

1 General Situation

The 9/11 attacks in 2001 prompted the entire world to reaffirm the threat of international terrorism, and was an opportunity to ignite 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. In May 2011, Osama Bin Laden, the leader of Al-Qaeda hiding in Pakistan, was killed in an operation conducted by the United States. The killing of Bin Laden, however, has not eradicated the possibility of Al-Qaeda attacks. In some areas including the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, where Al-Qaeda forces and the Taliban are considered to be hiding, the U.S.-led multinational forces, the Afghan, the Pakistani, and other militaries are continuously engaged in clearing operations¹.

Al-Qaeda now is much less active, with core members killed or captured; however, some point out that Al-Qaeda will seek to augment smaller and simpler plots while maintaining relationship with its affiliates².

Some also point out while command and control capabilities

of the leaders of Al-Qaeda have been declining, its affiliates have been strengthening their power³.

Al-Qaeda affiliates that include “Al-Qaeda” in their name perpetrate terrorism mainly in North Africa and the Middle East⁴; however, it is pointed out that these affiliates vary in their intentions and capabilities to conduct terrorist attacks in countries outside of their power base⁵.

We have also seen in recent years, cases where radical individuals and groups who have had no official relations at all with the Al-Qaeda or its affiliates have been inspired by Al-Qaeda’s ideology and have become terrorists⁶. In particular, since the attacks on the London transport network in 2005, threats posed by so-called “homegrown terrorists”⁷ have gained attention. In the United States, 32 homegrown terrorists have apparently been indicted between May 2009 and October 2011⁸. Although it is difficult to detect common motives to incite such individuals to violence, possible motives could include the attraction of foreign conflict zones from an extremist perspective, disenchantment with living in the United States, anger against U.S. and Western foreign policy, and the increase in extremist propaganda in English⁹.

1 In his “National Strategy for Counterterrorism” in June 2011, President Obama noted that the preeminent security threat to the United States continue to be Al-Qaeda and its affiliates and adherents, and clarified that their eventual defeat was the ultimate objective. He laid out a policy of pursuing the ultimate defeat of Al-Qaeda in the Afghanistan-Pakistan theater.

2 “Worldwide Threat Assessment” (January 2012). By U.S. Director of National Intelligence (DNI)

3 United States Department of State “Country Reports on Terrorism 2010” (August 2011).

4 Ditto

5 “Worldwide Threat Assessment” by DNI (January 2012). Out of various affiliates of Al-Qaeda, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula has been enhancing its new recruitment activities through such measures as launching a new English organizational journal, “Inspire,” on the Internet in June 2010.

6 “Worldwide Threat Assessment” by DNI (January 2012)

7 While there is no clear definition of the term, they are referred to in the United States as those who have lived primarily inside the United States and commit acts of violence in furtherance of objectives promoted by a foreign terrorist organization, but who act without direction from a foreign terrorist organization (Statement of Robert Mueller, Director of the FBI, at committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the U.S. Senate, September 22, 2010).

8 “American Jihadist Terrorism: Combating a Complex Threat,” the U.S. Congressional Research Service Report for Congress (November 15, 2011). The report lists 21 cases of homegrown terrorist plots and attacks in the eight-year period between September 2001 and April 2009.

9 Statement of Robert Mueller, Director of the FBI, at the committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the United States Senate (September 22, 2010).

2 Terrorist Attacks around the World

Terrorist attacks have recently been on the rise targeted at diplomatic delegates and other groups in Yemen. In October 2010, some explosive materials were discovered in multiple air cargoes to the U.S., which were revealed to have originated in Yemen. It is thought that these attacks were conducted by groups affiliated with Al-Qaeda, and it has been pointed out that political instability triggered by student-led anti-government demonstrations since February 2011 could allow for further planning and execution of attacks by groups affiliated with Al-Qaeda in Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)¹.

Even after the Transitional 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. Al-Shabaab is suspected to have a connection with Al-Qaeda². In addition, Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for terrorist attacks occurred in Uganda in July 2010.

In Algeria, there were a series of terrorist attacks in 2007 targeting the government and army. Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)³ claimed responsibility for these attacks. In addition to Algeria, in recent years AQIM factions have also been said to be active in sub-Saharan countries (Mali, Niger, and Mauritania). The group has mainly targeted

westerners, and there have been cases of kidnappings of westerners apparently conducted by the group⁴ since 2008.

South Asia has long been suffering frequent terrorist attacks. In India, many foreign citizens, including a Japanese national, fell victim to the Mumbai terrorist attacks in November 2008, and so-called Naxalites, a group of extremists active particularly in Eastern provinces, pose security threats⁵. Pakistan has also experienced a number of terrorist attacks targeting religious facilities and government organizations masterminded by Tahrike Taliban Pakistan (TTP)⁶ or Al-Qaeda.

Southeast Asia is still subject to frequent terrorist threats, particularly by Islamic extremists, although some progress has been made in countering terrorist organizations. In Indonesia, a terrorist training camp in the northern Sumatran province of Aceh was discovered and more than 120 individuals were captured in February 2010, which indicate some progress with their efforts to crack down on terrorists. In the Philippines, it is pointed that the communist New People's Army (NPA) and the Islamic extremist Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), that have long been the biggest domestic public security concerns have now significantly weakened⁷. (See Fig. I-2-3-1)

1 "Worldwide Threat Assessment" by DNI (January 2012) reports bombing attempts in February 2012 believed to be the work of AQAP and combat between Al-Qaeda-affiliated militants and government troops in March 2012.

2 Leaders of Al-Shabaab and Al-Qaeda have been reported to be united in February 2012.

3 An Islamic extremist organization established in Algeria in 1998 as the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC). It then changed the name to the current one after it officially joined Al-Qaeda in September 2006.

4 "Country Reports on Terrorism 2010," United States Department of State (August 2011). An anti-government group in northern Mali has declared independence in April 2012; escalation of AQIM activities is a growing concern.

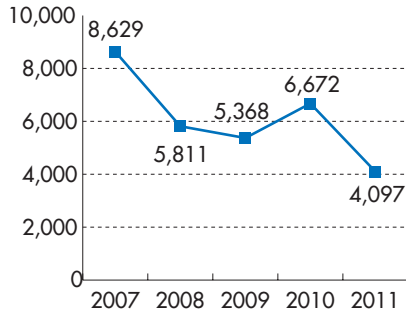
5 "Country Reports on Terrorism 2010," United States Department of State (August 2011)

6 A terrorist organization based in Pakistan formed in 2007. It claimed responsibility for suicidal attack on U.S. military base in Afghanistan in December 2009 and suicidal attack on U.S. consulate in Peshawar in April 2010, and it is alleged to be involved in assassination of former Prime Minister Bhutto in 2007.

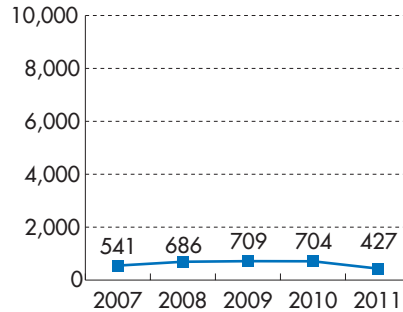
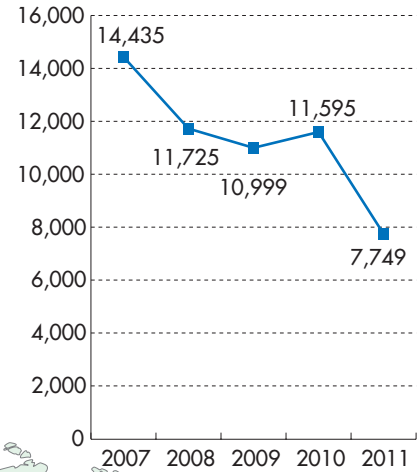
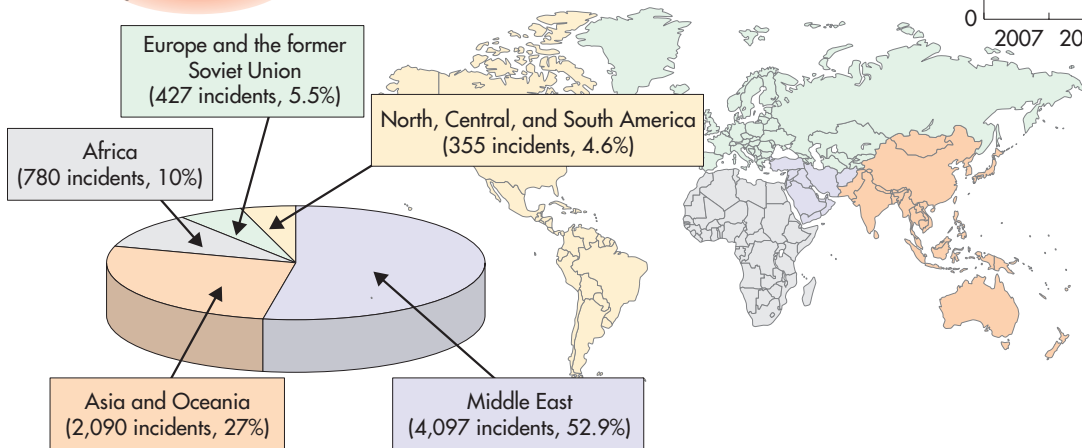
7 "Country report on Terrorism 2010," United States Department of State (August 2011)

Fig. I-2-3-1 Number of Terrorism Incidents by Region**Middle East**

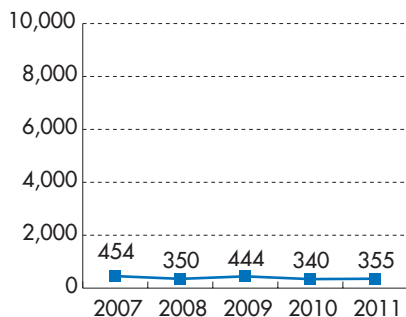
- More than 80% in Iraq and Afghanistan (90% for 2011)
- Decreasing in Iraq since 2006 at its peak
- Increasing in Yemen since 2008

**Europe and the former Soviet Union**

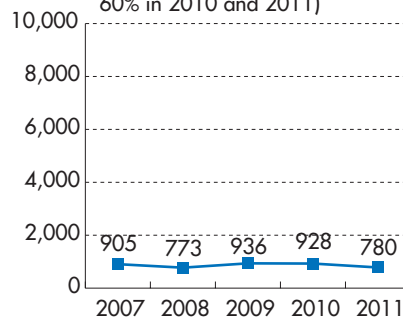
- Russia accounts for 40 to 60%

**Worldwide****Number of incidents in 2011
7,749 incidents****North, Central, and South America**

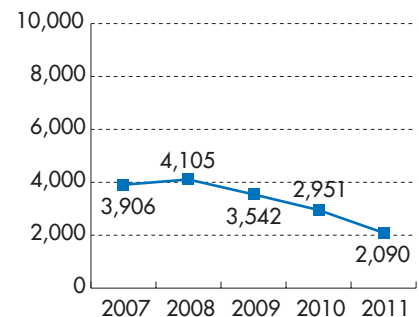
- Colombia accounts for about 80-90%

**Africa**

- Somalia has accounted for more than 40% since 2007 (More than 60% in 2010 and 2011)

**Asia and Oceania**

- Pakistan accounted for more than 50% in 2011
- India has a decreasing trend after the peak in 2005
- Decreasing in Thailand since 2007 at its peak



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