



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

**POLITICAL  
VIOLENCE  
AGAINST  
AMERICANS**

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**2009**



**ON THE COVER:**

October 29, 2009, Managua, Nicaragua:

At approximately 11 a.m., several hundred Sandinista National Liberation Front supporters attacked and vandalized the U.S. Embassy for approximately four hours. Demonstrators used Morteros, or improvised hand-held launchers with explosive shrapnel, and threw bottles and rocks onto the Embassy compound causing damage to the building. The group was calling for the removal of the U.S. Ambassador for comments he made the day before, at the American Chamber of Commerce, concerning a ruling by the country's Supreme Court. The ruling ends a constitutional ban on consecutive reelection, allowing President Daniel Ortega to run again in 2011. No Americans were hurt in the incident.



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## THE BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

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The Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) is the law enforcement and security arm of the U.S. Department of State, providing a secure environment for the conduct of American diplomacy. To advance American interests and foreign policy, DS protects people, property, and information at more than 285 State Department missions worldwide. As a leader in international investigations, threat analysis, cyber security, counterterrorism, and security technology, DS is the most widely represented U.S. security and law enforcement organization in the world.

***Political Violence Against Americans*** is produced by the Bureau's Directorate of Threat Investigations and Analysis (DS/TIA), in order to provide readers with a comprehensive picture of the spectrum of politically motivated threats and violence that American citizens and interests encounter worldwide on an annual basis. Created in May 2008, the Directorate of Threat Investigations and Analysis strives to improve Diplomatic Security's ability to detect and counter threats, and to upgrade the Bureau's capacity to rapidly disseminate threat and security information to our embassies, consulates, and the U.S. private sector.

## INTRODUCTION

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The global threat environment has increased dramatically in recent years. In an effort to advance political and ideological causes, for example, extremist groups and individuals of every stripe now utilize a broad array of methods and venues to terrorize, injure, and kill priority targets, while seeking to foment disturbances and chaos within society more generally.

***Political Violence Against Americans*** is a report to the American people that focuses on major incidents of anti-U.S. violence and terrorism, with apparent political motivations, that occurred worldwide during 2009. The U.S. Department of State closely monitors and maintains information on threats to Americans overseas – from terrorism and organized violence, to street crimes and health hazards – and makes this information freely available. It is the policy of the U.S. Government that no double standard shall exist regarding the dissemination of threat information that affects U.S. citizens. Government employees may not benefit unfairly by access to, or possession of privileged information that applies equally to all Americans.

In view of the enormous number of hostile incidents that occur universally in the course of a year, the particular events cited in ***Political Violence Against Americans*** were selected based upon certain specific criteria in addition to their political nature, including one or more of the following: the presence of casualties, substantial property damage, or the use of unusual tactics and weapons, together with a perception of the targets as intentionally those of the United States, or representative of U.S. interests. The incidents included here were reported to Department of State Diplomatic Security personnel posted at U.S. missions worldwide, and comprise the best information (sometimes incomplete) that is available. Some incidents are never reported to U.S. officials, of course. A few unique incidents have been omitted due to their sensitive nature, as have the names of American citizens for privacy purposes.

### A SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ

Compiling a comprehensive chronology of anti-American violence in the war zone environments of Afghanistan and Iraq presents unique challenges. Given the complex security context within both countries, it is understandably difficult to obtain detailed, reliable information on every incident involving Americans, and sometimes nearly impossible to distinguish acts of targeted political violence and terrorism from general war zone hazards.

Recognizing this, we have limited our reports of incidents in Afghanistan and Iraq to those involving targets under U.S. Chief of Mission authority. In addition, instances of rocket and mortar attacks against U.S. diplomatic facilities are included only when they resulted in casualties or significant property damage. Although not a perfect method for distinguishing between violent incidents, these criteria provide a certain practical standard for listing assaults most relevant to this report.

## LISTING OF ACRONYMS IN THIS REPORT

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<b>BLUF</b>	BALOCHISTAN LIBERATION UNITED FRONT
<b>DOS</b>	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
<b>DS</b>	BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY
<b>EPRT</b>	EMBEDDED PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAM
<b>FC</b>	PAKISTAN FRONTIER CORP
<b>IED</b>	IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE
<b>LES</b>	LOCALLY EMPLOYED STAFF
<b>NGO</b>	NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
<b>PETN</b>	PENTAERYTHRITOL TETRANITRATE
<b>RSO</b>	REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE
<b>SMS</b>	SHORT MESSAGE SERVICE
<b>TATP</b>	TRIACETONE TRIPEROXIDE
<b>UNHCR</b>	UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
<b>USAID</b>	UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
<b>ZRP</b>	ZIMBABWE REPUBLIC POLICE

## A STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF 2009

Of the 90 incidents that involved U.S. citizens and interests, 79 are believed to have resulted from intentional targeting of Americans. The 11 incidents where Americans or American interests apparently were not targeted due to nationality are indicated with asterisks at the beginning of each regional section.

### AREAS OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING AMERICANS

Western Hemisphere . . . . .	12▲
Europe . . . . .	13
Sub-Saharan Africa . . . . .	5
Near East . . . . .	50
South and Central Asia . . . . .	3
East Asia and the Pacific . . . . .	6
United States . . . . .	1

### WESTERN HEMISPHERE

U.S. Business . . . . .	6
U.S. Government . . . . .	6

### EUROPE

U.S. Business . . . . .	10
U.S. Government . . . . .	3

### SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

U.S. Business . . . . .	1
U.S. Government . . . . .	1
NGO . . . . .	2
Other . . . . .	1

### NEAR EAST

U.S. Government . . . . .	49
Tourist . . . . .	1

### SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

U.S. Government . . . . .	2
NGO . . . . .	1

### EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

U.S. Business . . . . .	4
U.S. Government . . . . .	1
Private . . . . .	1

### UNITED STATES

U.S. Business . . . . .	1
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#### ▲ June 29 to August 11 –

#### San Pedro and Tegucigalpa, Honduras:

Demonstrators vandalized a number of American-affiliated businesses during this six-week period; two were attacked with homemade explosives, and a third was the target of a grenade attack. While it is impossible to determine the exact number of such incidents directed against American-affiliated businesses, these three particular incidents are included in the total number referenced above.

# AMERICANS INJURED IN TERRORIST/POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

### September 17 – Mogadishu, Somalia:

Two suicide car bombs detonated near the airport, targeting the African Union Mission in Somalia headquarters and a DynCorp International installation. Forty people, including a U.S. citizen, were wounded in the attack.

## SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

### December 30 – Forward Operating Base Chapman, Khowst Province, Afghanistan:

A Jordanian suicide bomber injured six Americans.

## EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

### July 17 – Jakarta, Indonesia:

An explosion occurred at the Marriott and Ritz Carlton Hotels. At least 50 people were injured, including six Americans.

## NEAR EAST

### February 27 – Cairo, Egypt:

An American teacher was stabbed at the Khan el-Khelili market. When arrested, the assailant told police he attacked the victim because he hates foreigners.

### April 20 – Baqubah, Iraq:

Coalition and Department of State (DOS) Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team (ePRT) members were attacked by a suicide bomber wearing a police uniform. Thirteen people were injured, including one American.

### July 12 – Saladin Province, Iraq:

Coalition and ePRT personnel were hit by an unknown explosive device as they were walking out of a government building. One DOS ePRT member, seven Coalition members, and one Department of Defense interpreter (Iraqi national) were injured in the blast.

### October 25 – Baghdad, Iraq:

Two vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices detonated in close succession, heavily damaging the Ministry of Justice and Baghdad Provincial Council buildings. Among the injured were five Department of State contractors who were at the Council buildings at the time of the explosion.



## AMERICANS KILLED IN TERRORIST/POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

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### SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

#### **June 23 – Nouakchott, Mauritania:**

Two men shot and killed an American outside the nongovernmental organization (NGO) office where he worked.

#### **December 3 – Mogadishu, Somalia:**

A suicide bomber, disguised as a veiled woman, killed 22 people at a graduation ceremony for Benadir University medical students at the Shamo Hotel. Three Transitional Federal Government ministers, one of whom was a U.S. citizen, were among those killed.

### SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

#### **October 26 - Badghis Province, Afghanistan:**

A U.S. helicopter was shot down by small arms fire. The crash resulted in the deaths of seven U.S. Army personnel and three U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration special agents under Chief of Mission authority.

#### **December 30 – Forward Operating Base Chapman, Khowst Province, Afghanistan:**

A Jordanian suicide bomber killed seven Americans (five U.S. Government employees and two contractors). A Jordanian intelligence officer also was killed.

## AMERICANS IN CAPTIVITY

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### SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

#### **July 17 – Mandera, Kenya:**

Heavily armed gunmen in two vehicles crossed from Somalia into Mandera (a northeastern town near Kenya's border with Somalia and Ethiopia) and attacked the residential compound belonging to the NGO group Action Against Hunger. The gunmen shot and killed a guard and took three workers hostage, one of whom is American. The three hostages were released unharmed on October 3.

### SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

#### **February 2 – Quetta Baluchistan Province, Pakistan:**

Armed gunmen kidnapped the U.S. provincial head of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and killed his driver as they traveled unescorted from the Chaman Housing area to UNHCR headquarters. A previously unknown group, the Balochistan Liberation United Front, claimed responsibility. They demanded the release of 141 Baloch women and an unknown number of Baloch men held in Pakistani detention, in exchange for the victim. On April 4, the group released the American. The kidnappers said the release was granted on humanitarian grounds.

## AMERICANS PREVIOUSLY CAPTURED

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#### **June 20 –Islamabad, Pakistan:**

A *New York Times* reporter who was kidnapped by Taliban militants south of Kabul, Afghanistan, on November 10, 2008, with his Afghan interpreter and driver, escaped from his captives. The reporter and his interpreter turned up at the Pakistan Frontier Corp base at Miram Shaw, North Waziristan, Pakistan. As of this report there is no information about his Afghan driver who remains missing.





# INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE

## WESTERN HEMISPHERE

### January 27 – Bogota, Colombia:

At approximately 9:05 p.m., a bomb exploded in the parking lot of a Blockbuster video rental store. Two people died in the explosion and 13 others were injured. The attack took place one block from U.S. Embassy housing, but no Americans were injured in the blast. No one has claimed responsibility, but the attack is consistent with previous extortion bombings against business establishments by Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia guerrillas.

### June 9 – Port-au-Prince, Haiti:

At approximately 2:15 p.m., a locally employed staff member (LES) driving an official vehicle was attacked by protesters hurling stones. The LES was driving alone near the Haitian National Palace when he encountered a group of twenty protesters blocking the street in his direction of travel. He immediately made a U-turn; however, his vehicle was pelted with rocks, shattering the rear window and denting the vehicle. The LES later indicated that he was hit in the head and shoulder with stones; however, he was not badly injured. He was able to extricate himself from the scene and return to the Embassy.

### COUNTRIES WITH ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Chile . . . . .	2
Colombia . . . . .	1*
Haiti . . . . .	3**
Honduras . . . . .	4***
Nicaragua . . . . .	2

### TARGET OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Business . . . . .	6
Government . . . . .	6

### TYPES OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Attempted Bombing . . . . .	1
Fake Bomb . . . . .	1
Attempted Grenade . . . . .	1
Bomb . . . . .	3
Violent Demonstration . . . . .	6

#### \* January 27 – Bogota, Colombia:

A bomb exploded in the parking lot of a Blockbuster video rental store. Two people died in the explosion and 13 others were injured, none of them Americans. The attack is consistent with previous extortion bombings against business establishments by Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia guerrillas.

#### \*\* June 9, September 4, September 9 – Haiti:

On these three dates, U.S. Embassy vehicles were caught up in violent demonstrations and sustained minor damage.

#### \*\*\* June 29 to August 11 –

#### San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa, Honduras:

Demonstrators vandalized a number of American-affiliated businesses during this six-week period; two were attacked with homemade explosives, while a third was the target of a grenade attack. While it is impossible to specify the exact number of such incidents directed against American-affiliated businesses, these three particular incidents are included in the total number referenced above.





# INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE

## **June 29 to August 11 – San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa, Honduras:**

Following the ouster of Honduran President Manuel Zelaya on June 28, 2009, the country witnessed numerous pro- and anti-Zelaya demonstrations, several of which were violent. During this period, protesters vandalized a number of U.S. franchises. In Tegucigalpa, demonstrators detonated homemade explosive devices in front of two U.S. restaurants, and another was the target of an attempted grenade attack. No injuries were reported in the attacks.

## **September 4 – Port-au-Prince, Haiti:**

During violent student protests in the downtown area of the capital, a U.S. Embassy vehicle was struck by stones thrown by protesters. The vehicle sustained minor damage and no one inside the vehicle was hurt. At the time of the incident, the Embassy vehicle was traveling to the Palace of Justice.

## **September 9 – Port-au-Prince, Haiti:**

Violent student protests continued in proximity to the state university campus. At approximately 5 p.m., an armored U.S. Embassy van operated by an LES driver was traveling through the downtown area. In an effort to bypass an area that had experienced protests earlier in the afternoon, the driver took an alternate route; nevertheless, the van was struck by stones hurled by unseen protesters. The van sustained minor damage and no one was hurt in the incident.

## **September 23 – Tegucigalpa, Honduras:**

At approximately 8:30 p.m., the U.S. Ambassador's follow-car departed the residence with an Embassy driver and two Honduran police officers (The Ambassador was at the residence and the Embassy limousine was not with the follow-car.). The follow-car, which had diplomatic license plates, was en route to the police station to drop off the police officers when it drove past a group of 20 to 30 individuals and was struck by two fist-sized rocks. One rock shattered the back window and the other rock struck the light bar. No one was hurt in the incident and the driver continued on to the police station. The streets were not well lit and it is unlikely that the culprits could see that policemen were inside the vehicle. However, the light bar atop the vehicle may have caused protesters to misidentify it as a police vehicle.

## **October 29 – Managua, Nicaragua:**

At approximately 11 a.m., several hundred Sandinista National Liberation Front supporters attacked and vandalized the U.S. Embassy for approximately four hours. Demonstrators used Morteros, or improvised hand-held launchers with explosive shrapnel, and threw bottles and rocks onto the Embassy compound causing damage to the building. No Americans were hurt in the incident. The group was calling for the removal of the U.S. Ambassador for comments he made the day before, at the American Chamber of Commerce, concerning a ruling by the country's Supreme Court. The ruling ends a constitutional ban on consecutive reelection, allowing President Daniel Ortega to run again in 2011.



# INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE

## **November 3 – Santiago, Chile:**

A Marriott Hotel security guard was approached by a limousine driver holding a small bag reportedly found in the hotel's first floor men's bathroom. The guard suspected the bag might contain a bomb and moved it outside in front of an adjacent bank. It detonated approximately ten minutes later, injuring a hotel guard and causing minor damage to the bank. Prior to the explosion, the hotel operator received a telephone call from a Spanish-speaking man who warned the hotel had ten minutes to evacuate. In an e-mail to a local media outlet, an unknown anarchist group calling itself Efrain Plaza Olmedo Dynamite Group ultimately claimed responsibility for the attack, noting it was an attempt to mock hotel security systems. The e-mail alleged the bomb was not meant to hurt anyone and said similar attacks will continue and worsen. (Efrain Plaza Olmedo was an anarchist who shot and killed two upper-class Chileans in Santiago in 1912, to call attention to the plight of poor people. After being released from prison in 1925, Plaza Olmedo was found dead. Anarchist groups use the names of historic revolutionary figures to hide their identities from police.)

## **November 18 – Managua, Nicaragua:**

At approximately 3 p.m., a family member of a U.S. Government employee was driving home from her children's school. As she was passing through Rotonda Universitaria, her diplomatic-plated vehicle was attacked by Sandinista National Liberation Front protestors. Two protestors threw stones at the vehicle but missed. Other protestors threw water bottles and made contact with her car. The victim reported that the protestors shouted and made gestures towards the vehicle, but she did not hear what they said. She was able to proceed through the rotunda without stopping and continued home without further incident. No one in the car was hurt and the vehicle sustained no damage.

## **November 24 – Santiago, Chile:**

A fake bomb was found in a back corner of the Marriott Hotel lobby. The device was made out of a cardboard tube with wire attached to make it look like a bomb. There was no explosive material in the device. There are conflicting reports as to whether the hotel received a bomb threat in relation to this incident.







# INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE

## EUROPE

### January 3 – Athens, Greece:

At approximately 5 p.m., the coalition group “Stop the War” and various other Greek leftist organizations staged an anti-war gathering and demonstration at the United States Embassy. The 2,000 demonstrators were protesting American political support for Israel during its incursion into Gaza. The demonstrators burned American flags and threw rocks at the Embassy before departing. Approximately 20 Embassy windows were broken. No injuries were reported.

### January 10 – Oslo, Norway:

At approximately 2 p.m., some 3,000 people gathered at the Parliament building to demonstrate against Israel’s military operations in Gaza. The demonstration then moved to the Israeli Embassy and turned violent, with fireworks and rocks thrown at the police. In the city center, a number of additional violent acts were carried out by demonstrators against police and stores. Five McDonald’s restaurants were damaged. No one was injured in the attacks on the restaurants. It was later reported that protesters were encouraged to attack the restaurants through Short Message Service (SMS) communications, sent by unknown individuals, who indicated that McDonald’s supported Israel.

### COUNTRIES WITH ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Belgium . . . . .	1
Cyprus . . . . .	1
Greece . . . . .	4
Norway . . . . .	5
Turkey . . . . .	2

### TARGET OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Business . . . . .	10
Government . . . . .	3

### TYPES OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Attempted Bombing . . . . .	1
Attempted Car Bomb . . . . .	1
Bombing . . . . .	2
Violent Demonstration . . . . .	8
Harassment . . . . .	1





# INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE

## **January 20 – Nicosia, Cyprus:**

At approximately 5:30 p.m., a U.S. Embassy employee was walking her dog in a nearby residential area. Two teenage boys, one wearing a ski mask and armed with a handgun, approached the employee. The armed subject waved the handgun in the direction of the Embassy employee and stated, "I hate all Americans" and "I want to kill all Americans." The employee kept walking and was not hurt.

## **February 19 – Athens, Greece:**

At approximately 4:15 a.m., a private security guard notified police of a suspicious vehicle parked in front of the branch office of Citibank. Police discovered that the vehicle contained a home-made explosive device consisting of five gas propane containers filled with fertilizer-based explosives and attached to detonators. The explosive device was placed inside the trunk of the car, which was reported stolen. This is the first time that a "fertilizer bomb" has been used in Greece. Explosive Ordinance Technicians conducted a controlled explosion of the device. A Greek terrorist group, Revolutionary Struggle, claimed responsibility for the failed attack in a communiqué sent to the Greek newspaper *To Pontiki* on March 12.

## **March 9 – Filothei, Greece:**

At approximately 3 a.m., an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated at the rear entrance of a Citibank branch office located in Filothei, a suburb six miles from Athens. There were no injuries. The Revolutionary Struggle group claimed responsibility for the attack in a communiqué sent to the Greek newspaper *To Pontiki* on March 12.

## **July 3 – Athens, Greece:**

At approximately 4:35 a.m., an improvised explosive device detonated outside a building in the Ambelokipi area of Athens. The building houses a McDonald's restaurant and the office of the National Tax Service of Athens. No one was hurt in the explosion, but there was significant damage to the McDonald's restaurant, the Tax Service, and nearby shops and buildings. Earlier that day, at 3:51 a.m., an unidentified male called the Greek newspaper *Eleftherotypia* and stated that a bomb would explode at this location in 90 minutes. At 4:05 a.m., another unidentified male telephoned the Greek newspaper *TA NEA* and stated that a bomb would explode at this McDonald's restaurant. Police responded to the location and cordoned off the area.

## **October 6 – Istanbul, Turkey:**

Anti-IMF/World Bank protesters threw rocks and broke numerous windows at a McDonald's restaurant. No one was injured, and the restaurant remained open during the incident.

## **October 7 – Istanbul, Turkey:**

During an anti-IMF/World Bank demonstration, protesters shattered the windows of a Burger King restaurant as well as those of several Turkish and foreign banks.

## **November 23 – Brussels, Belgium:**

Based on information developed from a blog site with historic links to right-wing terrorists, police found a suspicious device near the diplomatic-plated vehicle of a U.S. diplomat. The device consisted of two bottles containing kerosene. The bottles were taped together and had an improvised ignition switch. The device did not detonate and was safely removed by the police.







# INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE

## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

### June 23 – Nouakchott, Mauritania:

At approximately 8:15 a.m., two men shot and killed an American outside the NGO office where he worked. When the American exited his vehicle, he was approached by two men. A struggle ensued. One of the assailants shot the American three times in the head. The assailants fled the area on foot. A group calling itself al-Qaida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb claimed responsibility for the attack.

### June 24 – Khartoum, Sudan [update]:

A judge presiding at the Khartoum North Court convicted and sentenced to death four men for the January 1, 2008, terrorist murder of an American USAID official and his Sudanese driver. A fifth defendant in the case received a lesser sentence of two years imprisonment on related weapons charges.

### July 17 – Mandera, Kenya:

At approximately 11 p.m., heavily armed gunmen in two vehicles crossed from Somalia into Mandera (a northeastern town near Kenya's border with Somalia and Ethiopia) and attacked the residential compound belonging to the NGO group Action Against Hunger. The gunmen shot and killed the guard and took three workers hostage. The victims were from Pakistan, Zimbabwe, and America. The gunmen took the hostages back across the border into Somalia. The three hostages were released unharmed on October 3.

### September 17 – Mogadishu, Somalia:

Two suicide car bombs detonated near the airport, targeting the African Union Mission in Somalia headquarters and a DynCorp International installation. Nine people were killed and 40 others, including a U.S. citizen, were wounded in the attack. An al-Shabaab spokesman claimed responsibility for the attack and stated that it was in retaliation for the September 14 death of an al-Qaida in East Africa operative, Saleh'Ali Saleh Nabhan.

### COUNTRIES WITH ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Mauritania . . . . .	1
Kenya . . . . .	1*
Somalia . . . . .	2**
Zimbabwe . . . . .	1

### TARGET OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Business . . . . .	1
Government . . . . .	1
NGO . . . . .	2
Other . . . . .	1

### TYPES OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Assassination . . . . .	1
Suicide Car Bomb . . . . .	2
Harassment . . . . .	1
Kidnapping . . . . .	1

### \*July 17 – Mandera, Kenya:

Gunmen attacked the residential compound belonging to the nongovernmental organization Action Against Hunger. The gunmen shot and killed the guard and took three workers hostage. One of them was an American citizen. The three hostages were released unharmed on October 3.

### \*\*December 3 – Mogadishu, Somalia:

A suicide bomber detonated his device at a graduation ceremony for Benadir University medical students at the Shamo Hotel. It was reported that 22 people were killed. Among the dead were three Transitional Federal Government ministers, one of whom was a U.S. citizen.





# INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE

## **November 28 – Harare, Zimbabwe:**

At approximately 2:33 p.m., the U.S. Ambassador's official vehicle was stopped and detained at a Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) checkpoint on orders from a ZRP Commissioner. The Embassy LES driver stopped the vehicle but did not permit ZRP personnel to search the car. The Ambassador was not in the vehicle at the time of the incident. At 3:03 p.m., Embassy personnel arrived on the scene. After repeated phone calls and negotiations, the ZRP officers received orders from their headquarters to obtain the driver's information and then release the vehicle. At 3:47 p.m., the vehicle was released.

## **December 3 – Mogadishu, Somalia:**

A suicide bomber, disguised as a veiled woman, killed 22 people at a graduation ceremony for Benadir University medical students at the Shamo Hotel. Three Transitional Federal Government ministers, one of whom was a U.S. citizen, were among those killed. Approximately forty-one people were injured, none of them Americans. No group claimed responsibility; nevertheless, despite the group's denial, it is believed that al-Shabaab was responsible.





# INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE

## NEAR EAST

### January 1 to December 31 – Iraq:

Although overall incidents of indirect fire targeting the U.S. Embassy and other U.S. interests have decreased from recent years, there were over 41 reported indirect fire attacks against U.S. interests, most notably the U.S. Embassy and Regional Embassy Office Hillah. Casualties and destruction of property are often the result of these attacks; and in many instances, the munitions have an impact outside the security zones into surrounding neighborhoods.

### January 14 – Sana’a, Yemen:

At approximately 12:27 a.m., a black four-door vehicle approached the Embassy at a slow rate of speed. There were three occupants in the vehicle, all armed with AK-47 rifles. One of the occupants fired two to three rounds in the air. The vehicle then fled the area in a northbound direction. A host nation soldier fired one round at the fleeing vehicle with his pistol. The vehicle was able to avoid all host country security checkpoints in the area. There were no injuries or visible damage.

### COUNTRIES WITH ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Egypt . . . . .	1*
Iraq . . . . .	48**
Yemen . . . . .	1

### TARGET OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Government . . . . .	49
Tourist . . . . .	1

### TYPES OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Bomb . . . . .	3
Grenade . . . . .	1
Rocket . . . . .	41
Stabbing . . . . .	1
Traffing . . . . .	3
Suicide Car Bomb . . . . .	1

### \*February 27 – Cairo, Egypt:

An American tourist was stabbed at the Khan el-Khelili market. When arrested, the assailant told police he attacked the victim because he hates foreigners and was upset about the recent conflict between Israel and Gaza.

### \*\*October 25 – Baghdad, Iraq:

Two suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices detonated in close succession, heavily damaging the Ministry of Justice and the Baghdad Provincial Council buildings. It was reported that 91 people were killed and over 641 injured. Among the injured were five Department of State contractors who were at the Council buildings at the time of the explosion.





فدوت  
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# INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE

## **February 27 – Cairo, Egypt:**

At approximately 6:30 p.m., an American teacher was stabbed at the Khan el-Khelili market near the Hossain Mosque in old Cairo. The victim, who teaches at the Schwartz American School in Alexandria, Egypt, was in the market with his wife. According to the victim, he saw the assailant running at him and thought that he was trying to steal a bag he was carrying. The victim did not see the knife until he was cut on the right cheek. At that point, the American pushed the attacker off with a small decorative folding table he just purchased. The attacker lunged at the victim two more times. Egyptian tourist police and a passer-by restrained the attacker. The victim was sent to a hospital where he received five stitches and shortly afterwards was released. According to police, the perpetrator was committed to a psychiatric hospital from 2000 to 2008 for attacking tourists and police officers. The assailant told police that he attacked the victim because he hates foreigners and was upset about the recent conflict between Israel and Gaza. He has been charged with attempted murder, unlicensed possession of "cold steel" (a folding knife), and injuring two Egyptians who tried to detain him during the knife attack.

## **March 26 – Taji, Iraq:**

At approximately 12 p.m., a U.S. military-controlled motorcade transporting members of the Chief of Mission Reconstruction Team was targeted in a grenade attack in Taji (approximately 40 kilometers north of the International Zone). The second and third vehicles of the three-car motorcade were targeted by grenades, but only the third vehicle was struck. Chief of Mission personnel were not in that vehicle. One vehicle was damaged and one soldier suffered a minor injury to his hand. The motorcade immediately proceeded to Taji where the injured soldier was treated.

## **March 31 – Hawija, Iraq:**

At approximately 9:45 a.m., two Regional Security Office (RSO) helicopters were flying south from Irbil en route to Baghdad International Airport when they were attacked from the ground by air-burst munitions. The attack, approximately 20 km southeast of Kirkuk (near Hawija), consisted of three small explosions noted by the left door gunner of the rear aircraft. Both helicopters departed the area and completed their mission without additional attacks, and no rounds were fired from the RSO aircraft. During post-flight inspection, an impact point was located in the left stabilizer of the aircraft. A small piece of metal shrapnel consistent with a thread well from a 57mm rocket, or similar, was recovered.

## **April 10 – Baghdad, Iraq:**

At 7 p.m., approximately 10 rounds of small arms tracer fire were directed at the RSO helicopter during a training exercise near the Embassy compound. The helicopter was not hit and there were no reported injuries.

## **April 20 – Baqubah, Iraq:**

At approximately 10 a.m., Coalition Forces and Department of State ePRT members were attacked by a suicide bomber wearing a police uniform. The attack occurred as the group was about to enter the office of the new mayor of Baqubah. In addition to the bomber, two DOS locally employed staff were killed in the attack. Thirteen people were injured, including one American.





# INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE

## **July 12 – Saladin Province, Iraq:**

At approximately 1:08 p.m., Coalition Forces and Department of State ePRT members were hit by an unknown explosive device as they were walking out of a government building after a meeting. One DOS ePRT member, seven Coalition Forces, and one Department of Defense interpreter (an Iraqi national) were injured in the blast.

## **July 12 – Nasiriyah, Iraq:**

At approximately 5:14 p.m., while returning from an official visit in Nasiriyah, Iraq, an RSO Tallil motorcade transporting U.S. Ambassador Christopher R. Hill reported an IED detonated between the lead vehicle and first vehicle transporting Embassy staff. Two vehicles were slightly damaged. There were no injuries.

## **October 25 – Baghdad, Iraq:**

At approximately 10:33 a.m., two suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices detonated in close succession, heavily damaging the Ministry of Justice and the Baghdad Provincial Council buildings. Ninety-three people were killed and over 641 injured. Among the injured were five Department of State contractors who were at the Council buildings at the time of the explosion.





# INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE

## SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

**February 2 –**

**Quetta, Baluchistan Province, Pakistan:**

At approximately 8:15 a.m., armed gunmen kidnapped the U.S. provincial head of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and killed his driver as they traveled unescorted from the Chaman Housing area of Quetta to the UNHCR offices. At least five gunmen fired numerous rounds into the marked UN vehicle, causing it to crash before the assailants took the U.S. national to an unknown location. A previously unknown group, the Balochistan Liberation United Front (BLUF), claimed responsibility on February 7, and subsequently demanded the release of 141 Baloch women and an unknown number of Baloch men, purportedly in Pakistani detention, in exchange for the release of the victim. On February 14, the captors released a video of the kidnapping victim who indicated he suffered from poor health. On April 4, BLUF released the American outside of Quetta. The kidnappers said the release was granted on humanitarian grounds.

**June 20 – Islamabad, Pakistan [update]:**

A *New York Times* reporter who was kidnapped by Taliban militants south of Kabul on November 10, 2008, along with his Afghan interpreter and driver, escaped from his captives. The reporter and his interpreter turned up at the Pakistan Frontier Corp (FC) Base at Miram Shaw, North Waziristan, Pakistan. The Afghan driver remains missing.

### COUNTRIES WITH ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Afghanistan . . . . .	2
Pakistan . . . . .	1*

### TARGET OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Government . . . . .	2
NGO . . . . .	1

### TYPES OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Kidnapping . . . . .	1
Small Arms Fire . . . . .	1
Suicide Bomber . . . . .	1

**\*February 2 – Quetta, Baluchistan Province, Pakistan:**

Armed gunmen kidnapped the U.S. provincial head of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and killed his driver as they traveled to the UNHCR offices. At least five gunmen fired numerous rounds into the marked UN vehicle, causing it to crash before the assailants took the U.S. national to an unknown location. A previously unknown group, the Balochistan Liberation United Front (BLUF), claimed responsibility; on April 4, BLUF released the American outside of Quetta, purportedly on humanitarian grounds.





# INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE

## **October 26 – Badghis Province, Afghanistan:**

A U.S. military helicopter was shot down by small arms fire in Qadis district of Badghis province (northeast of Herat). The crash resulted in the death of seven U.S. Army personnel and three Drug Enforcement Administration special agents. The helicopter was carrying 36 personnel at the time.

## **December 30 – Forward Operating Base Chapman, Khowst Province, Afghanistan:**

A Jordanian suicide bomber killed seven Americans (five U.S. Government employees and two contractors) and injured approximately six other Americans. A Jordanian intelligence officer also was killed. Pictured at left is wreckage from a car which was used by a suicide bomber.





# INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE

## EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

### April 7 – Naha, Japan:

A Japanese male physically assaulted the Consul General and another Consulate employee drinking coffee at a Starbucks coffee shop located across the street from the Consulate General. The Japanese man approached the diplomats and began shouting profanity and various anti-American epithets (“get out of Okinawa,” etc.). He also complained about the previous week’s U.S. Navy ship visit to Ishigaki, a small island near Okinawa. The man threw hot coffee at the Consul General, and pushed him against the wall when he arose from his chair. The Consul General, the other Consulate employee, and the Consul General’s driver, sitting nearby, managed to subdue the man until police arrived. No one was hurt in the incident.

### July 11 – Tembagapura, Papua Province, Indonesia:

At approximately 5:30 a.m., unknown assailants fired on a vehicle belonging to the U.S. mining company Freeport as it was traveling from Tembagapura to Kuala Kencana. One Freeport employee, an Australian national, was killed in the attack. Although there were other Freeport employees in the vehicle, they were not injured.

### July 12 – Tembagapura, Papua Province, Indonesia:

At approximately 8:45 a.m., unknown assailants fired on two Freeport vehicles carrying Freeport security and police personnel. An Indonesian Freeport security employee died in the attack, and five other Freeport employees were injured. The attack occurred two miles from the site of the July 11 shooting.

### COUNTRIES WITH ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Indonesia . . . . .	5*
Japan . . . . .	1

### TARGET OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Business . . . . .	4
Government . . . . .	1
NGO . . . . .	1

### TYPES OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

Assault . . . . .	1
Bomb . . . . .	2
Strafing . . . . .	3

### \*November 23 – Banda Aceh, Indonesia:

Six rounds were fired at the residence of two U.S. citizens living and teaching English in Banda Aceh. No one was hurt in the incident. This is the third incident involving foreigners, and the first involving Americans in the area.





# INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE

## **July 17 – Jakarta, Indonesia:**

At approximately 7:41 a.m. an explosion occurred at the Marriott Hotel. Almost simultaneously, at 7:50 a.m., another blast took place at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. Nine people were killed and at least 50 others were injured, including six Americans (five Americans were injured at the Marriott and one at the Ritz Carlton). Police later found bomb-making material and defused an unexploded bomb on the 18th floor of the Marriott Hotel.

## **November 23 – Banda Aceh, Indonesia:**

At approximately 6:15 a.m., six rounds were fired at the residence of two U.S. citizens living and teaching in Banda Aceh. No one was hurt. This is the third incident involving foreigners, and the first involving Americans in the area. Banda Aceh is at the extreme northern tip of Sumatra Island, about 1,140 miles from Jakarta.





# INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE

## UNITED STATES

### December 25 – Detroit, Michigan:

A Nigerian national named Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab boarded Northwest Airlines flight 253 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, en route to Detroit. The flight carried 279 passengers and 11 crew members. The subject was carrying a concealed bomb which he tried to detonate during the flight's final descent before landing at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport.

According to an eyewitness, Abdulmutallab went to the bathroom for approximately 20 minutes. After he returned to his seat, he complained of an upset stomach and pulled a blanket over himself. About 20 minutes before the plane landed, he allegedly ignited a small packet of explosives sewn into his underwear and injected a liquid from a syringe into the packet, causing a chemical reaction. A number of passengers and crew noticed what was happening. A passenger sitting nearby was able to overpower Abdulmutallab, and he was handcuffed by a crew member.

Three days later on December 28, al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula posted a statement on Jihadist Web sites claiming responsibility for the attempted attack. The statement declared that the operation was "in response to the recent American aggression in Yemen." It went on to say that it was "fate that decreed that technical difficulties would lead to the failed attempt." On January 6, 2010, a federal grand jury in the Eastern District of Michigan delivered a six-count indictment against Abdulmuttallab. The indictment described the bomb used by Abdulmuttallab as consisting of "a device containing Pentaerythritol Tetranitrate (PETN), Triacetone Triperoxide (TATP)... and other ingredients...the bomb was concealed inside defendant Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab's clothing. The bomb was designed to allow...Abdulmutallab to detonate it at a time of his choosing, and to thereby cause an explosion abroad Flight 253." The judicial process continued into 2010.

### COUNTRIES WITH ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS

United States . . . . . 1

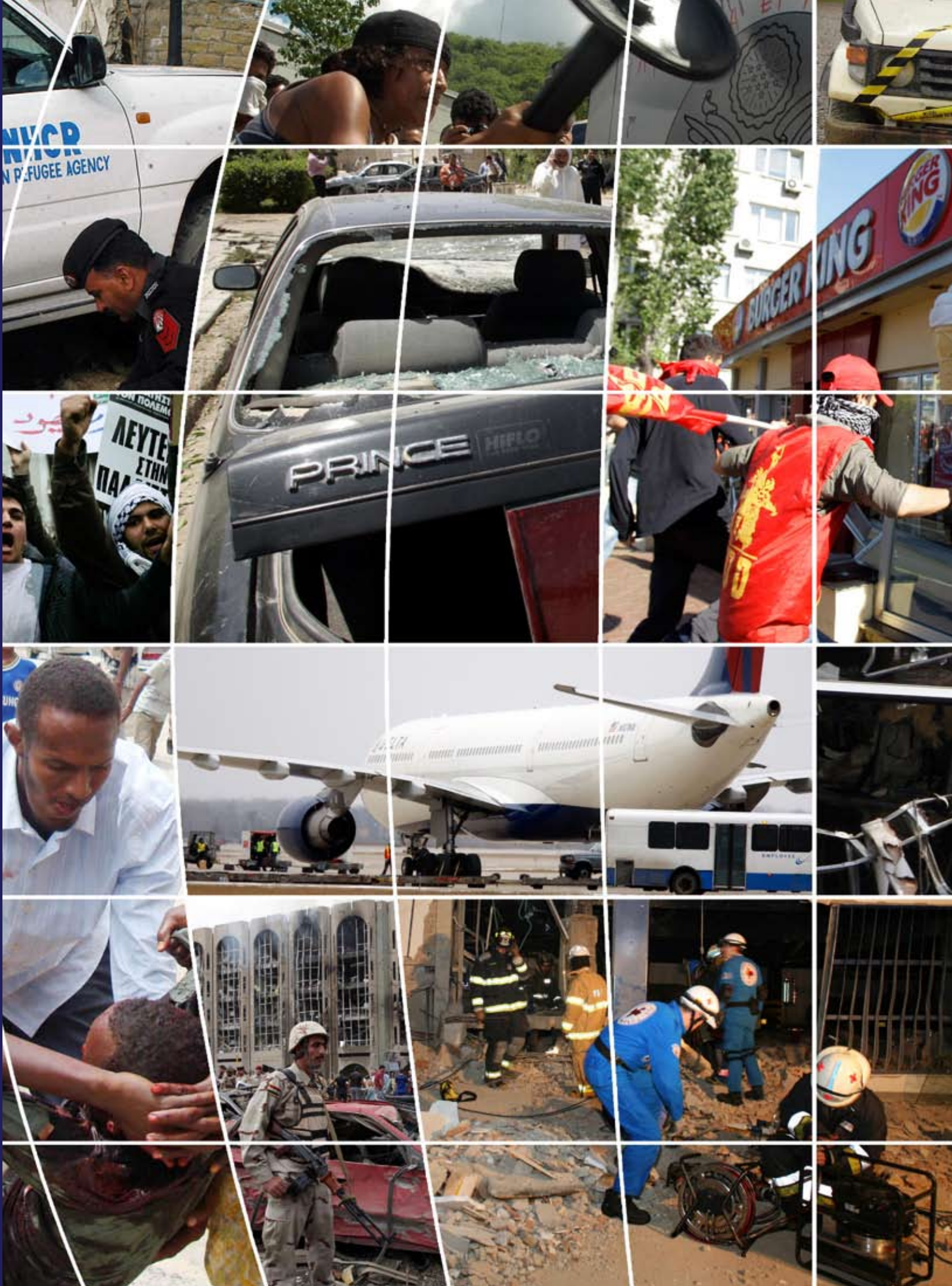
### TARGET OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENT

Business . . . . . 1

### TYPES OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENT

Attempted Bombing . . . . . 1





## CONCLUSION

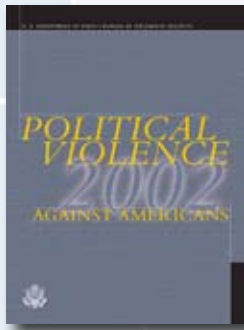
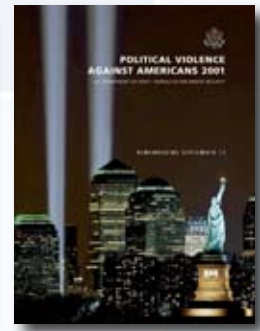
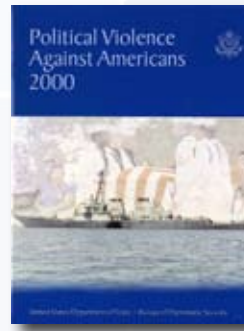
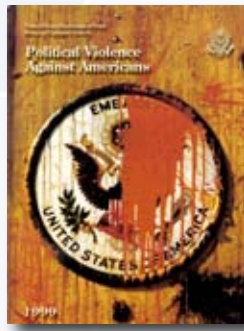
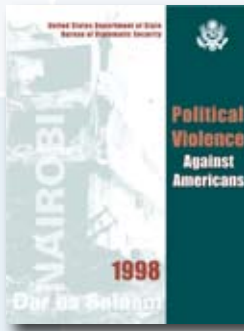
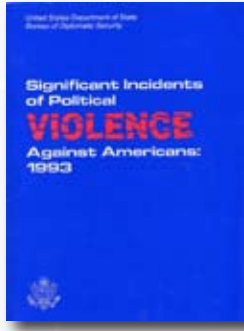
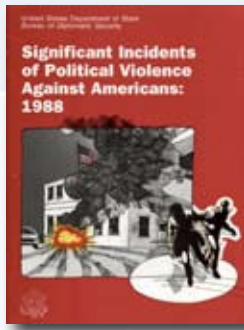
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Evidence indicates that the overseas security environment generally remains hazardous, with many extremist groups and individuals intent on promoting political and ideological causes through violence and social disruptions. In many instances, Americans and U.S. interests appear to be targeted intentionally, while in other cases Americans are victimized randomly along with other nationalities. In any case, the need for constant vigilance, awareness of surroundings, and avoidance of potentially dangerous situations should be obvious.

Reasonable precautions can significantly minimize vulnerability. Information regarding the incidence of violence, and the nature of assaults, can be useful for this purpose. Towards this end, it is hoped that ***Political Violence Against Americans*** will prove to be a valuable resource.



# THE POLITICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST AMERICANS PUBLICATION SERIES



*Political Violence Against Americans*, formerly *Significant Incidents of Political Violence Against Americans*, is produced by the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's Directorate of Threat Investigations and Analysis and the Office of Public Affairs to provide readers with a comprehensive picture of the broad spectrum of political violence that American citizens and interests have encountered abroad on an annual basis.

These reports are available in PDF format at the Internet address below. To view the PDF, you may need to download and install the *Adobe Acrobat Reader*.

<http://www.state.gov/m/ds/rls/rpt/19691.htm>



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