



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY



2015

# Political Violence Against Americans

On the Cover: Philippine National Police clash with protesters throwing red paint at the Great Seal of the United States at the entrance to the U.S. Embassy in Manila, September 16, 2015. (AP/Wide World Photos)

# The Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS)

IS THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY ARM OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, PROVIDING A SECURE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE CONDUCT OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY.

To advance American interests and U.S. foreign policy, DS protects people, property, and information at more than 280 State Department posts worldwide. As a leader in international investigations, threat analysis, cyber security, counterterrorism, dignitary protection, and security technology, DS is the most widely represented U.S. security and law

enforcement organization in the world. *Political Violence Against Americans* is produced annually by the Bureau's Directorate of Threat Investigations and Analysis to provide a comprehensive picture of the spectrum of politically motivated threats and violence that American citizens and interests encounter worldwide. Created in May 2008, the Directorate of Threat Investigations

and Analysis strives to improve Diplomatic Security's ability to detect and counter threats, and to upgrade the Bureau's capacity to rapidly disseminate threat and security information to U.S. embassies, consulates, and the private sector.

Emergency workers gather at the scene of a car bomb outside the U.S. Consulate General in the northern city of Erbil, Iraq, April 17, 2015. (AP/Wide World Photos)



# Introduction

*Since its inception in 1987*, the goal of *Political Violence Against Americans* has been to document terrorist activity and political violence, including protests, directed against American citizens and U.S. Government personnel and interests overseas on an annual basis. This includes, whenever possible, the goals and ideology of those responsible. This publication aims to provide the reader with a better understanding and awareness of the many threats that U.S. citizens and diplomatic personnel face abroad.

## *A Special Note Regarding* **Conflict Zones**

**As in previous editions of *Political Violence Against Americans*, this report includes incidents of violence involving U.S. citizens and facilities with the exception of incidents against American military personnel serving in combat positions.**

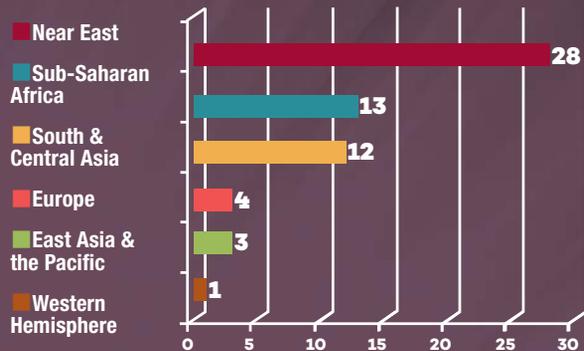
Additionally, instances of rocket and mortar attacks against U.S. diplomatic facilities are included only when they resulted in casualties or property damage. Active conflict zones involve special circumstances. Given the complex security context within these countries, it is understandably difficult to obtain detailed, reliable information on every single incident involving U.S. citizens. Moreover, it is often virtually impossible to distinguish acts of targeted political violence and terrorism from general conflict-zone hazards. The criteria

established above provide a standard for determining those assaults most relevant to this report. Some incidents may have been omitted due to their sensitive nature, as have the names of American citizens for privacy purposes.

# A Statistical Overview of 2015

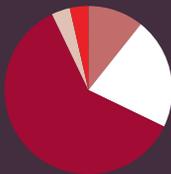
Of the 61 incidents that involved U.S. citizens and interests, 19 are believed to have resulted from intentionally targeting Americans. The 42 incidents where Americans or American interests apparently were not targeted due to nationality are indicated with an asterisk (“\*”) within the text.

## 61 TOTAL INCIDENTS IN 2015



### TARGETS

- U.S. Business 3
- U.S. Government 6
- U.S. Private 17
- Hotel 1
- Transportation 1



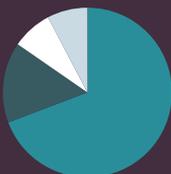
### NEAR EAST: 28 Incidents

#### Types

- Armed attacks 13
- Arson 1
- Assault 1
- Attack with vehicle 3
- Attempted bombing 1
- Explosive projectile 1
- Graffiti 1
- Insider attack 1
- Mob violence 2
- Nonexplosive projectile 1
- Small arms fire 2
- VBIED 1

### TARGETS

- U.S. Government 9
- Hotel 2
- International Organization 1
- NGO 1



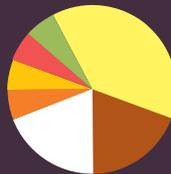
### SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: 13 Incidents

#### Types

- Armed Attack 4
- Kidnapping 1
- Small Arms Fire 1
- Stray round 5
- Suicide bomber 1
- Violent Demonstration 1

### TARGETS

- U.S. Government 2
- U.S. Military 4
- U.S. Private 2
- Foreign Motorcade 1
- Foreign Convoy 1
- Guesthouse 1
- NGO 1



### SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA: 12 Incidents

#### Types

- Armed attacks 4
- Bombs 3
- Insider attack 1
- Rocket 1
- Suicide VBIED 1
- Violent demonstration 1
- VBIED 1

### TARGETS

- U.S. Business 1
- U.S. Government 1
- Public Venue 1
- Transportation 1



### EUROPE: 4 Incidents

#### Types

- Armed attack 3
- Attempted bombing 1

### TARGETS

- U.S. Government 3



### EAST ASIA & THE PACIFIC: 3 Incidents

#### Types

- Attempted murder 1
- Bomb 1
- Violent demonstration 1

### TARGETS

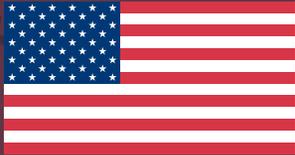
- U.S. Government 1



### WESTERN HEMISPHERE: 1 Incident

#### Types

- Vandalism 1



# Americans in Captivity

**01.15.15**

**Lahore, Pakistan:**

A U.S. citizen working for a USAID-affiliated non-governmental organization (NGO) who was kidnapped by al-Qa'ida on August 13, 2011, was killed in counterterrorism operations.

**02.07.15**

**Syria:**

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) released a statement claiming that a U.S. citizen NGO worker was killed in Jordanian air strikes. The U.S. aid worker was kidnapped by ISIL on August 4, 2013.

There are no indications the rebels specifically sought to kidnap an American.

**12.31.15**

**Syria:**

A U.S. freelance journalist who was reported kidnapped on August 13, 2012, remained missing at the end of 2015.

**01.27.15\***

**Benghazi, Libya:**

A U.S.-Canadian dual national who was kidnapped in Benghazi on or about December 6, 2014, by an Islamist militia group and then transferred to a group affiliated with the Libyan National Army was released. Reporting indicated that his kidnapping had no nexus to terrorism; rather, he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. He identified strictly as a Canadian and never requested any U.S. assistance.

**02.10.15**

**Syria:**

A U.S. citizen NGO worker kidnapped in Syria on August 4, 2013, was confirmed dead.

**12.31.15**

**Kabul, Afghanistan:**

A U.S. citizen and her husband who were kidnapped in Afghanistan on October 8, 2012, were being held by the Taliban at the end of 2015.

**12.16.15\***

**North Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo:**

A U.S. citizen NGO worker was released one day after Congolese rebels attacked her convoy and kidnapped her near the town of Kitchanga.



# Number of Incidents by Region/Country

## Near East

1	BAHRAIN
1	EGYPT
12	JERUSALEM
1	JORDAN
1	LIBYA
1	SAUDI ARABIA
1	SYRIA
8	WEST BANK
2	YEMEN

## Sub-Saharan Africa

5	BURUNDI
1	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
3	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
1	MALI
2	SOMALIA
1	UGANDA

## South & Central Asia

8	AFGHANISTAN
3	BANGLADESH
1	PAKISTAN

## Europe

3	FRANCE
1	TURKEY

## East Asia & the Pacific

1	PHILIPPINES
1	SOUTH KOREA
1	TIMOR-LESTE

## Western Hemisphere

1	CANADA
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# Incidents

01.08.15\*

## Jerusalem:

A U.S. citizen was stabbed by an assailant with a screwdriver outside the Damascus Gate. He was treated at a hospital and released a few days later.

01.13.15\*

## Dhaka, Bangladesh:

A U.S. Embassy vehicle was attacked by protesters hiding along the side of the road as the vehicle was returning from a routine administrative run. One locally employed driver and passenger were in the vehicle. The protesters threw bricks, stones, and a flammable liquid at the vehicle. The driver was able to deviate from his route and return safely to the Embassy. The vehicle sustained minor damage, but the occupants were not harmed. It is believed that this incident was not anti-U.S. in nature, but rather a random attack in conjunction with political/civil unrest.

01.14.15

## Rawalpindi, Pakistan:

Pakistani authorities executed a terrorist involved in the February 28, 2003, attack on U.S. Consulate General Karachi. The attack killed two police officers and wounded six others.

01.15.15

## Lahore, Pakistan:

A U.S. citizen working for a USAID-affiliated NGO who was kidnapped by al-Qa'ida on August 13, 2011, was killed in counterterrorism operations.

01.18.15

## Dili, Timor-Leste:

A hand grenade was thrown over the wall of a U.S. Embassy residential property and exploded in front of the house, damaging windows and a car. No one was hurt. This incident coincided with an uprising in the Bacau District, approximately 70 miles east of Dili, orchestrated by the Maubere Revolutionary Council. Their leader, Paulino Gama, a.k.a. Mauk Moruk, was released from prison earlier that month after being held for armed political dissidence. Gama was killed in a firefight in August, and the group has since disbanded.

01.18.15\*

## Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo:

As a U.S. Embassy vehicle was transporting two U.S. congressional staff delegation members from the airport to their hotel, the vehicle was hit by rocks thrown by pedestrians. One window shattered completely, and another sustained a hole. The driver sped away from the area and continued on to the hotel. The staffers were not injured. This incident was connected to political unrest in Kinshasa due to a controversial electoral bill pending approval by the senate. There is no evidence to suggest that this was a targeted attack on the U.S. Embassy or the staffers.



Green window glass lies shattered on the patio after a grenade attack, January 18, 2015, at a U.S. Embassy residence in Dili. (U.S. Department of State photo)

01.19.15

**Sana'a, Yemen:**

An explosive round detonated on the closed road in front of the U.S. Embassy. Earlier, Houthi gun trucks were seen in the vicinity of the facility. It is unclear if the crater was the result of a round fired from the Houthi gun trucks and, if so, whether or not that shot was deliberate harassment or negligent weapons handling.

01.19.15

**Sana'a, Yemen:**

Two U.S. Embassy Quick Reaction Force (QRF) units dispatched to support an Embassy vehicle detained at a Houthi checkpoint were hit by Houthi rifle fire after QRF 1 was told to leave the area and QRF 2 refused to open the vehicle door for armed Houthis. QRF 2 was under sustained fire as the team reversed out and was impacted by an additional 10 to 15 rounds of fire during a brief engine failure. No American personnel or locally employed staff members were injured in the incident.

01.20.15\*

**Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo:**

Protesters threw rocks at a U.S. Embassy vehicle while its occupants were checking routes to the airport. Two windows of the vehicle were damaged. No U.S. Chief of Mission personnel were injured.

01.26.15\*

**Manama, Bahrain:**

A group of young boys attempted to throw a Molotov cocktail at a U.S. Chief of Mission employee vehicle as it drove by. It is not clear why the vehicle was targeted, but the driver stated it was the only vehicle in sight. It may have been the first vehicle the children saw. The Molotov cocktail

did not hit the vehicle; it landed in the road, and the driver was able to avoid it and depart the area safely.

01.27.15\*

**Tripoli, Libya:**

Heavily armed gunmen attacked the Corinthia Hotel and killed at least eight people, including one U.S. citizen, before killing themselves. A group called Tripoli Province of the Islamic State, purporting to be a division of ISIL, claimed responsibility via social media.

01.29.15

**Kabul, Afghanistan:**

An Afghan National Army officer opened fire on four U.S. Department of Defense contractors at the Afghan Air Force headquarters building at Kabul International Airport. The attack killed three contractors and critically wounded a fourth. The attacker was killed by responding security forces. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

01.30.15\*

**Jerusalem:**

A Palestinian assailant stabbed a U.S. student in the chest and attempted to stab a second student on Bar-Lev Street near Ammunition Hill in the Old City. The attacker was shot and killed, and an Israeli bystander was shot and wounded. The stabbing victim made a full recovery.

01.30.15

**Hofuf, Saudi Arabia:**

Two U.S. citizen employees of a U.S. Department of Defense contractor were targeted by an unidentified gunman while in a vehicle at a stoplight in the town of Hofuf, al-Hasa Governorate. As they slowed at the intersection, a vehicle with a single occupant pulled up alongside the

driver's side of their vehicle. Moments later, the driver of the second vehicle fired several shots at their vehicle, striking the driver several times (none life threatening). The passenger was injured by glass fragments from the shattered vehicle windows. The gunman escaped.

02.05.15

**Monufia, Egypt:**

Unknown individuals attacked a local franchise of a U.S. chain restaurant. The assailants reportedly used Molotov cocktails and fired several rounds indiscriminately at the restaurant. Egyptian media reported one death due to smoke inhalation and one injury. The building suffered extensive damage. This was one of several attacks directed against a local franchise of a U.S. chain restaurant.

02.05.15\*

**Dhaka, Bangladesh:**

Two or three small explosive devices were hurled onto one of the major thoroughfares in the Diplomatic Enclave. One struck the personal vehicle of an Embassy officer while the vehicle was stopped in traffic. She and the driver were uninjured; however, the roof of the vehicle was scorched and dented.

02.26.15\*

**Dhaka, Bangladesh:**

A Bangladeshi-American blogger was attacked by assailants armed with machetes as he and his wife were returning from a book fair at Dhaka University. The victim was fatally wounded, and his wife (also a U.S. citizen and blogger) was seriously injured. The extremist group Ansarullah Bangla Team, an affiliate of al-Qa'ida in the Indian Subcontinent, claimed responsibility.



Somali security forces take position after a suicide bomber detonated his explosives-laden vehicle at the rear gate of the Maka al-Mukarama Hotel, one of Mogadishu's most popular lodgings, March 27, 2015. A Somali-American was killed in the attack. (AP/Wide World Photos)

### 03.05.15

#### **Seoul, South Korea:**

The U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea was attacked by a pro-North Korean social activist wielding a knife after arriving at an event hosted by the Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation at the Sejong Center for the Performing Arts. The assailant attacked the Ambassador from behind, shouting "No war! The two Koreas should be unified." The Ambassador sustained deep lacerations to his face, hand, wrist, and leg, and was taken to a local hospital. Police on the scene immediately arrested the attacker. On September 11, a court found the assailant guilty and sentenced him to 12 years in prison.

### 03.20.15

#### **Jerusalem:**

An unknown individual spray-painted " Hamas" in Arabic on the wall of the American House facility at the U.S. Consulate General.

### 03.27/28.15\*

#### **Mogadishu, Somalia:**

Six al-Shabaab militants attacked the Maka al-Mukarama Hotel. A suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle at the rear gate of the hotel, enabling the remaining five militants to enter the grounds. Somali National Intelligence Security Agency forces stormed the hotel, engaged the gunmen, and regained control of the hotel the following morning. All six militants were killed. Among the civilian deaths was a Somali-American who was a consultant with the Central Bank of Somalia.

### 04.10.15

#### **Kabul, Afghanistan:**

An explosives-laden vehicle parked on the side of the road exploded as a two-vehicle convoy belonging to a U.S. company drove by. The attack took place several hundred meters from Kabul International Airport. Two Afghan civilians were killed and two others wounded. No Americans or embassy personnel were affected.

### 04.16.15

#### **Karachi, Pakistan:**

A U.S. citizen, the vice principal at a medical and dental college, was shot twice by two unidentified assailants on motorcycles while driving on Shaheed-e-Millat Road. The victim was critically injured. A leaflet titled "We will burn down America" was recovered at the scene. The leaflet claimed the attack was conducted by self-declared "Lions of the Daulah Al-Islamiyyah (Islamic State)" to avenge the death of "five mujahedeen brothers."

### 04.17.15

#### **Erbil, Iraq:**

An explosives-laden vehicle detonated outside the U.S. Consulate General. Two Turkish nationals were killed in the blast and 11 others injured, to include a U.S. citizen, a local guard, and three host-country security officers who were posted outside the Mission. During the response phase of the attack, a U.S. contractor, under U.S. Chief of Mission authority, and an

assistant regional security officer at the Consulate General were injured. ISIL claimed responsibility.

## 04.20.15\*

### Garowe, Puntland, Somalia:

A UN minibus regularly used for morning transport was targeted by a suicide bomber along Tarmak Road opposite the Rukshan Hotel. The explosion killed at least eight people and injured eight others. Among the injured was a U.S. contractor for UNICEF. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack.

## 05.13.15\*

### Kabul, Afghanistan:

Four unidentified gunmen wearing suicide vests attacked the Park Palace guesthouse as guests gathered for a concert. Afghan security forces responded to the scene and, after a 6-hour standoff, announced that all the militants were killed. The attack resulted in the death of 11 Afghans and six foreigners, to include one U.S. citizen. The Taliban claimed responsibility.



A man talks on his cell phone as he observes the aftermath of a large car bomb that exploded April 17, 2015, outside the U.S. Consulate General in the Iraqi city of Erbil. (AP/Wide World Photos)

## 05.14.15\*

### Jerusalem:

A vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed swerved into a group of people

waiting for the bus outside Alon Shvut Settlement, Gush Etzion. The vehicle fled the scene. Among the injured was a U.S. citizen who was hospitalized.



As security forces stand by, emergency workers comb through the wreckage of a UN vehicle destroyed in an al-Shabaab suicide bomb attack in Garowe, Puntland, Somalia, April 20, 2015. The attack killed eight people. A U.S. citizen working for the UN was among eight others who were wounded. (AP/Wide World Photos)

**05.20.15\*****Bujumbura, Burundi:**

A guard shack outside the residence of the U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission was struck by gunfire. There is no evidence that the residence was specifically targeted.

**06.08.15****Parwan Province, Afghanistan:**

Bagram Airfield was struck by one rocket, injuring two U.S. Department of Defense civilian contractors (one fatally) and causing minor damage.

**06.08.15****Kabul, Afghanistan:**

Unidentified individuals targeted a U.S. Department of Defense vehicle carrying two American citizens and two local nationals with an improvised explosive device. The occupants heard something strike the vehicle followed by an explosion. No one was injured in the attack, nor was there any damage to the vehicle.

**06.11.15\*****Jerusalem:**

A U.S. citizen was injured while traveling on a bus from the Western Wall toward the city center. He was hit in the jaw by glass fragments after a projectile struck the moving bus. The victim was treated for injuries at a hospital and released the same day.

**06.26.15\*****Saint Quentin Fallavier, France:**

A truck driver murdered his boss and then drove his vehicle to the production site of a U.S.-based company located near Lyon. Since he routinely made deliveries to the company, he was cleared for access.

After entering the facility, the man rammed his delivery truck into gas canisters, injuring several people. The attacker was detained by a responding firefighter until police arrived. He reportedly shouted that he was a member of ISIL, and banners with Arabic writing were found at the scene. *(Note: French authorities do not believe this facility was attacked due to its U.S. affiliation.)*

**06.27.15****Kampala, Uganda:**

A small group of individuals attempted to rush past police and members of the Local Guard Force (LGF) to access the U.S. Embassy. The LGF and police were able to remove the protesters from Mission property. One LGF member was shoved and fell, resulting in an injured ankle and wrist.

**07.13.15****Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:**

Authorities executed an assailant who was convicted for the December

2014 stabbing death of a U.S. citizen in a public restroom at a shopping mall on Reem Island. She also was found guilty for making and planting a homemade bomb outside the home of an American doctor. The bomb was defused by host-country explosive ordnance disposal technicians.

**08.10.15****Istanbul, Turkey:**

As two women approached the U.S. Consulate General, one of them fired eight rounds from an AK-47 assault rifle at a Turkish police booth outside the facility. Two of the rounds struck the Consulate's exterior and sliding gate. Two additional rounds impacted the compound wall. Both assailants fled the area; police responded immediately. A short time later, police engaged the shooter in a firefight. The shooter, who was identified as a member of the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front, was critically wounded and taken to a hospital. The other individual eluded the police. No other injuries were reported, and damage to the Consulate was minimal.



A masked Turkish police officer secures a road leading to the U.S. Consulate General in Istanbul, Turkey, August 10, 2015, after two assailants opened fire at the building, touching off a gunfight with police before fleeing the scene. (AP/Wide World Photos)



A glass door of the U.S. Consulate General in Toronto shows damage after a man attacked the building with rocks and a metal sign, August 12, 2016. (U.S. Department of State photo)

08.12.15

**Toronto, Canada:**

A man approached the U.S. Consulate General and started throwing rocks at the windows and door; he then struck the building with a metal sign. When detained by police, the subject claimed that he committed these acts in retaliation for “the United States killing children and families” and acting “beyond the law.” No one was injured in the incident, which caused minor property damage.

The rifle reportedly jammed after firing one shot, and the shooter was tackled and disarmed by several passengers, including a group of Americans, two of whom were U.S. service members. Several passengers were injured, to include two of the Americans. There were no reported fatalities, and there is no indication that the attack specifically targeted Americans.

08.21.15\*

**France:**

A Moroccan male opened fire with an AK-style assault rifle on an Amsterdam-to-Paris high-speed train.

08.22.15

**Kabul, Afghanistan:**

A suicide bomber in an explosives-laden vehicle targeted a two-vehicle motorcade while it traveled along Route Kara. The attack resulted in the death of three U.S. civilian contractors and 10 Afghan civilians. Approximately 106 Afghan civilians were injured.

08.30.15\*

**Damascus, Syria:**

A non-combatant U.S.-Syrian citizen was killed during fighting between government and opposition forces.

09.03.15\*

**Hebron, West Bank:**

Five U.S. students were on their way in an Israeli vehicle to the Ibrahim Mosque Patriarch. They were using a digital navigation application, which misled them to the Jabal Johar area in Hebron. When they entered, Palestinians attacked them. The vehicle was set on fire, and the students fled on foot. A local Palestinian hid them in his house and contacted authorities; Israel Defense Forces extracted them five hours later. Two of the five suffered burns; all were transported to an Israeli hospital.

09.16.15

**Manila, Philippines:**

Approximately 30 protesters from the League of Filipino Students threw red paint at the U.S. Embassy’s seal on its perimeter wall. Police arrested six protesters. There were no injuries and there was no attempt to access the compound. The paint, which was water-based, was removed within hours.

10.01.15\*

**Tekoa, West Bank:**

A U.S. citizen journalist was slightly injured when her vehicle was stoned.

10.01.15\*

**West Bank:**

Unidentified gunmen in a passing vehicle fired several rounds into a vehicle carrying an Israeli settler

family. The husband and wife were killed. The husband was a dual U.S.-Israeli citizen.

## 10.05.15\*

### **Bujumbura, Burundi:**

A round believed to be from an AK-47 rifle struck a kitchen wall inside a U.S. Embassy-leased residence. There is no evidence that the building was specifically targeted.

## 10.06.15\*

### **Jerusalem:**

While a taxi transporting a U.S. Chief of Mission Jerusalem officer and spouse was stopped at a red light, 50 to 60 Israeli teenagers crossed the street waving Israeli flags. They surrounded the taxi and started yelling at the Arab taxi driver. They then rocked the taxi back and forth and began pulling on the taxicab door; the passenger had to physically pull back on the handle to prevent the door from being opened. Members of the crowd also reached into the open front window and hit the driver in the mouth, and he sustained a

cut lip. When the light changed, the taxi drove off, and the teenagers dispersed. The two Americans were not hurt, and the driver reported the incident to the police.

## 10.13.15\*

### **Jerusalem:**

Two Palestinian assailants boarded a public bus and began stabbing Israelis. One of the assailants stole a firearm from a passenger and opened fire. Sixteen people, including a U.S. citizen, were injured and two killed before Israeli National Police killed one assailant and arrested the other. The U.S. citizen succumbed to his wounds two weeks later. Another U.S. citizen, who was not on the bus but witnessed the attack, was treated for shock and released.

## 10.23.15\*

### **West Bank:**

Individuals from the Itamar settlement attacked a rabbi from a human rights organization and other volunteers who had traveled to the Palestinian village of Awarta to assist with the

olive harvest. The rabbi is a dual U.S.-Israeli citizen.

## 10.30.15\*

### **Jerusalem:**

A Palestinian assailant stabbed a U.S. citizen in the chest and attempted to stab a second individual at a light-rail station on Bar-Lev Street near Ammunition Hill in the Old City. The victim made a full recovery.

## 11.02.15\*

### **Jerusalem:**

A Palestinian man wielding a glass bottle attacked a U.S. citizen tour guide at the Jaffa Gate of the Old City. She suffered a head contusion and was treated at a hospital and released. Shortly after the attack, police arrested a suspect.

## 11.06.15\*

### **Hebron:**

An assailant shot a U.S. citizen outside the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron. The American suffered minor injuries.



Israeli emergency responders inspect the scene of an attack inside a public bus in Jerusalem, October 13, 2015. Two Palestinians boarded the vehicle and shot or stabbed a total of 16 people, including a U.S. citizen, who subsequently died. (AP/Wide World Photos)



Paramedics evacuate a Palestinian attacker wounded by police after he stabbed and seriously injured a U.S. citizen at a light-rail station in Jerusalem on October 30, 2015. (AP/Wide World Photos)

## 11.09.15

### **Jordan:**

A Jordanian policeman opened fired on personnel at the Jordan International Police Training Center compound located southeast of

Amman. Jordanian security services killed the shooter. Four individuals died, including two U.S. government contractor instructors. Additionally, two U.S government contractors were among the several persons injured.

## 11.13.15

### **Paris, France:**

At least eight militants attacked six targets in and around Paris, killing 130 persons, one a U.S. citizen, and injuring more than 350. Among the injured were four Americans. ISIL claimed responsibility for the attack over social media. Subsequently, on November 15, one U.S. citizen was injured in a stampede when firecrackers went off at a vigil for the victims in Paris.

## 11.19.15\*

### **West Bank:**

A Palestinian gunman carried out a drive-by shooting at the Gush Etzion junction, killing one American yeshiva student and two Israeli citizens. Four other U.S. citizen students were treated for shock.

## 11.20.15\*

### **West Bank:**

The home of a Palestinian-American dual national located on a farm west of Ramallah was attacked by settlers who reportedly smashed windows, tossed Molotov cocktails, and scrawled racist slogans on the walls. The dual national was not hurt.

Hundreds of well-wishers in Long Beach, California, hold up candles during a November 15, 2015, memorial service for California State University, Long Beach student Nohemi Gonzalez who was killed two days earlier in a terrorist attack in Paris. (AP/Wide World Photos)



Ambulances transport the wounded after a Jordanian policeman went on a shooting spree at the King Abdullah bin Al Hussein Training Center in Mwaqar, on the outskirts of Amman, Jordan, November 9, 2015. The policeman killed four people, including two American contract instructors, and wounded several others, including two more Americans. (AP/Wide World Photos)



## 11.20.15\*

### **Bamako, Mali:**

At least two heavily armed gunmen stormed the Radisson Blu Hotel. A firefight ensued between the gunmen and Malian and French military forces that lasted nine hours and ended with the gunmen dead. The attack killed 20 civilians (including one U.S. citizen) and injured five to seven others. The group al-Murabitun claimed responsibility.

## 11.27.15\*

### **West Bank:**

Two members of the Israel Defense Forces were wounded when a car purposely rammed into them at a bus stop. One of the soldiers was a U.S. citizen. The assailant was shot and killed.

## 12.08.15\*

### **Jerusalem:**

Palestinian youths threw rocks at a tour bus traveling to the Old City's Damascus Gate. A U.S. citizen on the bus was treated for a minor head injury at a local hospital and released.

## 12.09.15\*

### **Bangui, Central African Republic:**

A U.S. Embassy two-vehicle motorcade transporting eight passengers was fired upon by a

lone individual as it traveled through the Combatant neighborhood of Bangui's 8<sup>th</sup> district en route to the airport. One round struck the passenger-side window, causing minor damage. The motorcade was able to escape the attack site and continue to the airport without further incident. No one was hurt in the attack.

## 12.11.15\*

### **Bujumbura, Burundi:**

A round of small-arms fire hit the roof of the Chief of Mission's residence following fighting throughout the city. There is no reason to believe the residence was targeted.



Malian security forces assist a hostage (center) to flee to safety from the Radisson Blu hotel after gunmen attacked the hotel in Bamako, Mali, November 20, 2015. Islamic extremists armed with guns and throwing grenades killed 20 individuals, including a U.S. citizen, before being killed by Malian and French military troops. (AP/Wide World Photos)



A window at the Deputy Chief of Mission residence in Bujumbura bears a bullet hole from what is believed to have been a stray small-arms round fired on December 11, 2015. (U.S. Department of State photo)

## 12.20.15\*

### **Kabul, Afghanistan:**

An Afghan-American dual national employee of a USAID implementing partner was shot and killed by a local mullah.

a bedroom window. No one was injured in the incident, and damage was minimal. The round was believed to have been fired 10 days earlier during clashes between pro- and anti-government forces.

## 12.21.15

### **Bagram Province, Afghanistan:**

A motorbike carrying explosives detonated, killing six U.S. servicemen and injuring four international coalition forces members approximately two to three kilometers northwest of Bagram Airfield in Bajawarri Village. Among the four wounded was a U.S. civilian linguist.

## 12.27.15\*

### **Jerusalem:**

A U.S. citizen member of the Israel Defense Forces was stabbed as he crossed the street in front of the Jerusalem central bus station.

## 12.29.15\*

### **Bujumbura, Burundi:**

An exterior building housing an electrical generator at the U.S. Embassy compound was struck by gunfire. There is no evidence that the facility was specifically targeted.

## 12.21.15\*

### **Bujumbura, Burundi:**

A 7.62mm round was found on the floor of the U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission's residence after it struck

## 12.14.15\*

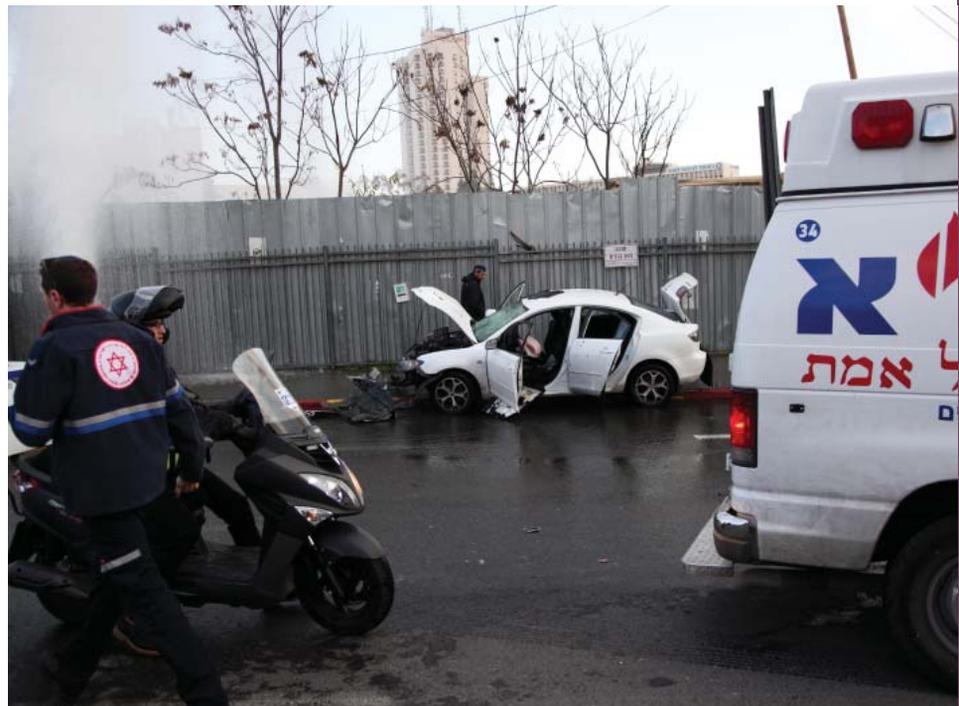
### **Jerusalem:**

A man rammed his vehicle into a group of people at a bus stop near the Chords Bridge. He was shot and killed before he could exit his car. Eleven people, including one U.S. citizen, were injured in the attack.

## 12.15.15\*

### **North Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo:**

A U.S. citizen working for an international relief organization was kidnapped after her convoy was attacked by Congolese rebels near the town of Kitchanga. The hostage was released on December 16. There are no indications the rebels specifically sought to kidnap an American.



Israeli police examine a car used in a vehicular attack in Jerusalem on December 14, 2015. The Palestinian attacker injured 11 people, including a U.S. citizen, with his car before being shot dead. (AP/Wide World Photos)

# Conclusion

Historically, overseas environments have presented potential hazards to citizens and diplomats of the United States. As our nation's diplomatic presence and its commercial tourist trade broadened considerably throughout the twentieth century, potential dangers and vulnerabilities increased as well. Over the past quarter century in particular, the rise of international terrorism and criminal activity has contributed to a worldwide increase in incidents of violence against individuals, organizations, and facilities of the United States. In some cases, U.S. citizens have been victimized randomly; in other cases, assaults appear to have been intentional. This edition of *Political Violence Against Americans* serves both as a record and a reminder that vigilance, preparation, and sensible discretion are valuable safeguards. Reasonable precautions can significantly minimize opportunities for those who would do harm to the people of the United States and their interests.



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