

Section 2. International Terrorism

1. General Situation

The 9/11 attacks that took place in 2001 prompted the entire world to reaffirm the threat of international terrorism, and became the spark that ignited the current fight against terrorism by the United States and other countries.

In the military operation in Afghanistan led by U.S. and U.K. forces shortly after the 9/11 attacks, many of the leaders of Al-Qaeda, who were believed to have directed the 9/11 attacks, and the Taliban, who harbored Al-Qaeda, were killed or captured. However, Osama bin Laden, Mullah Mohammed Omar and the remnants of their respective organizations are believed to still be hiding in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region³⁶, and the U.S.-led multinational forces, the Afghan, the Pakistani, and other militaries are continuously engaged in clearing operations.

Al-Qaeda maintains its intent to attack the U.S. mainland, and is still considered to retain the capability to recruit, train, and deploy operatives³⁷. Meanwhile, some have pointed out that in part because of the loss of top commanders, Al-Qaeda has been unable to orchestrate successful large scale attacks³⁸.

With respect to the relation between Al-Qaeda and its affiliates, while the Islamic extremism of Al-Qaeda has been spreading throughout the world, the command and control capabilities of the core Al-Qaeda group is believed to be declining. There seems to be no clear command and control structure between the core Al-Qaeda, its affiliates and groups or individuals inspired by Al-Qaeda's ideology, but rather it is a loose network.

Al-Qaeda affiliates that receive advice from Al-Qaeda or those that include "Al-Qaeda" in its name perpetrate terrorism mainly in North Africa and the Middle East³⁹; however, it is pointed out that these affiliates have no single format and there are significant differences in the degree of control that the core Al-Qaeda can exert over them⁴⁰.

We have also seen in recent years cases where radical individuals and groups who have had no interaction at all with the Al-Qaeda network have adopted Al-Qaeda's ideology and have become terrorists⁴¹. For example, the group that conducted the Madrid train attack in Spain in March 2004 was inspired by Al-Qaeda ideology. It was judged, however, there was no sufficient evidence of a direct connection between the group and Al-Qaeda⁴².

In particular, since the attack on the London transport network in 2005, so-called "home-grown terrorists"⁴³ have gained attention. For example, some individuals among U.S. Muslims engage in extremist activities. They are thought to be motivated by a combination of personal circumstances and external factors such as grievance over U.S. foreign policy, feelings of alienation, pan-Islamism, and the availability of poisonous extremist propaganda through the Internet⁴⁴.

2. Terrorist Attacks around the World

In Yemen, there have been numerous terrorist incidents conducted by Al-Qaeda related cells including the bomb attack on the USS Cole in 2000, and the bomb attack on a French tanker in 2002. In recent years there have been suicide attacks on tourists in the Ma'rib in 2007, terrorist attacks thought to be aimed at the U.S. Embassy in 2008, and suicide bomb attacks that involved Korean tourists in 2009. In addition, in April this year, there was a suicide bomb attack that was seemingly aimed at the car of the U.K. Ambassador to Yemen. It is thought that these attacks were conducted by Al-Qaeda affiliated groups, and it has been pointed out that the inability of the Yemeni government to secure and exercise control over all of its territory offers terrorists and insurgent groups, particularly Al-Qaeda, a safe haven⁴⁵. It has also been pointed out that Al-Qaeda has several hundred members in Yemen, and they have grown in strength⁴⁶.

Even after a provisional federal government was established in Somalia in 2005, there continued to be no government that effectively governed the entire country, and battles between the radical Islamic group Al-Shabaab and government forces continued. Some of al-Shabaab's senior leaders are thought to have previously trained and fought with Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan⁴⁷, and they have a certain degree of relationship to Al-Qaeda.

In Algeria, there were a series of terrorist attacks in 2007 targeting the government and army, including simultaneous bomb attacks on government buildings, the attempted assassination of the President of Algeria, a suicide bombing on the barracks of the Algerian Coast Guard, and bombing of U.N. facilities. Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)⁴⁸ claimed responsibility for these attacks⁴⁹. AQIM has up until now targeted mainly Westerners such as U.S. and French nationals, and kidnappings of Westerners presumably conducted by the said group have been occurring since 2008⁵⁰. In addition to Algeria, in recent years AQIM has also been active in sub-Saharan countries (Mali, Niger, and Mauritania).

South Asia has long been suffering frequent terrorist attacks, and India was hit by a series of coordinated terrorist bombings in 2008⁵¹. In the Mumbai terrorist attack in November 2008, multiple coordinated bombings and shootings occurred in more than 10 places across the city, including hotels, restaurants, and stations, killing many foreigners, including a Japanese national. Pakistan has also experienced a number of terrorist attacks since 2007, including the assassination of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and attacks by armed groups targeting government and security organizations such as the military and the police.

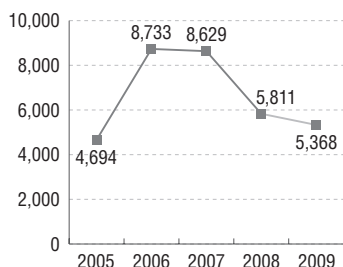
Southeast Asia is still subject to frequent terrorist threats, particularly by Islamic extremists, although some progress has been made in controlling terrorist organizations. Between 2002 and 2005, Indonesia suffered large-scale terrorist attacks, in which the involvement of Jemaah Islamiya (JI), a radical Muslim organization, is suspected⁵², and there were simultaneous terrorist attacks on foreign-owned hotels in Jakarta in July last year as well. Meanwhile, Indonesia is making definite progress with their efforts to crack down on terrorists such as the arrests of top JI leaders such as Zarkasi and Abu Dujana, and the fatal shooting of Noordin, a suspect in the simultaneous terrorist attacks on the foreign-owned hotels in 2009. In the Philippines, the communist New People's Army (NPA), the Islamic extremist Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) are the biggest domestic public security concerns and the government is making a strong effort to respond. The Government of the Philippines regards the NPA as the most significant threat. In addition, they are promoting military cooperation with the United States, conducting the Balikatan exercise every year to cope with ASG, which is allegedly linked to Al-Qaeda.

(See Fig. I-1-1-1)

Fig. I-1-1-1 Number of Terrorism Incidents by Region

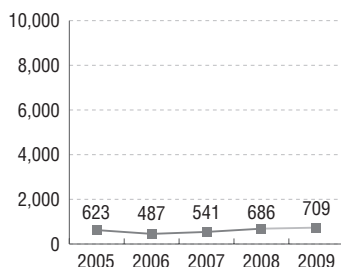
Middle East

- More than 80% in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Continuously increasing in Afghanistan
- Peaked in Iraq in 2006 and has been decreasing since
- Increasing in Yemen since 2008

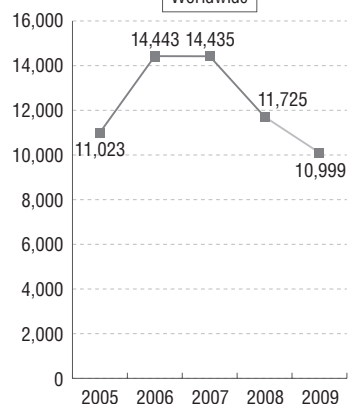


Europe and the former Soviet Union

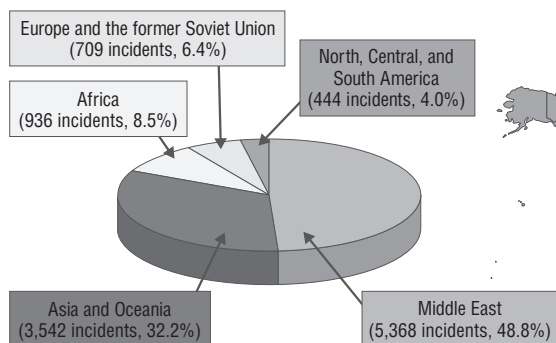
Russia accounts for 40 to 60%



Worldwide

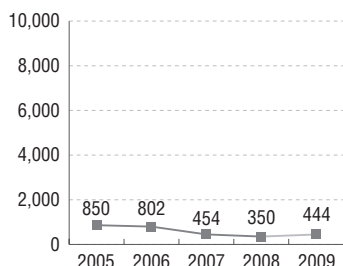


Number of incidents in 2009 10,999 incidents



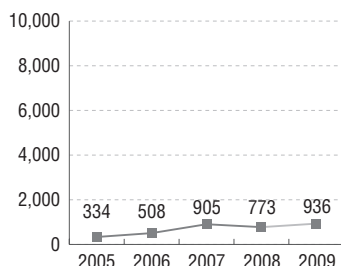
North, Central, and South America

Columbia accounts for 80 to 90%



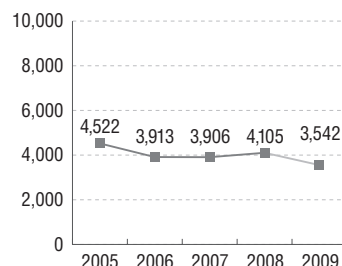
Africa

Somalia has accounted for more than 40% since 2007



Asia and Oceania

- Pakistan has been increasing since 2007
- Thailand peaked in 2007
- Sri Lanka is steadily decreasing



Note: Created based on the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center database.