/2016/05/11/two-malian-soldiers-killed-attack>

May 11, 2016

A landmine explosion along the road between Hombori and Gossi struck a military convoy and killed a high-ranking Malian military officer and a soldier.

<http://www.globalpost.com/article/6768745/2016/05/11/two-malian-soldiers-killed-attack>

May 18, 2016

Ansar al-Din ambushed MINUSMA convoy, killing five Chadian peacekeepers.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3599948/Islamist-group-Ansar-Dine-claims-deadly-ambush-UN-peacekeepers-Mali.html>

May 27, 2016

Five soldiers were killed and four were injured in mine explosion and subsequent ambush.

<http://www.africanews.com/2016/05/27/5-malian-soldiers-killed-four-wounded-in-mine-explosion/>

May 29, 2016

Five peacekeepers were killed and one was injured in ambush near the town of Severe.

<http://www.trtworld.com/mea/5-un-peacekeepers-killed-in-central-mali-ambush-116356>

May 31, 2016

An AQIM attack on a UN base killed a peacekeeper and seriously wounded three others.

<http://en.abna24.com/service/africa/archive/2016/06/02/757826/story.html>

May 31, 2016

AQIM attacked a UN de-mining unit and killed an international expert and seriously injured two security guards.

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2016/06/01/468487/Mali-al-Qaeda-UN-mission-MINUSMA-AQIM>

June 15, 2016

"Jihadists" opened fire on the village of Mankena, killing two civilians.

<http://malisnews.com/en/violence-nord-deux-civils-ont-peri-attaque-djihadiste-atombouctou-2/>

June 29, 2016

A military convoy came under attack near Timbuktu. At least three soldiers were killed and one injured.

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2016/06/29/3-killed-6-hurt-in-attack-on-malian-military-near-timbuktu.html>

July 19, 2016

An armed group raided a military camp, killing 17 soldiers and wounding dozens. Both Ansar al-Dine and the National Alliance for the Protection of Peul Identity and Resoration of Justice (ANSIPRJ) claimed responsibility.

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/32099749/armed-group-kills-17-soldiers-at-mali-base-ministry/#page1>

July 30, 2016

An army vehicle hit an IED west of Gossi, killing two soldiers and wounding three.

<http://www.africanews.com/2016/07/31/mali-extends-state-of-emergency-amidst-continued-fighting/>

July 31, 2016

AQIM has said it killed a Malian officer outside his Timbuktu home.

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/al-qaida-linked-extremists-kill-mali-officer-in-timbuktu-116080400104_1.html

August 7, 2016

A supply convoy of the Malian army came under attack between the Tenenkou and Diafarabe regions in Mopti. Ansar al-Dine has claimed responsibility. Five bodies of men abducted in the attack were later discovered in the Niger River.

<http://www.pmnnewsnigeria.com/2016/08/11/missing-malian-soldiers-found-dead-in-river-niger/>

August 7, 2016

A UN peacekeeper was killed and four others wounded in northeastern Mali when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb.

<http://www.voanews.com/a/blast-hits-un-peacekeepers-in-mali/3454732.html>

August 16, 2016

An IED attack targeting a French armored vehicle outside Abeidara was claimed by Ansar al-Dine. No casualties were reported.

<http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/08/ansar-dine-claims-multiple-attacks-across-mali.php>

August 16, 2016

Ansar al-Dine claimed to have fired rockets or mortars at the joint MINUSMA-French base at Amachach near Tessalit. No casualties were reported.

<http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/08/ansar-dine-claims-multiple-attacks-across-mali.php>

August 16, 2016

An IED detonated near a French patrol, killing 2 soldiers near the MINUSMA-French base at Amacha. Ansar al-Dine claimed responsibility.

<http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/08/ansar-dine-claims-multiple-attacks-across-mali.php>

September 2, 2016

Gunmen seized control of the central Malian village of Boni, after a sustained attack that forced the few troops stationed there to retreat.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/maliNews/idAFL8N1BE46P>

September 26, 2016

A Malian soldier and a civilian were killed in an Islamist militant ambush in Timbuktu.

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/soldier-civilian-killed-malis-timbuktu-062336326.html>

October 5, 2016

A Malian soldier was killed during an attack on civilians being escorted by the military along the Goundam-Timbuktu road, by suspected al Furqan Battalion (AQIM) fighters. Two civilians were also injured in the assault and 2 assailants arrested.

<http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/10/ansar-dine-claims-series-of-attacks-in-northern-mali.php>

October 10, 2016

A suicide bomber detonated his vest in an attempted attack on Swedish MINUSMA peacekeepers in Timbuktu.

No casualties were reported.

<http://www.thelocal.se/20161011/attempted-suicide-attack-on-swedish-troops-in-mali>

November 5, 2016

A French soldier died from injuries sustained in a mine blast. The jihadist group Ansar al-Dine claimed the attack on social media, saying it took place near Kidal.

<http://www.thelocal.fr/20161105/french-soldier-killed-by-landmine-in-mali>

November 6, 2016

AQIM released a video showing the execution of several Tuareg captives and two Malians, Mohamed Ould Beih and El-Hussein, accused of collaboration with the French military forces in Mali.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/world/world-news/mali-al-qaeda-releases-video-of-two-men-shot-for-collaboration-3739577/>

November 6, 2016

Ansar al-Dine claimed responsibility for an attack on a town in southern Mali in which 21 prisoners were freed from jail.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-mali-security-idUKKBN1332P6>

November 20, 2016

Alleged jihadists killed five Malian soldiers transporting ballot boxes.

<http://www.france24.com/en/20161121-mali-soldiers-killed-election-related-violence>

November 20, 2016

Alleged jihadists attacked a council building in Dilli, killing a civilian and stealing two ambulances and another vehicle.

<http://www.france24.com/en/20161121-mali-soldiers-killed-election-related-violence>

November 29, 2016

Militants have struck two airports in northern Mali with an explosives-laden truck and rockets.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mali-security-idUSKBN13P208>

December 6, 2016

At least one prison guard was killed with another person injured, and between 50 and 93 prisoners were released in an attack on a jail claimed by Ansar al-Dine.

<http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/12/suspected-jihadists-launch-jailbreak-in-southern-mali.php>

December 24, 2016

A French woman, who runs a humanitarian organization focused on helping children, was kidnapped in Gao by Al-Mourabitoune.

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/iraq/182207/french-aid-worker-kidnapped-in-mali>

NIGER:

March 17, 2016

Four suicide bombers believed to be with Boko Haram attacked a military convoy, killing themselves and one officer, and injuring two others. A fifth attacker was shot before detonating.

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/two-separate-islamist/2614434.html>

March 17, 2016

Gunmen believed to be linked to AQIM killed three policemen in a market near the border with Burkina Faso.

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/two-separate-islamist-attacks-kill-4-niger-040153911.html?ref=gs>

March 30, 2016

Six soldiers from Niger's army were killed in an ambush by Boko Haram militants near the town of Diffa, close to the border with Nigeria.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-35931546>

April 28, 2016

Suspected MUJWA members attacked Nigerien forces on the border with Mali, north of Tahoua region. One gendarme was killed and two were injured.

<http://www.jeuneafrique.com/321832/politique/niger-gendarme-tue-attaque-terroriste-pres-de-frontiere-mali/>

May 19, 2016

Boko Haram attacked a village near Bosso, killing six and wounding seven.

<http://www.dw.com/en/six-killed-in-suspected-boko-haram-violence-in-southern-niger/a-19274451>

June 6, 2016

Hundreds of Boko Haram fighters attacked a military post, killing 24 Nigerien and two Nigerian soldiers, and wounding 112.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2016/06/07/boko-haram-niger-islamic-extremist/85560514/>

June 16, 2016

Following government and NGO representatives' visitation to a refugee camp, Boko Haram attacked paramilitary police stationed nearby, killing seven and injuring three.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-nigeria-security-niger-idUSKCN0Z31UK>

September 6, 2016

Five villagers were killed and two others wounded in a Boko Haram attack in eastern Niger.

<http://www.ndtv.com/world-news/at-least-5-dead-in-first-east-niger-boko-haram-attack-in-3-months-governor-1454228>

October 6, 2016

At least 22 soldiers were killed in Niger when unknown assailants attacked a camp for Malian refugees.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-niger-attacks-idUSKCN1262KM?il=0>

October 14, 2016

A US aid worker was kidnapped in Niger, likely by jihadists from MUJAO.

<http://www.france24.com/en/20161016-niger-says-us-aid-worker-likely-kidnapped-mali-jihadists>

October 17, 2016

An attack by Islamist militants on a high-security prison in Niger holding about 100 jihadists was foiled.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-37676495>

November 8, 2016

Five soldiers were killed and four others are missing following an attack in southwest Niger close to the border with Mali.

<http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/five-soldiers-killed-in-niger-attack-20161108-4>

TUNISIA:

February 1, 2016

Tunisian police clashed with Islamist gunmen in a remote mountainous area in the southern region of Gabes, killing at least two militants.
<http://af.reuters.com/article/tunisiaNews/idAFL8N15G4FU>

March 7, 2016

Dozens of Islamist fighters stormed through the Tunisian town of Ben Guerdan, near the Libyan border, attacking army and police posts in a raid that killed at least 50 people, including civilians.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-tunisia-security-idUSKCN0W90J6>

April 28, 2016

Two civilians were shot and injured by extremists near Jendouba.
<http://maghrebemergent.com/actualite/breves/fil-maghreb/58478-tunisie-deux-civils-blesses-par-des-extremistes-a-jendouba.html>

May 11, 2016

A fighter detonated an explosive belt after a firefight erupted in the Tatouine governorate, killing four security officers.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-tunisia-security-idUSKCN0W90J6>

May 19, 2016

Tunisian forces killed two militants after taking fire while preparing to search a house. Security have been conducting sweeps in the region against IS militants.
<https://www.yahoo.com/news/tunisia-army-clashes-militants-west-160656037.html?ref=gs>

May 20, 2016

Two servicemen were wounded during a sweeping operation in the mountainous region of Jebel Samama. One of the two servicemen was injured following the explosion of a landmine and the other was shot in his legs.
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201603210838.html>

May 30, 2016

A landmine blast killed two women and wounded a third near Mount Sammama. The two were killed while gathering herbs when the home-made device exploded near the base of Mount Sammama in the Kasserine region. Authorities blamed the armed Islamists active in the Kasserine region.
<http://en.africatime.com/tunisie/articles/tunisia-landmine-blast-kills-2-women-ministry>

June 1, 2016

Gunmen shot the car of a magistrate in Sbiba. No injuries were reported.
<http://www.tunisienumerique.com/tunisie-kasserine-urgent-des-inconnus-tirent-sur-un-magistrat/294957>

June 20, 2016

Two bombs were discovered and defused near Bilal Mosque in Jendouba.
<http://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portals-Regions/7983896-jendouba-two-explosive-devices-defused>

June 23, 2016

A man was injured following the explosion of a mine in a house in Ben Gardane.
<http://www.mosaiquefm.net/fr/actualite-regional-tunisie/18203/ben-guerdane-blessure-d-un-ouvrier-apres-l-explosion-d-une-grenade.html>

July 22, 2016

A landmine killed a Tunisian soldier during an operation to track down militants in the country's mountainous west. The explosion occurred in Jebel Semmama and was claimed by Katiba Okba Ibn Nafaa.
<http://www.maghrebemergent.com/actualite/breves/fil-maghreb/61823-tunisie-deux-terroristes-abattus-et-un-soldat-blesse-dans-un-affrontement-au-nord-ouest.html>

July 27, 2016

Two militants were killed and one soldier was injured during an armed clash in Mount Bourbah, in Oued Mliz, in the Jendouba Province in northwestern Tunisia.
http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-07/28/c_135545267.htm

August 29, 2016

The Uqba bin Nafi Battalion, the Tunisian division of AQIM, claimed credit for an attack on Tunisian soldiers on Mount Semmama in Kasserine. Three Soldiers were killed.
<http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/09/tunisian-aqim-branch-claims-attack-on-troops-in-kasserine.php>

October 10, 2016

Militants opened fire on a police station in Kasserine. Security guards returned fire and no injuries were reported.
<http://directinfo.webmanagercenter.com/2016/10/10/tunisie-mise-en-echec-dun-attentat-terroriste-a-kasserine/>

November 6, 2016

A soldier was killed in his own house by a group of at least four Islamist militants in Sbiba region. He was tied up and then executed with several gunshots in the head. The Islamic State claimed the killing in a statement.
<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2016/11/6/is-claims-domestic-murder-of-tunisian-soldier>

December 14, 2016

Two Tunisian soldiers were wounded after a landmine explosion in the militarized area of Mount Chaambi, in the Kesserine governorate.
http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/generalnews/2016/12/15/tunisia-2-soldiers-wounded-in-mine-explosion-on-mt-chaambi_20dcfacc-51cb-4cab-8d75-6847a3fc313a.html

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Established in 1994, the activities of IUCTS are guided by an International Research Council that offers recommendations for study on different aspects of terrorism, both conventional and unconventional. IUCTS is cooperating academically with universities and think tanks in over 40 countries, as well as with governmental, intergovernmental, and nongovernmental bodies.

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