

## Appendix I: Chronology of Jihadist Plots in Jordan 1994-2018

### Introduction<sup>1</sup>

This is a chronology of jihadist<sup>2</sup> attack activity in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It is attached as an appendix to the article “When Conflicts Do Not Overspill: The Case of Jordan.”<sup>3</sup> The chronology lists “plots,” including attacks that have been carried out as well as foiled attack plots, by jihadist actors such as al-Qaida and the Islamic State (IS) in Jordan since 1994.<sup>4</sup>

The chronology distinguishes between well-documented plots marked “W” and vague plots marked “V.” This classification is based upon a qualitative assessment of the following criteria of documentation: 1) known jihadist perpetrator(s), 2) identified target(s), and 3) concrete evidence (such as bomb materials or confiscated weapons).

The reasons for the classification into well-documented and vague cases are practical and methodological. First, we need to make sure we include as many of the relevant incidents as possible, and that we do not miss out on cases that are poorly documented at first, but become better documented with time. Second, there is a need to be cautious so as not to generalize based on poorly documented cases. Public information about terrorist incidents is rarely complete and is often biased.<sup>5</sup> By critically assessing and updating the chronology with new information about

---

<sup>1</sup> This chronology is organized and maintained by Henrik Gråtrud. Despite best efforts to limit mistakes, this list will never be flawless or complete. If any readers have information about plots or questions, please contact him at [Henrik.gratrud@ffi.no](mailto:Henrik.gratrud@ffi.no).

<sup>2</sup> In this chronology, “jihadist” refers to militant Sunni Islamist actors emanating from the Arab-based movement of foreign fighters in the 1980s’ Afghan jihad. It covers al-Qaida, its branches and affiliates, and other likeminded spin-offs, such as the Islamic State (IS). These groups carry out a global armed struggle (jihad) with the goals of toppling regimes in the Muslim world that they regard as un-Islamic; and of deterring Western interference in Muslim affairs. The ultimate aim of this jihadism is the re-establishment of the Caliphate and the application of Islamic law. For further definitions and typology, see, for example, Thomas Hegghammer, *Jihad in Saudi Arabia: Violence and Pan-Islamism since 1979*, 1 edition (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), pp. 1–15.

<sup>3</sup> The chronology only includes attacks (or plans thereof) inside the kingdom. It does not include attacks against Jordanian border guards such as the IS-attack in June 2016 close to Rukban; see Mohammad Abu Rumman, “Limādhā ‘a’lana “Dā’ish” mas’uliyathu?” [Why did “Daesh” claim responsibility?], *Al-Ghad*, June 27, 2016, <https://bit.ly/2tWpcgR>. It neither includes clashes between jihadists and security forces caused by counter-terrorism operations such as those in Irbid in February 2016; see “GID Says Irbid Raid Targeted Daesh – Affiliated Terrorists,” *Jordan Times*, March 2, 2016. Moreover, it does not include prison riots or demonstrations such as “the Zarqa events” in 2011. For more information about the Zarqa events, consult Murad Batal al-Shishani, “Jordan’s New Generation of Salafi-Jihadists Take to the Streets to Demand Rule by Shari’a”, *Terrorism Monitor*, Vol. 9, No. 18 (2011), <https://jamestown.org/program/jordans-new-generation-of-salafi-jihadists-take-to-the-streets-to-demand-rule-by-sharia/>.

<sup>4</sup> We have also gathered information about plots dating back to the beginning of the 1990s when the first incidents of political violence linked to Jordanian veterans from the Afghan jihad occurred in the kingdom. However, this chronology only includes plots from 1994 because we were unable, based on the available sources, to determine if terrorist incidents before then could be defined as jihadist or not. Others also use the *Bay’at al-Imam* case in 1994 as the starting point for the transnational jihadist movement in Jordan. See, for example, Mohammad Abu Rumman and Musa Shteivi, *Sūsiyulūjiyyā al-taṭarruf wal-’irhāb fī al-’urdunn* [The Sociology of Extremism and Terrorism in Jordan] (Jordan: Center for Strategic Studies, 2018), pp. 18–20.

<sup>5</sup> An example of incomplete information is that the Jordanian authorities have not disclosed the exact time when some plots were foiled. For these cases, we have coded that the plots were disrupted the year before the

perpetrators and the evidence, we reduce the risk of generalizing based on faulty information and bias.

The chronology is therefore updated continuously with information about new plots. Attacks generally get much attention in the media and other sources. Attacks are usually classified as well-documented right away (although there can be uncertainties as to whether or not perpetrators can be defined as jihadists for example). With regards to foiled terrorist plots, little is typically known about them in the beginning, but then more and more information emerges. Some of the plots that we have registered as vague cases according to our criteria for documentation will end up as well-documented cases when we know more about them, whereas others will remain vague cases. Time is certainly a factor when assessing and interpreting information surrounding terrorist plots, and an incident might look very different if we compare initial reports about the arrests of suspected terrorists with reports from investigations or trials against them.

We collected the data from different sources including Arabic media, primarily *al-Ghad*, *al-Rai*, *al-Jazeera*, *Petra News Agency*, *Hala*, *Roya*, *al-Arabiya*, and *CNN Arabic*, other media outlets such as *the Jordan Times*, reports and academic literature, as well as leaked documents on *WikiLeaks*. This data was corroborated and supplemented with data from other sources such as the Global Terrorism Database (GTD)<sup>6</sup> and the Rand Database of Worldwide Terrorism Incidents<sup>7</sup> to make sure that we have not missed any major incidents. We should also mention that our chronology includes several more plots as well as much more information about plots in Jordan than GTD and Rand's database (which tend only to include information about executed attacks).

### **The plots:**

Before commencing with the description of the plots, it is necessary to provide a couple of clarifying notes regarding the structure of the chronology and how it (the chronology) relates to the second appendix (Appendix II – the Spillover Dimension) to the article “When Conflicts Do Not Overspill: The Case of Jordan” and the third appendix (Appendix III – Replication data).

With regards to structure, we provide information about plots in chronological order. This means that we describe all plots (both well-documented and vague) in 1994 before doing the same for 1995. For each year, we describe the well-documented plots before the vague plots. The reason is that the well-documented plots are the most important ones for our article. As we describe in the article, our analysis is *only* based on the well-documented cases and not the vague ones.

As for Appendix II, it shows why the jihadist threat to Jordan should be defined as a spillover threat. It is only based on the well-documented plots described in this chronology. Appendix III includes an excel document. The purpose of this excel document is to provide the information needed to replicate our article's findings of plot frequency in Jordan and the spillover dimension from conflicts outside the kingdom.

---

beginning of the trial. However, we might have to change this if more information is released in the future. We specify for which plots this has been done in the description below.

<sup>6</sup> For more information, see GTD's website available at <https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/>.

<sup>7</sup> For more information, see RAND's website available at <https://www.rand.org/nsrd/projects/terrorism-incidents.html>.

### 1994: Bay'at al-Imam plots (W)

In 1994, members of the group known in the media as *Bay'at al-Imam* (the Pledging of Allegiance to the Imam, a name rejected by the group's members) were arrested. According to Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh (2013), the emergence of the group was “the fruit of the union between al-Zarqawi and al-Maqqisi's joint activities in disseminating Jihadi Salafism” in Jordan in the early 1990s.<sup>8</sup> Besides al-Zarqawi and al-Maqqisi, prominent members of the group included Mustafa Hassan Mousa, Khalid Mustafa al-'Arouri (Abu al-Qassam), Sulaiman Talib Damra (Abu al-Mu'tasim), Muhammad Wasfi Omar (Abu al-Muntasir), Nasri 'Izzuddin al-Tahayna (Abu al-'Izz), Nabil Yousuf abu Harithiya (Abu Mujahid), Sharif Ibrahim Abd al-Fattah (Abu Ashraf), Ahmad Abdullah Yusuf al-Zeitawi, Muhammad Abd al-Karim Ahmad al-Rawashdeh, Muhammad Fakhri Mousa al-Saleh, 'Alaauddin 'Atef, Sa'adat 'Abd al-Jawad, Talal Kayed al-Badawi, and Abd al-Majid al-Majali (Abu Qutayba). Several of these individuals would continue to set their mark on Jordanian and international jihadism in the years to come. Their names have turned up in multiple investigations into terrorist plotting inside Jordan.

The members of *Bay'at al-Imam* were apprehended before being able to carry out any attacks. It appears that they did not agree upon which strategy to pursue within Jordan (for example if they should carry out attacks in the kingdom or not). Nonetheless, some members are believed to have planned two assassinations. The first was against a member of the anti-terrorist squad in the Jordanian General Intelligence Directorate (GID) and the second was against “Ya'coub Zayadeen, the honorary president of the Jordanian Communist Party.”<sup>9</sup> Some of them might also have planned to attack GID's headquarters, but the information about this plot is scarce. Others intended to launch attacks outside Jordan as well, including attacks in Israel in response to the Ibrahim Mosque massacre in February 1994. It is also believed that, following directions from Mustafa Hassan (Abu Muhammad al-Maqqisi's brother-in-law), Yanal Jankhout attempted (but failed) to kill Abu Thahr (editor of *Al-Watan al-Arabi*, a Paris-based magazine) with a letter bomb.<sup>10</sup>

### 1994: Attack against GID in al-Baq'a (V)

According to Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, a local group from al-Baq'a carried out an attack against GID's offices in al-Baq'a.<sup>11</sup> We have not been able to find more information about this plot.

### 1995: Attempt to assassinate French diplomat (V)

On February 24, 1995, two individuals believed to belong to the Islamic Renewal Group (sometimes referred to as the Islamic Revival group) attempted (but failed) to assassinate a French diplomat using firearms.<sup>12</sup> The French diplomat was injured in the attack. According to RAND's database, the two attackers believed that the victim was Israeli and not French.<sup>13</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> For more information, see Mohammad Abu Rumman and Hassan Abu Hanieh, *The 'Islamic Solution' in Jordan: Islamists, the State, and the Ventures of Democracy and Security* (Amman: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 2013), pp. 331–36.

<sup>9</sup> Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, p. 335.

<sup>10</sup> Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, pp. 335–36.

<sup>11</sup> Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, pp. 397–398.

<sup>12</sup> For more information, see GTD's dataset on the following link:

<https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/IncidentSummary.aspx?gtdid=199502240006>

<sup>13</sup> See RAND's database available at <https://www.rand.org/nsrd/projects/terrorism-incidents/download.html>

We decided to categorize this plot as “vague” rather than “well-documented.” Based on the available sources, the Islamic Renewal Group does not appear to be a jihadist group, according to how we define such groups here. It was, however, clearly an Islamist entity.<sup>14</sup> It is more likely that this plot should be viewed as a violent manifestation of the anti-normalization campaign working against the Jordanian regime’s peace treaty with Israel.<sup>15</sup>

### 1995: Islamic Renewal Group plot against American interests (V)

On June 6, 1995, Jordanian authorities apprehended six individuals belonging to the Islamic Renewal Group accused of plotting to attack American interests in Jordan. All the detainees originally hailed from the West Bank, and they were in possession of both explosives and firearms. The group’s leader claimed that they had received money from jihadist militants on the West Bank.<sup>16</sup> We categorized this plot as “vague” for the same reason as the other plot by the Islamic Renewal Group, namely that there is not sufficient evidence that this group falls into the category of a jihadist group.

### 1997: Shooting Attack by Jordanian Islamic Resistance (V)

On September 22, 1997, two Israeli security guards were injured in a shooting attack on the Israeli Embassy in Amman. A hitherto unknown group calling itself the Jordanian Islamic Resistance claimed responsibility for the attack, stating that it was revenge for Zionist aggression in Jordan, Palestine, and Lebanon.<sup>17</sup> According to RAND’s database, the group also demanded the release of a Jordanian soldier, who had been sentenced to life in prison for killing seven Israeli children at a park.<sup>18</sup> We chose to categorize this plot as “vague.” The Jordanian Islamic Resistance does not appear to be a jihadist group even though it clearly was an Islamist entity.

### 1997: Al-Islah wal-Tahaddi attacks (W)

In 1997, a group known as *al-’iṣlāḥ wal-Taḥaddi* (The Reform and Challenge Group) emerged on the Jordanian scene.<sup>19</sup> Although the group was exonerated in court, at least three attacks were attributed to its members. These attacks include the bombing of a former security officer’s car, the bombing of an Israeli car outside a hotel in Amman, and the bombing of an American school’s wall in Amman.<sup>20</sup>

---

<sup>14</sup> For more information, see, for example, Abu Rumman and Shteiwi, *Sūsiyulūjiyyā al-taḥarruf wal-’irhāb fī al-’urdunn*, pp. 17-18.

<sup>15</sup> For more information about this campaign, see, for example, Danishai Kornbluth, “Jordan and the Anti-Normalization Campaign, 1994-2001”, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, Vol. 14, No. 3 (2002): pp. 80-108.

<sup>16</sup> Edward F. Mickolus and Susan L. Simmons, *Terrorism, 1992-1995: A Chronology of Events and A Selectively Annotated Bibliography (Bibliographies and Indexes in Military Studies)*, Bibliographies and Indexes in Military Studies (Book 9) (London: Greenwood Press, 1997), p. 821.

<sup>17</sup> “Two Israeli Guards Wounded in Shooting Attack in Jordan”, *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, September 23, 1997, <https://www.jta.org/1997/09/23/archive/two-israeli-guards-wounded-in-shooting-attack-in-jordan-2>.

<sup>18</sup> See RAND’s database available at <https://www.rand.org/nsrd/projects/terrorism-incidents/download.html>

<sup>19</sup> Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, *The ‘Islamic Solution’ in Jordan: Islamists, the State, and the Ventures of Democracy and Security*, p. 339.

<sup>20</sup> “Maqatl al-diblūmāsiyy al-’amrīkiyy fī ‘ammān wa-siyāq al-’unf fī al-’urdunn” [The killing of the American diplomat in Amman and the Context of Violence in Jordan], *Al-Jazeera*, October 3, 2004, <https://bit.ly/2niQoma>.

Some well-known Jordanian jihadists are believed to have been linked to this militant group. One example is Muhammad Abu Ghawshar, who had been a member of the Jaysh Muhammad Organization. Another example is Umar ibn Mahmud bin Uthman, better known as Abu Qatada al-Filistini. He was originally sentenced to life (partly for commanding *al-’iṣlāḥ wal-Taḥaddi* from London). However, he was exonerated by the Jordanian State Security Court in 2014.<sup>21</sup>

## 2000: The Millennium Plot (W)

On November 30, 1999, Jordanian authorities carried out raids against several houses in Amman, foiling an al-Qaida-connected plot known as the Millennium Plot that likely would have been the largest terror attack ever to take place in Jordan. The plot was one of several al-Qaida initiated plots to launch a series of attacks worldwide to coincide with the millennium celebrations. Other targets included Los Angeles International Airport, Indian Airlines Flight 814 and a US warship at the coast of Yemen.

The plot in Jordan was scheduled to take place on Millennium day, and the plan was to carry out two waves of attacks against landmarks in the kingdom using explosives and gaslight weapons. The targets of the first wave included a fully booked Radisson hotel in Amman, two border crossings into Israel as well as two Christian holy sites, Mount Nebo and the Baptism Site, whereas the second wave would strike against the Marka Airport and the citadel in Amman.<sup>22</sup> These locations were selected to target Western citizens in Jordan, particularly Americans and Israelis.

During the raid, security forces arrested 16 individuals, and they tried all of them in court the following year. Another twelve individuals were tried in absentia, making the total number of suspects 28 people. Among these, only six individuals were exonerated.<sup>23</sup> The most prominent of those charged were the al-Qaida-linked Palestinian Zein al-Abidin Hassan (Abu Zubeida) and Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Other suspects included Khader Abu Hoshar (Abu Hauwsher), Ra’ed Hijazi, Khalid Maghamis, Osama Sammar, Ra’ed Barbar, Hussein Mohammad, Sa’id Hijazi, Isma’il al-Khatib, Mohammad al-’Awartani, Rami Tantawi, Samer Jbara, Mohammad al-Qar’awi, Dirar Sulaiman, Munir Maqdah, Mohammad ‘Issa, Yasser Abu Ghalous, Rashid Khalaf, Dirar al-Qar’awi, Jamal al-Tahrawi, Ibrahiim Abu Hilaiwah, Omar Abu Omar, Ahmad al-Gharwi (Abd al-Mu’ti), Ahmad al-Rayati and Hussein Turi.<sup>24</sup>

Khader Abu Hoshar (Jordanian) and Ra’ed Hijazi (Jordanian American) were likely the central coordinators of the plans in Jordan. They met as early as May 1996 in Syria and started preparing an attack to target “the Jews and American interests in Jordan.”<sup>25</sup> The plot came to a halt when Abu

---

<sup>21</sup> “Jordan Court Acquits Abu Qatada of Terror Charges”, *The Wall Street Journal*, June 26, 2014, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/jordan-court-acquits-abu-qatada-of-terror-charges-1403775581>.

<sup>22</sup> “Dissecting a Terror Plot from Boston to Amman”, *The New York Times*, January 15, 2001, <http://www.nytimes.com/2001/01/15/world/dissecting-a-terror-plot-from-boston-to-amman.html>. See also Joby Warrick, *Black Flags: the Rise of ISIS* (New York: Doubleday, 2015), pp. 62- 65.

<sup>23</sup> “Dissecting a Terror Plot from Boston to Amman”.

<sup>24</sup> Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi was also charged, but he was exonerated. See Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, *The ‘Islamic Solution’ in Jordan: Islamists, the State, and the Ventures of Democracy and Security*, p. 343. Abu Qatada was originally sentenced for complicity in the plot, but was exonerated in 2014. See “Abu Qatada Case Is No Victory for London”, *Huffington Post*, n.d, [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/adam-coogle-/abu-qatada-case-is-no-vic\\_b\\_6054974.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/adam-coogle-/abu-qatada-case-is-no-vic_b_6054974.html).

<sup>25</sup> “Dissecting a Terror Plot from Boston to Amman”.

Hoshar was arrested by Jordanian authorities in late 1996 but was quickly resumed upon his release in 1998. Abu Hoshar and Hijazi (who had moved to Boston in the meantime) subsequently traveled between Boston, Jordan and other places in the Middle East, such as Turkey and Syria, to recruit others for the plot. Among those recruited was the Algerian Hussein Turi.

Turi set Abu Hoshar in contact with the al-Qaida-affiliated Abu Zubeida, who organized training camps and international networks for Osama Bin Laden. Abu Hoshar and Abu Zubeida arranged that members of the group could come to Afghanistan via Pakistan to train in one of al-Qaida's camps. In 1999, Abu Hoshar sent Ra'ed Hijazi and three others to train at a camp giving special courses in the manufacture of advanced explosives. While in Afghanistan, Hijazi met Abu Zubeida and allegedly gave *bay'a* (pledged fealty) to him.<sup>26</sup>

### **2000: Attack on Israeli Embassy employee (V)**

On November 19, 2000, an Israeli embassy employee was slightly wounded in a shooting attack near his home in Amman. This was the first of two incidents within approximately two weeks in which Israeli embassy employees were attacked, seemingly closely connected to the outbreak of the Second Intifada.<sup>27</sup> We categorized the attack as "vague" because it appears to have been motivated by the Palestinian cause. We have not found clear indications that the perpetrator(s) was jihadist.

### **2000: Attack on Israeli Embassy employee (V)**

On December 5, 2000, a group calling itself the "Movement for the Struggle of the Jordanian Islamic Resistance" carried out a drive-by-shooting against the Israeli embassy employee Shlomo Ratzabi's car.<sup>28</sup> Ratzabi suffered a light leg injury in the attack. The attack appears to be connected to anger at Israel's response to the Second Intifada.<sup>29</sup>

We categorized the attack as "vague" because it appears to have been motivated by the Palestinian cause. We have not come across clear indications that the perpetrator(s) was jihadist.

### **2001: Terrorist plot against hotels in Petra (W)**

According to *CNN* and *Haaretz*, Jordanian authorities foiled a plot by an alleged al-Qaida cell to carry out bomb attacks against two hotels in Petra.<sup>30</sup> The cell consisted of several individuals, yet the sources diverge on whether two or three suspects had been apprehended.

The plot was timed to coincide with the September 11 attacks in the United States. According to *CNN*, it was disrupted after Jordanian intelligence intercepted a phone call from Afghanistan to the

---

<sup>26</sup> "Dissecting a Terror Plot from Boston to Amman".

<sup>27</sup> "Israeli Shot, Wounded in Jordan", *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, December 5, 2000, <https://www.jta.org/2000/12/05/news-opinion/israeli-shot-wounded-in-jordan>. See also description of the incident at GTD's website available at

<https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/IncidentSummary.aspx?gtdid=200011190002>.

<sup>28</sup> See description of the incident at GTD's website available at

<https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/IncidentSummary.aspx?gtdid=200012050001>.

<sup>29</sup> "Israeli Shot, Wounded in Jordan".

<sup>30</sup> "Jordanian intelligence helped thwart attacks, sources say", *CNN*, November 19, 2001, <http://edition.cnn.com/2001/WORLD/meast/11/19/inv.jordan.intelligence/>; "Officials: Jordan Thwarts Bin Laden Terror Plot on Petra Hotels", *Haaretz*, November 20, 2001, <https://www.haaretz.com/1.5459660>.

cell in Jordan.<sup>31</sup> During the phone call, the suspects had given *bay'a* to al-Qaida's leader Osama bin Laden.

## 2002: Attempted assassination of the Director of the Anti-Terrorist Unit (W)

On February 28, 2002, a group of jihadists attempted to assassinate the Director of the Anti-Terrorist Unit in Jordan, Lt. Col. Ali Burjak, most likely to send a message to Jordanian security services due to their participation in the so-called Global War on Terror.<sup>32</sup> Jihadists have also hinted that the plot against Burjak was motivated by a desire for personal reprisal. They claim that Burjak used torture during interrogations.<sup>33</sup> The perpetrators placed a bomb under Burjak's wife's car which was parked in front of the couple's home. The blast did not kill Burjak, yet two passersby were killed.<sup>34</sup>

The plotters had considered using a pistol in their attempt to kill Burjak, but they opted for explosives (nitroglycerine and acetone peroxide) instead. Before the attack, they had conducted reconnaissance of Burjak's home several times to find the optimal way to carry out the attack.<sup>35</sup>

All of the group's members were from the Jordanian city of Salt.<sup>36</sup> The main suspect was Muhammad Arafat Hijazi. He was originally sentenced to death, yet his sentence was subsequently reduced to life in prison.<sup>37</sup> Others convicted in the case include "Mustafa Yousef Siyam (tried in absentia), Ahed Khreisat (tried in absentia) ... Mohammad Jamil Arabiyat, Mu'awaya Hassan al-Nabulsi, 'Ali Abd al-Fattah Nassar, and Mohammad Adnan and Mohammad Awad (suspects)."<sup>38</sup>

According to *Asharq al-Awsat*, at least two members of the group (Muhammad Arafat Hijazi and Mohammad Jamil Arabiyat) had spent time in Afghanistan and participated in al-Qaida-training camps, where they received military training and learned how to assemble explosive devices.<sup>39</sup>

## 2002: Plot to attack American joggers (W)

In September 2002, ten purported jihadists were arrested by Jordanian police for planning attacks against U.S. citizens in Amman. Scarce information exists on the suspects, yet Jordan's minister of state for political affairs at that time, Muhammad Adwan, stated that most of them were Jordanian

---

<sup>31</sup> "Jordanian intelligence helped thwart attacks, sources say".

<sup>32</sup> See description of the incident at GTD's website available at <https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/IncidentSummary.aspx?gtid=200202280004>

<sup>33</sup> See Anne Speckhard, "The Jihad in Jordan: Drivers of Radicalization into Violent Extremism in Jordan" (ICSVE, March 25, 2017), p. 50.

<sup>34</sup> For more information, see "Jordan's State Security Court Moves on Cases Involving Anti-U.S. Plotters", March 13, 2005, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/05AMMAN2094\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/05AMMAN2094_a.html).

<sup>35</sup> "Maḥkamat 'amn al-dawla al-'urdunniyya tanẓur fī qaḍīyyat muḥāwalat iḡhtiyāl ra'īs shu'bat mukāfaḥat al-'irhāb bil-mukhābarāt" [The Jordanian State Security Court looks into the case of the attempted assassination of the leader of the anti-terrorist unit], *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*, November 2, 2002, <http://archive.aawsat.com/details.asp?article=133704&issueno=8740#.WovjWXwo-pp>.

<sup>36</sup> Mohammad Abu Rumman and Hassan Abu Hanieh, *The Jihadi Salafist Movement in Jordan after Zarqawi: Identity, Leadership Crisis and Obscured Vision* (Amman: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 2009), p. 200.

<sup>37</sup> For more information, see "Jordan's State Security Court Moves on Cases Involving Anti-U.S. Plotters".

<sup>38</sup> Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, *The 'Islamic Solution' in Jordan: Islamists, the State, and the Ventures of Democracy and Security*, p. 343.

<sup>39</sup> "Maḥkamat 'amn al-dawla al-'urdunniyya tanẓur fī qaḍīyyat muḥāwalat iḡhtiyāl ra'īs shu'bat mukāfaḥat al-'irhāb bil-mukhābarāt".

citizens.<sup>40</sup> The plan was to kill or kidnap U.S. citizens working at the U.S. Embassy in Amman while they were out jogging in the vicinity of the embassy.<sup>41</sup> According to the U.S. Department of State's annual terrorism report, some of the group's members confessed to plotting attacks in Israel and explained that they had bought machineguns for this purpose.<sup>42</sup>

### 2002: Laurence Foley assassination (W)

On October 28, 2002, USAID official Laurence Foley was assassinated when a lone gunman shot him eight times outside his home in Amman. The Jordanian State Security Court traced the assassination to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's network and charged eleven suspects in the trial (only one of them was exonerated).

The suspects included Salim Saad bin Suweid (Abu Abdullah al-Liby), a Libyan national who was tasked with assassinating Foley (death sentence); the Jordanian national Yasser Fateh Furayhat, who drove the getaway car (death sentence); Muammar al-Jaghbir from Salt in Jordan (he was originally sentenced to death in absentia, but the sentence was lowered to 10 years); the Syrian national Mohammad Ahmad Tayourah (death sentence in absentia); the Syrian national Ahmed Hussein Hassoun (death sentence in absentia); the Syrian national Mahmud Abu al-Rahman Thaher (death sentence in absentia); Abu Musab al-Zarqawi (death sentence in absentia); the Palestinian Shaker al-Absi (death sentence in absentia); the Jordanian Muhammad Amin Abu Saeed (sentenced to 15 years of hard labor, but his sentence was immediately reduced to six years); and the Jordanian Muhammad De'mes (sentenced to 15 years of hard labor, but his sentence immediately reduced to six years).<sup>43</sup> According to Warrick, Suweid's budget for the attack was \$50,000.<sup>44</sup>

The sources diverge on whether or not Abu Musab al-Zarqawi directed the attack, or merely ordered it. According to one of Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh's sources, al-Zarqawi secretly traveled to Jordan and personally oversaw the attack.<sup>45</sup> According to David Schenker, on the other hand, Shaker al-Absi, the future Palestinian leader of the al-Qaida-linked group known as Fatah al-Islam in Lebanon, directed the attack. Based on the close ties between Fatah al-Islam and the Syrian regime, Schenker also surmises that Bashar al-Assad was complicit in the attack.<sup>46</sup>

### 2002: Mafraq cell (W)

In December 2002, Jordanian security services arrested ten individuals belonging to the so-called "Mafraq cell" from the northeastern city al-Mafraq. They were accused of planning to carry out

---

<sup>40</sup> "Gunman Kills U.S. Diplomat in Jordan", *The Gainesville Sun*, October 29, 2002, <http://www.gainesville.com/news/20021029/gunman-kills-us-diplomat-in-jordan>.

<sup>41</sup> "Jordan Hunts U.S. Envoy's Killer", *Los Angeles Times*, October 29, 2002, <http://articles.latimes.com/2002/oct/29/world/fg-jordan29>.

<sup>42</sup> For more information, see "Jordan: 2002 Annual Terrorism Report", November 13, 2002, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/02AMMAN6691\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/02AMMAN6691_a.html).

<sup>43</sup> For more information, see "Jordanian Court Sentences 8 to Death for Foley Assassination", April 6, 2004, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/04AMMAN2645\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/04AMMAN2645_a.html)

<sup>44</sup> Warrick, *Black Flags*, p.85.

<sup>45</sup> Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, *The 'Islamic Solution' in Jordan: Islamists, the State, and the Ventures of Democracy and Security*, p 342.

<sup>46</sup> See interview with David Schenker in Michael Weiss and Hassan Hassan, *ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror*, 2nd ed. (New York, NY: Regan Arts., 2016), pp. 102–3.

terrorist attacks against Jordanian and U.S. interests, including the U.S. embassy in Jordan.<sup>47</sup> Another potential target was U.S. military trainers at Jordanian air bases.<sup>48</sup>

A leader of the jihadist movement in the southern city of Ma'an, Muhammad al-Shalabi (Abu Sayyaf), and Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi were the most prominent suspects (Maqdisi was quickly exonerated).<sup>49</sup> In addition to the ten suspects who were arrested in Jordan, three Saudi citizens were linked to the group.<sup>50</sup>

## 2002: Khalaya plot (W)

In 2002, the Jordanian authorities foiled a plot by the so-called *Khālayā* (cells) organization. The group intended to conduct attacks on Western targets in Jordan. All of the group's members came from East Amman, the less affluent part of the city. According to Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, the most prominent individuals charged in this case were "Awad Khreisat, Jaafar Walid Awad, Jamal al-Maghrebi, Yousef, Alauddin, Zaid al-Nsour, Abdel Razzaq Khreisat, Mahmoud Yassin, Yasser Mubarak, Bader Mohammad, Niyazi al-Harbawi, Jamal Jassem, Sufian Walid, and Wassif Saleh."<sup>51</sup> We have not come across any information about which type of weapons the cell wanted to use in the attack. Still, there is no doubt that this was a jihadist plot.

## 2003: Zarqa Cell plots (W)

In 2003, the Jordanian security services foiled a plot against American and Israeli tourists in the country. Three individuals from the Zarqa-region were arrested: Omar al-Khalayleh (Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's nephew), Hamza al-Momani and police officer Ayman al-Khawaldeh. According to the indictment, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi recruited the cell in November 2002 and urged them to carry out attacks against Americans and Israelis in Jordan.<sup>52</sup>

The primary target appears to have been the city of Ajloun, which is a popular destination for tourists because of its historical castle. In preparation for the attack, al-Khawaldeh, the policeman, had stolen and hidden two guns from the local police station. One source indicates that other weapons, including explosives, were supposed to be smuggled into Jordan from Syria and to be used in the attack as well.<sup>53</sup> It is believed that the group considered attacking other targets as well, such as liquor stores and local security officers. The three were also suspected of hatching a more ambitious plan to assassinate a high-ranking Jordanian intelligence officer.<sup>54</sup>

---

<sup>47</sup> For more information, see "Jordan: 2003 Annual Terrorism Report", n.d., [https://archive.org/stream/03AMMAN7813/03AMMAN7813\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/03AMMAN7813/03AMMAN7813_djvu.txt).

<sup>48</sup> "'Our Fighters Are Coming to Get You': Al-Qaeda-Linked Militant Leader Threatens Attacks against Syrian Regime", *National Post*, September 9, 2012, <http://nationalpost.com/news/jordanian-militant-leader-al-qaeda-threatens-syria>.

<sup>49</sup> Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, *The 'Islamic Solution' in Jordan: Islamists, the State, and the Ventures of Democracy and Security*, p. 336, p. 343.

<sup>50</sup> For more information, see "Jordan: 2003 Annual Terrorism Report".

<sup>51</sup> Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, *The Jihadi Salafist Movement in Jordan after Zarqawi: Identity, Leadership Crisis and Obscured Vision*, pp. 188–89.

<sup>52</sup> For more information, see "Jordanian State Security Court Plows ahead with Anti-U.S. Terrorism Cases", January 25, 2004, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/04AMMAN610\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/04AMMAN610_a.html).

<sup>53</sup> For more information, see <http://www.globaljihad.net/?p=3603>.

<sup>54</sup> For more information, see "Jordanian State Security Court Plows ahead with Anti-U.S. Terrorism Cases".

In 2004, the plotters were sentenced to three years in prison, according to *al-Sharq al-Awsat*.<sup>55</sup> The low prison sentence appears to reflect that Jordan had experienced relatively few attacks in the 1990s. This was about to change as the threat from al-Zarqawi and other al-Qaida-affiliated actors was increasing by the mid-2000s.

### 2003: Anti-US and anti-Israeli plot (W)

In 2003, Jordanian security services foiled a plot by two Iraqis (Ahmed Muhammad Ali Ayed and Lawrence Hamid Rashid Muhanna) to attack (unspecified) American and Israeli targets in the kingdom. Muhanna is reported to have been the plot's mastermind. He had been in contact with a Jordanian man known as Abu Ali, who had sanctioned "military operations against Israeli and American interests on Jordanian land."<sup>56</sup> Muhanna's brother (who was still at large), Muawiyah, is also suspected of complicity in the plot. Ayed and Muhanna were arrested at a roadblock west of Amman, and the security services found weapons smuggled from Iraq inside their car.

### 2003: Ansar al-Islam plot (W)

In 2003, Jordan's state security court charged 15 individuals (13 Jordanians and two Iraqis) "with conspiring to carry out terrorist attacks against tourists, foreigners, and members of Jordan's security forces in Jordan."<sup>57</sup> The militants were affiliated with al-Qaida and Ansar al-Islam (a predominately Kurdish group based in Northern Iraq). The Jordanian security service (GID) uncovered the terrorist plot by interrogating one of the involved, the Jordanian national Ahmad Mahmud Salih al-Riyati, who had been arrested by U.S. forces in Northern Iraq in March 2003 and repatriated to Jordan.<sup>58</sup> In 2004, al-Riyati, who was the only suspect in Jordanian custody, was sentenced to fifteen years in prison. The verdict was immediately reduced to 7 and a half years "to give him another chance in life."<sup>59</sup> Eight other suspects, including Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and the Norway-based Najmeddin Faraj Ahmad (Mullah Krekar), were sentenced in absentia to 15 years of hard labor.<sup>60</sup>

According to reports from the trial in Jordan, the plot could be traced to a meeting in 1998 between al-Riyati and Ra'ed Hijazi, the Jordanian-American involved in the Millennium Plot. Al-Riyati, who was believed to be the main organizer of the 2003 terrorist plot, supposedly met up with Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in Afghanistan. There, al-Zarqawi asked al-Riyati to join Ansar al-Islam and stage attacks on foreigners and intelligence officers in Jordan. As for Mullah Krekar's role in the plot, it appears to have been limited to agreeing to provide the group with weapons and materials for making explosives. It was also reported that several of the group's members had received weapons and

---

<sup>55</sup> "Al-'urdunn: al-Ḥukm 3 Sanawāt ma'a al-'ashghāl al-Shāqqa 'alā ibn shaqīq 'abi Muṣ'ab Al-Zarqāwiyy" [Jordan: Sentencing of three years of hard labor for Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's Nephew], *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*, May 11, 2004, <http://archive.aawsat.com/details.asp?article=233317&issueno=9296#.Wm7lAnko-po>.

<sup>56</sup> For more information, see "Jordanian State Security Court Plows ahead with Anti-U.S. Terrorism Cases".

<sup>57</sup> For more information, see "Jordan: 2003 Annual Terrorism Report".

<sup>58</sup> "Al-'urdunn yakshif khaliyya tābi'a li-tanzīm al-Qā'ida wa-'anṣār al-'islām" [Jordan discovers cell belonging to al-Qaida and Ansar al-Islam,], *Bahrain News Agency*, September 13, 2003, <http://www.bna.bh/portal/news/8717?date=2011-06-07>.

<sup>59</sup> "Jordanian Court Sentences Terrorist to 7 1/2 Years", *Orlando Sentinel*, June 17, 2004, [http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2004-06-17/news/0406170180\\_1\\_al-qaeda-cell-doomsday](http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2004-06-17/news/0406170180_1_al-qaeda-cell-doomsday).

<sup>60</sup> "Jordan Convicts 15 in Terror Conspiracy", *The New York Times*, June 17, 2004, <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/17/world/jordan-convicts-15-in-terror-conspiracy.html>.

explosives training in Iran and Afghanistan, indicating an intent to carry out both bomb attacks and armed assaults.<sup>61</sup>

### 2004: Amman chemical bomb plot (W)

On April 20, 2004, Jordanian security services foiled a potentially very lethal terrorist attack ordered by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. The plot was allegedly “within days of being carried out,” and the aim was to strike GID’s headquarters in Amman, the Jordanian prime minister’s office, and the U.S. embassy in Amman with vehicle-borne chemical bomb attacks.<sup>62</sup> The plan was to target GID’s headquarters first. The cell would first target the guards with RPG and small-arms and then carry out the bomb attacks.<sup>63</sup> The blasts were intended to be huge. Jordanian officials claim that the attacks could have caused as many as 80 000 deaths. The cell had prepared 20 tons of chemical explosives, which was supposed to be placed in containers onto several trucks.<sup>64</sup> Jordanian officials claimed that the large quantity of sulfuric acid that the plotters had intended to use would have caused a “toxic cloud.” When U.S. officials were asked about the plot’s damage potential, they were more cautious in their assessments. According to them, sulfuric acid is commonly used to “increase the size of conventional explosions,” rather than dispersing chemical threat agents. They agreed, however, that the attacks would have resulted in a significant number of casualties.<sup>65</sup>

The main organizer of the cell was the Jordanian Azmi al-Jayyousi. He had spent time in Abu Musab al-Zarqawi’s training camp in Herat, Afghanistan, near the border with Iran. This training camp hosted jihadists (mainly from the Levant) and went by the name *Tawhīd wal-Jihād* (Monotheism and Jihad, which also became the name of Zarqawi’s group before it joined al-Qaida’s network and took the name al-Qaida in the Land of the Two Rivers (al-Qaida in Iraq)). After the fall of the Taliban, al-Jayyousi reportedly joined al-Zarqawi in Iraq and received the latter’s blessing to form a terrorist cell in Jordan.<sup>66</sup> He snuck into Jordan together with Muwaffaq Adwan (another Jordanian close to al-Zarqawi). On April 20, 2004, Adwan, Hassan Simsimiyeh, Salah Marjehm, and Ibrahim Abu al-Kheir were killed in clashes with Jordanian security forces, whereas al-Jayyousi and at least two others were arrested.<sup>67</sup> In the ensuing interrogations, it was revealed that al-Zarqawi had transferred \$170, 000 to al-Jayyousi, which was earmarked for the operation, and that a Syrian national Sulaiman Khalid Darwish (Abu al-Ghadia) had assisted al-Jayyousi with logistical support.<sup>68</sup> According to a Jordanian expert, Murad Batal al-Shishani, Ibrahim Muhammad Zein Abedeen (Jihad al-Qashih) was

---

<sup>61</sup> For more information, see “Jordanian Authorities Charge 15 in Another Terrorist Plot”, September 15, 2003, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/03AMMAN5940\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/03AMMAN5940_a.html).

<sup>62</sup> “Jordan Says Major Al Qaeda Plot Disrupted”, *CNN*, April 26, 2004, <http://edition.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/meast/04/26/jordan.terror/>. For more information, see also “Terrorism Cases Advance in Jordan’s Security Court”, April 7, 2005, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/05AMMAN2889\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/05AMMAN2889_a.html).

<sup>63</sup> Warrick, *Black Flags*, pp. 144-147.

<sup>64</sup> Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, *The ‘Islamic Solution’ in Jordan: Islamists, the State, and the Ventures of Democracy and Security*, p. 350.

<sup>65</sup> “Jordan Says Major Al Qaeda Plot Disrupted”.

<sup>66</sup> Jean-Charles Brisard and Damien Martinez, *Zarqawi: The New Face of Al-Qaeda* (UK: Polity Press, 2005), p. 89.

<sup>67</sup> These individuals could be Hussein Mustafa, Ahmad Samir, Hassan Samik and Syrian Anas Amin. They were at least convicted together with al-Jayyousi in 2006. See “Verdicts in the Chemical Plot, Zarqawi Sentenced to Death – Again”, February 16, 2006, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN1176\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN1176_a.html).

<sup>68</sup> Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, *The ‘Islamic Solution’ in Jordan: Islamists, the State, and the Ventures of Democracy and Security*, p. 351.

connected to this plot as well.<sup>69</sup> Al-Qashih was involved in another plot in 2004 (with Jamil Muhammad Kutkut) to assassinate U.S. archeologists in Jordan. Al-Qasih escaped prosecution in that case and fled across the border to Syria.

#### **2004: Plot to assassinate U.S. archeologists (W)**

In April 2004, Jordanian security services foiled a plot to assassinate four U.S. archeologists working in the town of Hartha, near the third largest city in Jordan, Irbid.<sup>70</sup> The suspected assassins, two Jordanians, Jamil Muhammad Kutkut and Ibrahim Muhammad Zein Abedeen (Jihad al-Qashih), were “charged with plotting to commit terrorist acts and illegal possession of automatic weapons.”<sup>71</sup> Kutkut was apprehended in October 2004, whereas al-Qashih managed to flee to Syria. The plot appears to be part of al-Zarqawi’s campaign against Jordan. Al-Qashih was a longtime associate of al-Zarqawi and had fought with him in Iraq. According to al-Shishani, “al-Qashih [was] instrumental to al-Zarqawi’s Levantine strategy ...”<sup>72</sup>

#### **2004: Attempted suicide bombing at Jordanian-Iraqi Border (W)**

On December 3, 2004, Saudi national Fahd Nouman Suweilem al-Faqihi crossed the border into Jordan from Iraq and tried to blow up his car next to several oil tankers. He failed due to technical problems. He was quickly apprehended by Jordanian security personnel and charged with attempting to carry out a terrorist attack. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and Dhirar Ismail Abu Odeh (Ismail Abu Awda/Abdel al-Rahman al-Afghani), one of al-Zarqawi’s lieutenants, were also tried in absentia.<sup>73</sup> Abu Odeh, a Jordanian like al-Zarqawi, was believed to have supervised the operation. Before the attack, al-Faqihi and some others had reportedly traveled to Iraq from Saudi Arabia. There they had met Abu Odeh and joined al-Zarqawi’s group. Subsequently, al-Faqihi had received weapons training and joined “the suicide attackers’ team,” after being encouraged to do so by Abu Odeh.<sup>74</sup>

#### **2004: Plot against diplomats in Amman (W)**

In 2004, it was reported that Jordanian security services had foiled another plot against foreigners in the country. Two Jordanians were charged with planning to attack diplomats in Amman. The two was described as having “jihadist leanings.”<sup>75</sup> This was, however, one of the few cases during this period that did not seem directly connected to al-Zarqawi’s organization in Iraq.

---

<sup>69</sup> Murad Batal al-Shishani, “Al-Zarqawi’s Legacy Seen in Trial of Jordanian Al-Qaeda Cell”, *Terrorism Focus*, Vol. 6, No. 4 (2009), <https://jamestown.org/program/al-zarqawis-legacy-seen-in-trial-of-jordanian-al-qaeda-cell/>.

<sup>70</sup> “Jordan Files Terror Charges against 16”, *NBC News*, January 9, 2005, [http://www.nbcnews.com/id/6805975/ns/us\\_news-security/#.WleuD67iapo](http://www.nbcnews.com/id/6805975/ns/us_news-security/#.WleuD67iapo).

<sup>71</sup> “Alleged Plot to Kill U.S. Archeologists Foiled”, *Los Angeles Times*, January 6, 2005, <http://articles.latimes.com/2005/jan/06/world/fg-briefs6.4>.

<sup>72</sup> Murad Batal al-Shishani, “The Dangerous Ideas of the Neo-Zarqawist Movement”, *CTC Sentinel*, Vol. 2, No. 9 (2009), p. 19.

<sup>73</sup> “Jordan Again Sentences Zarqawi to Death”, *UPI*, December 18, 2005, <https://www.upi.com/Defense-News/2005/12/18/Jordan-again-sentences-Zarqawi-to-death/82811134907571/>.

<sup>74</sup> “Jordan: Terrorism Suspects Threaten Court Officials, Praise Bin Ladin, Zarqawi”, June 6, 2005, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/05AMMAN4487\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/05AMMAN4487_a.html).

<sup>75</sup> “Jordan: 2004 Annual Terrorism Report”, December 21, 2004, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/04AMMAN10040\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/04AMMAN10040_a.html).

## 2004: Tahawi cell (W)

In 2004, Jordanian security services foiled a plot by the so-called “Tahawi-cell” to attack foreign interest as well as Jordanian targets. Among potential targets were foreign archeologists, a U.S. military band performing at a music festival in Jerash, the festival’s director, a hotel in Irbid (said to be hosting Israeli tourists), and a local journalist who had criticized Abu Musab al-Zarqawi on local television.<sup>76</sup>

Sixteen individuals were charged with complicity in the plot. All were in Jordanian custody except Khalid Fawzi, who was tried in absentia. Most of the cell’s members were from Irbid in Jordan. All were between 18 and 33 years old with the exception of the purported ringleader, Abd al-Qadir Shahada al-Tahawi (Abu Muhammad al-Tahawi), who was 50 years old at the time.<sup>77</sup> Al-Tahawi had lived in Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan from 1979 to 1990.<sup>78</sup> In 1990, Saudi authorities expelled him for criticizing the royal family. After returning to Jordan, al-Tahawi taught classes in Irbid’s mosques, and it was allegedly through these sessions that he recruited the other members of the plot. Under al-Tahawi’s guidance, the cell raised money and acquired weapons for the operation(s). Although the cell’s members espoused a “takfiri ideology” and seemingly supported al-Zarqawi, one source claims that the group “(did) not appear to have links to any (other) organization.”<sup>79</sup>

## 2004: Irbid cell plots (W)

In August and September 2004, four purported Jordanian jihadists hailing from the Palestinian refugee camp in Irbid were arrested and subsequently charged with plotting to attack foreign tourists in the kingdom and GID officers. During court hearings, the suspects were identified as Suleiman Hassan Saleh Sheikh Ali, Omar Roumi Saleh Sheikh Ali, Riyadh Jamil Suleiman Abu Duhaileh, and Ahmad Mohammad Mahmoud Abu Katmeh.

The men who all were said to espouse a “takfiri ideology” started to plan the attack in 2003. They had acquired a machine-gun, two handguns and ammunition, and had met several times to scout appropriate targets. The main target appears to have been tourist buses with American and Israeli tourists traveling to popular tourist sites in Jordan such as the Jordan Valley, Baptism Site, and Um Qais in the north of the country. It also appears they planned to attack GID officers working in the Irbid refugee camp, by first torching a GID vehicle during prayers at the camp’s mosque, and then attacking “another [car] that patrolled inside the camp.”<sup>80</sup>

## 2004: Plot against a Jordanian intelligence officer (V)

According to Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, there was a plot against a Jordanian intelligence officer in 2004.<sup>81</sup>

---

<sup>76</sup> For more information, see “New Terrorism Cases Enter Jordanian Court System; Zarqawi Affiliates Remain Defiant in Separate Trials”, January 17, 2005, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/05AMMAN345\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/05AMMAN345_a.html).

<sup>77</sup> Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, *The ‘Islamic Solution’ in Jordan: Islamists, the State, and the Ventures of Democracy and Security*, p. 447.

<sup>78</sup> “New Terrorism Cases Enter Jordanian Court System; Zarqawi Affiliates Remain Defiant in Separate Trials”.

<sup>79</sup> “Jordan’s State Security Court Moves on Cases Involving Anti-U.S. Plotters”.

<sup>80</sup> “New Terrorism Cases Enter Jordanian Court System; Zarqawi Affiliates Remain Defiant in Separate Trials”.

<sup>81</sup> Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, p. 397.

### 2005: Four-man group plots in Aqaba and Amman (W)

On January 2, 2005, four purported jihadists were arrested in Amman. They were subsequently charged with planning attacks against foreign tourists in Aqaba as well as liquor stores in Amman. According to court documents, the four had initially planned to make their way to Iraq to join the insurgency in December 2004, yet they decided not to go through with it because of the “‘bad situation’ there.” Instead, they started preparing for attacks inside the kingdom and allegedly acquired a machine-gun and pistols for the operations.<sup>82</sup>

### 2005: Al-Hassan Industrial Estate Plot (W)

According to leaked documents, Jordanian security services foiled a plot by two 27-year-old men to attack al-Hassan Industrial Estate in Irbid in February 2005. A third individual, who remained at large, was also a suspect in the case. The three were suspected of having formed “a jihad group” and to have decided to target the estate because they believed that Israeli citizens were present there. At the time of the arrests, they had commenced gathering money to purchase machine guns for the attack.<sup>83</sup>

### 2005: Qteishat cell (W)

In February 2005, Jordanian security services arrested four individuals (Osama Abu-Hazim, Hatem Ensour, Mohammad Arabiyat, and Yazan al-Haliq) from the Jordanian city of Salt. They were believed to be linked to al-Qaida in Iraq and accused of planning to attack three luxury hotels (to kill tourists), Jordanian intelligence officers, and tourist sites in the kingdom. They were also charged with being in possession of “illegal explosives with illicit intent.”<sup>84</sup>

One year later, in March 2006, Jordan’s state security court sentenced the four to death. However, their sentences were immediately reduced to 10 years in prison “to give them a second chance in life.”<sup>85</sup> Another individual, Mohammad Rateb Qteishat (also from Salt), who was in Iraq at the time, was tried in absentia.<sup>86</sup> He was believed to be the main organizer of the plot and had provided the four others with military and explosives training in Iraq.<sup>87</sup>

### 2005: Aqaba rocket attacks (W)

On August 19, 2005, at least four individuals linked to al-Zarqawi’s al-Qaida in Iraq fired three Katyusha rockets aimed at two U.S. Navy ships in the Gulf of Aqaba. The rockets missed their targets, however. One rocket landed in the neighboring Israeli city of Eilat, whereas another hit a military

---

<sup>82</sup> “Jordan: Terrorism Suspects Threaten Court Officials, Praise Bin Ladin, Zarqawi”, June 6, 2005, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/05AMMAN4487\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/05AMMAN4487_a.html).

<sup>83</sup> “Jordan: Terrorism Suspects Threaten Court Officials, Praise Bin Laden, Zarqawi”.

<sup>84</sup> “Cablegate: Jordan’s State Security Court Moves on Terrorism”, March 22, 2006, <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WL0603/S00255/cablegate-jordans-state-security-court-moves-on-terrorism.htm>.

<sup>85</sup> “Cablegate: Jordan’s State Security Court Moves on Terrorism”.

<sup>86</sup> “Iḥtifā’ bi-’urdunniyyīn qatlan bil-’irāq wa-’afghānistān” [Commemoration of Jordanians killed in Iraq and Afghanistan], *Al-Jazeera*, December 12, 2010, <http://www.aljazeera.net/home/print/f6451603-4dff-4ca1-9c10-122741d17432/85606a16-01ee-409c-b399-e89244d888fc>.

<sup>87</sup> “Terrorism Trials Update”, December 8, 2005, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/05AMMAN9515\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/05AMMAN9515_a.html).

building in Aqaba killing a Jordanian soldier and wounding another.<sup>88</sup> The attack was undertaken by foreign jihadists (Iraqis and Syrians) entering Jordan from abroad, but Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh consider it likely that local militants provided logistical support (e.g., reconnaissance, sheltering operatives).<sup>89</sup>

In 2006, three Syrians (Mohammad Hussein al-Sahli, 'Abdullah Mohammad al-Sahli, and 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sahli) and an Iraqi named Muhammad Hameed (who was the group's leader according to Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh)<sup>90</sup> were sentenced to death by Jordan's state security court. According to *CNN*, Abdullah Mohammad al-Sahli, and 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sahli and Hameed had entered Jordan in early August 2005, smuggling with them seven Katyusha rockets.<sup>91</sup> Eight others also received sentences for their roles in the attack including Abd-al-Rahman Ismai'l (Syrian, received two years), Samih al-Nubani (Jordanian, received two years), Abd-al-Halim al-Dulaymi (Iraqi, received ten years in absentia), Hamid al-Dulaymi (Iraqi, received ten years in absentia), Husam al-Dulaymi (Iraqi, received ten years in absentia), as well as three suspects who received the death penalty.<sup>92</sup>

### 2005: Al-Taifa al-Mansura-organization (W)

In August 2005, Jordanian security services foiled a plot by an organization calling itself *al-ṭā'ifa al-manṣūra* (The Victorious Sect)<sup>93</sup> to attack American instructors and Iraqi cadets at the Jordanian International Police Training Center at al-Muwaqqar Base in Jordan.<sup>94</sup> Eight members of the organization were charged in the case. The following five were remanded in custody: Ahmad Tahir Mahmud Shabanah; Hassan Ahmad Muhammad Mansi; Abd-al-Hakim Mahmud Abd-al-Karim Ali Mu'alla; Sami Mahmud Muhammad al-Aridi; and Sakhar Mustafa Muhammad al-Fawa'ir. Three individuals escaped the security services' dragnet and went on the run: Haitham Hammad Mahmud al Qazzaz, Ahmad Yusuf Ahmad Yasin, and Nasri Izz al Din Muhammad Fayyad al Tahaynah.

Shabanah, the organization's founder and leader, was sentenced to ten years in prison. He was said to have been influenced by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. He had formed al-Taifa al-Mansura following the invasion of Iraq in 2003, with the aim "to strike at Americans and Jews and carry out military operations against them inside Jordan."<sup>95</sup> According to the Kuwaiti newspaper *al-Qabas*, Shabanah appointed four assistants (helpers) and structured the organization into cells (each consisting of ten members) that did not know about each other due to security reasons.<sup>96</sup>

---

<sup>88</sup> "Al Qaeda Claims Responsibility for Rocket Attack", *CNN*, August 23, 2005, <http://edition.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/meast/08/23/jordan.attack.alqaeda/index.html>.

<sup>89</sup> Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, *The 'Islamic Solution' in Jordan: Islamists, the State, and the Ventures of Democracy and Security*, p. 397.

<sup>90</sup> Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, p. 351.

<sup>91</sup> "Al Qaeda Claims Responsibility for Rocket Attack".

<sup>92</sup> "Trials in Jordan's State Security Court – An Update", December 13, 2006, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN8850\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN8850_a.html).

<sup>93</sup> Jihadists identify with a group of true Muslims whom the Prophet referred to as "The Victorious Sect" (*al-Taifa al-Mansura*), that would fight jihad in the way of Allah against the unbelievers until the Day of Judgement.

<sup>94</sup> "Cablegate: Jordan's State Security Court Moves on Terrorism".

<sup>95</sup> "Jordan Convicts Militant Plotters", *BBC*, October 18, 2006, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/6062012.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6062012.stm).

<sup>96</sup> "Al-'urduunn: 'ihbāt mukhaṭṭaṭ al-ṭā'ifa al-manṣūra" [Jordan: Foiling of al-Taifa al-Masura's Plot], *Al-Qabas*, March 16, 2006, <http://alqabas.com/51166/>.

Like Shabaneh, the fugitives Yasin and al-Ghazzaz also received 10-years sentences in absentia, whereas the remaining five were sentenced to between two and seven and half years in prison.<sup>97</sup> According to court documents, the group was involved in efforts to send militants from Jordan to Iraq to join the insurgency against the US-led occupation.

### 2005: Breizat cell (W)

On August 31, 2005, Jordanian security services arrested four individuals suspected of plotting an attack on American instructors training Iraqi police officers at the International Police Training Center at al-Muwaqqar, Jordan. They included the purported ringleader Mu'adh Breizat from Jordan,<sup>98</sup> Ibrahim Jahawha, Faisal Rweidan, and Obad Hiyari.

On September 13, 2006, Jordan's state security court sentenced Breizat, Jahawha, and Rweidan to death. However, their sentences were immediately reduced to 20 years of hard labor to "give the defendants a second chance in life."<sup>99</sup> The fourth suspect, Hiyari, received a 10-year sentence for complicity in the plot.

In late 2004, the four had selected their target. According to court documents, they had trained with automatic rifles.<sup>100</sup> In August 2005, they carried out some reconnaissance, pursuing the American instructors on their way to and from al-Muwaqqar Base to find a suitable place for an ambush.<sup>101</sup>

On June 19, 2007, the ringleader Mu'adh Breizat fled from prison together with the Iraqi Sa'ad Fakhri al-Nu'aimi who had participated in the plot to attack Queen Alia Airport by al-Qaida in Iraq (also in 2005).<sup>102</sup> Breizat was captured by Jordanian authorities later that same year, whereas al-Nu'aimi appears to have been on the run until 2009.<sup>103</sup>

### 2005: Khattab Brigade (W)

In mid-September 2005, four individuals belonging to the so-called 'Khattab Brigade' were arrested in Jordan. The four Jordanians, Hamdi Ahmad Abdallah Ali, Lu'ay Hisham Abd-al-Qadir al-Sharif, Muhammad Hasan Uqlah al-Umri, and Muhammad Awdah Ali, were accused of plotting attacks against American citizens in Jordan, nightclubs, liquor shops, and hotels in Amman and Aqaba. Approximately one year later, on September 13, 2006, the four received sentences varying from 10 to 15 years of hard labor.

---

<sup>97</sup> "Trials in Jordan's State Security Court – An Update", December 13, 2006, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN8850\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN8850_a.html).

<sup>98</sup> For more information about Mu'adh Breizat, see, for instance, this interview with his mother. See "Wālidat al-muttahim Brayzat" [The Mother of the Suspect Brayzat], *Amman Net*, April 19, 2011, <http://ar.ammannet.net/news/103676>.

<sup>99</sup> "Terrorism Trials Update", October 5, 2006, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN7630\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN7630_a.html).

<sup>100</sup> "Terrorism Trials Update", December 8, 2005, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/05AMMAN9515\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/05AMMAN9515_a.html).

<sup>101</sup> "Terrorism Trials Update", October 5, 2006, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN7630\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN7630_a.html).

<sup>102</sup> "Two Terror Plotter Inmates Escape from Jordan's Jweideh Prison", June 20, 2007, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/07AMMAN2637\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/07AMMAN2637_a.html).

<sup>103</sup> "Wālidat al-muttahim Brayzat"; "Al-'ajhiza al-'amniyya taqbiḍ 'alā al-muttahim al-sajīn al-fārr Sa'd Fakhri" [The Security Forces Arrests the Suspect, the Escaped Prisoner Saad Fakhri], *Saraya News*, March 29, 2009, [www.sarayanews.com/index.php?page=article&id=8058](http://www.sarayanews.com/index.php?page=article&id=8058).

Two other suspects, Palestinian Usama Amin al-Shihabi (Abu Zahra) and Palestinian Haytham Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'di (Abu Tariq), believed to be in Lebanon were tried in absentia and were also found guilty for complicity in the plot.<sup>104</sup> According to Murad Batal al-Shishani, al-Shihabi was the leader of the Jund al-Sham group, whereas al-Sa'di was the brother of the founder of Asbat al-Ansar, Abu Mihjin.<sup>105</sup> Al-Sa'di and al-Shihabi had reportedly given the four others weapon training in a Palestinian refugee camp (probably Ayn al-Hilweh). Al-Shishani also claims that some members of the "Khattab Brigade" had trained in Saudi Arabia.

According to court documents, the plan was initially to spray cyanide on nightclubs' doorknobs to poison their customers, yet the suspects had been unable to acquire the necessary chemicals without a license. They, therefore, changed their plans and opted for an armed assault (most likely against Americans at the Four Seasons Hotel in Amman and the Intercontinental Hotel in Aqaba) by using machine guns instead.<sup>106</sup>

### 2005: Amman Hotel bombings (W)

On November 9, 2005, four Iraqi members of al-Qaida in Iraq carried out the most lethal terrorist attack to date in Jordan. Three international hotels in central Amman were struck by coordinated, mass casualty suicide attacks. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi personally oversaw the operation from Iraq.<sup>107</sup> A total of 60 civilians were killed and more than 100 wounded. Most of the victims were Jordanians, but other Arabs, two Chinese, an American, and an Indonesian citizen also died in the bombings.<sup>108</sup>

The four suicide-bombers were Ali Husayn al-Shammari, Sajida Mubarak Atrous al-Rishawi, Rawad Jasim Muhammad Abed, and Safa Muhammad Ali. Al-Shammari attacked the Radisson Hotel, Abed struck at the Grand Hyatt, and Ali at the Days Inn, whereas al-Rishawi failed to detonate her explosive device. According to Murad Batal al-Shishani, the same kind of explosive (PE-4A) was found on al-Rishawi as during the foiled plot against the Queen Alia Airport that same year.

Al-Rishawi was subsequently arrested by the security services and later sentenced to death by Jordan's state security court. She remained in prison, however, until February 2015 when the death sentence was carried out. Her death by hanging (and the execution of another jailed militant Ziad al-Karbouli) came as a response to the burning to death of the captured Jordanian pilot, Muath al-Kasasbeh by the Islamic State (IS).<sup>109</sup> At the time, IS was increasing its threatening rhetoric against Jordan and had tried to pressure the authorities to release prisoners, including al-Rishawi.

---

<sup>104</sup> "Terrorism Trials Update", December 8, 2005, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/05AMMAN9515\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/05AMMAN9515_a.html);

"Terrorism Trials Update", October 5, 2006, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN7630\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN7630_a.html).

<sup>105</sup> al-Shishani, "Al-Zarqawi's Legacy Seen in Trial of Jordanian Al-Qaeda Cell".

<sup>106</sup> "Terrorism Trials Update", October 5, 2006, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN7630\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN7630_a.html).

<sup>107</sup> Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, *The 'Islamic Solution' in Jordan: Islamists, the State, and the Ventures of Democracy and Security*, p. 351.

<sup>108</sup> Abu Rumman and Abu Hanieh, p. 351; "'Al-Qaeda' Claims Jordan Attacks", *BBC*, November 10, 2005, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/4423714.stm>.

<sup>109</sup> "Sajida Al-Rishawi: Jordan 'Executes Female Isis Suicide Bomber' – Hours after Pilot Muath Al-Kasasbeh Is Burned Alive", *The Independent*, February 4, 2015, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/sajida-al-rishawi-jordan-says-it-has-executed-female-militant-sought-by-isis-hours-after-promising-10022091.html>.

### 2005: Al-Nu'aymi and Dursi Plots (W)

In 2005, Jordan's security apparatus foiled two plots by al-Qaida in Iraq to carry out suicide attacks in Jordan. According to court documents, security services "seized 3.6 kilograms of PE-4A heavy explosives" during the arrests.<sup>110</sup> The plot's main target appears to have been the Queen Alia Airport in Amman, but the group also made plans for attacking hotels in Aqaba and the Dead Sea-region aiming to kill American and Israeli tourists.

The main individuals involved in the plot were three Iraqis (Sa'ad Fakhri al-Nu'aymi, Yussuf al-Ubaydi, and Sa'ad al-Ubaydi), one Saudi (Turki Nasir Abdallah), and one Libyan citizen (Muhammad Dursi). All were originally sentenced to life in prison.<sup>111</sup> However, Jordan released Muhammad Dursi in 2014 and sent him to Libya in exchange for the release of its ambassador to the country, who had been kidnapped by an armed group in that country.<sup>112</sup>

### 2005: Plot against American soldiers in Amman (V)

In early August 2005, 17 individuals were reportedly arrested for plotting attacks on American soldiers on leave in Amman. Six of them had close ties to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, whereas the others belonged to "a clandestine Saudi group called Brigades of the Two Holy Places."<sup>113</sup> There is limited information available regarding the circumstances of the plot, however. So far, we have only found one single source mentioning this plot. We, therefore, categorized it as "vague."

### 2005: Aqaba police station plot (V)

In 2005, Mohammad Yassin, a 26-year-old Jordanian, was charged with attempting to blow up a police station in Aqaba. Yassin had gone to the station and screamed: "By God I will launch a suicide attack. I will bomb this place."<sup>114</sup> He then made his way to a shop nearby, grabbed a gas cylinder, went back to the police station, and lit the cylinder on fire before fleeing the scene. The police officers managed to extinguish the fire before the cylinder exploded.

The available information about the circumstances of the attack is vague. Yassin's motives for carrying out the attack are not clear, and there is no specific information indicating that he was part of a jihadist group. We, therefore, categorized this plot as "vague."

### 2006: Plot to attack Americans and liquor stores (W)

In late January 2006, Musa Ramadan and Mundir Mahmud Sa'dah were sentenced to four years in prison by Jordan's state security court. The two were convicted for plotting attacks against U.S. citizens in Jordan as well as liquor stores in the country. There is sparse information available about

---

<sup>110</sup> "Jordan's State Security Court Moves on Terrorism Cases", June 25, 2006, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN4685\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN4685_a.html)

<sup>111</sup> Another Iraqi was also sentenced, but not to life in prison. See "Al-mu'abbad li-khamsat 'arab fi al-'urdunn" [Life (sentence) to Five Arabs in Jordan], *BBC*, April 2, 2007, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/arabic/middle\\_east\\_news/newsid\\_6519000/6519575.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/arabic/middle_east_news/newsid_6519000/6519575.stm).

<sup>112</sup> "Jordan to Release Libyan Militant in Exchange for Ambassador", *Middle East Eye*, April 29, 2014, <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/jordan-release-libyan-militant-exchange-ambassador-893965332>.

<sup>113</sup> "Al-'urdunn ya'taqil 17 mutashaddidan 'alā 'alāqa bil-Zarqāwiyy wa-"katā'ib al-Ḥaramayn"" [Jordan Arrests 17 Extremists Tied to al-Zarqawi and "the Brigades of the Two Holy Places"], *Al-Riyadh*, 5 August 2005, <http://www.alriyadh.com/85795>.

<sup>114</sup> "Jordan: Terrorism Suspects Threaten Court Officials, Praise Bin Ladin, Zarqawi".

the details of the attack plans and the background of the plotters. However, it is known that Ramadan had previously attempted to join the anti-U.S. insurgency in Iraq via Syria but that he had been arrested in Homs and then deported to Jordan in July 2004.<sup>115</sup> The target selection and Ramadan's attempt to join the insurgency in Iraq strongly suggest that the ideological motivation for the plot was jihadist. We, therefore, categorized this plot as "well-documented."

### 2006: Plot to assassinate President Bush (W)

Jordanian security services intercepted an al-Qaida-linked plot to assassinate President George W. Bush during his state visit to Jordan in November 2006.<sup>116</sup> At least four individuals are believed to have been involved. The ringleader appears to have been Suleiman Ghayyad al-Anjadi (from Irbid), who was killed by Jordanian security forces during a raid in 2007.<sup>117</sup> The three others were Nidal Momani, Sattam Zawahra, and Tharwat Daraz, all of them from al-Zarqa. They were accused of plotting a terrorist attack "with flammable substances in Jordan, and of possession of illegal weapons and explosive substances for illicit purposes."<sup>118</sup> Momani, Zawahra, and Daraz received their sentences in 2008. Initially, they were sentenced to death before the penalty was reduced to 15 years in jail.<sup>119</sup> According to the South African newspaper *Mail & Guardian*, the suspects might also have considered targeting the U.S. and Danish embassies in Amman.<sup>120</sup> However, this is the only source mentioning a plot against these two embassies.

### 2006: Prison break plot (W)

In early 2006, Jordanian security services foiled a plot to free the al-Qaida-linked Azmi al-Jayyousi from prison. He had been incarcerated after the detection of the 2004 Amman chemical bomb plot. The plot to free al-Jayyousi involved both individuals inside and outside the prison. Apparently, the plan was that Yasser Fateh Fureihat, who had received the death penalty for his role in the assassination of Laurence Foley in 2002, was to carry out a suicide bomb attack inside the prison to destroy the main gate. According to *al-Arabiya*, it was al-Jayyousi himself who was supposed to assemble Fureihat's bomb device. After Fureihat had carried out his suicide attack, a team composed of seven individuals equipped with machine guns was supposed to attack the prison's outer gate to enable Jayyousi's escape.<sup>121</sup>

Jordan's state security court charged nine individuals for involvement in the prison break plot. Al-Jayyousi and six others were tried in court, whereas Mohammed Abu Darwish and Suleiman Ghayyad

---

<sup>115</sup> "Jordan State Security Court Moves on Terrorism Cases", March 22, 2006, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN2118\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN2118_a.html).

<sup>116</sup> "Country Reports on Terrorism 2007" (U.S. State Department, April 2008), p. 116, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105904.pdf>.

<sup>117</sup> al-Shishani, "The Dangerous Ideas of the Neo-Zarqawist Movement".

<sup>118</sup> "Country Reports on Terrorism 2007", p. 116.

<sup>119</sup> "Country Reports on Terrorism 2008" (U.S. State Department, April 2009), p. 124, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/122599.pdf>.

<sup>120</sup> "Jordanians Accused of Plot to Kill Bush", *Mail & Guardian*, March 7, 2007, <https://mg.co.za/article/2007-03-07-jordanians-accused-of-plot-to-kill-bush>.

<sup>121</sup> "Al-suluṭāt al-'urduniyya tuḥbiṭ muḥāwalat al-Qā'ida 'itlāq al-Jayyusi min mu'taqalihu" [Jordanian Authorities Foil al-Qaida's Attempt to Free al-Jayyusi from Prison], *Al-Arabiya*, March 26, 2006, <http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2006/03/26/22284.html>.

al-Anjadi (who was also linked to the assassination plot against U.S. President Bush earlier the same year) were tried in absentia.<sup>122</sup>

### 2006: Roman Theater Attack (V)

In early September 2006, Nabil Ahmad Issa Jaaoura opened fire at tourists at Amman's Roman Amphitheater killing one British citizen and wounding six others (five tourists and one Jordanian police officer).<sup>123</sup> Jaaoura, who hails from al-Zarqa and is Jordanian of Palestinian descent, operated alone. He appears not to have been part of a jihadist group or network. However, he is said to have shouted Allahu Akbar before he started shooting. According to people who knew him (including his wife), Jaaoura was angry with western countries because of injustices committed against Muslims, indicating that he was politically motivated.<sup>124</sup> During trial, Jaaoura also stated that "God blessed me when I killed a British man and hurt others because they have been fighting the Prophet and his soldiers since the Balfour Declaration."<sup>125</sup> Sources also indicate that he had a strong personal motivation for carrying out the attack as well. In 1982, two of his brothers had been killed in an Israeli raid on Palestinian groups in Lebanon and Jaaoura wanted to avenge their deaths.<sup>126</sup> We chose to categorize this plot as "vague" due to the absence of any evidence connecting him to the jihadist movement.

### 2006: Marka Airport plot (V)

In early 2006, Jordanian authorities announced the disruption of a plot to carry out a bomb attack at Marka Airport and to destroy the main power station in Jordan.<sup>127</sup> We have not found more information about the plot, yet the modus operandi and the fact that it occurred during a period with numerous jihadist plots indicate that Jordanian jihadists were behind. Still, we chose to categorize this plot as "vague" due to the lack of information.

### 2007: Armed confrontation and foiled plot in Irbid (V)

In January 2007, Jordanian anti-terrorism forces carried out a raid against two al-Qaida members' hideout in the Matlaa' neighborhood in Irbid.<sup>128</sup> According to Jordanian security sources, a terrorist plot was thwarted, but they did not provide any details as to the plot's nature. We, therefore, categorized this plot as "vague."

---

<sup>122</sup> "Jordan's State Security Court Moves on Terrorism Cases", June 25, 2006, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN4685\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN4685_a.html).

<sup>123</sup> "Tourist Shot Dead in Jordan", *SBS News*, n.d., <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/tourist-shot-dead-in-jordan>.

<sup>124</sup> "Zawjat munaffidh i'tidā' al-suyyāh taqūl" [The Wife of the Perpetrator of the Attacks on the Tourists Says], *Al-Hayat*, October 19, 2006, <http://www.alhayat.com/article/1270613>.

<sup>125</sup> "Trials in Jordan's State Security Court – An Update", December 13, 2006, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN8850\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06AMMAN8850_a.html).

<sup>126</sup> "Munaffidh hujūm al-'urdunn lā yantamī li-tanzīmāt 'irhābiyya" [The Perpetrator of the Jordan Attack Does Not Belong to Terrorist Groups], *BBC*, September 6, 2006, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/arabic/middle\\_east\\_news/newsid\\_5318000/5318582.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/arabic/middle_east_news/newsid_5318000/5318582.stm).

<sup>127</sup> "Al-mukhaṭṭaṭ al-'irhābiyy isthadafa maṭār Mārka wa-maḥaṭṭat al-Kahrabā'" [The Terrorist Plot Targeted Marka Airport and The Power Station], *Al-Qabas*, March 4, 2006, <http://alqabas.com/45649/>.

<sup>128</sup> "Jordan "Terror Plot" Thwarted", *Breaking News*, January 9, 2007, <http://www.breakingnews.ie/world/jordan-terror-plot-thwarted-292640.html>.

Several machine guns, pistols, ammunition, explosives, and gas cylinders were seized in the raid, which developed into an armed confrontation between the two al-Qaida-members, Suleiman Ghayyad al-Anjadi and Ramadan Mustafa al-Mansi (both Jordanians of Palestinian origin), and the anti-terrorism forces. Al-Anjadi, who was previously linked to plots to assassinate President Bush and to free Azmi al-Jayyousi from prison, was killed in the attack, whereas al-Mansi was arrested. In June 2008, al-Mansi was sentenced to life in prison. Several anti-terrorism officers were wounded in the shootout.<sup>129</sup>

### **2007: Plot against a factory in Amman (V)**

According to *Jerusalem Post*, Adnan Smadi, Adel Smadi, and Hamdi al-Fassooli were sentenced to five years in prison by Jordan's state security court for plotting a terrorist attack against a factory in Amman that imported minced turkey from Israel. The three were arrested in mid-March 2007 when they were on their way to the factory. They were reportedly carrying with them Molotov cocktails.<sup>130</sup> We chose to categorize this plot as "vague" because we are unsure if the three individuals were jihadists.

### **2008: Plot to blow up the Roman Catholic Church in Marka (W)**

In May 2008, Jordanian security services foiled a plot by a local Jordanian cell linked to al-Qaida in Iraq to attack the Roman Catholic Church in Marka in East Amman. They arrested two individuals, Majed Qatanani (also known as Majed Muhammad Nasr) and Ali Abu Arab, whereas a third suspect, Hamad al-Suweirki, was still on the run.<sup>131</sup>

The plot's ringleader was Qatanani. He had reportedly been radicalized in Juweideh prison under the influence of al-Qaida operatives (including Iraqi Ziad al-Karbouli, Iraqi Sa'ad Fakhri al-Nu'aymi who were involved in the plot against Queen Alia Airport in 2005), and Jordanian Mu'amar al-Jaghibir (who had been involved in the assassination of Laurence Foley in 2002).<sup>132</sup>

After being released from prison, Qatanani started plotting an attack against a police battalion stationed close to Juweideh prison, likely to avenge his incarceration. He planned to stage a suicide car bombing. Yet after surveilling the battalion's base, Qatanani decided that it was impossible to carry out the attack because of the high security measures. He then decided to target the Roman Catholic Church in Marka instead and subsequently recruited the two other accomplices.

After conducting reconnaissance, they planned to go ahead with the suicide car bombing attack on May 11, 2008, and the aim was to kill worshippers praying inside the church.<sup>133</sup> However, Qatanani

---

<sup>129</sup> "Jordan's Military Court Sentences Al-Qaida Militant to Life in Prison", *Jerusalem Post*, June 4, 2008, <http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Jordans-military-court-sentences-al-Qaida-militant-to-life-in-prison>.

<sup>130</sup> "Jordan Sentences 3 Men to Jail for Plotting Terror Attacks against Factory", *The Jerusalem Post*, October 7, 2007, <http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Jordan-sentences-3-men-to-jail-for-plotting-terror-attacks-against-factory>.

<sup>131</sup> "Al-sijn 22 'āman lil-'irhābiyyīn ḥāwalū tafjīr kanīsa bi-Mārkā" [22 Years in Prison to the Terrorists who Attempted to Blow up the Church in Marka], *Assawsana*, March 16, 2009, <https://www.assawsana.com/portal/pages.php?newsid=11134>.

<sup>132</sup> "Al-sijn 22 'āman lil-'irhābiyyīn ḥāwalū tafjīr kanīsa bi-Mārkā"; Murad Batal al-Shishani, "Neo-Zarqawists Target the Arab Christians of Jordan", *Terrorism Monitor*, Vol. 7, No. 34 (2009), <https://jamestown.org/program/neo-zarqawists-target-the-arab-christians-of-jordan/>.

<sup>133</sup> "Al-sijn 22 'āman lil-'irhābiyyīn ḥāwalū tafjīr kanīsa bi-Mārkā".

was arrested before being able to launch the attack because he had refused to pull over in a police traffic control. Later, Ali Abu Arab was also detained by the police, whereas al-Suweirki remained at large. In 2009, the three were sentenced to 22 and a half years in prison.<sup>134</sup>

### **2008: Attack on church and cemetery in Irbid (W)**

In July 2008, a group of 12 al-Qaida-linked individuals (all Jordanians of Palestinian origin) carried out attacks on a Latin church and a Christian cemetery in Irbid. The perpetrators used Molotov cocktails and, according to a Jordanian official, the attacks were triggered by a Christian boy's remark insulting the Prophet Muhammed.<sup>135</sup>

The group's ringleader was probably Shaker al-Khatib. He had been trained by an al-Qaida member in Lebanon to join the insurgency in Iraq, but instead, he had returned to Jordan to form a terrorist cell there. Al-Khatib was originally from Gaza but had lived almost his entire life in the refugee camp in Irbid.<sup>136</sup> In October 2009, Jordan's state security court sentenced al-Khatib and four others to death, but the punishment was immediately reduced to 20 years in prison due to their young age. The other seven were convicted to 15 years in prison.<sup>137</sup> In addition to Molotov cocktails, the cell was also in possession of other (unspecified) weapons.

### **2008: Attack on Lebanese musicians in Amman (W)**

In July 2008, Tha'ir Abd-al-Qadir al-Wahidi carried out a shooting attack against a Lebanese Christian choir after a concert in downtown Amman. The assailant opened fire when the choir was about to board a vehicle to leave the concert arena after their performance. There were no fatalities, but al-Wahidi wounded six people (four Lebanese, an Arab-Israeli woman, and the Jordanian tourist bus driver) before shooting himself in the head.<sup>138</sup> According to court documents, al-Wahidi was affiliated or part of Shaker al-Khatib's group. Al-Wahidi does not, however, appear to have participated in the attacks on the church and the cemetery in Irbid.<sup>139</sup> Al-Wahidi was only 18 years old and resided in the Baqa'a refugee camp.<sup>140</sup>

### **2008: Arson attack against GID-officer's Car (V)**

In 2018, three suspects were sentenced to 15 years in prison for an arson attack against a GID-officer's car in 2008. The suspects were described as IS-supporters and had carried out the attack in

---

<sup>134</sup> "Country Reports on Terrorism 2009" (U.S. State Department, August 2010), p. 129, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/141114.pdf>.

<sup>135</sup> al-Shishani, "Neo-Zarqawists Target the Arab Christians of Jordan".

<sup>136</sup> "Attack on Lebanese Musicians in Jordan Linked to Al-Qaida", *Free Republic*, January 28, 2009, <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/2174336/posts>.

<sup>137</sup> al-Shishani, "Neo-Zarqawists Target the Arab Christians of Jordan".

<sup>138</sup> "Suicide Attack on Concert in Amman Wounds Six", *Arab News*, July 18, 2008, <http://www.arabnews.com/node/313904#>.

<sup>139</sup> "Jordan: 2009 Country Report on Terrorism (Corrected Copy)", December 22, 2009, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/09AMMAN2765\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/09AMMAN2765_a.html).

<sup>140</sup> See description of the incident in RAND's database available at <https://www.rand.org/nsrd/projects/terrorism-incidents/download.html>.

2008 to take revenge on GID-officers. We have included the incident as a “vague” plot in this chronology because we are uncertain if it can be characterized as a clear-cut terror case.<sup>141</sup>

### 2009: Plot to attack GID in al-Baq’a (W)

In March 2010, three purported jihadists were convicted on terrorism charges for plotting an armed assault with automatic weapons against GID’s base in al-Baq’a.<sup>142</sup> The three suspects were Yusuf al-Shafi’i, Mahmud Abd al-Al (who remained at large), and Suleiman al-Duqf. Both Abd al-Al and al-Shafi’i received life in prison, yet al-Shafi’i’s sentence was immediately reduced to 15 years in prison. Al-Duqf received a three-year sentence. The suspects had originally planned to conduct attacks in Palestine/Israel. But when they were unable to cross the border because of the heavy security measures, they decided to strike against GID instead.<sup>143</sup>

### 2009: Plot to attack U.S. and Jordanian targets (W)

In October 2010, Jordan’s state security court sentenced ten individuals on terrorism charges for conspiring to attack U.S. and Jordanian targets in the Kingdom during 2009.<sup>144</sup> They include Nabil Amir, Yussuf Khaleh, Ramadan al-Tawwab, Khalid al-Khalayleh, Abdallah Mas’ad, Ahmad al-Khalayleh, Amir Taysir, Qasim al-Fanatsa, Shukri Jaradat, and Muhammad Qasim. The ringleader, Nabil Amir, was convicted to life in prison, whereas the remaining members of the cell received 15 years in prison.<sup>145</sup>

When they arrested the suspects, Jordanian security services confiscated automatic rifles (Kalashnikovs), bomb-making equipment, and incendiary devices at Nabil Amir’s home. The group had considered striking numerous targets including U.S. military personnel in Jordan, U.S. fuel convoys resupplying forces in Iraq, al-Darhali Factory, liquor stores in al-Rusayfa, Amman, and al-Zarqa, and Jordanian intelligence officers in al-Zarqa. Reportedly, they also contemplated kidnapping intelligence officers’ children to negotiate the release of imprisoned jihadists including Sajida al-Rishawi (the woman who failed to detonate her explosive device during Amman hotel bombings in 2005).<sup>146</sup>

---

<sup>141</sup> “15 ‘āman li-3 muttāhimīn ‘ahraqū sayyāra dābiṭ mukhābarāt” [15 Years for 3 Suspects who Set Fire on a GID-officer’s car], *al-Ghad*, September 5, 2018, <https://alghad.com/articles/2431632>; “State Security Court Announces Sentences for Several Terror Suspects”, *Jordan Times*, September 6, 2018, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/state-security-court-announces-sentences-several-terror-suspects>.

<sup>142</sup> See “Country Reports on Terrorism 2010” (U.S. State Department, August 2011), pp. 92-93, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/170479.pdf>.

<sup>143</sup> ““amn al-dawla” tujarrim 3 muttāhimīn bil-hujūm ‘alā “mukhābarāt al-Baq’a”” [The State Security (Court) Imprison 3 Suspects of an Attack on the Intelligence Service in al-Baq’a], *Jordan Zad*, March 3, 2010, <http://www.jordanzad.com/print.php?id=7046>.

<sup>144</sup> “Country Reports on Terrorism 2011” (U.S. State Department, July 2012), p. 109, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/195768.pdf>.

<sup>145</sup> “Al-ḥukm bil-sijn ‘alā 10 ‘ashkhāṣ ḥāwalū al-qiyām bi-‘a ‘māl ‘irhābiyya” [Prison Sentence to 10 Individuals who Attempted to Carry out Terrorist Acts], *Assawsana*, October 4, 2010, <https://www.assawsana.com/portal/pages.php?newsid=37686>.

<sup>146</sup> “Al-ḥukm bil-sijn ‘alā 10 ‘ashkhāṣ ḥāwalū al-qiyām bi-‘a ‘māl ‘irhābiyya”.

### 2010: Plot to attack foreign officials in Jordan (W)

In September 2010, Jordanian security services apprehended two purported jihadists. They were brothers, and they were charged with plotting to attack foreign officials in Jordan. We have not found any detailed information about this plot except that the two brothers had already acquired weapons (firearms) and conducted reconnaissance in preparation for an attack at the time of their arrest.<sup>147</sup>

### 2010: IED-attack against Israeli diplomats (V)

On January 14, 2010, Israeli diplomats were targeted with an IED as they were driving to the King Hussein and Wadi Araba border crossing from Amman. According to the U.S. State Department's annual terrorism report, there were no injuries in the attack.<sup>148</sup> To the authors' knowledge, it is not known who was responsible. However, it was likely carried out by either Jordanian jihadists or Hamas supporters. There had, for instance, been other Hamas plots to target Israelis in Jordan around the same period. Due to this uncertainty, we categorized this plot as "vague."

### 2012: The Second 9/11 (W)

In 2012, Jordanian security services foiled a major terrorist plot by al-Qaida (in Iraq) inside Jordan, which the suspects referred to as "the Second 9/11," indicating that it was supposed to be executed on the seventh anniversary of the Amman Hotel Bombings. Eleven Jordanian citizens "who moved in and out of Syria" were believed to be involved in the plot, which was the most severe in Jordan since the mid-2000s.<sup>149</sup>

The plot was detected and disrupted at an early stage so the suspects might have opted for a less sophisticated plan. Yet it appears that they intended to launch sequential attacks on multiple civilian and government targets divided into several phases: "first targeting commercial locations (such as shopping malls and cafes) to draw the attention of security forces, and culminating in a complex attack on the U.S. Embassy (and possibly the British Embassy as well Jordanian government buildings) involving vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, suicide bombers, and mortars."<sup>150</sup>

In 2014, Jordan's state security court issued its ruling in the case. The judge found the all the 11 suspects guilty of "intent to carry out terrorist acts, and (of) illegal possession of explosives and firearms," sentencing each of them to between four and 20 years in prison for their involvement in the plot, which "was coordinated with Al Qaeda in Iraq."<sup>151</sup> Jaafar Saoud Dardas received 20 years, whereas Abdul Fattah Dardas and Mahmoud Mannaa were sentenced to 15 years each. Fawzi Abdul Jabbar Hussein, Mohammad Khater, Abdullah Handam, Ayman Abu Saeleek, Tarek Sharaa, Ahmed

---

<sup>147</sup> "Country Reports on Terrorism 2010" (U.S. State Department, August 2011), p.93.

<sup>148</sup> "Country Reports on Terrorism 2010" (U.S. State Department, August 2011), p.92.

<sup>149</sup> "Jordan Foils Major Terror Plot, Officials Say", *CNN*, October 22, 2012, <http://edition.cnn.com/2012/10/21/world/meast/jordan-terror-plot-foiled/index.html>; "Jordan Disrupts Major Al-Qaeda Terrorist Plot", *The Washington Post*, October 21, 2012, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/jordan-disrupts-major-al-qaeda-terrorist-plot/2012/10/21/e26354b4-1ba7-11e2-9cd5-b55c38388962\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.8d974825b4c4](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/jordan-disrupts-major-al-qaeda-terrorist-plot/2012/10/21/e26354b4-1ba7-11e2-9cd5-b55c38388962_story.html?utm_term=.8d974825b4c4).

<sup>150</sup> "Country Reports on Terrorism 2012" (U.S. State Department, May 2013), p. 125, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/210204.pdf>.

<sup>151</sup> "Court Hands down Jail Sentences to 11 in Al Qaeda Terror Plot", *Jordan Times*, May 28, 2014, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/court-hands-down-jail-sentences-11-al-qaeda-terror-plot>.

Abu Taha received ten years. And, Alaa-addin Dirbas and Abdul Rahman Hivari were sentenced to four years in prison.

### 2013: Attack against military detachment (V)

In February 2016, two individuals were sentenced to life in prison and another person to 15 years “for the possession of automatic weapons and executing terror plots.”<sup>152</sup> Alongside two others, the three defendants had attacked a military detachment with automatic weapons in March 2013. In the ensuing exchange of fire, the soldiers killed two and injured the others. Although media sources referred to the incident as an act of terrorism, no information was provided as to the defendants’ political and ideological motives. We, therefore, categorized this plot as “vague.”

### 2013: Plot to assassinate the King (V)

In mid-May 2013, a Lebanese newspaper claimed that Jordanian security services had thwarted a plot by an Iraqi cell linked to Jabhat al-Nusra to assassinate the Jordanian King Abdullah II. Reportedly, the terrorists planned to pose as Jordanian military or police officers to get close to the King so as to assassinate him with an explosive belt.<sup>153</sup>

On May 18, 2013, another Arabic newspaper revealed additional information about the circumstances of the alleged plot. According to this source, after receiving information about an al-Qaida sleeper cell planning to assassinate King Abdullah II, GID had allowed some Jabhat al-Nusra operatives to slip into Jordan and subsequently monitored their movements so as to locate the sleeper cell. Eventually, this ploy bore fruit and GID was able to arrest the terrorists and detected a booby-trapped car at Taj Mall in the Abdoun area in West Amman.<sup>154</sup>

Jordanian authorities have not confirmed any of these reports, however. Moreover, we have not found any mentioning of the plot in a major newspaper. It is therefore very uncertain if there actually was a plot, - or not.

### 2014: Two three-man group plots (W)

In late December 2015, Jordan’s state security court sentenced three individuals to ten years in prison for plotting terrorist attacks in 2014.<sup>155</sup> According to Jordanian officials, the three were IS-supporters.<sup>156</sup> They planned two attacks. One plot was to attack GID’s premises in al-Ruseifa with

---

<sup>152</sup> “Three Jailed for Attacking Military Unit”, *Jordan Times*, February 21, 2016, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/three-jailed-attacking-military-unit>.

<sup>153</sup> “Al-Diyar al-lubnāniyya: al-mukhābarāt al-’urdunniyya ‘aḥḥaḥat muḥāwala li-ghitiyāl al-malik” [The Lebanese (Newspaper) al-Diyar: the Jordanian Intelligence Service Thwarts an Attempt to Assassinate the King], *Saraya News*, May 14, 2013, <http://www.sarayanews.com/index.php?page=article&id=198062>.

<sup>154</sup> “Tafāṣīl jadīda ‘alā muḥāwalat ighitiyāl al-malik” [New Details about the Assassination Attempt against the King], *Al-Balad News*, May 18, 2013, <https://bit.ly/2OYUHQ7>.

<sup>155</sup> “Al-qaḍā’ al-’urdunniyy yu’āqib muttāhimīn khaṭṭaṭū li-stihdāf markaz ‘amniyy wa-khaṭf dābiṭ ‘urdunniyy” [The Jordanian Court Punish Suspects who Planned to Target a Police Station and Kidnap a Jordanian Officer], *Al-Watan*, December 28, 2015, <https://bit.ly/2vSidpe>.

<sup>156</sup> “Country Reports on Terrorism 2015” (U.S. State Department, June 2016), p. 192, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/258249.pdf>.

explosives. The other plot was to kidnap and kill officers in the Royal Jordanian Air Force. However, the three IS-supporters were arrested before the plots reached fruition.<sup>157</sup>

### 2014: Potential IS-plots (V)

In September 2014, Jordanian authorities arrested several individuals for plotting attacks in Jordan on behalf of IS. Limited information has been released about the suspected plots except that the detainees had been in direct contact with IS in Syria and that they planned attacks on vital interests in the kingdom. We categorized this plot as “vague” due to the limited information available about attack type and target type. However, this plot might be changed to “well-documented” in the future.<sup>158</sup>

### 2014: Plot to kidnap U.S. Citizen (V)

During a court session in 2014, information about a plot to kidnap U.S. citizens surfaced. A Syrian man named Ibrahim explained that he came to Jordan together with another Syrian, Omar, to kidnap an U.S. citizen “who provides assistance for Syrian refugees in Zarqa and demand a ransom.”<sup>159</sup> However, the source does not provide information about their ideological motivation (if there was any). Therefore, we categorized this plot as “vague.” It could be that this plot will be removed from this chronology in the future.

### 2014: Plot against Australian Embassy (V)

In 2014, a Jordanian citizen was charged with plotting a terrorist attack against Australian interests in Jordan. According to *Jordan Times*, the individual had threatened to target the Australian embassy as retaliation for the country’s participation in the international anti-IS coalition. We categorized this plot as “vague” because we have yet to find evidence showing the suspect had done more than issuing threats on his Facebook account.<sup>160</sup>

### 2015: IS-connected family plot in Ma’an (W)

The State Security Court sentenced a 27-year-old Jordanian man to 20 years in prison. Initially, he received the death sentence, but it was lowered due to his young age. He is accused of being part of IS. Together with his two brothers, the 27-year old orchestrated a plot to lure police officers to their home so that they could ambush them. The brothers had manufactured IEDs and booby-trapped their house. They had also acquired firearms in preparation for the plot.

In June 2015 they drove to different locations in Ma’an Governorate, waving the IS-flag as well as opening fire on government buildings and a police patrol to draw attention. The brothers then fled back to their house. The police followed in pursuit. When the policemen arrived at the house, the brothers opened fire and detonated the booby-trapped explosives. The 27-year old suspect was

---

<sup>157</sup> “Al-qaḍā’ al-’urdunniyy yu’āqib muttahiḥīn khaṭṭaṭū li-stihdāf markaz ‘amniyy wa-khaṭf dābiṭ ‘urdunniyy.”

<sup>158</sup> “Several suspects detained for ‘planning IS operations’ in Jordan”, *Jordan Times*, September 21, 2014, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/several-suspects-detained-planning-operations%E2%80%99-jordan>.

<sup>159</sup> “Two Convicted of Terror Charges, Sentenced to Three Years in Prison”, *Jordan Times*, December 23, 2014, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/two-convicted-terror-charges-sentenced-three-years-prison>.

<sup>160</sup> “WhatsApp jihadist’ pleads case at security court”, *Jordan Times*, November 3, 2014, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/whatsapp-jihadist%E2%80%99-pleads-case-security-court>.

apprehended, whereas his two brothers were killed in the clashes. Several police officers were also injured in the attack.<sup>161</sup>

We have not found information indicating that the three brothers had been in contact with IS-members in Syria or Iraq. While they are described as “affiliated to IS,” it seems that they were a local cell acting on behalf of IS.<sup>162</sup>

### 2015: Terrorist plot by Yemeni IS-member (W)

On March 15, 2017, Jordan’s state security court convicted two Yemenites on terrorism charges over a foiled attack plot in Jordan in 2015. Abd al-Jalil al-Sharahi, an IS-member, was sentenced to 15 years in prison, whereas Abd al-Malik Mansur Hussayn received a one-year- sentence “for failing to report information related to terrorist activity.”<sup>163</sup>

Al-Sharahi had previously been a member of AQAP (al-Qaida in Yemen) and had received weapon and explosives training from the group. He then left AQAP and joined one of IS’s Yemeni branches. While fighting for IS in Yemen, he had been injured. After he had recovered, al-Sharahi joined the group’s “assassination battalion,” believed to be under direct orders from the organization’s senior leadership. It appears that al-Sharahi carried out several assassinations in Yemen, before deciding to join IS’s main branch in Syria and Iraq.<sup>164</sup> On his way to Syria, al-Sharahi traveled to Jordan together with the other defendant, Abd Al-Malik.

While waiting to travel to Syria via Turkey, the two stayed in the Marka-area. After contacting IS-members, al-Sharahi was told that it had become impossible to enter Syrian territory (via Turkey) because of tightened security measures. He was, therefore, ordered to launch attacks in Jordan against foreign tourists instead, particularly Americans and Russians. He was also told to carry out reconnaissance of Jordanian police stations and to take pictures and gather information about “their units, officers and weapons,” and to kidnap Jordanian military personnel and film their executions.<sup>165</sup> Al-Sharahi then asked for money and manpower to initiate the attacks but was told to wait. Subsequently, al-Sharahi informed Abd al-Malik about the plans, yet he refused to take part in the plot.

After some time, al-Sharahi received orders to prepare an explosive belt for a suicide attack against a top-secret target that IS would disclose to him after he had finished assembling the belt. Al-Sharahi

---

<sup>161</sup> “”amn al-dawla”: al-’asghāl al-shāqqa 20 ‘āman li-muttahim bi-stihdaf al-’ajhiza al-’amniyya” [“The State Security”: 20 Years of Hard Labor to Suspect Accused of Targeting the Police], *Hala*, September 5, 2018, <https://bit.ly/2x4DRas>; “State Security Court announces sentences for several terror suspects”, *Jordan Times*, September 6, 2018, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/state-security-court-announces-sentences-several-terror-suspects>.

<sup>162</sup> Ibid.

<sup>163</sup> “Rakban Terror Attack Suspects Plea Not Guilty, 7 Others Convicted of Planning, Supporting Terrorism in Jordan”, *Jordan Times*, March 16, 2017, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/rakban-terror-attack-suspects-plea-not-guilty>; “Al-ḥukm ‘alā ‘irhābiyyayn khaṭṭatā lil-qiyām bi-’amaliyyāt ‘irhābiyya fi al-’urdunn” [Sentencing of Two Terrorists who Planned to Carry out Terrorist Operations in Jordan], *Al-Balad News*, March 15, 2017, <https://bit.ly/2vWoVko>.

<sup>164</sup> “Rakban Terror Attack Suspects Plea Not Guilty, 7 Others Convicted of Planning, Supporting Terrorism in Jordan”.

<sup>165</sup> “Rakban Terror Attack Suspects Plea Not Guilty, 7 Others Convicted of Planning, Supporting Terrorism in Jordan”.

subsequently started buying materials needed for the bomb, including fertilizer. This alerted Jordanian security services, and he was put under surveillance. After being tracked for a while, al-Sharahi was arrested in August 2015.

### 2015: Muwaqqar shooting (W)

At the tenth anniversary of the Amman Hotel Bombings, on November 9, 2015, police captain Anwar al-Sa'ad Abu Zeid killed five people and wounded at least seven others in a shooting attack at the Jordanian International Police Training Center in Muwaqqar. The slain included two American police trainers, two Jordanian interpreters, and a South African citizen who was also a trainer at the center. The assailant Abu Zeid was killed in the ensuing exchange of fire between him and first responders.<sup>166</sup>

According to START's Global Terrorism Database, IS claimed the attack.<sup>167</sup> However, in an article in the Jordanian newspaper *al-Ghad*, Jordanian journalist (now minister of youth) Mohammad Abu Rumman explains that IS never explicitly claimed to have staged the attack, but only praised Abu Zeid and referred to him as a "lone wolf" in its propaganda magazine *Dabiq*.<sup>168</sup>

### 2015: IS-linked plot to attack planes arriving at Marka Military Airport, embassies and electricity lines (W)

In 2017, three individuals were sentenced to 15 years in prison for plotting terrorist attacks in 2015. The plan was to use explosives and to strike different targets including foreign planes arriving at Marka Military Airport, embassies in Jordan, and electricity lines from the Jordan Valley to the West Bank.<sup>169</sup> We found no information about the three individuals' backgrounds except that they were IS-supporters.

Reportedly, they had conducted reconnaissance of their targets and started to prepare the explosives that were going to be used in the attacks. However, Jordanian security services had been monitoring their activities and arrested the three in November 2015 before they were able to set their plans into motion.<sup>170</sup>

---

<sup>166</sup> "Country Reports on Terrorism 2015", pp. 191-192.

<sup>167</sup> See description of the incident at GTD's website available at <http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/IncidentSummary.aspx?gtdid=201511090007>.

<sup>168</sup> Mohammad Abu Rumman, "Limādhā 'a'lana "Dā'ish" mas'uliyaythu?" [Why did "Daesh" claim responsibility?], *Al-Ghad*, June 27, 2016, <https://bit.ly/2tWpcgR>.

<sup>169</sup> "amn al-Dawla taqđī bil-'ashghāl al-shāqqa 15 'āman 'alā 'irhābiyyīn" [The State Security Sentence Terrorists to 15 Years of Hard Labor], *Petra News Agency*, February 22, 2017, [http://www.petra.gov.jo/Public\\_News/Nws\\_NewsDetails.aspx?Site\\_Id=2&lang=1&NewsID=290459&CatID=18&Type=Home&GType=1](http://www.petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?Site_Id=2&lang=1&NewsID=290459&CatID=18&Type=Home&GType=1); "Al-ḥukm 'alā 'irhābiyy khaṭṭaṭa li-tafjīr maṭār Mārka al-'askariyy" [Verdict to a Terrorist who Planned to Blow up Marka Military Airport], *Kull al-Urdunn*, February 22, 2017, <http://www.allofjo.net/index.php?page=article&id=146760>.

<sup>170</sup> "8 Sentenced to 15 Years Each for Planning "Daesh-Sponsored" Terror Attacks", *Jordan Times*, February 22, 2017, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/8-sentenced-15-years-each-planning-daesh-sponsored%E2%80%99-terror-attacks>.

## 2015: Plot to kill Jordanian soldiers in al-Zarqa (W)

In 2015, Jordanian security services foiled a plot by four IS-affiliated individuals to carry out an armed assault with firearms against a military bus in al-Zarqa.<sup>171</sup> The four individuals had been in close contact with a Jordanian IS-operative in Syria known as Abu Bakr al-Urdunni via WhatsApp, according to court documents.

Apparently, “the primary suspect” (the cell’s ringleader) told Abu Bakr al-Urdunni that he wanted to travel to Syria to join IS but was unable to do so because Jordanian authorities controlled the border and did not let anyone pass. At that time, Al-Urdunni instructed him to launch an attack against Jordanian soldiers (in Jordan) and said that he would help him complete this mission.<sup>172</sup>

Subsequently, al-Urdunni sent him money to buy weapons and told him to film the operation so that IS could broadcast the clip and take credit. Together with the other suspects, “the primary suspect” then decided to strike a military bus in Jordan’s second city al-Zarqa. They even finished the communique that would be used when IS claimed the attack. Yet the four suspects were arrested before being able to initiate the attack and were sentenced to 15 years in prison by Jordan’s state security court in 2017.<sup>173</sup>

## 2015: Suicide bombing plot against Marka Military Airport (W)

On February 22, 2017, a man was convicted on terrorism charges and sentenced to 15 years in prison for plotting a suicide bombing at Marka Military Airport. Although the plot was reported in several news outlets, none of them specify the time of the arrest. However, it seems that the suspect was arrested either in 2015 or in 2016. The man was seemingly an IS-member, and he was going to manufacture the explosive belt for the attack by himself.<sup>174</sup> The sources do not specify whether or not he had discussed his attack plans with other IS-members. According to *Kull al-Urdunn*, the man had previously been incarcerated in Jordan.<sup>175</sup>

## 2015: Salt-cell (W)

In 2015 Jordanian authorities disrupted a plot by an IS-connected terrorist cell known as the “Salt-cell.” The sources describe that the cell planned to use firearms (Kalashnikov) in the attack, yet the plot’s intended target is not mentioned specifically.<sup>176</sup> It appears, however, that the cell was discussing several targets, and one of these was Marka military airport. During a conversation

---

<sup>171</sup> “8 Sentenced to 15 Years Each for Planning “Daesh-Sponsored” Terror Attacks”; “Maşdar: ‘iḥbāṭ al-mukhaṭṭaṭāt al-’irhābiyya bil-Zarqā’ wa-wilāyat Dā’ish bi-Ma’ān waqā’i’ qadīma” [Source: The Disruption of the Terrorist Plots in al-Zarqa and Daish’s Province in Ma’an are Old Incidents], *Al-Ghad*, May 30, 2017, <https://bit.ly/2MbV8rT>.

<sup>172</sup> “iḥbāṭ mukhaṭṭaṭ ‘irhābiyy li-Dā’ish istahdafa junūdan ‘urdunniyyian - tafāṣīl” [The Disruption of an IS-terrorist Plot which Targeted Jordanian Soldiers – Details], *Al-Ray*, February 1, 2016, <http://alrai.com/article/765451.html>.

<sup>173</sup> “‘amn al-dawla taqḏī bil-’ashghāl al-shāqqa 15 ‘āman ‘alā ‘irhābiyyīn”.

<sup>174</sup> “‘amn al-dawla taqḏī bil-’ashghāl al-shāqqa 15 ‘āman ‘alā ‘irhābiyyīn”; “8 Sentenced to 15 Years Each for Planning “Daesh-Sponsored” Terror Attacks”.

<sup>175</sup> “Al-ḥukm ‘alā ‘irhābiyy khaṭṭaṭa li-tafjīr maṭār Mārka al-‘askariyy”.

<sup>176</sup> “Al-’ashghāl al-shāqqa li-muttahimīn bi-qadiyyat “khalīyyat al-Salt”” [Hard Labor for Suspects in the Salt-Cell Case], *Jfra News*, June 27, 2018, <http://www.jfranews.com/jo/post.php?id=206332>; “Al-’ashghāl 10 sanawāt li-7 muttahimīn khaṭṭaṭū li-tanfīdh ‘amaliyyāt ‘irhābiyya fī al-’urdunn” [Labor 10 Years for 7 Individuals Accused of Planning to carry out Terrorist Operations in Jordan], *Pheladelphia News*, June 27, 2018, <https://bit.ly/2N9jfVe>.

between two suspects (one of whom appears to have been akin a spiritual guide to the other), the spiritual guide told the other that “he could not grant him the legitimacy of such action [against Marka]” because there were Iraqi students (i.e., Muslims) training at the airport.<sup>177</sup>

The cell consisted of eight Jordanians. Three (or four) of them had joined IS in Syria. They (the IS-members in Syria) appear to have been instrumental in orchestrating the plot. They contacted the cell’s members inside Jordan via Telegram and other social media platforms and instructed them to carry out attacks in the kingdom because of Jordan’s participation in the international anti-IS coalition. During a chat session, one of the individuals in Syria had stated that “the execution of a military operation on the Jordanian scene is better than joining the fighters in Syria.”<sup>178</sup> He also said, “we want someone to make our heart happy in Jordan.”<sup>179</sup>

### **2015: Theft of a car and weapons in Ma’an (V)**

According to World Akhbar and Vetogate, IS claimed an operation in Ma’an in May 2015.<sup>180</sup> A group of IS sympathizers allegedly stole weapons and a car belonging to the Jordanian security services. Subsequently, clashes broke out when Jordanian security forces pursued the terrorists. The terrorists injured three gendarmerie soldiers when shooting at them with light weapons and tossing hand grenades. They all managed to flee the scene after setting fire to the stolen car.<sup>181</sup>

World Akhbar and Vetogate appear to be “semi-professional” websites. We have not been able to verify the reports in renowned Jordanian media outlets and caution that the information could be erroneous. Because of this, we categorized the incident as “vague.”

### **2016: Molotov attacks against liquor stores and educational center (W)**

In early 2016, a cell consisting of seven IS-supporters in their twenties and thirties carried out attacks with Molotov-cocktails against two liquor stores and an educational institution in Amman. No individuals appear to have been injured in the attacks. According to *Roya*, the cell’s members decided to carry out attacks in Jordan after IS released a speech by its now-deceased spokesperson Abu Muhammad al-Adnani in which he calls upon the organization’s supporters to conduct operations in their home countries.

After the attacks, one of the perpetrators made his way to Syria and joined IS there. He urged the others to join him in Syria, yet Jordanian authorities arrested them before they were able to leave the country in February 2016. In May 2018, the suspect present in Syria received a death sentence in absentia. Five of the other members of the cell also received death sentences. However, their

---

<sup>177</sup> “Al’ashghāl 10 sanawāt li-7 muttahimīn khaṭṭaṭū li-tanfīdh ‘amaliyyāt ‘irhābiyya fī al-’urdunn”.

<sup>178</sup> Ibid.

<sup>179</sup> Ibid.

<sup>180</sup> “Dā’ish yunaffīdh “‘amaliyya ‘irhābiyya fī madīnat Ma’ān”” [Daish Carries out a “Terrorist Operation in the City of Ma’an”], *World Akhbar*, May 8, 2015, <http://www.worldakhbar.com/middle-east/jordan/28891.html>.

<sup>181</sup> “Bil-suwar... “‘amaliyya ‘irhābiyya li- Dā’ish fī madīnat Ma’ān al-’urduniyya”” [In Pictures... “Terrorist Operation by Daish in the Jordanian City of Ma’an”], *Vetogate*, May 7, 2015, <http://www.vetogate.com/1619359>.

convictions were immediately lowered to 15 years in prison due to their young age. The seventh suspect was sentenced to 10 years in prison.<sup>182</sup>

### 2016: Irbid-cell (W)

On March 1-2, Jordanian security forces carried out a pre-emptive raid against a large IS-cell in Irbid. The operation lasted more than 12 hours as the suspected terrorists refused to surrender and opened fire on the security forces. The suspects were armed with machine guns and were wearing explosive belts, and all of them were killed in the ensuing battle. One special anti-terrorist unit officer was also killed, and another seven individuals (five officers and two civilians) were wounded.<sup>183</sup>

After the raid, GID officials said that the IS-cell had planned terrorist attacks on different “military and civilian sites in the Kingdom” but did not provide further details.<sup>184</sup> According to a Jordanian researcher interview by Anne Speckhard, “they were going to bomb Yarmouk, an Irbid university, and a hospital, as well as different targets in the north of Jordan.”<sup>185</sup> Reportedly, GID had already arrested 13 members of the same cell in February 2016, and more members were apprehended in the weeks that followed the raid. In December 2016, five members of the cell were sentenced to death, three were sentenced to 15 years in prison, seven individuals received ten-year sentences, one was sentenced to seven years in jail, and four others were sentenced to three years of imprisonment for their connection to the IS-cell.

The leader of the cell appears to have been in Syria before returning to Jordan to form a terrorist cell and plan attacks. This is the only plot so far that there is information suggesting IS-operatives have made their way into Jordan from Syria to plot attacks.

### 2016: Bomb plot against Russian, Israeli and Iranian embassies (W)

In March 2016, two IS-linked individuals were arrested for plotting bomb attacks against the Russian, Israeli and Iranian embassies in Amman. They were accused of manufacturing explosives and plotting attacks on behalf of IS.<sup>186</sup> In March 2018, they were sentenced to ten years of hard labor.<sup>187</sup>

### 2016: Attack against GID personnel in Baqa'a (W)

On June 6, 2016, a lone gunman, Mahmoud M., gunned down five GID personnel in an attack on the security services' Baqa'a office near the Palestinian refugee camp. Mahmoud M. was arrested the

---

<sup>182</sup> “Al-ḥukm bil-’i’ dām wal-’ashghāl mā bayna 10 ilā 15 sana bi-ḥaqq muttāhimīn bil-intimā’ li-Dā’ish” [Death Sentence and (Hard) Labor from 10 to 15 Years for Individuals Suspected of Belonging to Daish], *Roya*, May 14, 2018, <http://royanews.tv/news/154982>.

<sup>183</sup> “GID Says Irbid Raid Targeted Daesh – Affiliated Terrorists”, *Jordan Times*, March 2, 2016, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/gid-says-irbid-raid-targeted-daesh-%E2%80%93-affiliated-terrorists>.

<sup>184</sup> ‘Five Irbid Cell Terrorists Sentenced to Death, 14 Others Receive Varying Jail Terms’, *The Jordan Times*, 29 December 2016, 5, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/five-irbid-cell-terrorists-sentenced-death>.

<sup>185</sup> See quote in Anne Speckhard, “The Jihad in Jordan: Drivers of Radicalization into Violent Extremism in Jordan” (ICSVE, March 25, 2017): p. 19.

<sup>186</sup> “Jordan Jails Two for Planning Daesh Embassy Attacks”, *Arab News*, March 21, 2018, <http://www.arabnews.com/node/1271111/middle-east>.

<sup>187</sup> “SSC Issues Several Verdicts in Terrorism Cases”, *Jordan Times*, March 21, 2018, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/ssc-issues-several-verdicts-terrorism-cases>.

day after the shooting, and on August 4, 2016, he was sentenced to death.<sup>188</sup> Another individual, Sami Abu O., received a one-year sentence for selling a weapon to Mahmoud M. According to Mohammad Abu Rumman, IS never claimed the attack, although it is known that Mahmoud M. was an IS-supporter.<sup>189</sup> It is believed that Mahmoud M. responded to the call from the now deceased spokesman of IS, Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, to all Muslims that they should carry out attacks in their home countries. Mahmoud M. was not an IS-member, however.<sup>190</sup>

### 2016: Plot by al-Qaida to launch an attack in Amman (W)

In July 2016, the Jordanian security services foiled an al-Qaida-linked plot to launch terrorist attacks in the kingdom. Initially, the plan was to carry out a rocket attack (with an RPG projectile to be delivered from Syria) against an American airplane at Marka Military Airport in Amman. But it was later changed to conduct armed assaults on a military bus near the Hashemite Square in Amman, foreign tourists close to the Roman Amphitheatre, as well as a car bomb attack against a security station at the Raghadan Bus Terminal in downtown Amman. On April 12, 2017, Jordan's state security court sentenced three individuals (one Jordanian and two Yemenis) to 15 years in prison for their involvement in the plot.<sup>191</sup>

The ringleader was a Jordanian who had fought with AQAP in Yemen in 2012. He had been arrested by Yemeni authorities and then detained in a correctional center for two years. When he returned to Jordan, he contacted two Yemeni AQAP-members whom he had met at the correctional center. They put him in contact with another (probably more senior) AQAP-member. During Telegram chat sessions, the Jordanian told his AQAP-contact about a U.S. aircraft that had recently landed at Marka Military Airport.<sup>192</sup> Together they decided to target the plane with an RPG which was to be smuggled to Jordan from Syria, yet the Jordanian was told to await further instructions before doing anything.

Seemingly frustrated after not receiving any further instructions from AQAP, the Jordanian decided to travel to Syria in 2016 to join al-Qaida's branch there but realized that it was impossible to do so. He then decided to attack the military bus, the foreign tourists, and the security station in downtown Amman instead. According to the court papers, AQAP subsequently "expressed its readiness to provide money and consultation to help him execute the plots."<sup>193</sup> After the two Yemenis (whom he had met at the correctional center) agreed to participate in his new attack plans, the Jordanian contacted members of AQAP. They told him to watch online videos of how to build bombs and that he would receive \$6,000 to cover the cost of the operation.

---

<sup>188</sup> "Baqaa GID Office Attacker Sentenced to Death", *Jordan Times*, August 4, 2016, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/baqaa-gid-office-attacker-sentenced-death>; "Suspect in GID Office Killings Arrested", *Jordan Times*, June 7, 2016, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/suspect-gid-office-killings-arrested>.

<sup>189</sup> Abu Rumman, "Limādhā 'a'lana "Dā'ish" mas'ūliyyathu?"

<sup>190</sup> "6 'amaliyyāt 'irhābiyya wa-27 shahīdan fī 2016 lam tafutt bi-'azmat al-'urduniyyīn" [6 Terrorist Operations and 27 Martyrs in 2016 Does not Weaken the Jordanians' Determination], *Al-Ghad*, January 3, 2017, <https://bit.ly/2KEPpWt>.

<sup>191</sup> "Three Sentenced to Life for Plotting Terror Attacks", *Jordan Times*, April 12, 2017, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/three-sentenced-life-plotting-terror-attacks>.

<sup>192</sup> "Al-Sijn 15 'āman li-3 'irhābiyyīn khaṭṭatū li-ḍarb maṭār Mārkā" [15 Years in Prison for 3 Terrorists who Planned to Strike against Marka Airport], *Al-Ghad*, April 12, 2017, <https://bit.ly/2oozcLS>.

<sup>193</sup> "Three Sentenced to Life for Plotting Terror Attacks".

## 2016: Single-actor plot against army and GID personnel at Muwaffaq Salti air base (W)

In November 2016, a Jordanian man in his fifties was arrested for plotting to carry out a bomb attack (with TNT) on military buses transporting intelligence personnel from or to Muwaffaq Salti air base. Before his arrest, the suspect had wanted to travel to Syria to join IS and had been in contact with several members of the organization, including an operative based in Raqqa known as Abu Narjes al-Derawi.

Al-Derawi appears to have greatly influenced the suspect's decision to carry out an attack in Jordan. According to *al-Roya*, it was first after Al-Derawi had told him to attack Jordanian intelligence personnel that he had decided to attempt to do so.<sup>194</sup> In November 2017, the Jordanian was sentenced to ten years in prison.<sup>195</sup>

## 2016: Kerak attack (W)

On December 18, 2016, ten individuals were killed in an attack by an IS-cell in Kerak and Qatraneh, a town approximately 40 kilometers north of Kerak. Among the dead were four police officers, three gendarmes, two Jordanian civilians, and a Canadian tourist. At least 34 others were wounded in the attack as well including 11 police officers, four gendarmes, 17 Jordanian citizens, and two foreigners.<sup>196</sup>

IS claimed responsibility for the incident and subsequently described the four attackers (Muhammad Salih al-Khatib<sup>197</sup>, Muhammad Yusuf al-Qarawinah, Hazim Muhammad Abu Rumman, and 'Asim Muhammad Abu Rumman) as "soldiers of the Khilafa (Caliphate)" in its online magazine *Rumiyah*.<sup>198</sup> All of the terrorists were Jordanian citizens, according to the U.S. state department's annual terrorism report.<sup>199</sup> They had previously served time in prison for terrorism-related offenses.<sup>200</sup>

The attack began in Qatraneh where members of the IS-cell had rented an apartment. After locals heard an explosion from the apartment, one of the owners (Mohammed Eid al-Hajaya) went there to check if everything was fine. The tenants told him that it was only a gas cylinder that had exploded and refused him to enter the apartment because women were present. However, because the owner

---

<sup>194</sup> "Ro'yā tanshur tafāṣīl al-mukhaṭṭaṭ al-'irhābiyy li-stihdāf qā'idat Muwaffaq al-saltī" [Roya Publishes Details of Terrorist Plot to Target Muwaffaq al-Salti Base], *Roya*, December 12, 2017, <http://royanews.tv/news/142365>.

<sup>195</sup> "Jordanian Jailed over IS Plot to Attack Coalition Air Base", *The Times of Israel*, November 29, 2017, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/jordanian-jailed-over-is-plot-to-attack-coalition-air-base/>.

<sup>196</sup> "Security Forces Announce Elimination of Karak Terror Cell: Four Terrorists, 7 Security Personnel and Canadian National Killed, 34 Wounded", *Jordan Times*, December 19, 2016, <http://jordantimes.com/news/local/security-forces-announce-elimination-karak-terror-cell>.

<sup>197</sup> He was the group's emir. Alongside other members of the cell, he had originally planned to join IS in Syria. But when they realized it was difficult to go they decided to carry out attacks in Jordan instead. See "Al-khaliyya al-'irhābiyya fī al-Karak awqa'ahā "mujaffif sha'r" bi-yad al-'ajhiza al-'amniyya" [The Terrorist Cell in Karak, "A Hair Dryer" Brought it into the Hands of the Security Services], *Roya*, 13 November, 2018, <https://royanews.tv/news/168525>.

<sup>198</sup> "Military and Covert Operations", in *Rumiyah* 5, n.d., p. 41.

<sup>199</sup> "Country Reports on Terrorism 2016" (U.S. State Department, July 2017), p. 195, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/272488.pdf>.

<sup>200</sup> "'Qal'at al-Karak": maqbarat al-'irhābiyyīn" [Kerak Castle: The Terrorists' Graveyard], *Al-Ghad*, December 19, 2016, <https://bit.ly/2MefTUC>.

could smell gunpowder, he and his brother (Ibrahim Eid al-Hajaya) notified the police.<sup>201</sup> Three police officers then came to the apartment to find out what had happened. When two of the officers forced the apartment's door open, the terrorists opened fire, killing one of the officers and wounding the other. The terrorists subsequently fled the crime scene, stole Ibrahim Eid al-Hajaya's pick-up truck, and started driving towards Kerak.

On the way to Kerak, they switched cars to confuse the security forces. They also opened fire at several locations, including the police station in Qatraneh (wounding two guards), "a truck station" (wounding one individual), a police patrol between Kerak and Qatraneh and another patrol at the "entrance to the industrial city of Kerak" (nobody was injured in the attacks against the two patrols).<sup>202</sup>

When they arrived at Kerak, the terrorists started shooting at the guards outside the city's police station wounding five of them. They then fled to the nearby medieval castle and killed a Canadian tourist, who was at the castle's entrance. Subsequently, the four terrorists barricaded themselves and continued to exchange fire with security forces and local residents, who assisted in the fight. After a skirmish lasting more than five hours, the security forces and the locals finally managed to kill the four assailants.<sup>203</sup>

After the attack, Jordanian authorities discovered a large cache of weapons and explosives (including automatic rifles and explosive belts) at the apartment the terrorists had rented in Qatraneh. Based on the number of weapons seized, Jordan's then Interior Minister Salameh Hammad commented to the media that he did not believe Kerak was the only target that the IS-cell had planned to attack, but he did not specify further.<sup>204</sup>

Following the attacks, the security services also rounded up several individuals believed to be linked to the IS-cell. In May 2017, Jordan's state security court began a trial against 11 of them: Hamza Nail al-Majali, Khalid Nail al-Majali, Mahmud Madallah al-Masarwa, Isa Madallah al-Masarwa, Qasim Eid Aql al-Hajaya, Imad Ali Abd al-Salam al-Dumur, Umar Majid al-Majali, Hamza Rathan al-Majali, Mus'ab Khalid Abd al-Mu'ti al-Katib, Sulayman Abd Mansur Shaqur (still at large),<sup>205</sup> and Walid Yusuf

---

<sup>201</sup> "The Road to Karak Castle: The Path of the Attack and Backgrounds of Some of Those Involved", *7iber*, December 20, 2016, <https://www.7iber.com/politics-economics/the-road-to-karak-castle-the-path-of-the-attack-and-backgrounds-of-some-of-those-involved/>.

<sup>202</sup> "'Qal'at al-Karak": maqbarat al-'irhābiyyīn".

<sup>203</sup> "Country Reports on Terrorism 2016", pp. 195-196.

<sup>204</sup> "Gov't Deems Response to Karak Terror Attack "complete Success"", *Jordan Times*, December 20, 2016, <http://jordantimes.com/news/local/gov%E2%80%99t-deems-response-karak-terror-attack-complete-success%E2%80%99>.

<sup>205</sup> One of Qasim Eid Aql al-Hajaya, Imad Ali Abd al-Salam al-Dumur, Umar Majid al-Majali, Hamza Rathan al-Majali, Mus'ab Khalid Abd al-Mu'ti al-Katib, Sulayman Abd Mansur Shaqur appears to have been exonerated due to lack of evidence. Four others were sentenced for assisting the main suspects in buying weapons and ammunition (although they did not know that they were going to be used for attacks in Jordan).

Turki al-Qara(w)na (still at large).<sup>206</sup> They faced several charges, including carrying out terrorist acts, manufacturing explosives, and providing money to be used in terrorist acts.<sup>207</sup>

The suspect, Hamza al-Majali, is a relative of Abd al-Majeed Ibrahim al-Majali (Abu Qutayba al-Urdunni). Abu Qutayba al-Urdunni has been in prison since 2014. He is a veteran of the jihads in Afghanistan and Iraq, thought to have been close to both Abdullah Azzam and Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. In Jordan he had been “part of Bay’at al-Imam”<sup>208</sup> and before that Jaysh Muhammad, according to *CNN*.<sup>209</sup> Some initial reports linked Abu Qutayba al-Urdunni to the Kerak attack. He appears not to have played any direct role in the cell’s terrorist plans, however. Two sons of Abu Qutayba, (Qutayba and Yusuf (the latter has since returned to Jordan)), have fought with IS. Additionally, Qutayba featured in an IS-video, threatening Jordan in April 2017. The case of Abu Qutayba al-Urdunni exemplifies how jihadism often runs in families, and more generally, how new generations of jihadists are recruited and socialized by experienced veterans of prior generations.

### 2016: Kerak attackers' plot against Christians and tourists (W)

According to *Roya*, the Kerak-attackers planned to carry out attacks against Christians and tourists on behalf of IS. They planned to use firearms and explosive belts (i.e., suicide attacks). They had informed an IS-member of their plans so that the organization could claim responsibility for the attack.<sup>210</sup>

### 2016: Attack plot by Syrian-Jordanian IS-cell (W)

According to *Rai al-Yawm*, Jordanian security services foiled a plot by a Syrian-Jordanian IS-cell to execute a terrorist attack with Kalashnikovs and bombs in Jordan in late 2016.<sup>211</sup> Thus far, relatively little information has surfaced regarding the plot’s intended target(s). However, it is believed that the plotters wanted to attack the Jordanian Armed Forces.<sup>212</sup>

Three Syrian and four Jordanian citizens have been charged with complicity in the plot. Four of these were taken into custody, whereas three remained at large. Two of the suspects were weapon

---

<sup>206</sup> His last name is either Qarawna or Qarana (we have seen both). He is an IS-member and was sentenced in absentia to 15 years in prison. It appears that the Jordanian cell had contacted him and told him that they were going to carry out attacks in the kingdom so that the organization could claim credit after the operation was conducted.

<sup>207</sup> For more information about the charges against them, see “Bil’asmā’ .... khaliyyat al-Karak ‘ilā maḥkamat ‘amn al-dawla” [In Names... The Kerak-cell in front of the State Security Court], *Sawaleif*, May 3, 2017, <https://bit.ly/2MILBW2>; “State Security Court Holds Public Hearing into Karak, Rakban Attacks”, *Jordan Times*, May 9, 2017, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/state-security-court-holds-public-hearing-karak-rakban-attacks>.

<sup>208</sup> Mohammad Abu Rumman and Hassan Abu Hanieh, *The ‘Islamic Solution’ in Jordan: Islamists, the State, and the Ventures of Democracy and Security* (Jordan: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 2013), 335.

<sup>209</sup> “Mā ḥaqīqat šilat Abū Qutayba al-‘urduniyy bi-‘aḥdāth qal’at al-Karak” [What is the Truth of Abu Qutayba al-Urdunni’s tie to the Kerak Castle Events], *CNN*, January 10, 2017, <https://arabic.cnn.com/middleeast/2017/01/09/jordan-kerak-assaults>.

<sup>210</sup> “Al-khaliyya al-‘irhābiyya fi al-Karak awqa‘ahā “mujaffif sha‘r” bi-yad al-‘ajhiza al-‘amniyya”.

<sup>211</sup> “Khaliyya ‘irhābiyya sūriyya-‘urduniyya ‘amām maḥkamat ‘amn al-dawla fi al-‘urdunn” [Syrian-Jordanian Terrorist Cell in front of the State Security Court in Jordan], *Rai al-Yawm*, July 13, 2017, <http://www.raialyoum.com/?p=708507>.

<sup>212</sup> “Ro’yā tanshur tafāšil mukhaṭṭa‘āt Dā‘ishiyya li-stihdāf al-‘urdunn” [Roya Publishes Details of Daish Plots to Target Jordan], *Roya*, May 2, 2018, <http://royanews.tv/news/154066>.

smugglers, while the remaining five were said to “have a close relationship.”<sup>213</sup> One of the latter five was believed to be a high-ranking IS-operative in Syria. Sources indicated he had held “the rank of “Amir al-Taslih” in IS for a long time.”<sup>214</sup> This individual might be the man referred to as Abu Umar, whom other sources refer to as the operative responsible for IS’s external operation.

The Syrian IS-operative asked one of the other suspects (also Syrian) to carry out an attack, and they appear to have planned the plot together. The two communicated via WhatsApp, Telegram, and another more “secure” program called “the Green Program,” which the IS-operative had sent the other individual. The IS-operative also provided \$9,000 to cover the plot’s expenses.<sup>215</sup> An IS-operative in Jordan is also believed to have played a role in the plot. However, his identity has not been revealed.

### **2016: Plot to attack Christians and non-practicing Muslims (W)**

On March 1, 2017, Jordan’s state security court sentenced two individuals to 15 years in prison for plotting attacks on behalf of IS against Christian Jordanians and Muslims who did not go to mosques to pray. The source does not indicate the defendants’ nationality, but they were likely Jordanians.<sup>216</sup> One of them appears to have been tried in absentia. He had moved to Syria to join IS. From Syria, he had contacted the other individual and encouraged him to conduct attacks against Christians and non-practicing Muslims. The IS-member in Syria urged the plotter in Jordan to carry out the attacks by using firearms, which he promised that the organization (IS) would provide funds for purchasing.<sup>217</sup> The sources do not specify exactly when the plot was foiled, but it was likely in 2016.

### **2016: Two-man plots to conduct sniper and rocket attacks against police and GID (W)**

On March 1, 2017, two individuals were sentenced to 15 years and another to eight years in prison for plotting two attacks on behalf of IS. The first was supposed to be a sniper attack against a police station in the northern part of Amman. The second was a rocket attack against GID. IS had reportedly sent information to the defendants on how to manufacture a home-made missile. Both of the plots were funded by IS. Although the source does not indicate the defendants’ nationality, they were likely Jordanians.<sup>218</sup> The source also does not specify when the plots were foiled, yet it was likely in 2016 as the trial finished in early 2017.

### **2016: Assassination of Nahed Hattar (V)**

On September 25, 2016, Jordanian journalist Nahed Hattar was killed outside a Jordanian court before a court hearing. Hattar faced criminal charges after posting a cartoon “depicting a bearded

---

<sup>213</sup> “Al-tafāṣīl al-kāmila li-tanfīdh ‘amaliyya ‘irhābiyya ‘alā al-sāḥa al-‘urduniyya” [The Full Details of the (Planned) Terrorist Operation on the Jordanian Scene], *Al-Rai*, July 15, 2017, <https://bit.ly/2uoQZrj>.

<sup>214</sup> “Khaliyya ‘irhābiyya sūriyya-‘urduniyya ‘amām maḥkamat ‘amn al-dawla fī al-‘urdunn”.

<sup>215</sup> “Al-tafāṣīl al-kāmila li-tanfīdh ‘amaliyya ‘irhābiyya ‘alā al-sāḥa al-‘urduniyya”.

<sup>216</sup> “Court Jails Six over Terror Charges: Two Handed 15-Year Prison Terms for Plotting Sniper, Missile Attacks”, *Jordan Times*, March 1, 2017, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/court-jails-six-over-terror-charges>.

<sup>217</sup> “Maḥkamat ‘amn al-dawla taḥkum bil-‘ashghāl al-shāqqa ‘alā ‘irhābiyyīn min al-mu‘ayyidīn li-Dā‘ish” [The State Security Court Sentences IS-supporters to Hard Labor] (Jordan TV, 1 March 2017), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiRCsTJbDLM>.

<sup>218</sup> “Court Jails Six over Terror Charges: Two Handed 15-Year Prison Terms for Plotting Sniper, Missile Attacks”.

man (IS-member) in bed with two women ordering God to bring him cashews and wine.”<sup>219</sup> Although it was intended to ridicule IS, the cartoon caused outrage among many Muslims in Jordan because of the way it depicted God and was seen as offending Islam. Before his death, Hattar had apologized, explaining that he did not mean to offend anyone. For Riyadh Ismail Ahmed Abdullah, a 49-year old former imam at a mosque in Amman, Hattar’s apology was not sufficient. Abdullah gunned down Hattar outside the court building, shooting him three times in the head.

We have not come across information linking Abdullah to a particular organization. However, his appearance and clothing have been described as “Salafi,” and he was known for his extremist behavior and ideas.<sup>220</sup> Moreover, Abdullah had earlier fought with opposition groups in Syria, according to *the New Arab blog*.<sup>221</sup> Still, we chose to categorize this as a “vague” plot due to the lack of evidence that he was a jihadist.

On December 20, 2016, Jordan’s state security court found Abdullah guilty of carrying out a deadly terrorist act and sentenced him to death by hanging. The court also sentenced two other men to one year in prison for complicity. One of them had sold Abdullah the gun he used in the attack, whereas the other had introduced Abdullah to the weapons merchant.<sup>222</sup>

### 2016: Attack against Americans at Military Base (V)

On November 4, 2016, a Jordanian military guard killed three U.S. soldiers at Prince Faisal Air Base. The guard opened fire on their vehicle as it returned to the base. It is reported that the U.S. soldiers were in Jordan “to assist a CIA-led training mission for Syrian rebels.”<sup>223</sup>

This incident has been very controversial in Jordan. During his trial, the suspect, Ma’arik al-Tawayha, denied having done anything wrong and claimed that he had only done his job. He claimed that he had believed that the base was under attack because the victims had failed to stop their car when approaching the gate. Al-Tawayha was sentenced to life in prison, but a motive for the killings was not established in court. According to Jordanian officials, “there was no evidence that (he) had ties to extremist groups.”<sup>224</sup> I, therefore, categorized this as a “vague” plot.

---

<sup>219</sup> “Writer Charged with Insulting Islam Is Killed as Extremism Boils Over in Jordan”, *New York Times*, September 25, 2016, <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/26/world/middleeast/nahed-hattar-jordanian-writer-killed.html>.

<sup>220</sup> “Columnist’s Killer Sentenced to Death”, *Jordan Times*, December 20, 2016, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/columnist%E2%80%99s-killer-sentenced-death>.

<sup>221</sup> “Killer of Jordanian Writer Nahed Hattar Sentenced to Death”, *The New Arab*, December 21, 2016, <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2016/12/21/killer-of-jordanian-writer-nahed-hattar-sentenced-to-death>.

<sup>222</sup> “Killer of Author Nahed Hattar Sentenced to Death”, *Al-Jazeera*, December 20, 2016, <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/12/nahed-hattar-killer-author-sentenced-death-161220153755501.html>.

<sup>223</sup> Jeremy M. Sharp, “Jordan: Background and U.S. Relations” (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Research Service, January 2017), p. 4, [https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/20170601\\_RL33546\\_bd3fba902e4f1ffaa325fcdbae4b07daaba7500a.pdf](https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/20170601_RL33546_bd3fba902e4f1ffaa325fcdbae4b07daaba7500a.pdf)

<sup>224</sup> “Jordanian Sentenced to Life in Prison for Killing 3 U.S. Soldiers”, *New York Times*, July 17, 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/17/world/middleeast/jordan-killing-us-soldiers.html>.

## 2017: Plot to kill police guard (W)

On October 16, 2017, Jordan's state security court sentenced a 24-year-old to 15 years in prison for planning to stab and kill a Gendarmerie soldier in Amman in February or March that same year.<sup>225</sup> The 24-year-old was an IS-supporter. Since 2015, he had frequently been watching IS propaganda on social media such as YouTube. In late 2016, he had downloaded Telegram and joined a channel called "The State's Terrorist Channel" where he came in contact with an IS-operative in charge of the channel, who went by the name "The State's Terrorist."<sup>226</sup>

The true identity of the IS-operative is either not known or has not been revealed. However, court documents show that he played a crucial role in the 24-year-old's radicalization process and was instrumental in his decision to conduct an attack in Jordan.

During exchanges on Telegram, the 24-year-old asked the IS-operative to help him travel to Syria so he could join IS. At this point, the IS-operative started encouraging the 24-year-old to carry out an attack in Jordan on behalf of IS. He also appears to have said that such an operation would help guarantee that the 24-year-old could join the organization.<sup>227</sup>

They then agreed that he should stab a soldier or a police officer and steal the soldier/police officer's weapon. They also discussed further attacks on targets in Jordan and Israel if he succeeded. According to court documents, the IS-operative had also sent instruction films on how to manufacture bombs to the recruit in Jordan, but he had been unable to comprehend how to assemble a device.<sup>228</sup> This is an interesting example of how the manufacturing of bombs usually requires interaction between a trainer and trainee, rather than just passively watching online instruction movies.

When he was arrested on February 26, 2017, the 24-year-old had already conducted reconnaissance of his chosen target, a police guard outside the Ministry of Health, and practiced techniques for a stabbing attack. He also planned to record a video in which he would pledge allegiance to IS so that the organization could claim the attack.<sup>229</sup>

## 2017: Two-man plot against churches, tourists, and soldiers (W)

On April 4, 2018, two IS-supporters (21 and 25 years old) were sentenced to 15 years in prison for plotting attacks against tourists, Jordanian military personnel, and churches in Amman on behalf of

---

<sup>225</sup> "Man gets 15-Year Jail Term over Terror Charges", *Jordan Times*, October 16, 2017, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/man-gets-15-year-jail-term-over-terror-charges>.

<sup>226</sup> "Al-mukhābarāt tufshil mukhaṭṭaʿāt 'irhābiyya istahdafat al-'urdunn" [The Intelligence Thwarts Terrorist Plots Targeting Jordan], *Sawaleif*, July 17, 2017, <https://bit.ly/2KNgmHG>.

<sup>227</sup> We know of other examples internationally where IS and its forerunner al-Qaida in Iraq (AQI) have told recruits in the West to launch attacks in their home countries as a form of "initiation test" for joining their organizations as foreign fighters. E.g. 2006 Cologne train bomb plotters linked to AQI (see "Failed Bomb Plot Seen as al-Qaida Initiation Test", *Der Spiegel*, April 9, 2007, <http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/terrorism-in-germany-failed-bomb-plot-seen-as-al-qaida-initiation-test-a-476238.html>) and 2014 Vienna teenager bombing plot linked to IS (see "ISIL Jihadists "offered teenager \$25,000 to carry out bombings in Vienna"", *The Telegraph*, October 30, 2014, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/islamic-state/11199628/Boy-14-who-planned-Vienna-bombings-was-recruited-on-internet-by-Isil.html>).

<sup>228</sup> "Al-mukhābarāt tufshil mukhaṭṭaʿāt 'irhābiyya istahdafat al-'urdunn".

<sup>229</sup> "Al-mukhābarāt tufshil mukhaṭṭaʿāt 'irhābiyya istahdafat al-'urdunn".

IS. According to the indictment, the two men had been in contact with several IS-members in Syria, including one individual referred to as Abu Umar (who appears to be the operative responsible for IS's external operations). They had wanted to join IS in Syria, yet the IS-members had told them that the "road to Syria was not safe" and instructed them to carry out attacks in Jordan instead. The two men had agreed to this request and then carried out surveillance of a church in Amman. The suspects were unable to buy weapons. During on a conversation online, an IS-operative (not Abu Umar) inquired about the situation. When the 25-year old told the operative that they were struggling, he said: "If I left weapons for you in a particular place with a plan to carry out a terrorist attack against specific targets, will you do it [attack]?" The 25-year old agreed.<sup>230</sup> However, the two suspects were arrested by Jordanian security services on April 18, 2017, before being able to carry out any attacks.<sup>231</sup>

### 2017: School teacher plots against churchgoers and liquor stores (W)

On 15 April 2019, a thirty-four-year-old teacher at a government school was sentenced to ten years in prison for disseminating IS-propaganda and plotting attacks inside Jordan on IS's behalf. The teacher had wanted to join IS in Syria. He planned to make his way to Syria via Turkey. However, when he was unable to do so, he started plotting attacks in Jordan instead.

He recruited three (adolescent) students at his school to his terrorist cell. They planned two attacks: The first was against (Christian) churchgoers. They planned to kill the Christians with unspecified melee-weapons. The second was an attack against liquor stores with Molotov cocktails. However, the four-man cell was arrested in May 2017 before being able to carry out any of the two plots.

The suspects had disseminated IS-propaganda on social media platforms. Although it is not unlikely that they had been in touch with IS-members, the source does not mention any direct contact with IS-operatives.<sup>232</sup>

### 2017: Plot against GID-personnel in al-Turra (W)

According to *Garaanews*, a 23-year old IS-supporter was arrested in May 2017 for plotting attacks against GID-officers residing in the Jordanian city of al-Turra close to the Syrian border.<sup>233</sup> In November 2017, he was sentenced to 15 in years in prison. Before his arrest, he had allegedly watched videos on how to assemble (and disassemble) hand grenades on YouTube and tried to convince his friends to support IS.

---

<sup>230</sup> "Bad' muḥākamat 'unṣurayn min Dā'ish khaṭṭatā li-'a'māl 'irhābiyya" [The Trial of two IS-members who planned terrorist acts begins], *Petra News Agency*, July 19, 2017, [http://www.petra.gov.jo/Public\\_News/Nws\\_NewsDetails.aspx?Site\\_Id=2&lang=1&NewsID=310343&CatID=14&Type=Home&GType=0](http://www.petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?Site_Id=2&lang=1&NewsID=310343&CatID=14&Type=Home&GType=0)

<sup>231</sup> "Bad' muḥākamat 'unṣurayn min Dā'ish khaṭṭatā li-'a'māl 'irhābiyya"; "Al-Sijn 15 'āman li-'urdunniyyayn khaṭṭatā li-stihdāf al-kanā'is wal-suyyāḥ wal-junūd" [15 Years in Prison for Two Jordanians who planned to target Churches, Tourists, and Soldiers], *Elaph*, April 4, 2018, <http://elaphjournal.com/Web/News/2018/4/1197512.html>.

<sup>232</sup> "10 sanawāt 'ashghāl mu'aqqata li-'ustādh 'urdunniyy jannada ṭalabat madrasa bi-khaliyya 'irhābiyya" [10 years of temporary labor to a Jordanian teacher who recruited school students to terrorist cell], *Roya*, April 15, 2019, <https://royanews.tv/news/179799>.

<sup>233</sup> "Al-ḥukm 'alā 'irhābiyy yukaffir kull man ya'mal fī al-ḥukūma wa-yukhaṭṭiṭ li-qatī rijāl al-mukhābarāt fī al-'urdunn" [Sentencing of Terrorist who excommunicated all government employees and planned to kill GID-officers in Jordan], *Garaanews*, November 8, 2017, <https://bit.ly/2nAvmj0>.

### 2017: Eid al-Adha plot (W)

In early September 2017, Jordanian security services disrupted a single-actor plot to assassinate a police officer with firearms in the Madaba Governorate. The suspect was sentenced to 12 years in prison in March 2018. Before his arrest, the suspect had been in contact with an “IS-leader” in Syria. He planned to travel to Syria to join IS after carrying out the attack.<sup>234</sup>

### 2017: Plot to attack the GID-office in al-Zarqa by IS-supporter (W)

In September 2017, an IS-supporter was apprehended for plotting an attack with firearms against the GID-office in al-Zarqa. The suspect had started watching IS-propaganda in 2016 and subsequently became a supporter of the group. He was charged with planning to implement a terrorist attack, joining an armed group, and with promoting IS-propaganda and ideology on January 22, 2018. The source does not specify whether or not the plotter had been in touch with IS-memebers.<sup>235</sup>

### 2017: IS-plot to ambush police officers (W)

In mid-September 2017, the GID intercepted a plot by a local IS-cell to ambush police officers. The plan appears to have been to report a fictitious crime and then open fire on the first responders.<sup>236</sup> The IS-cell composed nine individuals. Eight of them were remanded in custody, whereas one (an IS-operative in Syria) remained at large.<sup>237</sup>

Several of the cell’s members had sought to join IS in Syria. They had even been in contact with different Syria-based IS-members whom they asked for help to travel there. However, they had been unable to make their way to Syria because Jordanian authorities had sealed off the border (and the IS-wannabes lacked sufficient funds to pay traffickers to get them across). At this point, different IS-members strongly encouraged them to carry out attacks in Jordan instead of going to Syria. These included one member of the IS-affiliated Khalid bin al-Waleed Group known as Abu Ahmad al-Suri, Ebada, Ahmad Abu Dawwas, and the man responsible for IS’s external operations who goes by the name Abu Umar.

One of the members of the Jordanian IS-cell communicated with Abu Umar via Telegram, WhatsApp, and another secure program, which the latter sent him. During these conversations, Abu Umar is reported to have stated that “the execution of military operations in Jordan is better than joining IS’s fighters” in Syria.<sup>238</sup> He told them that IS would provide the necessary funds for the operation.<sup>239</sup> Abu Umar told them to strike against Jordanian security forces and touristic sites.<sup>240</sup>

---

<sup>234</sup> “Al-’ashghāl al-shāqqa 12 ‘āman li-’irhābiyy khaṭṭaṭa li-qatl dābiṭ ‘amn” [12 Years of Hard Labor for Terrorist Plotting to Kill a Police Officer], *Al-Ghad*, March 7, 2018, <http://alghad.com/articles/2138042>.

<sup>235</sup> “New Trials open for 35 Terror Suspects”, *Jordan Times*, January 22, 2018, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/new-trials-open-35-terror-suspects>.

<sup>236</sup> “Ro’yā tanshur tafāṣil mukhaṭṭaṭāt Dā’ishiyya li-stihdāf al-’urdunn”.

<sup>237</sup> “Al-mukhābarāt tuḥbiṭ mukhaṭṭaṭāt ‘irhābiyya ḍidd ‘ajhiza ‘amniyya ‘aylūl al-māḍī” [The Intelligence Service Foiled Terrorist Plots against Security Apparatus last September], *Al-Rai*, November 9, 2017, <https://bit.ly/2hfjCm>; “Court Hearing for Alleged Terror Ring to Begin next Week”, *Jordan Times*, November 9, 2017, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/court-hearing-alleged-terror-ring-begin-next-week>.

<sup>238</sup> “Al-mukhābarāt tuḥbiṭ mukhaṭṭaṭāt ‘irhābiyya ḍidd ‘ajhiza ‘amniyya ‘aylūl al-māḍī”.

<sup>239</sup> “Ro’yā tanshur tafāṣil mukhaṭṭaṭāt Dā’ishiyya li-stihdāf al-’urdunn”.

<sup>240</sup> Ibid.

In addition to personal encouragement from Abu Umar and other IS-instigators, the video-clip released in April 2017 entitled “Alert When There is Danger”<sup>241</sup> in which IS threatens Jordan, is believed to have played a key role in motivating the Jordanians to plan attacks in their home country.<sup>242</sup>

### 2017: Three-man plots against GID-officers and JAF-pilots (W)

In September 2017, GID foiled two plots by a local IS-connected cell against GID-officers and JAF-pilots. The first plot was to assassinate two GID-officers with silencer guns. The second plot was to use homemade explosives against a bus transporting JAF-pilots close to Marka where the Royal Jordanian Air Force’s headquarters is located.<sup>243</sup>

Seven individuals were on trial in the case. Three were sentenced to 15 years in prison in September 2018 for being responsible for the plot, whereas one received five years for spreading IS-propaganda and failing to inform the authorities about a potential terrorist plot. One individual was acquitted, whereas the remaining two got three and six months for being in possession of unlicensed weapons.<sup>244</sup>

Two of the suspects appear to have been the ringleaders of the plots. They had been IS-supporters since 2014 and became acquainted in 2017. After IS released the video-clip entitled “Alert When There is Danger”<sup>245</sup> in April 2017, they decided to start planning attacks against security officers in Jordan.

They chose to target the two GID-officers because one of the suspects lived in the same apartment building as the GID-officers. The suspects acquired pistols for this purpose (bought from a man in Ma’an) and built homemade silencers based on directions available online.<sup>246</sup> As for the second plot, the two carried out surveillance of the bus transporting the JAF-pilots to choose the right time and place to conduct the bomb attack. It was after this that they decided to recruit more individuals for the plot.

The plotters had been active on pro-IS channels/sites online. However, the sources do not mention that they had been in direct contact with IS-members in Syria. Yet this cannot be ruled out.

### 2017: Plot to attack the security apparatus by IS-supporter (W)

In November 2017, an IS-supporter was arrested for plotting to attack the security apparatus in Jordan. For this purpose, he had acquired a Kalashnikov and materials needed to manufacture

---

<sup>241</sup> The video-clip is available at this link <http://jihadology.net/2017/04/05/new-video-message-from-the-islamic-state-alert-when-there-is-danger-wilayat-al-furat/>

<sup>242</sup> “Al-mukhābarāt tuḥbiṭ mukhaṭṭaṭāt ’irhābiyya dīdd ’ajhiza ’amniyya ’aylūl al-mādī”.

<sup>243</sup> “Ro’yā” tanshur tafāṣīl mukhaṭṭaṭ ’irhābiyy li-ghtiyāl ḍubbāt mukhābarāt wa-ṭayyārī silāḥ al-jaww” [Roya Publishes the Details of the Terrorist Plot to Assassinate GID-Officers and JAF-Pilots], *Roya*, September 9, 2018, <http://royanews.tv/news/163434>.

<sup>244</sup> “amn al-dawla” tuṣdir ’aḥkāman mushaddada bi-ḥaqq muttahimīn bil-takḥīṭ li-’amaliyyāt ’irhābiyya” [“The State Security” Gives Harsh Sentences to Suspects Accused of Plotting Terrorist Operations], *Hala*, September 9, 2018, <https://bit.ly/2O66uv2>.

<sup>245</sup> The video-clip is available at this link <http://jihadology.net/2017/04/05/new-video-message-from-the-islamic-state-alert-when-there-is-danger-wilayat-al-furat/>

<sup>246</sup> “Ro’yā” tanshur tafāṣīl mukhaṭṭaṭ ’irhābiyy li-ghtiyāl ḍubbāt mukhābarāt wa-ṭayyārī silāḥ al-jaww”.

explosives. He had also practiced using the automatic rifle and watched online videos on how to build bombs from everyday items available at local markets.

After the establishment of IS, the man had become an ardent supporter of the group and had started running an online chat room for IS-propaganda. He had wanted to join IS in Syria and had been in contact with IS-members who told him to travel there via Turkey. However, he decided not to go because he feared that Jordanian security services would arrest him if he attempted to do so. It was then that he made up his mind to carry out an attack in Jordan instead.

The suspect was a resident of Kerak, but had travelled to Ma'an to meet other IS-supporters in September 2017 and stayed with them during armed confrontations with Jordanian security forces. Although he had been in contact with others, he appears to have planned to execute the attack alone. The source does not indicate whether or not he had discussed his plans with IS-members in Syria.<sup>247</sup>

### **2017: Plot by 15-cell against police and GID in Rusayfa and Yajouz (W)**

On November 24 and 25, 2017, Jordanian authorities foiled an IS-plot to target several GID and police units in Rusayfa and Yajouz with automatic assault rifles. Limited information has been revealed about the plot, but it is known that the cell consisted of 15 individuals.<sup>248</sup> The suspects are said to have come from Rusayfa and part of the reason why the plot targeted GID was to take revenge against members of the intelligence office in Rusayfa who had previously arrested one of the 15 on criminal charges.<sup>249</sup> They started plotting the attacks in Jordan after they had found a *fatwa* declaring on one of IS's sites online military operations inside Jordan lawful.<sup>250</sup>

### **2017: Plot by 17-cell to launch a large complex attack in Jordan (W)**

In January 2018, GID officials told the media that the security services had foiled a major IS-plot and arrested as many as 17 individuals in November 2017. The plan appears to have been to execute complex simultaneous attacks, including suicide bombings against several different targets.<sup>251</sup>

---

<sup>247</sup> "Trial of Terror Plot Suspect Begins", *Jordan Times*, January 23, 2018,

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/trial-terror-plot-suspect-begins>.

<sup>248</sup> "Authorities Reveal Foiled ISIS Plot Last November", *Al-Ghad*, March 25, 2018,

<http://english.alghad.com/articles/2169462-Authorities-Reveal-Foiled-ISIS-Plot-Last-November?s=52a022dd4d1c51fd9fec6e38860b2dab>.

<sup>249</sup> "Jordan Foils ISIS Plot Targeting Intelligence, Police", *Terror alert*, March 26, 2018, <https://terror-alert.com/news/jordan-foils-isis-plot-targeting-intelligence-police?uid=114102>.

<sup>250</sup> "Al-'urdunn yakshif 'an khaliyya jadida li-Dā'ish" [Jordan reveals a new IS-cell], *Ramallah News*, March 24, 2018, <https://bit.ly/2UpVmjY>.

<sup>251</sup> "Jordan Foils Major Terror Plot", *Jordan Times*, January 8, 2018,

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/jordan-foils-major-terror-plot>; "Al-'urdunn yu'lin 'ihbāt mukhaṭṭaṭ 'irhābiyy li-Dā'ish wa-'tiqāl 17 'unṣuran" [Jordan Announces the Disruption of an IS terrorist plot and the arrest of 17 individuals], *CNN*, January 8, 2018, <https://arabic.cnn.com/middle-east/2018/01/08/jordan-isis-terrorism-plot>; "Jordan Says Arrests 17 in Foiled Islamic State Attack Plot: State Media", *Reuters*, January 8, 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-jordan-security-militants/jordan-says-arrests-17-in-foiled-islamic-state-attack-plot-state-media-idUSKBN1EX111>.

Reportedly, the plotters intended to combine different firearms (probably Sten Guns, pistols, and an M4 automatic rifle) and explosives in the attacks.<sup>252</sup>

Initially, the targets were described as military and security facilities; commercial centers/shopping malls, news agencies, and moderate religious scholars in Jordan. Yet, some months after, Jordanian media reported that the targets included “Ro’ya TV, a French support centre, a nightclub in Shmeisani, Amman, the US embassy building, Jordan Phosphate Company’s tunnels, a church in Marka and a group of Israeli businessmen.”<sup>253</sup>

The cell’s members had already conducted reconnaissance and made detailed plans for how to stage the attacks. They planned to fund their operation by carrying out bank robberies in al-Rusayfa and al-Zarqa as well as by stealing vehicles and then sell them.<sup>254</sup> They all came from al-Zarqa, according to *Reuters*.<sup>255</sup> And they had been divided into three groups: “the job of the first was to monitor the targets, the second’s was technical support and implementing small tasks, while the mission of the third was executing the major attacks.”<sup>256</sup>

### **2017: Single-actor plot against tourists and the tourist police at the Roman Theater in Amman (W)**

In March 2018, a Jordanian national was sentenced to 10 years in prison for plotting to attack tourists and the tourist police at the Roman amphitheater in Amman on behalf of IS. According to the indictment, the suspect had been in contact with an IS-member via a social-media platform. During their conversations, the IS-member had requested that the suspect attack the aforementioned targets, and he had agreed to do so. The suspect had then carried out surveillance of the target and recorded a clip in which he pledged fealty to IS’s leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, yet he was arrested before being able to carry out the attack.<sup>257</sup>

### **2017: IS-connected plot against armed forces (W)**

In late 2017, Jordanian authorities foiled an IS-connected plot to attack personnel belonging to the Jordanian Armed Forces with firearms. Limited information has been released about the members of the cell, but, according to *Roya*, it consisted of seven individuals.<sup>258</sup>

### **2017: IS-family plot (W)**

In June 2018, the State Security Court sentenced an IS-connected cell consisting of five members to prison terms ranging from ten to fifteen years of hard labor. The cell’s members are from the same

---

<sup>252</sup> “‘a’ḍā’ khaliyya 17 al-’irhābiyya yanfūna al-tuham al-musnada lahum” [The Members of the 17-Terrorist Cell Denies the Charges against them], *Al-Rai*, April 2, 2018, <http://alrai.com/article/10431198/>.

<sup>253</sup> “Defendants in Major Terror Trial Plead Not Guilty”, *Jordan Times*, April 2, 2018, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/defendants-major-terror-trial-plead-not-guilty/>; “‘a’ḍā’ khaliyya 17 al-’irhābiyya yanfūna al-tuham al-musnada lahum”.

<sup>254</sup> “Al-’urdunn yu’lin ’ihbāt mukhaṭṭaṭ ’irhābiyy li-Dā’ish wa-’tiqāl 17 ’unṣuran”.

<sup>255</sup> “Jordan Says Arrests 17 in Foiled Islamic State Attack Plot: State Media”.

<sup>256</sup> “Defendants in Major Terror Trial Plead Not Guilty”.

<sup>257</sup> “‘amn al-dawla: 10 sanawāt li-muttahim bil-takḥṭiṭ li-’a’ḡmāl ’irhābiyya” [The State Security (Court): 10 Years for Suspect of Planning Terrorist Acts], *Petra News Agency*, March 21, 2018,

[http://www.petra.gov.jo/Public\\_News/Nws\\_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=1&site\\_id=2&NewsID=345534&CatID=14](http://www.petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=1&site_id=2&NewsID=345534&CatID=14).

<sup>258</sup> “Ro’yā tanshur tafāṣil mukhaṭṭaṭāt Dā’ishiyya li-stihdāf al-’urdunn”.

family (including three sisters, their brother, and the husband of one of the sisters). One of the women, her husband, and the brother were sentenced to 10 years, whereas the two other sisters got 15 years in prison. The source does not specify whether all the suspects are present in Jordan. Yet it appears that the two sisters (who were sentenced to 15 years in prison) had joined IS in Syria.<sup>259</sup>

The plan was to attack two busses transporting Jordanian soldiers close to Salt and Karameh. The suspects probably intended to use both explosives and firearms in the disrupted plot. One of the plotters reportedly planned to carry out an “inghimasi attack” against the soldiers and fight to the death. The suspects were also convicted for spreading IS-propaganda online. At IS’s request, the three sisters had focused on persuading Jordanian women to join the terrorist organization.

The sources do not provide information about which year the plot was foiled. However, based on the time of the trial, it seems most likely that it was in 2017.

### **2017: Single-actor plot by IS-supporter against police (W)**

In July 2018, an IS-supporter was sentenced to ten years in prison for planning to carry out armed assaults against Jordanian police patrols. He had purchased a Kalashnikov and begun manufacturing an explosive device based on bomb recipes available online. At the time of his arrest, he had also carried out reconnaissance of police patrols in sparsely populated areas of the kingdom. The plan was to open fire on one of these patrols.

The suspect had propagated IS propaganda online and had been in contact with IS-members on Paltalk. After giving *bay’a* to IS’s leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the organization made him the administrator of a chat room for IS-supporters. At IS’s request, he decided to travel to Syria via Turkey to join the organization. Yet while waiting for the opportune moment to travel, he started preparing the plot against the Jordanian police.<sup>260</sup>

The sources do not provide information about which year he was arrested. However, based on the time of his trial, it seems most likely that it was in 2017.

### **2017: Single-actor plot to stab guards outside a foreign embassy (W)**

In July 2018, the State Security Court sentenced a butcher working in Zarqa to fifteen years in prison for plotting an attack with a large knife against security personnel guarding one of the embassies in Amman. The suspect was connected to IS and had urged his friends to support the organization. He had written a will to his parents to explain his actions, yet he was apprehended by Jordanian

---

<sup>259</sup> “‘amn al-dawla taḥkum bil-sijn ‘alā ‘afrād ‘ā’ila dā’ishiyya baynahum 3 Nisā’.. tafāṣīl” [The State Security [Court] Sentences IS Family Members including 3 Women to Prison.. Details], *Roya*, June 27, 2018, <http://royanews.tv/news/157998>.

<sup>260</sup> “Maḥkamat ‘amn al-dawla: 10 sanawāt li-dā’ishiyy yukhaṭṭiṭ li-‘amaliyya ‘irhābiyya dākhil al-mamlaka” [The State Security Court: 10 Years for Daish Member Planning a Terrorist Operation inside the Kingdom], *Jordan Times*, July 11, 2018, <https://bit.ly/2OWZDnF>; “Al-ḥabs li-muttahim ḥāwala tanfīdh ‘amaliyyāt li-Dā’ish fī al-‘urdunn” [Prison for Suspect who Attempted to Carry out Operations [on behalf of IS] in Jordan], *Noor Jordan News*, July 11, 2018, <https://bit.ly/2LhWhtl>.

authorities before being able to carry out the attack.<sup>261</sup> According to *al-Ghad*, the suspect is 19 years old.<sup>262</sup> He intended to fight to the death.

The sources do not provide information about which year he was arrested. However, based on the time of his trial, it seems most likely that it was in 2017.

### 2017: Killing of Jordanian soldier in Ma'an (V)

In January 2017, IS claimed the killing of a Jordanian soldier in Ma'an. The organization alleged that an "IS security detachment" had assassinated the soldier in a shooting attack on January 6, 2017.<sup>263</sup> Jordanian authorities denied the claim, however, explaining that the murder was a criminal act that had nothing to do with IS.<sup>264</sup> Due to this uncertainty, we categorized the plot as "vague."

### 2017: Stabbing of British Tourist (V)

In February 2017, a Jordanian in his twenties stabbed a British tourist with a kitchen knife in downtown Amman. The British woman was subsequently rushed to the hospital and treated for "stab wounds to the shoulder."<sup>265</sup>

The perpetrator originally received a life sentence, but the Jordanian State Security Court lowered his sentence to 15 years in prison to give him a second chance in life.<sup>266</sup> According to *Ammonnews*, he neither belonged to a terrorist organization nor was a "takfiri." However, he did state that he attacked the woman because he considered foreign tourists to be enemies of the religion, i.e., Islam.<sup>267</sup> Because of this, we included this incident as a "vague" plot.

### 2017: Plot to attack GID-officers in Ma'an (V)

Several individuals were charged with plotting to implement an attack against Public Security Department officers in Ma'an. The suspects had planned to steal the officers' weapons "to carry out terror acts against the officers and spread panic among citizens."<sup>268</sup> The source does not indicate whether or not the terrorist suspects were jihadists. I, therefore, included this as a "vague" plot.

---

<sup>261</sup> "Al-'urdunn: 'aḥkām bil-sijn li-6 mudānīn bil-'irhāb" [Jordan: Prison Sentence for 6 Convicted for Terrorism], *Al-Ittihad*, July 12, 2018, <https://www.alittihad.ae/Article/52540/2018/>; "Maḥkamat 'amn al-dawla -'urdunniyya tudīn muttahiīm bi-jarā'im 'irhābiyya" [The Jordanian State Security Court Sentences Individuals Accused of Terrorist Offenses], *al-Sharq al-Awsat*, July 12, 2018, <https://bit.ly/2o14pp2>.

<sup>262</sup> "'amn al-dawla" tufassil bi-110 qaḍāyā 'irhābiyya bi-6 'ashhur" ["State Security Settled 110 terrorist cases in 6 months], *al-Ghad*, July 12, 2018, <https://alghad.com/articles/2349842>.

<sup>263</sup> "IS Claims Responsibility for Killing of Jordan Army Officer", *AP*, January 16, 2017, <https://apnews.com/aa67945a8ed04e4baca96aea565e8da7/claims-responsibility-killing-jordan-army-officer>.

<sup>264</sup> "Maṣḍar 'amniyy: mazā'im Dā'ish bi-qatl 'askariyy 'urduniyy hadafuhā al-tashwīsh" [Security Source: The Aim of Daesh's Claims of Killing a Jordanian Soldiers is Distortion], *Al-Bosala*, January 17, 2017, <https://bit.ly/2nBfX1H>.

<sup>265</sup> "'Terrorist" Who Stabbed British Tourist Condemned to 15-Year-Jail Term", *Jordan Times*, March 29, 2018, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/terrorist%E2%80%99-who-stabbed-british-tourist-condemned-15-year-jail-term>.

<sup>266</sup> "'Terrorist" Who Stabbed British Tourist Condemned to 15-Year-Jail Term".

<sup>267</sup> "Al-ḥabs 15 'āman li-muttahiīm bi-ṭā'n brīṭāniyya fi 'ammān" [15 Years for Individual Accused of Stabbing a British Woman in Amman], *Ammonnews*, March 28, 2018, <http://www.ammonnews.net/article/363897>.

<sup>268</sup> "New Trials Open for 35 Terror Suspects".

### 2017: Plot to throw bombs at security forces (V)

In July 2018, the State Security Court sentenced two individuals to prison terms for planning to throw bombs at security forces. The main suspect received 15 years, while the other man got a 10-year sentence. The latter had helped the main suspect manufacture 18 explosive devices, yet it seems that he did not intend to participate in the thwarted plot. Another individual was also accused of complicity in the plot. However, he was exonerated in court.<sup>269</sup> We have not found information indicating whether or not these individuals were motivated by jihadist ideology. The exact time of their arrest is also not mentioned in the sources.

### 2018: Single-actor plot against American and Israeli soldiers (W)

On October 24, 2018, a 29-year old Jordanian man was sentenced to nine years in prison for plotting to carry out terrorist attacks as well as seeking to join and promoting terrorist groups.<sup>270</sup> It appears that the 29-year old had considered several targets, yet he ultimately decided on armed assaults with firearms against Israeli soldiers at the border and against U.S. soldiers inside Jordan.<sup>271</sup> However, Jordanian authorities arrested the plotter before he was able to carry out an attack.

The 29-year old had a bachelor degree in industrial engineering from a university in Malaysia. During the court session, it was revealed that the individual had been a supporter of jihadist groups such as al-Qaida and its affiliate in Iraq since his youth. He had been active on jihadist websites online where he used the handle Abu Anas al-Andalusi. After the emergence of IS in 2014, he started following the group's propaganda closely. Gradually, he developed a desire to join IS and its fighters in Iraq and Syria. He was in direct contact with a man known as Abu Hamza al-Ansari online. Abu Hamza was reportedly one of IS's leaders. The 29-year old hoped Abu Hamza could recommend him to IS's leaders so as to facilitate his *hijra* to areas under IS's control. In 2016, the suspect, aka Abu Anas, returned to Jordan from Malaysia. As he was never able to make his way to the conflict zones in Syria and Iraq, he started plotting an attack in the kingdom on behalf of IS instead.<sup>272</sup>

### 2018: Attack by Fuheis-cell (W)

On August 10, 2018, a bomb attack (using a primitive IED which had been planted on the site) killed one Gendarmerie officer and wounded six others close to the mainly Christian city of Fuheis in Jordan. Ten days later, one of the wounded succumbed to his injuries.<sup>273</sup>

A cell of Jordanian IS-sympathizers was responsible for the attack. Less than a day after the attack, Jordanian authorities had managed to locate the cell's members in an apartment building in the Salt region. The suspects refused to surrender to the security forces, however. A firefought broke out which

---

<sup>269</sup> ""'amn al-dawla": al-sijn li-muttahimīn ḥāwalū 'ilqā' qanābil 'alā rijāl 'amn" ["The State Security": Prison for Suspects who Attempted to Throw Bombs at Security Personnel], *Al-Urdunn* 24, July 11, 2018, <https://www.jo24.net/post.php?id=278209>; "Al-'urdunn: 'aḥkām bil-sijn li-6 mudānīn bil-'irhāb"; "Maḥkamat 'amn al-dawla al-'urdunniyya tudīn muttahiīmīn bi-jarā'im 'irhābiyya".

<sup>270</sup> "SSC hands down sentences for terrorist suspects", *Jordan Times*, October 24, 2018, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/ssc-hands-down-sentences-terrorist-suspects>.

<sup>271</sup> "9 sanawāt li-"dā'ishiyy" khaṭṭaṭa li-stihdāf junūd 'amrikān fi al-'urdunn" [9 years for daishi who planned to target American soldiers in Jordan], *Roya*, October 24, 2018, <https://royanews.tv/news/166937>.

<sup>272</sup> Ibid.

<sup>273</sup> "Officer dies of injuries sustained in Fuheis attack", *Jordan Times*, August 20, 2018, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/officer-dies-injuries-sustained-fuheis-attack>.

culminated when the terrorists decided to blow up their apartment. A total of four security agency officers and three suspects were killed in the incident. The authorities managed to apprehend four suspects though. Based on investigations, it appears that the cell planned to conduct larger operations than the IED-attack as well. Its members had a large cache of weapons and explosives, and it could be that the cell had a closer connection to IS than what has been reported until now.<sup>274</sup>

### 2018: Foiled plots connected to Fuheis-cell (W)

On September 13, 2018, GID released further information about the Fuheis-cell. The cell consisted of seven individuals: Ahmad Ensour (the entrepreneur/leader), Ahmed Odeh, Diyaa Faouri, Mahmoud Hiyari, Mahmoud Ensour, Mundhir al-Qadi, and Anas Salih. All of the suspects are Jordanian and most hail from Salt. Ahmad Ensour, Ahmed Odeh and Zia al-Fawair were killed in the CT-operation, whereas the remaining four were arrested.<sup>275</sup> Ahmad Ensour had recruited the other members. They swore *bay'a* to him and supported “what is called the Islamic State.” The group did not have any direct ties to IS, according to *Jordan Times*.<sup>276</sup>

Initially, they planned to conduct a series of attacks using different firearms against GID and other military locations. Yet they changed their plans after IS’s spokesperson Abu Muhammad al-Adnani had urged the organization’s members and supporters to conduct bomb attacks instead of armed assaults because “it was safer and more effective.”<sup>277</sup> The group then manufactured as much as 55 kilograms of explosives. They also built a “remote-controlled drone-like machine to carry out the bombings.”<sup>278</sup> According to the information released by GID, the drone was able to carry close to 10 kilograms, and the aim was to target military installations from a far.<sup>279</sup>

### 2018: Two two-man plots (1) to kidnap and murder a GID-officer and a judge, and (2) to attack GID in al-Ruseifa (W)

In 2019, two individuals were sentenced to 15-years in prison for plotting attacks on behalf of IS in Jordan. According to *Hala*, their plan was to kidnap and film the killing of a GID-officer, one of the State Security Court’s judges, as well as to attack GID’s base in al-Ruseifa.<sup>280</sup> The two had carried out reconnaissance of GID’s base in al-Ruseifa as well as GID’s main headquarters in al-Jandawil. They had also tracked the movements of a GID-officer in their area in Jordan (the area is not specified). To fund the operation, they planned that the first suspect would steal money from the second suspect’s place of work. They also planned to rob Yaser Mall and Coca Cola to get funds needed to buy weapons necessary to carry out the operation.<sup>281</sup> The sources do not provide information about

---

<sup>274</sup> “Terror suspects under interrogation for Fuheis, Salt Killings”, *Jordan Times*, August 16, 2018, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/terror-suspects-under-interrogation-fuheis-salt-killings>.

<sup>275</sup> “Shahādāt al-’irhābiyyīn wa-tafāṣīl mukhaṭṭaṭ khaliyyat al-Fuḥays al-’irhābiyya” [Testimonies of the terrorists and details of the Fuheis Cell’s Plot], *Hala*, September 13, 2018, <https://bit.ly/2x8nQRK>.

<sup>276</sup> Salt Suspects confess to greater terror schemes”, *Jordan Times*, September 14, 2018, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/salt-suspects-confess-greater-terror-schemes>.

<sup>277</sup> Ibid.

<sup>278</sup> Ibid.

<sup>279</sup> “Shahādāt al-’irhābiyyīn wa-tafāṣīl mukhaṭṭaṭ khaliyyat al-Fuḥays al-’irhābiyya”.

<sup>280</sup> “15 sana li-muttahimayn khaṭṭaṭā li-khaṭf wa-qatl ’aḥad ḍubbāt al-mukhābarāt” [15 years to two suspects who planned to kidnap and kill a GID-officer], *Hala*, February 20, 2019, <https://bit.ly/2EIJgg>.

<sup>281</sup> Ibid.

which year they were arrested. However, based on the time of their trial, it seems most likely that it was in 2018.

### 2018: Single-actor plot against tourist police close to Roman Theatre (W)

In 2019, an individual was sentenced to ten years in prison for plotting an attack with a Kalashnikov against the tourist police close to the Roman Theatre in Amman. The individual had been in contact with an IS-member. The IS-member had asked him to carry out the attack against the police.<sup>282</sup> The suspect had recorded a clip where he pledged *bay'a* to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. He had planned to fight until he was killed. However, the plot was foiled before he was able to carry out the attack. According to al-Ghad, the suspect was 18 years old.<sup>283</sup>

The sources do not provide information about which year he was arrested. However, based on the time of his trial, it seems most likely that it was in 2018.

### 2018: Assassination of retired GID-officer (V)

On October 23, 2018, a retired intelligence officer, Major General Habes Hanini, was gunned down in Madaba. According to *Jordan Times*, the perpetrator was “a man said to be of Salafist takfiri ideology”.<sup>284</sup> Other news outlets report that the perpetrator had been in Russia and alluded that his motivations for the assassination were personal.<sup>285</sup> As the case is very recent and more information surely will emerge, we have chosen to classify this as a “vague” plot for now.

### 2018: Plot against Jordanian and Israeli soldiers at the border (V)

In 2018 Jordanian authorities foiled a plot by two men in their twenties against Jordanian and Israeli soldiers at the border. The reason for the attack was President Trump’s decision to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem. Because the two plotters appear to have been motivated by the Palestinian cause (and the source does not mention that they espoused jihadist beliefs), we have chosen to include the incident as a “vague” plot.<sup>286</sup> In March 2019, the two suspects were sentenced to ten years in prison. According to *Hala*, they planned to carry out the attack with firearms. Their main target was the Israeli soldiers, but they would fire against the Jordanian border guards if the guards tried to stop them.<sup>287</sup>

---

<sup>282</sup> Ibid.

<sup>283</sup> “’aḥkām bil-sijn li-muttahimīn bil-«'irhāb»» [Jail sentences for individuals accused of «terrorism»] *al-Ghad*, February 20, 2019.

<sup>284</sup> “Retired intelligence officer gunned down”, *Jordan Times*, October 24, 2018, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/retired-intelligence-officer-gunned-down>.

<sup>285</sup> “Al-’urdunn: al-qabḍ ‘alā qātil al-liwā’ al-mutaqā’d Ḥābis al-Ḥanāyna” [Jordan: The arrest of the killer of the retired general Habis Hanini], *Al-Bawaba*, October 24, 2018, <https://bit.ly/2CBtA9T>.

<sup>286</sup> “Muḥākamat muttahimayn khaṭṭaṭā li-tanfīdh ‘amaliyya ‘irhābiyya ḍidd al-jaysh al-’urduniyy wal-’isrā’iliyy” [Trial of Two Suspects who Planned to carry out a terrorist operation against the Jordanian Army and the “Israeli], *Roya*, September 3, 2018, <http://royanews.tv/news/162915>.

<sup>287</sup> “’amn al-dawla” tuṣdir ‘aḥkāmān bi-ḥaqq muttahimayn bi-jarā’im ‘irhābiyya” [“The State Security” Issues Sentences for Two Suspects of Terrorist Crimes], *Hala*, March 3, 2019, <https://bit.ly/2Cjuiru>.

### 2018: Failed arson attack (V)

A single actor was sentenced to three years and four months in prison for throwing two bottles, which he thought were full of gasoline in a room where there were police officers in Ma'an. Yet the attack failed. The source does not specify when this incident took place.<sup>288</sup> We categorize this as a "vague" plot because the source does not make clear if he was a jihadist or not.

---

<sup>288</sup> ""amn al-dawla" tuşdir 'aĥkāman bi-qaḍāyā 'irhābiyya wa-tashkīl 'iṣāba" ["The State Security" Issues Sentences in Terrorist Cases and the formation of a Gang], *Hala*, <https://bit.ly/2N9yxde>.