



**Embassy of Egypt**  
WASHINGTON, DC

## FACT SHEET: TERRORISM IN EGYPT

Egyptian security forces are battling dangerous extremist groups that wage a deadly campaign against the Egyptian people. The drumbeat of attacks threatens their livelihoods, puts in peril the country's economy and creates disastrous consequences for domestic stability and regional security. The ultimate goal of these groups is to derail Egypt's transition to representative, pluralistic democracy, particularly as the country conducts Presidential and Parliamentary elections

### APRIL: A SERIES OF BOMBS OUTSIDE CAIRO UNIVERSITY

On April 2, 2013, a series of 3 explosions detonated outside of Cairo University, killing security official Brigadier-General Tarek El-Mergawi and wounding about a half dozen more. The first two explosions, which targeted security officials stationed outside the university, occurred simultaneously, causing the death of El-Mergawi who was the head of West Giza investigative police. The third device went off after first responders arrived on the scene. A fourth device was defused by security authorities. Officials believe all the devices were detonated remotely. In a statement, Ajnad Misr, or "Egypt's Soldiers," claimed responsibility for the multiple bombings.



Since July 2013, Egyptians have been under constant attack. Jihadists are carrying out sophisticated attacks in Egypt, bringing with them increased expertise and ability to deploy deadly tactics such as remote detonations, suicide attacks and surface-to-air missile strikes. Of the terrorists who have been arrested, 95 are foreign nationals. At least **six terrorist groups with ties to al Qaeda** operate in Egypt, including Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, which the U.S. State Department has **officially designated a Foreign Terrorist Organization**, and the al Furqan Brigades. Terrorist attacks on civilians as well as military and security installations have **claimed the lives of hundreds of Egyptians, including over 660 military and police officers and over 60 civilians**, with hundreds of others injured.

### JANUARY: COORDINATED TERROR ATTACKS STRIKE CAIRO

On January 24, 2014, a series of coordinated attacks in Cairo killed six Egyptians and injured over 100. The most lethal incident occurred when a car bomb tore through the Cairo Security Directorate, leaving a massive crater in the street. The massive explosion killed four and injured 70. In the Dokki neighborhood in Giza, explosives were thrown at a security vehicle killing one and injuring 11. A third blast occurred at a Giza police station while the fourth blast came outside a Cairo theater, killing one. The breadth and coordination of the attacks are unprecedented in recent Egyptian history and represent a dangerous escalation of lethal terrorist activity against the Egyptian people.



## SUCCESS AGAINST TERROR

Since July, Egyptian military and security forces have: **killed 269 terrorists; arrested 1,113 terrorists in the Sinai alone; and destroyed about 80% of the smuggling tunnels; seized over 3,800 firearms, 2 million rounds of ammunition and nearly one ton of explosives.**

In Late March, Egyptian police arrested members of the Ansar al-Sharia in Ard al-Kenana organization which had recently carried out several terrorist attacks targeting security personnel. Sinai security operations in mid-March also led to the death of Tawfiq Mohammed Freij Ziada, whom the Ministry of the Interior identified in January 2014 as a key figure in the jihadist group Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis. Egyptian police also recently arrested a senior Islamist militant close to Al-Qaida chief Ayman al-Zawahiri. Thirwat Salah Shehata, a core member of Islamic Jihad, was taken into custody by Egyptian security personnel in a Cairo suburb in early April.

### DECEMBER: THE MANSOURA SUICIDE BOMB

On December 24, a deadly suicide car bomb ripped through a security station in Mansoura, 75 miles northeast of Cairo, claiming the lives of 16 security officers and injuring over 120 others. The powerful attack destroyed the targeted police headquarters and damaged several surrounding structures, trapping dozens of officers and civilians under the rubble. It was Egypt's deadliest terror incident since July, and the second attack on that building. On January 2, Egyptian authorities arrested seven people tied to the attack. They included Yehya Almongi Saad al-Huseini, the son of a Muslim Brotherhood leader, who admitted he provided logistical support and intelligence to Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis in order to carry out the bombing.



The breadth and increased intensity of terrorist activity stretches back to June 2013, disrupting lives and killing Egyptians **across the country**. Significant recent attacks include:

- **June 29:** Ministry of Interior's North Sinai inspector Brigadier Mohamed Hany is assassinated in El-Khalafa
- **August 10:** Security forces disrupt a jihadi plot to destroy the Al-Salam Bridge crossing the Suez Canal
- **September 5:** A suicide car bomber targets Interior Minister Mohammed Ibrahim in Cairo suburb Nasr City
- **October 6:** Police find at least 51 bombs in Cairo district of Shubra
- **October 7:** A TV satellite station in the Cairo suburb of Maadi comes under a rocket propelled grenade attack
- **October 7:** Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis kills three police officers in car bombing
- **October 21:** Attack on Al-warraq church in Cairo kills four including an 8-year-old girl
- **November 17:** Senior military officer in charge of investigating extremism, Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed Mabrouk, assassinated in Cairo
- **November 20:** Suicide bombers drive an explosives-laden car into a convoy of military buses killing 11 soldiers and injuring dozens more and injures dozens
- **December 17:** Car bomb in Suez city of Ismailia kills 1
- **December 24:** Mansoura suicide bomb kills 16 and injures over 120
- **December 26:** Bus in Cairo bombed, injuring 5 civilians
- **December 31:** Suspected militants blew up a major gas pipeline in North Sinai
- **January 24:** Coordinated Cairo attacks kill six and injure over 100
- **January 25:** Using a surface-to-air missile, Sinai extremist down an Army helicopter, killing 5 soldiers
- **February 16:** A suicide bomber targeted a South Korean tourist bus at the Taba border crossing, killing four and injuring 17
- **March 14:** Key Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis Abu Abdullah killed
- **March 13-15:** Gunmen storm a military compound outside and military bus in Cairo, killing seven
- **March 20:** Security forces stage a raid on an Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis stronghold in Qalyubia, killing several terrorists and seizing weapons and explosives
- **April 2:** A series of bombs explode outside Cairo University, killing a police brigadier general and injures 5 more
- **April 23:** An IED attack in a Cairo suburb kills senior police officer Brigadier General Ahmed Zaki



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