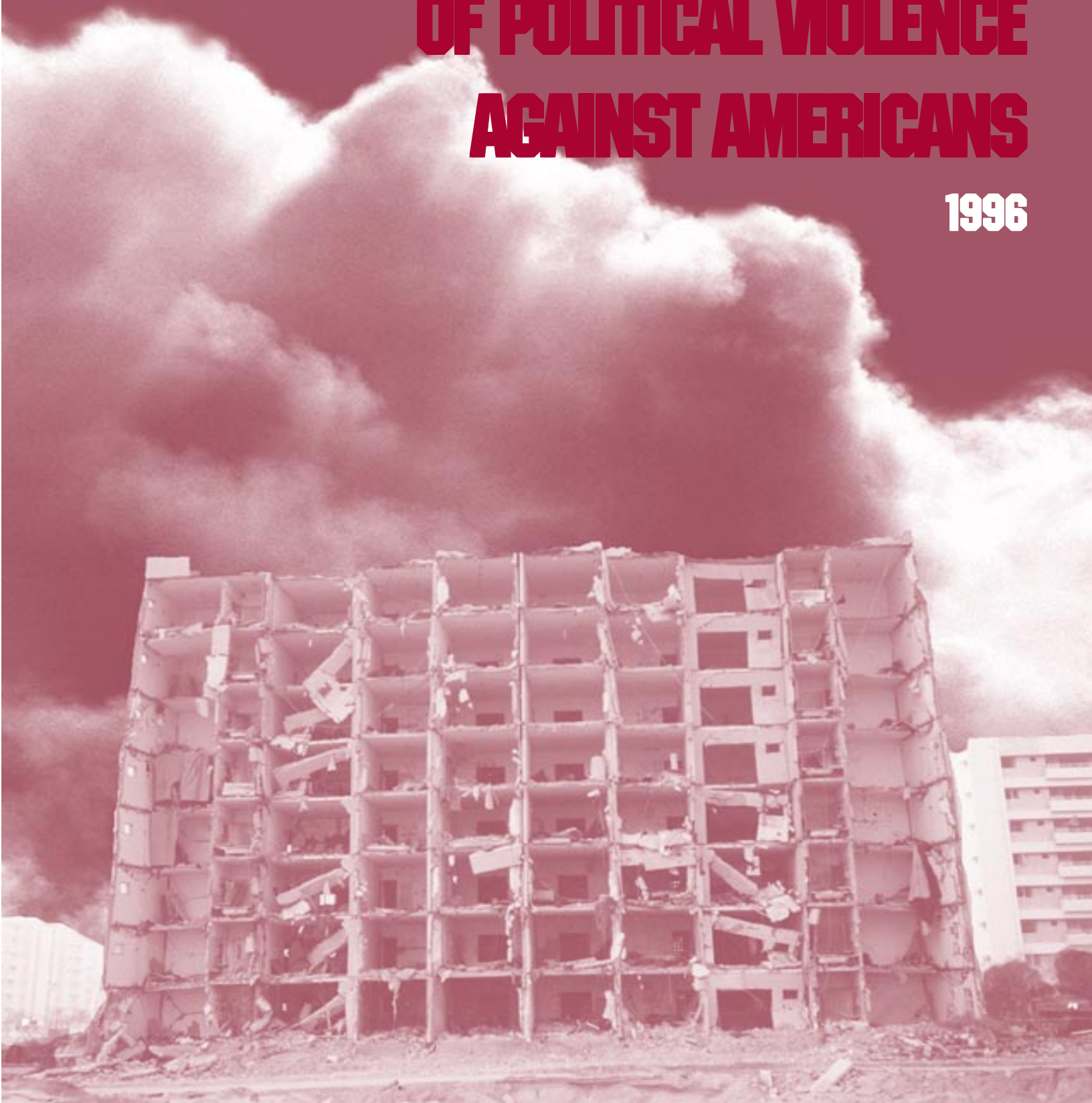




**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
***BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY***

# **SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST AMERICANS**

**1996**



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Andrew Corsun  
Editor

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Comments and queries are welcomed and may be directed to the Office Director of DS/DSS/ITA on 202 663-0786.

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# INTRODUCTION

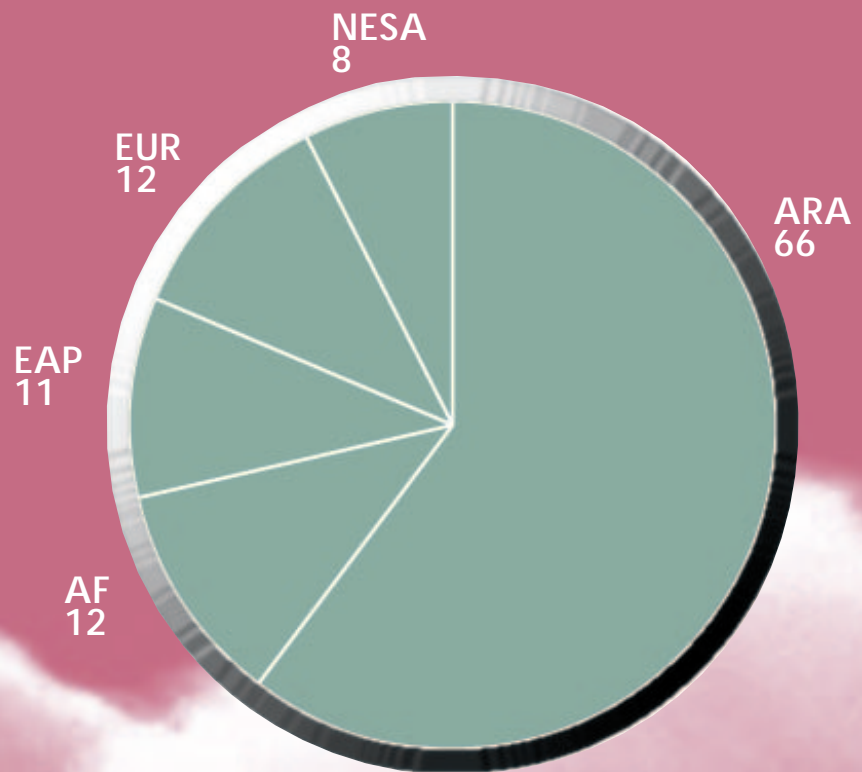
*Significant Incidents of Political Violence Against Americans: 1996*, published by the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's Office of Intelligence and Threat Analysis (DS/DSS/ITA), is intended to provide a comprehensive picture of the broad spectrum of political violence that American citizens and interests have encountered abroad during 1996. In addition to examining terrorism-related acts, this study also includes other instances of violence affecting Americans.

This chronology is designed to encompass major anti-U.S. incidents that occurred in 1996. Unfortunately, to keep this publication at the unclassified level, some incidents had to be omitted due to the sensitive nature of the information associated with them.

The selection of incidents used in this study was based upon the following criteria: lethality, substantial property damage, use of unusual tactics or weapons, and perceptibility of targets as U.S. or representative of U.S. interests. **Please note:** Additional incidents were included in the regional and statistical breakdowns that did not follow our strict definition of a significant incident but were nevertheless noteworthy.

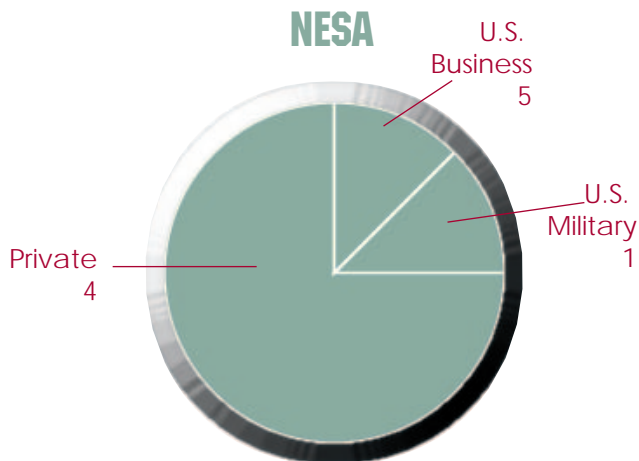
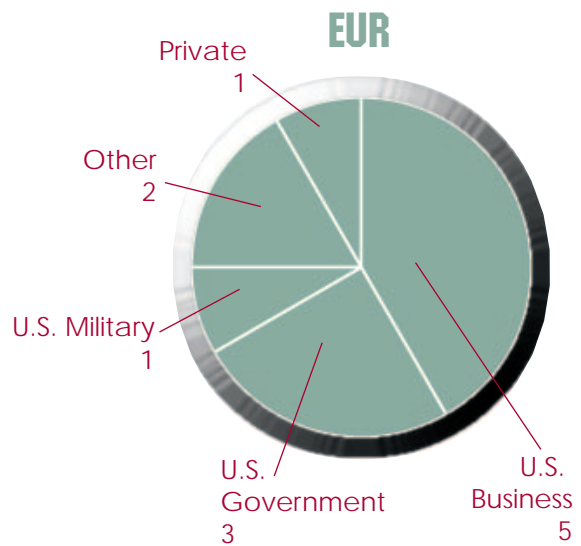
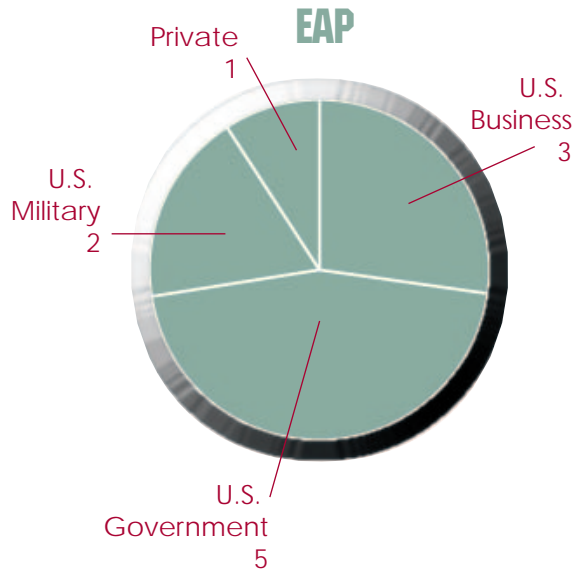
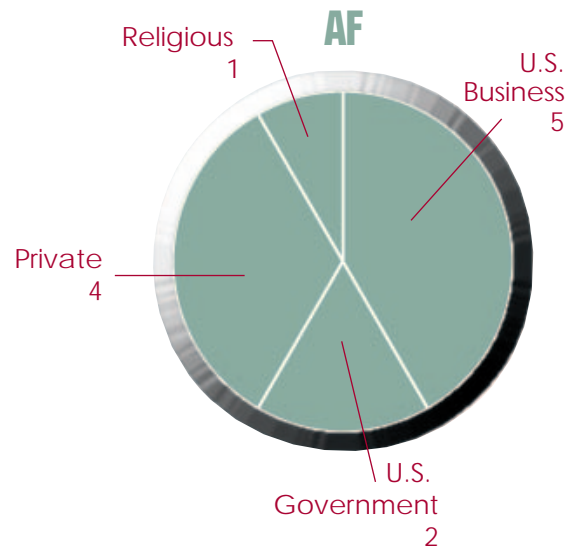
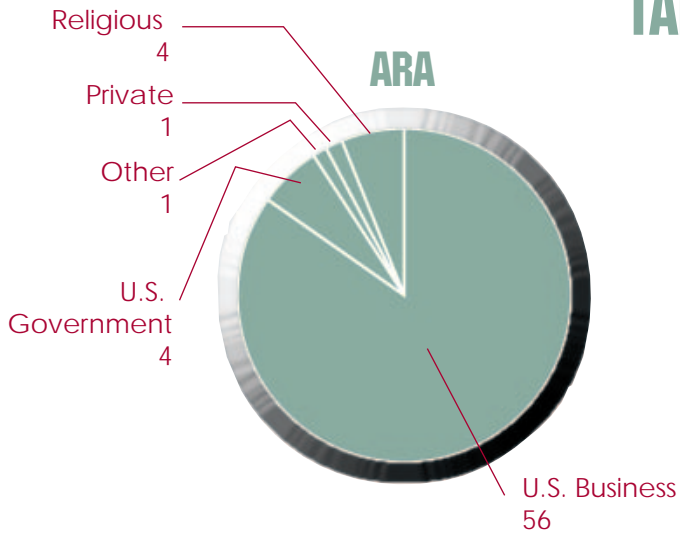
The policy of the U.S. Government is that no double standard will exist regarding the dissemination of threat information that may affect U.S. citizens. U.S. Government employees may not benefit from possession of information that may apply equally to the American public, but is not available to them. The U.S. Government maintains information on threats to Americans overseas—from terrorism, crime, or health hazards—and makes this information available to all those affected.

# AREAS OF ANTI-U.S. INCIDENTS IN 1996



Of the 109 incidents that involved U.S. citizens and interests, 92 specifically targeted Americans.

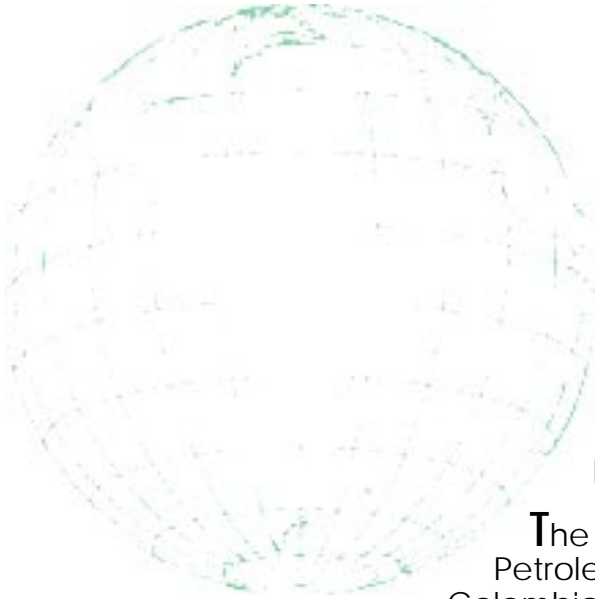
# TARGETS OF ANTI-U.S. INCIDENTS BY REGION 1996



# AMERICANS KILLED IN TERRORIST/ POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

## NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

- Three Americans were killed in a suicide bombing in Jerusalem on February 25, 1996.
- One American was killed when two gunmen opened fire near the Israeli complex of Bet El in the West Bank on May 13, 1996.
- One American was killed in a drive-by shooting in the West Bank on June 9, 1996.
- Nineteen American military personnel were killed when a truck bomb exploded at the al-Khobar military housing facility in Dhahran, Saudi



**January 1, 1996—December 31, 1996—Colombia:** Over the course of 1996, Marxist guerrillas from the National Liberation Army (ELN) and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) placed bombs on the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline 45 times, bringing the total number of attacks to 443 since 1986. Many of these attacks actually caused breaks, resulting in serious oil spills and halting production.

The pipeline is a joint venture between Occidental Petroleum of the United States and Ecopetrol, the Colombian state oil monopoly. Guerrilla forces target the pipeline due to foreign ownership, which they view as an infringement on national sovereignty.

**January 19, 1996—Bogota, Colombia:** An American citizen residing in Colombia was kidnaped by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas. The American was released 4 months later.

**January 29, 1996—Cali, Colombia:** A guard at the U.S. Government Binational Center in Cali was approached by two men and questioned regarding English lessons. They then disarmed the guard and shot him once in the leg before fleeing the scene.

**February 16, 1996—La Guajira Department, Colombia:** An American citizen working in Colombia was kidnaped by National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrillas from his office in a mining camp near Hato Nuevo, La Guajira Department. Six men in military fatigues took the American in his own vehicle, which was later found abandoned. He was released by the ELN in November of 1996, following the payment of an undisclosed ransom.

**February 27, 1996—Santa Rosa, Guatemala:** A businessman was kidnaped by armed men as he was driving along Santa Rosa Departmental Highway 4. The kidnapers released the businessman 2 days later, after a ransom of \$17,000 was paid. The victim speculated that the kidnapers were guerrillas who had previously made extortion demands on one of his company's holdings, and resorted to kidnaping when their demands were not met.

**April 11, 1996—Monterrey, Mexico:** The U.S. Consulate in Monterrey was hit by four 9mm bullets fired by unknown assailants. The gunshots struck the facade and fence of the Consulate. One round penetrated the glass front door and landed in the lobby. No injuries were reported.





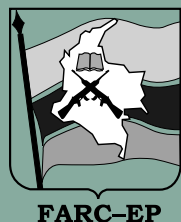
**May 16, 1996—Lima, Peru:** The Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) terrorists detonated a car bomb at a Royal Dutch Shell petroleum products warehouse in the La Victoria district at 10:35 p.m. local time. The bomb consisted of 20 kilograms of dynamite placed in a stolen car. Ten people were injured—one seriously—and there was considerable material damage to nearby buildings, passing cars, and the warehouse itself. This was the first car bombing in Lima since July 1995, and occurred on the eve of the signing of a contract between Shell, Mobil, and the Government

of Peru to begin exploitation of the Camisea gas fields in the Peruvian jungle. This attack was likely designed to postpone that agreement.



**May 16, 1996—Lima, Peru:** Sendero Luminoso terrorists detonated a car bomb at a Royal Dutch Shell petroleum warehouse in the La Victoria district of Lima. Ten people were injured and there was extensive damage.

**May 31, 1996–June 1, 1996—Nicaragua:** An American employee of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) was kidnaped by a gang of former contra guerrillas (recontras) while providing election assistance in rural Northern Nicaragua on May 31. The employee was an AID observer in Nicaragua assisting in preparations for the October 20 national elections. She was released unharmed the next day after negotiations were initiated by members of the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV).



**June 17, 1996—Bogota, Colombia:** An American missionary with the Summer Institute of Linguistics who was kidnaped on March 31, 1994, by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) was released by his captors.

**August 17, 1996—La Guajira Department, Colombia:** FARC guerrillas burned three buses that were transporting workers from the Intercor Company, an Exxon Oil Colombian affiliate.

**August 25, 1996—Port-au-Prince, Haiti:** Two unidentified individuals threw two M-26 antipersonnel handgrenades into an ESSO gas station. A car reportedly pulled into the station, the occupants tossed the two grenades and fled. The grenades landed 30 feet away from the fuel pumps, where one exploded injuring two people and damaging the building. The other grenade failed to go off and was deactivated by U.N. troops.

**September 7, 1996—Magdalena Department, Colombia:** FARC guerrillas burned three containers of Dole bananas.

**September 12, 1996—Magdalena Department, Colombia:** In separate actions, FARC guerrillas burned three different Dole banana plantations in this area. Losses to Dole in September were estimated at over 600 million Colombian pesos.

**September 20, 1996—Barrancabermeja, Colombia:** A chapel under construction by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) suffered significant damage from a guerrilla bombing. Five bombs had been placed in the construction area, of which two detonated, blowing the roof off the building and destroying all installed doors and windows. Construction workers at the site had received extortion threats from the ELN, FARC, and Jaime Bateman Cayon Guerrilla front. There had also been reports that possible guerrillas had surveilled the site during construction and they had attempted to force the construction company to hire local workers at twice the normal rate. Guerrillas also tried to stop the building of the steeple, which they thought was an antenna for transmitting messages to the CIA.



Three of the five bombs that were deactivated.



**September 20, 1996—Barrancabermeja, Colombia:** A chapel under construction suffered extensive damage, when two of five bombs detonated.

**September 24, 1996—Huanuco Department, Peru:** Embassy Lima reports that a UH-1H drug eradication helicopter was damaged by ground fire while taking part in an eradication mission. Three helicopters landed 150 meters away from the fields being eradicated while one helicopter remained airborne on overwatch security. Two hours later, one of the helicopters on the ground was hit by small arms fire. The overwatch security helicopter immediately returned fire while the three ships on the ground took off. The damaged helicopter returned to Tingo Maria, leaving the remaining three to extract the CORAH eradication personnel and security police to a nearby police base. There were no injuries. The mission was conducted with four INL-owned UH-1H helicopters operated by crews of the Peruvian National Police Aviation Division and one American Dyncorp contractor pilot. There were 17 CORAH eradication workers, and 6 security personnel from the Peruvian National Police Anti-Drug Directorate.

**November 7, 1996—Tulua, Colombia:** Two small improvised incendiary devices (IIDs) were thrown at a Mormon Temple in Tulua in the early morning hours. The IIDs caused minor damage to the chapel but there were no injuries. Propaganda attributed to the ELN was discovered outside the site, which condemned U.S. Government efforts to reinstate extradition and denounced U.S. elections.

**November 8, 1996—Santiago, Chile:** A Mormon chapel in the Cerro Navia community was attacked with five explosive devices. The perpetrators were six hooded individuals who hurled five molotov cocktails inside the church, two of which failed to ignite. A hoax bomb was also found in front of the church.

**December 11, 1996—Hato Nuevo, Colombia:** An American geologist was kidnaped at a gas exploration site in La Guajira Department. A group of five armed men burst into the Geomet Company offices and seized the geologist. Another American in the office escaped, although the kidnapers searched for him for 2 hours. Twenty-five Colombian workers at the site were unharmed. The kidnapers then commandeered a company four-wheel drive, took the geologist and left. The victim was killed by his kidnapers and his body was retrieved by Colombian authorities in February of 1997. Circumstances surrounding his death are still unclear.

**December 12, 1996—San Pedro Sula, Honduras:** An M-67 grenade exploded in front of the residence of an American citizen who was working as a technician for a Honduran subsidiary of an American corporation. Damage was limited to the pavement and nearby trees and there were no injuries. No individual or group has claimed responsibility, but organized labor unrest is suspected.



**December 17, 1996—Lima, Peru:** Between 15–20 Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) guerrillas staged a takeover of the Japanese Ambassador’s residence during a diplomatic reception held in honor of the Emperor of Japan’s birthday. The attack began at approximately 8:25 p.m. when an explosive device detonated and blew a hole in the residence’s north perimeter wall. Shortly thereafter, heavily armed MRTA guerrillas, wearing camouflage uniforms and MRTA sashes came through the breach in the wall and secured the residence. At the time of the takeover, there were approximately 600 guests in attendance, including representatives of 31 nations. Eight officials from the U.S. Embassy were among those captured in the initial take over. These eight were released on December 23, 1996, unharmed. Seventy-two hostages remained in MRTA hands until April 22, 1997, when a joint Peruvian military, police, and special forces team stormed the Japanese Ambassador’s residence. All the hostage takers were killed as well as one hostage and two members of the rescue team.



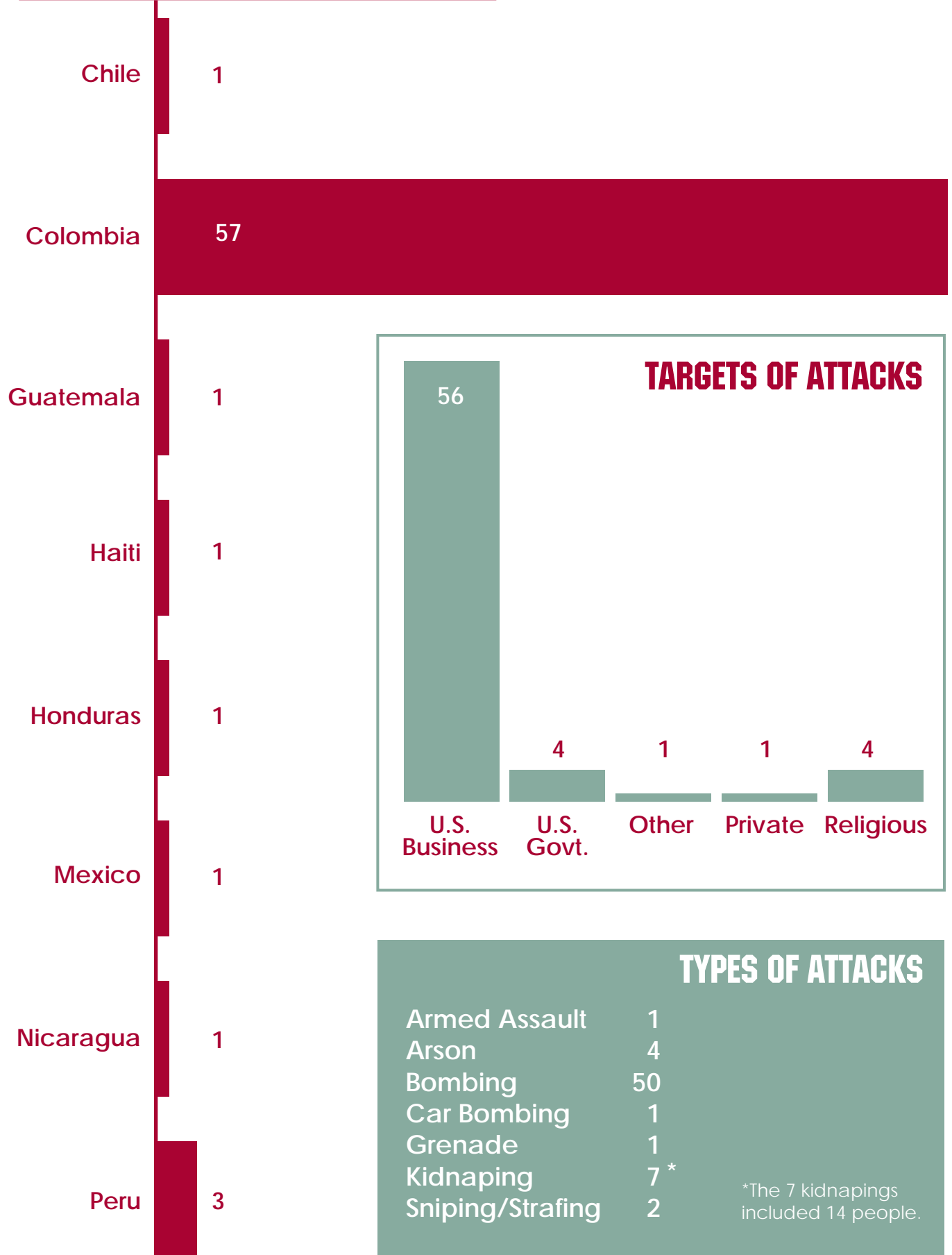
**December 17, 1996—Lima, Peru:** The Japanese Ambassador, center, and two hostages. To their right is Nestor Cerpa, leader of the MRTA.



**“We came physically and mentally prepared to stay for a long time. You all just came for a cocktail party.”**

**Nestor Cerpa Cartolini  
MRTA leader**

# AREAS OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS



## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



**February 16, 1996—Gbarana, Liberia:** Seven crew members in a U.S.-donated helicopter were briefly taken captive in Gbarana by National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) forces loyal to Liberian warlord Charles Taylor. NPFL troops detained the crew, which included three Americans, because they had not received word of the flight's clearance to leave. The helicopter was held until Taylor called his men directly, telling them that the flight was free to go.

**March 3, 1996—Northern Niger:** An American citizen working for Hunt Oil in Northern Niger and his driver were taken captive by Libyan military forces as they drove toward their base camp at the end of the day. Both men were treated well while captive and were eventually released unharmed the next day at daybreak.

**March 7, 1996—Kakata, Liberia:** Three foreigners—an American, a German and a Kenyan—were seized in Liberia by soldiers loyal to Roosevelt Johnson, former leader of the ULIMO-J faction. The American and his German friend along with a United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) observer were traveling in northern Liberia on business. All three were ordered out of their car by a group of militiamen at a makeshift checkpoint. As soon as the men were out of the vehicle the soldiers began searching it for valuables. Earlier that day, West African peacekeepers (ECOMOG) on orders from the Provisional Ruling Council, had surrounded the deposed leader's compound demanding to be allowed in to search for weapons. Apparently, troops loyal to Johnson took the Westerners captive in an attempt to dissuade ECOMOG from attacking his home. Johnson's men eventually released all three hostages unharmed, once he was able to speak with them and tell them everything was all right.

**March 21, 1996—Mogadishu, Somalia:** A country representative for the World Health Organization (WHO) in Somalia, was kidnaped along with four other U.N. staff members. After arriving at Baledogle Airfield in a UNICEF vehicle, the U.N.-hired guards checked their weapons at the entrance, which is customary. The group then drove onto the tarmac, which was totally devoid of the usual airport security guards. Then approximately ten gunmen surrounded their vehicle and ordered the unarmed guards to get out of the car. The gunmen proceed to commandeer the vehicle.

As they passed through one small village around dusk, its inhabitants, who may have learned of the kidnaping on BBC radio, attempted to stop the vehicle from passing. A gun battle ensued, during which a 10-year-old

boy received a head injury. The vehicle was able to continue on, but soon ran into a dead-end, and was forced to return to the village. By this time, the villagers had assembled 50–100 local militiamen. The kidnapers quickly surrendered to the superior force. After first robbing the just-freed kidnaped victims of their personal belongings, the villagers took the kidnapers into custody. At this time, the kidnapers' motive is still unknown.

**March 23, 1996—Mogadishu, Somalia:** An employee of the U.S. branch of Action International Contre La Faim (AICF) was abducted by members of the Ali Suleiyman subclan of the Majertain. At approximately 7 p.m. armed men stopped the employee's car, killed her security guard, and abducted the employee and her driver. Upon hearing of the kidnaping, U.N. agency and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) workers immediately contacted the local Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF) militia, who responded by giving chase. The next afternoon the SSDF force came across the kidnapers. They exchanged gun fire and the SSDF successfully drove off the assailants and rescued the shaken, though generally unharmed aid worker. The AICF employee reports that throughout the ordeal she was treated well by her captors. According to Walid Musa, head of the U.N. Coordination Unit (UNCU) for Somalia, the Ali Suleiyman staged the kidnaping to press their demands for an additional share of power in the New Bari administration (local government). He noted that they made no specific appeals for ransom, nor did it appear that they even knew who the employee was when they abducted her, and they made no attempt to harm her or take her possessions.

**April 29, 1996—Port Harcourt, Nigeria:** Armed villagers from Rumuokwurusi, which is located in the Port Harcourt area of southwestern Nigeria, broke into the compound of KNS Laboratories of Nigeria, a petroleum service company. They kidnaped two Americans and one British citizen. The villagers, former employees of KNS, are believed to have kidnaped the three over a labor dispute. Local police were notified and resolved the situation quickly and with no injuries.

**May 24, 1996—Lusaka, Zambia:** A briefcase containing an improvised explosive device was found in a public restroom at the Intercontinental Hotel. According to hotel officials and police, an unknown man called the hotel and informed them that the Black Mamba Group had planted a device in the hotel in response to the government's refusal to withdrawal the constitutional amendments bill.

**August 17, 1996—Akot, Southern Sudan:** Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels took five Roman Catholic missionaries hostage, including an American priest, for nearly 2 weeks at their mission in southern Sudan. SPLA forces accused the missionaries of being spies for the National Islamic Front-backed government. All five were eventually released in good health, however, church officials noted that they were abused during their captivity. The SPLA has fought Sudanese government forces in the south since 1983 for greater autonomy or independence. Roman Catholic Church and U.S. Government officials have demanded that SPLA leaders conduct a full inquiry to determine who was responsible.

**August 24, 1996—Bukinga, Burundi:** At about 4 p.m., Burundian soldiers detained two Reuters journalists—one an American citizen—near Bukinga in Gitega province. The journalists, traveling in areas of the country where fighting had recently taken place, were detained and questioned by authorities for 3 hours before being released.

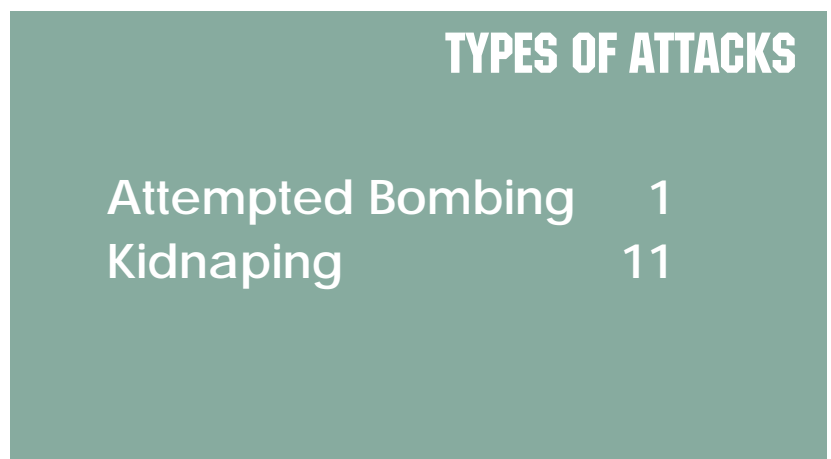
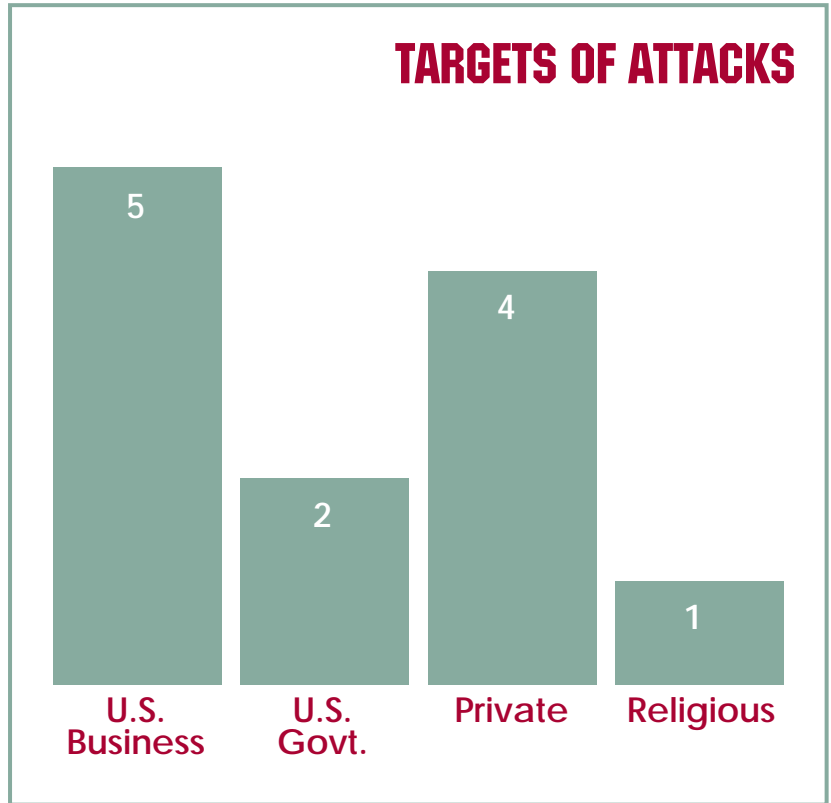
**September 17, 1996—Mogadishu, Somalia:** Twenty-five armed men jumped out of their “technical” battlewagon and seized a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) contractor, in north Mogadishu. The contractor was leaving a meeting at the compound of faction leader Ali Mahdi with two other USAID employees when he was kidnapped. The victim was selected because he was mistaken as an employee with the World Food Program. The kidnapers apparently were involved in a dispute with the World Food Program. Once his captors realized he worked for a different agency, the USAID contractor was released. He had been held 1 day.

**September 17, 1997—Zwedru, Liberia:** Members of a joint West African-U.N. peacekeeping team that included the Deputy Chief of Mission for the American Embassy in Monrovia were detained and threatened with bodily harm while attempting to investigate alleged ceasefire violations near Zwedru in southeast Liberia. Their Russian helicopter crew and American flight control officer were robbed, stripped naked, and threatened with death by factional fighters in control of the town. Two members of the peacekeeping team who belonged to a rival faction were severely beaten and kept as hostages before the other team members and helicopter crew were permitted to leave. The team returned the following day in the company of the Liberian Council of State member who headed the faction in control of Zwedru. The councilman obtained the release of the hostages and the peacekeeping team returned to Monrovia without incident. The stolen personal property of the team members was never recovered.

**November 1, 1996—Wunrok, Southern Sudan:** An International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) aircraft, returning five injured soldiers to southern Sudan following medical treatment, was captured by forces loyal to Kerubino Bol upon landing at Wunrok. Kerubino’s men took three ICRC workers hostage, including an American pilot, claiming that the ICRC was smuggling arms to Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels. All were released unharmed on December 8 after Congressman Bill Richardson negotiated their release on behalf of the pilot’s family.



# AREAS OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS



# EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



**February 14, 1996—Manila, Philippines:** At least four grenades launched from armalite rifles damaged the Citi Tower, which houses the U.S. Citibank operations and the Shell House, headquarters of the Shell Oil Company. The attacks took place at about 12:30 p.m. in the Makati business district. Bank security guards reported that as many as four persons launched the grenades from one or more vehicles. Four persons, none of them Americans, were injured and glass from the ground and second floors of the Citibank building were broken, as were windows on the eighth and ninth floors of the Shell

House. The attack may have been an attempted bank robbery, but police suspect the Abu Sayyaf Group.



**February 14, 1996—Manila, Philippines:** Shrapnel damage to Citibank after 4 grenades were fired at the Citi Tower building which houses the bank.

**March 22, 1996—Chengdu, China:** A young Chinese man hurled a molotov cocktail over the wall of the compound of the American Consulate General. After landing on the pavement, the homemade device shattered into several blazing pieces and ignited a dry branch of a nearby tree. A Foreign Service national employee near the scene rushed to stamp out the burning branch and small puddles of fuel that were still ablaze. No one was hurt and there was no damage. Upon being apprehended by a local police officer, the perpetrator expressed indignation over U.S. Government "interference" in the Taiwan Straits.

**May 6, 1996—Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam:** An American investor claimed to have been drugged at a restaurant by Vietnamese security personnel with whom he had been dining. After drinking a beer that had been poured by someone else, he “blacked out” and fell down a flight of stairs. According to the American’s Vietnamese partner, the security personnel, one of whom had invited the American, laughed and said, “That’s good for this CIA agent, and we hope he broke his neck. Don’t anybody help him.” The American’s partner rushed him to the hospital, where he was found to have sustained three jaw fractures and numerous bruises.

**May 8, 1996—Phnom Cheal, Cambodia:** Seven Thai nationals associated with companies providing services to Fischbach International, a U.S. business, were kidnaped, apparently by the Khmer Rouge. Fischbach International was reconstructing a road in Cambodia. The incident occurred when a group of ten men armed with AK-47s and B-40 rocket launchers attacked a quarry in Phnom Cheal, located about 9 kilometers south of Kompong Speu. After a firefight, some of the workers escaped on foot. Others fled by vehicle and were ambushed by about 20 armed men at the base of the quarry. The armed group identified itself as Khmer Rouge. The hostages were released the following day.

**May 11, 1996—Taegu, South Korea:** At approximately 8 a.m., 15 people assumed to be students threw seven fire bombs at the American Cultural Center (ACC). Four of the firebombs landed on the front steps of the center. There were no injuries and the perpetrators escaped.

**May 14, 1996—Seoul, South Korea:** A private American residing in the shopping district of Itaewon was the victim of an unprovoked attack. At about 9 p.m., he was kicked and punched by three Korean men who fled before help arrived. He was treated for head and chest abrasions at a local hospital. The attack occurred during a period of heightened anti-U.S. protest activity.

**May 16, 1996—Seoul, South Korea:** Also during a period of heightened anti-U.S. protest activity, two army enlisted men were attacked and beaten by four Korean nationals in the shopping area of Itaewon, near the Yongsan Army Base at 4:30 a.m. One of the soldiers suffered a facial fracture.

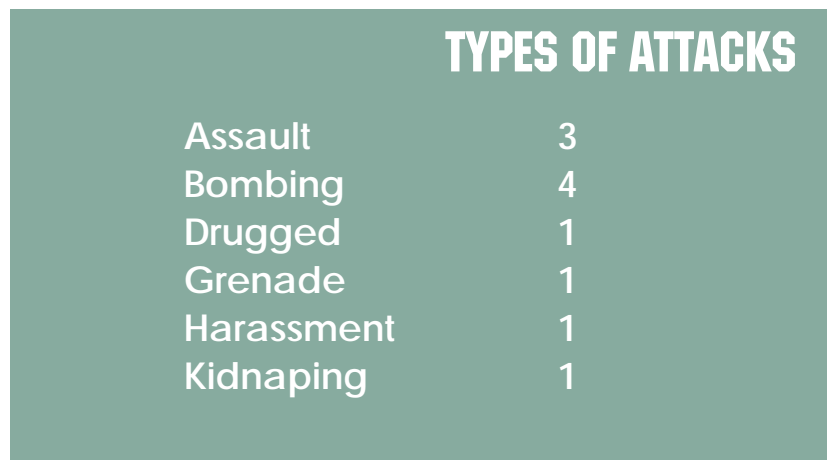
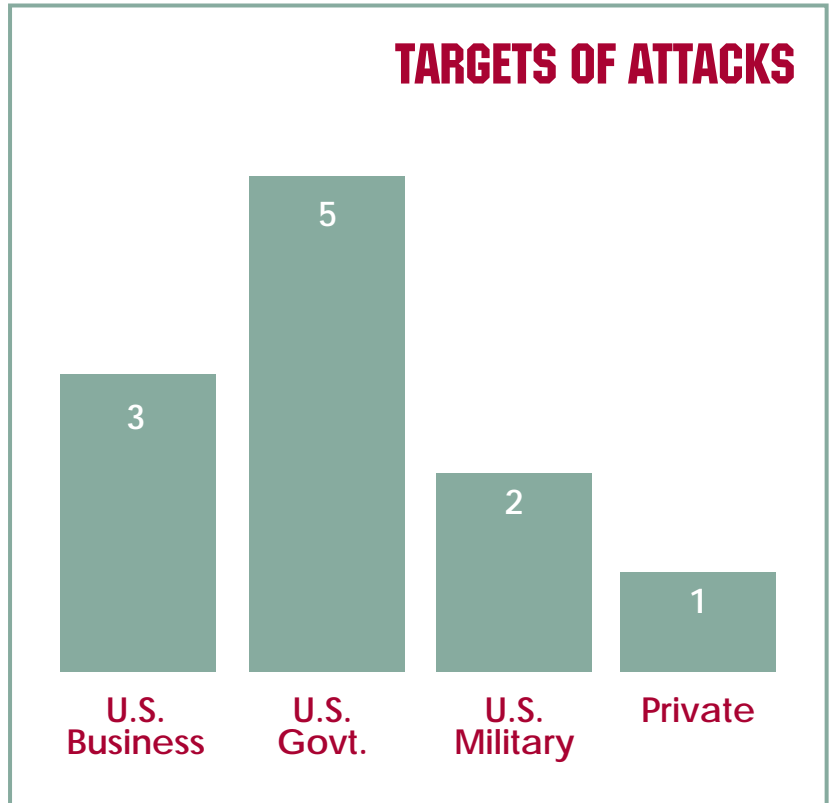
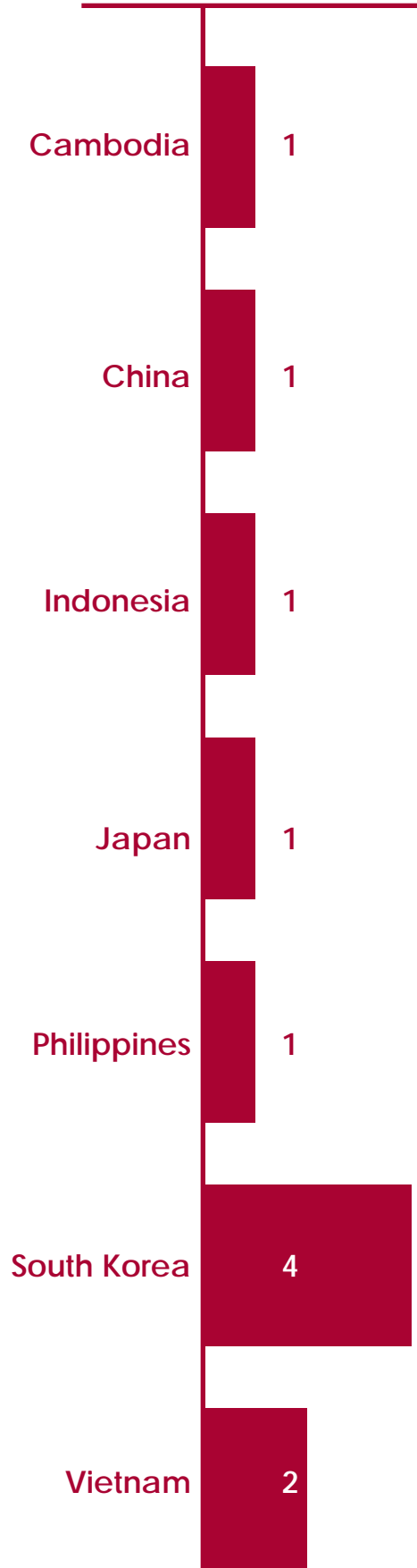
**May 20, 1996—Seoul, South Korea:** At 8:20 p.m., 45 students from a local university conducted a surprise attack and threw 20 molotov cocktails into Hannam Village, a U.S. military housing compound. The molotov cocktails landed on and near a building housing a craft center and library, causing minor fire damage to the roof.

**June 4, 1996—Hanoi, Vietnam:** The wife of a U.S. Embassy officer was accosted and grabbed by a police officer after the cyclo (pedicab) she was riding was stopped in traffic as she traveled home. The woman was grabbed on the shoulders after she had explained to the police officer in Vietnamese her status as a dependent of a U.S. diplomat and had turned to leave.

**August 27, 1996—Surabaya, Indonesia:** An Indonesian man threw a molotov cocktail over the U.S. Consulate's front gate and at the guard post. A window was broken, a small fire was started but quickly extinguished and no one was hurt. The individual briefly yelled nonspecific complaints against the U.S. Government, then paced quietly outside the consulate grounds before hailing a taxi and escaping. The perpetrator may have been mentally unbalanced.

**September 4, 1996—Tokyo, Japan:** An American employee of the U.S. mission was assaulted by an individual while walking to work. After unsuccessfully attempting to start a conversation with the employee, the assailant struck the employee in the face with his fist, knocking off the employee's glasses. The victim summoned police, who questioned the suspect. At the time of the questioning, it became apparent that the individual was intoxicated and was upset about a recent U.S. missile attack against Iraq.

# AREAS OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS





**January 12, 1996—Spilembergo, Italy:** Between 12 midnight and 1 a.m., a bomb destroyed a vehicle belonging to a U.S. serviceman. No one was hurt in the attack. On January 13, an anonymous caller telephoned the office of the Italian newspaper *Il Piccolo* in Trieste, Italy, and claimed the attack in the name of the Territorial Anti-Imperialist Nucleus.

**February 9, 1996—London, England:** At 7:01 p.m., a massive bomb exploded in the modern Canary Wharf complex of London's dockland development. Two people were killed and more than 100 people, including two Americans were injured. The Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA) claimed responsibility.



**February 9, 1996—London, England:** A bomb exploded in the Canary Wharf complex. Two people were killed and more than 100 people, including two Americans, were injured.



**February 14, 1996—Athens, Greece:** At 10:40 p.m., an improvised incendiary device exploded inside a trash can at a Wendy's fastfood restaurant. No one was hurt in the attack, and there was no damage. An unknown male caller to the Star Channel claimed the attack in the name of the Commandos of the November 95 Anarchist Group.

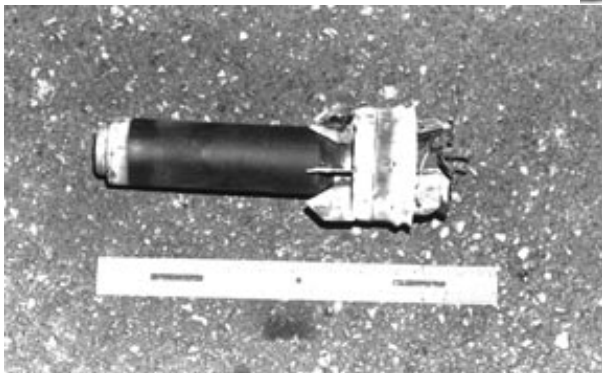
**February 15, 1996—Athens, Greece:** At approximately 10:58 p.m., a 3.5 inch rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) was fired at the U.S. Embassy. The rocket damaged three official vehicles, and caused minor damage to the Embassy's upper-parking area perimeter wall. No one was hurt in the attack. The rocket was fired from a distance of 100 yards, and it is believed that four people in a van were seen near the Embassy prior to the attack. It is likely that an individual exited the van and fired the rocket before fleeing. Several groups including the Revolutionary Struggle claimed responsibility.

## UPDATE

In a communique claiming credit for the assassination of Greek ship-owner Constantine Peratikos (May 28, 1997), the Greek terrorist group, 17 November, also claimed responsibility for the rocket attack against the U.S. Embassy in Athens. "We are sending you the last paragraph of yesterday's proclamation which was omitted by mistake. . . . of course we fired the rocket against the American embassy on February 15, 1996. The reasons for this act are so obvious and comprehensible, and that is why we did not send a proclamation. The laughter, the smiles, and the screams caused instinctively even to the parliament members by the public thanks of Prime Minister Simitis to the Americans was sufficiently eloquent."

17N

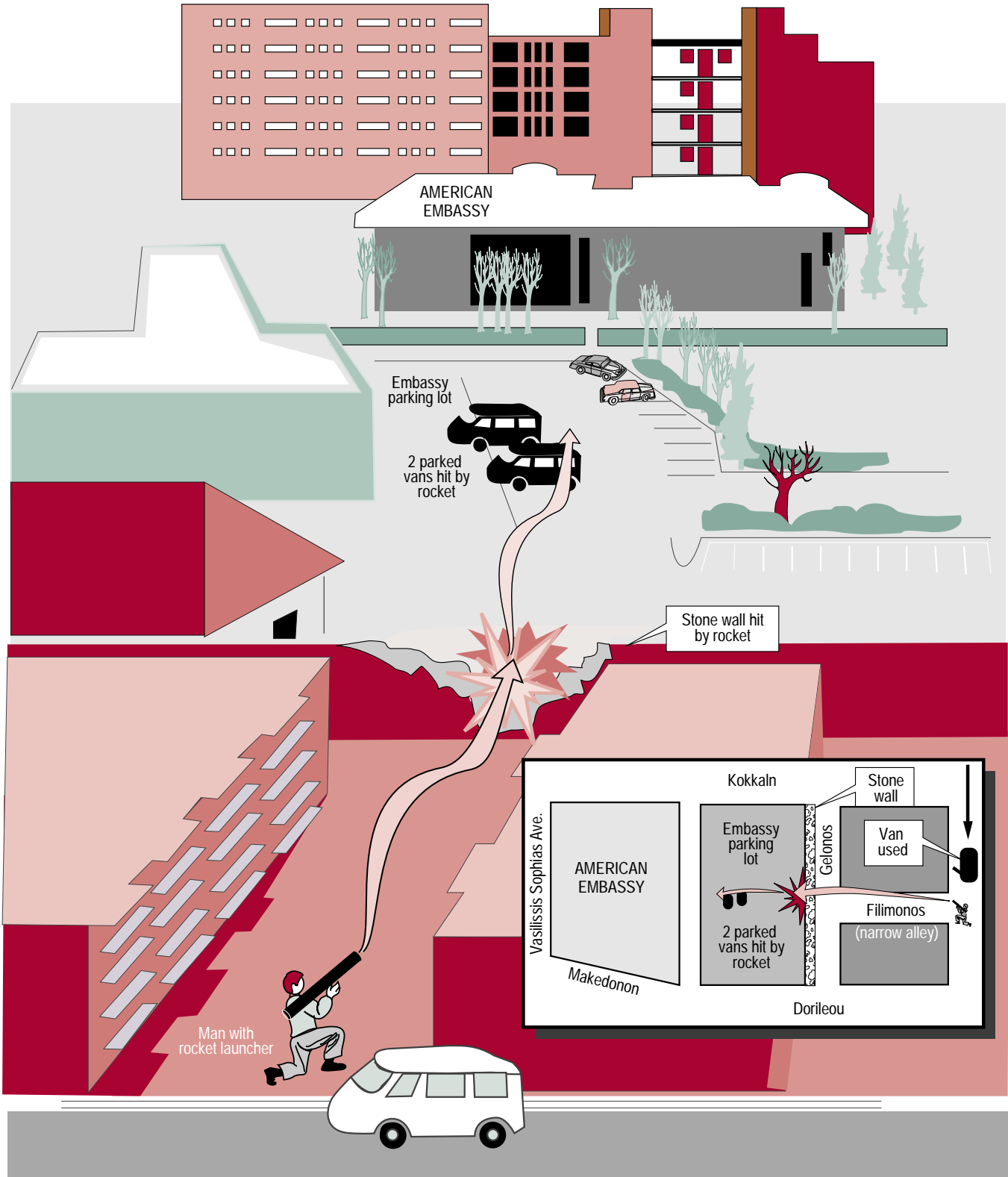
**February 15, 1996—Athens, Greece:** The view the terrorist had when he fired the rocket at the U.S. Embassy. The arrow shows where the rocket hit the wall.



Fragments of the rocket fired at the U.S. Embassy.

# ROCKET ATTACK AGAINST U.S. EMBASSY

ATHENS, GREECE • FEBRUARY 15, 1996





**March 22, 1996—Vukovar, Eastern Slavonia:** When the then U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, accompanied by U.S. Ambassador to Croatia Peter Galbraith, and other delegation members visited the Vukovar public market on a scheduled walking tour of the city, they were met by a number of individuals who began to hiss and shout insults. A few eggs also were thrown. As the delegation departed the market and entered their motorcade, a small group of men shouted insults and threw rocks at the motorcade. One U.S. Embassy vehicle and a U.N. vehicle suffered broken windows. No one was hurt, and the motorcade safely departed the area without further incident. Ambassador Albright was in Vukovar to discuss Eastern Slavonia's return to Croatia with local Croatian Serb officials.

**May 28, 1996—Athens, Greece:** Shortly before 10 p.m., an eyewitness noticed a man wearing a motorcycle helmet quickly place a package at the rear of a building housing the offices of IBM. The package contained a bomb. The device exploded causing extensive damage, but no injuries. Following the attack, an anonymous caller to a local television station claimed the attack in the name of the Nihilists group Fraxia Midheniston.

**July 21, 1996—Moscow, Russia:** At approximately 11 p.m., a USAID vehicle parked directly in front of the U.S. Embassy was intentionally burned. A subsequent investigation revealed that two tires and a rag soaked with diesel fuel were placed underneath the car. No one was hurt in the attack, but the vehicle was destroyed.

**August 17, 1996—Saint-Jean-De-Luz, France:** At approximately 4 a.m., a bomb destroyed a McDonald's restaurant under construction in this seaside resort town in the French Basque region. There were no injuries. The French Basque group Iparretarrak claimed responsibility.

**September 24, 1996—Eastern Turkey:** Gunmen from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) stopped a passenger bus along the Bingol-Elazig Highway and took three foreigners—an Iranian, a Polish man, and his fiancée off the bus and kidnaped them. The three were eventually released unharmed on September 27, 1996, in Bingol.

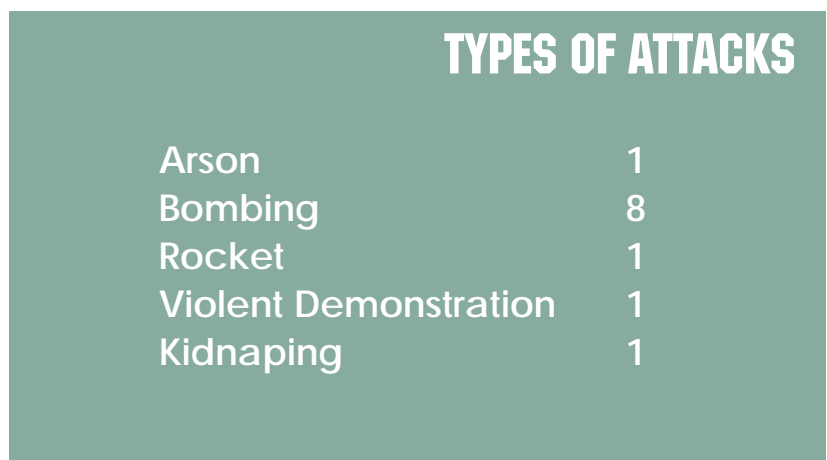
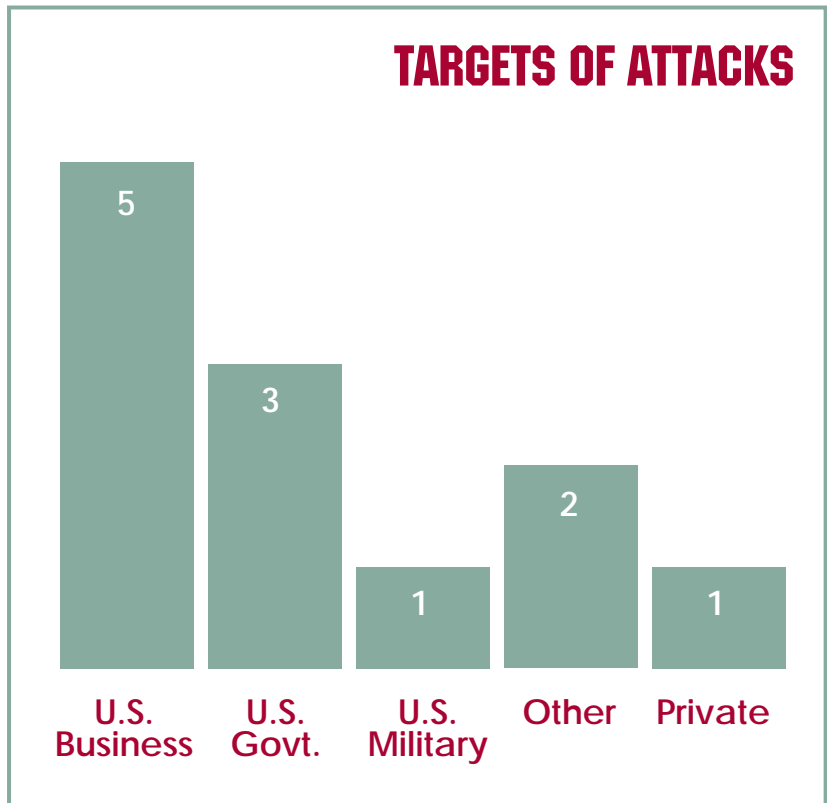
**December 3, 1996—Paris, France:** Four people were killed and some 90 others (including one French-American dual national citizen) were injured when an explosion rocked a station in the Regional Express Underground Railway. The blast occurred in the carriage of the red train at 6:05 p.m., at the Port Royal Station on the Left Bank. The blast occurred on the same B Line and two stations away from Saint Michel where a blast in July 1995 killed eight and injured nearly 100. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, but the Algerian Armed Islamic Group (GIA) was responsible for the July 1995 bombing.



**December 19, 1996—Athens, Greece:** At 12:40 a.m., a powerful bomb exploded at a branch office of Citibank. The explosion caused extensive damage to the building, parked cars, and adjoining buildings. No one was hurt in the attack.

**December 26, 1996—Athens, Greece:** A small bomb exploded at another branch office of Citibank. No one was hurt in the attack. The attack was claimed by the Revolutionary Nuclei Group in a call to an Athen's television station.

# AREAS OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS



# NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

**January 23, 1996—Manama, Bahrain:** An American citizen's office was burgled and set on fire. No one was injured and there was no indication that nationality was a factor in the incident. There was no claim for the incident.

**January 31, 1996—Colombo, Sri Lanka:** An explosives-laden truck, driven by members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), detonated at the Central Bank Building. Nearly 100 people were killed, and 1,400 were injured, including two Americans. The perpetrators were apprehended by private citizens after two witnesses to the bombing trailed them to a local bakery.



**February 25, 1996—Karachi, Pakistan:** A Sindh police mobile unit assigned to the Karachi American School came under fire from an assailant who was later shot dead in a barricade situation. The 90-minute ordeal required students to remain indoors during exchanges of small arms fire between police and the assailant. Two police officers were wounded.

**February 25, 1996—Jerusalem:** Three American citizens were killed and three were injured when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive device on a bus. Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Group, claimed responsibility for the bombing which killed a total of 24 people and injured at least 50 others. The bombing was apparently in retaliation for the Israeli assassination of the Hamas bomb builder, Yahya Ayyash, on January 5, 1995.



**February 25, 1996—Jerusalem:** Twenty-four people, including three Americans, were killed and at least 50 people were injured when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive on a bus.



**March 4, 1996—Tel Aviv, Israel:** Two Americans were injured when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive device outside the Dizengoff Center shopping area. Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack which killed 20 people and injured 75 others.

**May 13, 1996—Ramallah, West Bank:** Two gunmen opened fire near the Israeli complex of Bet El, killing one American citizen and injuring at least three other people who were waiting at a bus stop. There was no claim of responsibility.

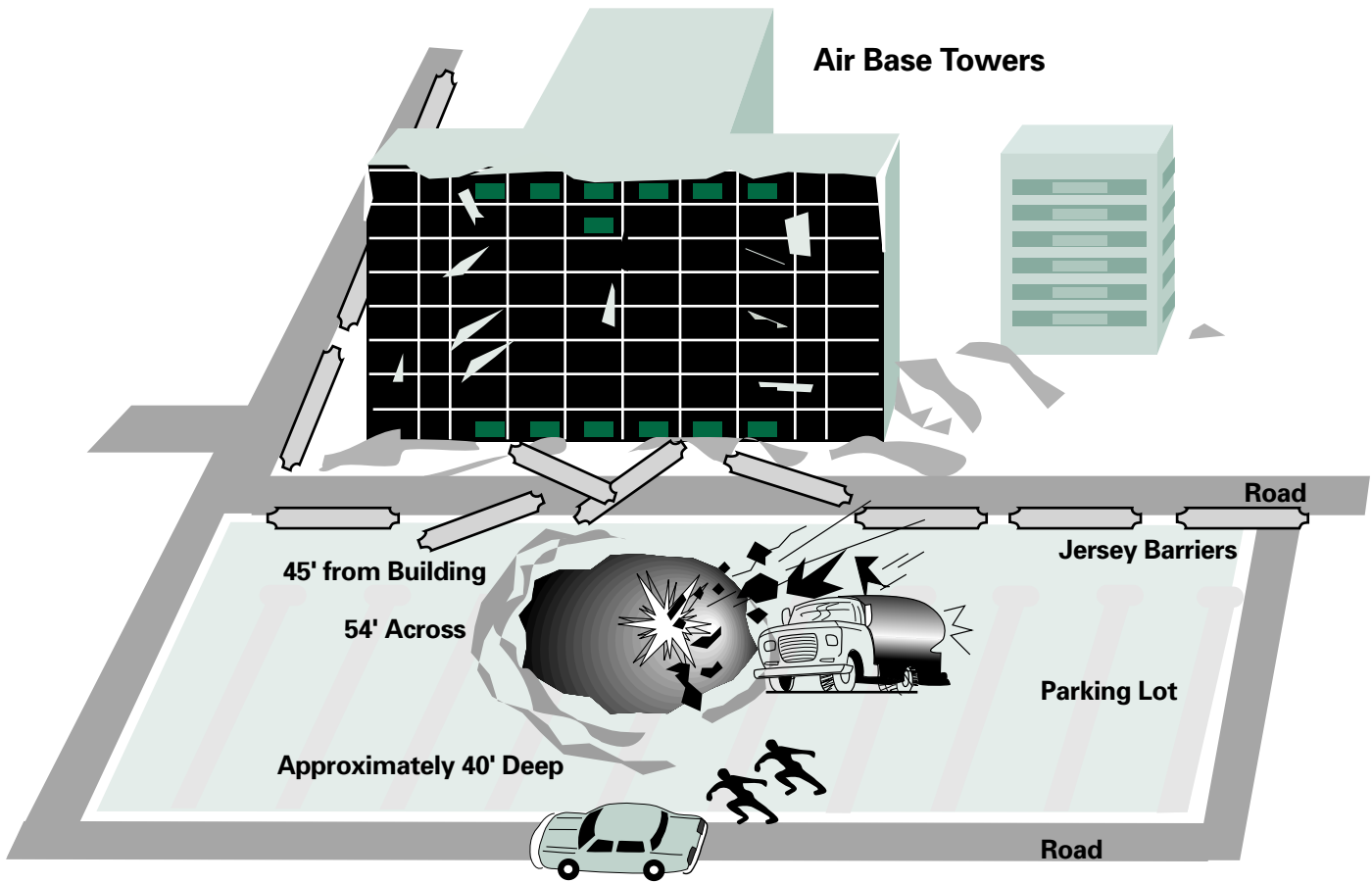
**June 9, 1996—Bet Shemesh, West Bank:** One American citizen was killed during a drive-by shooting. No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

**June 25, 1996—Dhahran, Saudi Arabia:** A large, bomb-laden truck exploded next to the perimeter fence of the al-Khobar military housing facility. Nineteen American military personnel were killed and 502 others, including 240 Americans, were injured. Witnesses reported seeing the occupants of the truck attempt to enter the compound. When a guard turned them away, they parked it on the adjacent street and fled in a waiting car. Several groups issued claims of responsibility, including Hizballah Gulf, the Legion of the Martyr Abdullah al-Huzaifi, and the Islamic Movement for Change (IMC).



**June 25, 1996—Dhahran, Saudi Arabia:** Aftermath of the bombing of the al-Khobar military housing complex.

# TRUCK BOMB ATTACK OF AL- KHOBAR TOWERS DHAHRAN, SAUDI ARABIA • JUNE 25, 1996

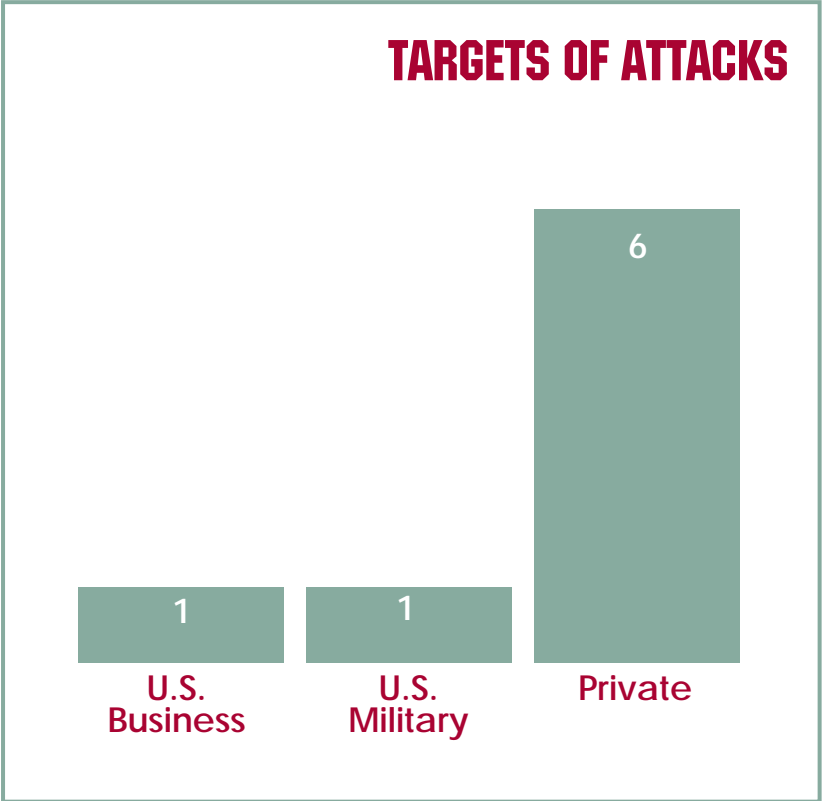
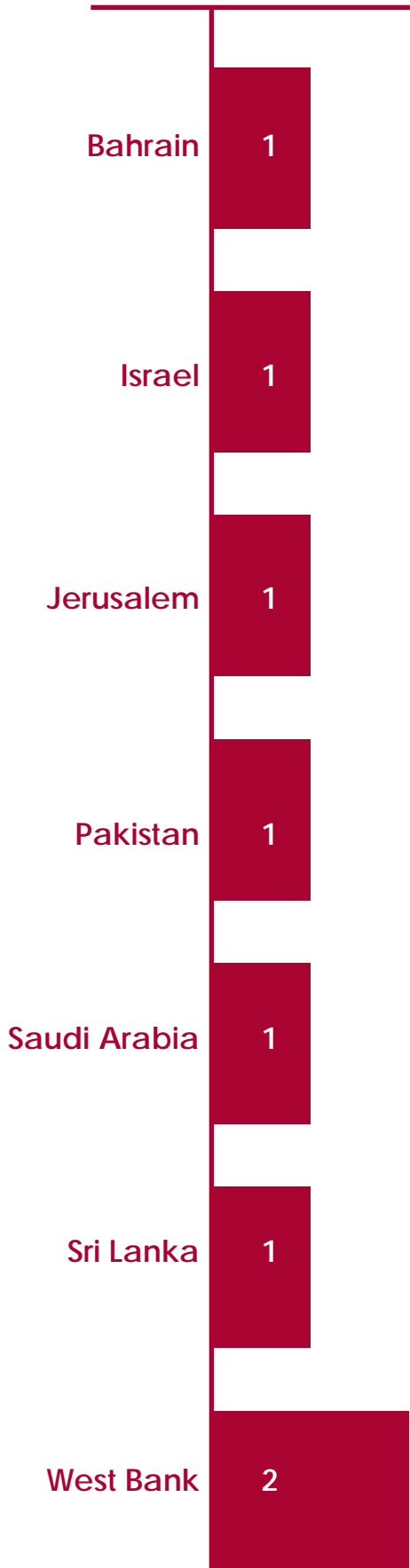


June 25, 1996—Dhahran, Saudi Arabia: A crater caused by the explosion of the truck bomb. The crater measures 54 feet across and 40 feet deep.



View of the parking lot and crater from one of the bombed floors of the al-Khobar Towers.

# AREAS OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS



### TYPES OF ATTACKS

Armed Assault	1
Arson	1
Drive-by-Shooting	1
Suicide Bombing	2
Truck Bomb	2
Sniping/Strafing	1

# AMERICANS KIDNAPED IN 1996

## ARA

**January 19, 1996**—An American citizen was kidnaped by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). He was released unharmed 4 months later.

**February 16, 1996**—An American working in Colombia was kidnaped by the National Liberation Army (ELN) in a mining camp near Hato Nuevo, La Guajira Department. He was released by the ELN on February 15, 1996, following the payment of an undisclosed ransom.

**February 27, 1996**—An American businessman was kidnaped by suspected guerrillas as he was driving along the Santa Rosa Department 4 Highway in Guatemala. He was released unharmed on March 1, 1996, after a ransom was paid.

**May 31, 1996**—An American employee of USAID was kidnaped in northern Nicaragua by a gang of former contra guerrillas. The employee was in Nicaragua as an AID observer assisting in preparation for the October 20, 1996, national elections. She was released on June 1, 1996, after negotiations between the guerrillas and members of the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV).

**December 11, 1996**—An American geologist was kidnaped by unknown gunmen in Hato Nuevo, Guajira Department, Colombia. The geologist was killed by his captors, and his body was retrieved by the Colombian military on February 25, 1997.

**December 17, 1996**—Eight officials from the U.S. Embassy were held hostage in Lima, Peru, by rebels from the Revolutionary Movement Tupac Amaru (MRTA). The eight were among some 600 guests, including representatives of 31 nations, attending the Japanese Emperor's



birthday reception at the Japanese Ambassador's residence. The eight Americans were released at varying intervals throughout the residence takeover. All American hostages were freed unharmed by December 23, 1996.

## AF

**February 16, 1996**—Seven crew members in a U.S.-donated helicopter were briefly taken captive in Gbarana, Liberia, by National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) forces loyal to Liberian warlord Charles Taylor. NPFL troops detained the crew, which included three Americans, because they had not received word of the flight's clearance to leave. The helicopter was held until Taylor called his men directly, telling them that the flight was free to go.

**March 3, 1996**—An American employee of Hunt Oil and his driver were kidnaped in northern Nigeria by Libyan military forces. Both men were released unharmed on February 17.

**March 7, 1997**—An American businessman along with a German and Kenyan were seized by troops loyal to Roosevelt Johnson in Kakata, Liberia. After 4 hours, the three men were released unharmed.

**March 21, 1996**—An American employee with the World Health Organization (WHO) and four U.N. staff members were kidnaped at Beledogle Airfield, Somalia, by unidentified gunmen. After a gunfight between the gunmen and the inhabitants of a village they were passing through, the gunmen surrendered and freed the five hostages.

**March 23, 1996**—An American employee of Action International Contre La Faim (AICF) and her driver were kidnaped by members of the Suleyman subclan of Majertain in Mogadishu, Somalia. The next day, members of the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF) found the kidnapers. After a brief firefight, the kidnapers fled and the hostages were freed unharmed.

**August 17, 1996**—An American priest was among five Roman Catholic missionaries kidnaped by rebels from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Though allegedly abused during their captivity, the five were released on August 21, 1996.

**August 24, 1996**—An American journalist with Reuters and a colleague were detained by Burundian soldiers near Bukinga in Gitega Province, Burundi. The journalists were traveling in an area of recent fighting when detained. They were released unharmed 3 hours later.

**April 29, 1996**—Two Americans and one British citizen were kidnaped by armed villagers from Rumuokwurusi, which is located in the Port Harcourt area of southwestern Nigeria. The villagers, former employees of KNS Laboratories of Nigeria, are believed to have kidnaped the three over a labor dispute. Local police were notified and resolved the situation quickly and with no injuries.

**September 17, 1996**—An American contractor with USAID was seized by unknown gunmen in Mogadishu, Somalia. The contractor was mistakenly kidnaped by men who had a dispute with the World Food Program. Once the captors realized their mistake, he was released unharmed after a few hours.

**November 1, 1996**— An American pilot and three workers for the ICRC were kidnaped in Wunrok, southern Sudan, by forces loyal to Kerubino Bol. The four were accused of smuggling arms to the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). All were released unharmed on December 8, 1996, after U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson negotiated their release on behalf of the pilot's family.

## EUR

**September 24, 1996** —A Polish-American dual national citizen was kidnaped along with his fiance and another man by the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) along the Bingol-Elazig Highway in eastern Turkey. The three were released unharmed on September 27, 1996.

# AMERICANS PREVIOUSLY KIDNAPED

**January 31, 1993**—Three American missionaries were kidnaped in Pucuro, Panama, by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). All three are still in captivity.

**March 3, 1995**—An American disaster-relief expert along with three Russian colleagues departed the Russian Republic of Ingushetia. They were last heard from in Bamut, Chechnya. Their whereabouts are still unknown.

**March 31, 1994**—An American employed at the Summer Institute of Linguistics was kidnaped near Loma Linda, Colombia, by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). He was released unharmed on June 17, 1996.

**July 4, 1995**—An American tourist was kidnaped while trekking in Kashmir, near Srinagar, India. The act was committed by al-Faran, an Islamic militant group. There has been no contact with the group since November 1995 and reports have been received that claim that the American tourist and the other foreign hostages have been killed. These reports have not been confirmed, so their whereabouts remain unknown.

**July 23–24, 1995**—An American journalist for the St. Petersburg Press has been missing in Ingushetia or Chechnya in the Russian Republic. His location is still unknown.