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June 1998

TERRORISM REVIEW

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Terrorism Review



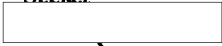
Articles

Page

1

3

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7

11

15

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	21
Highlights	25
	26
	27
	29
	31
	32
	33
	35

Key Dates and Events

The Terrorism Diary for July and August 1998

37

Chronology of International Terrorism

39

Summary of Indigenous Terrorism—May 1998

43

This Review is published monthly by the DCI Counterterrorist Center. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to

Information available as of 30 June 1998 was used in this report

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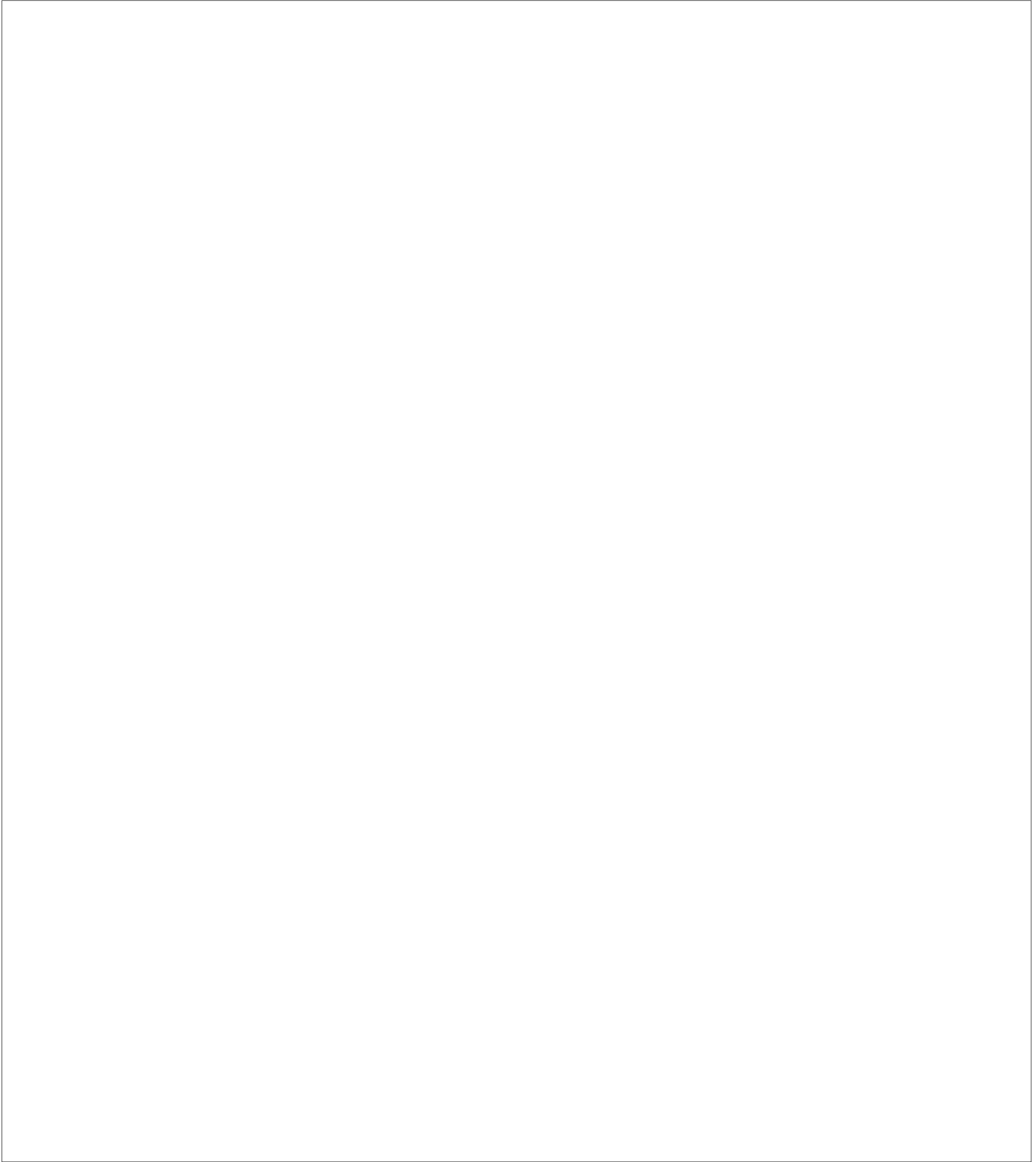


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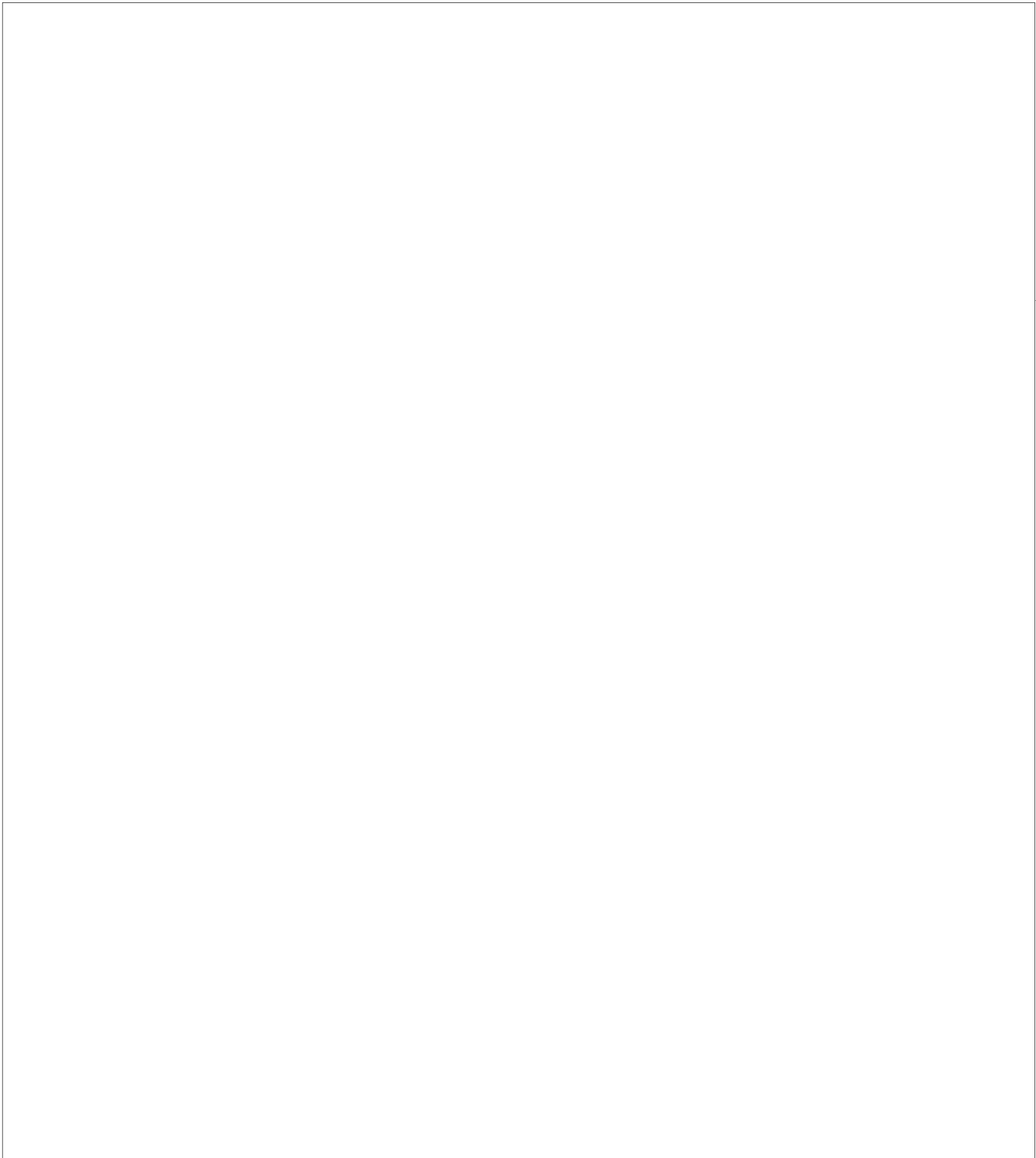
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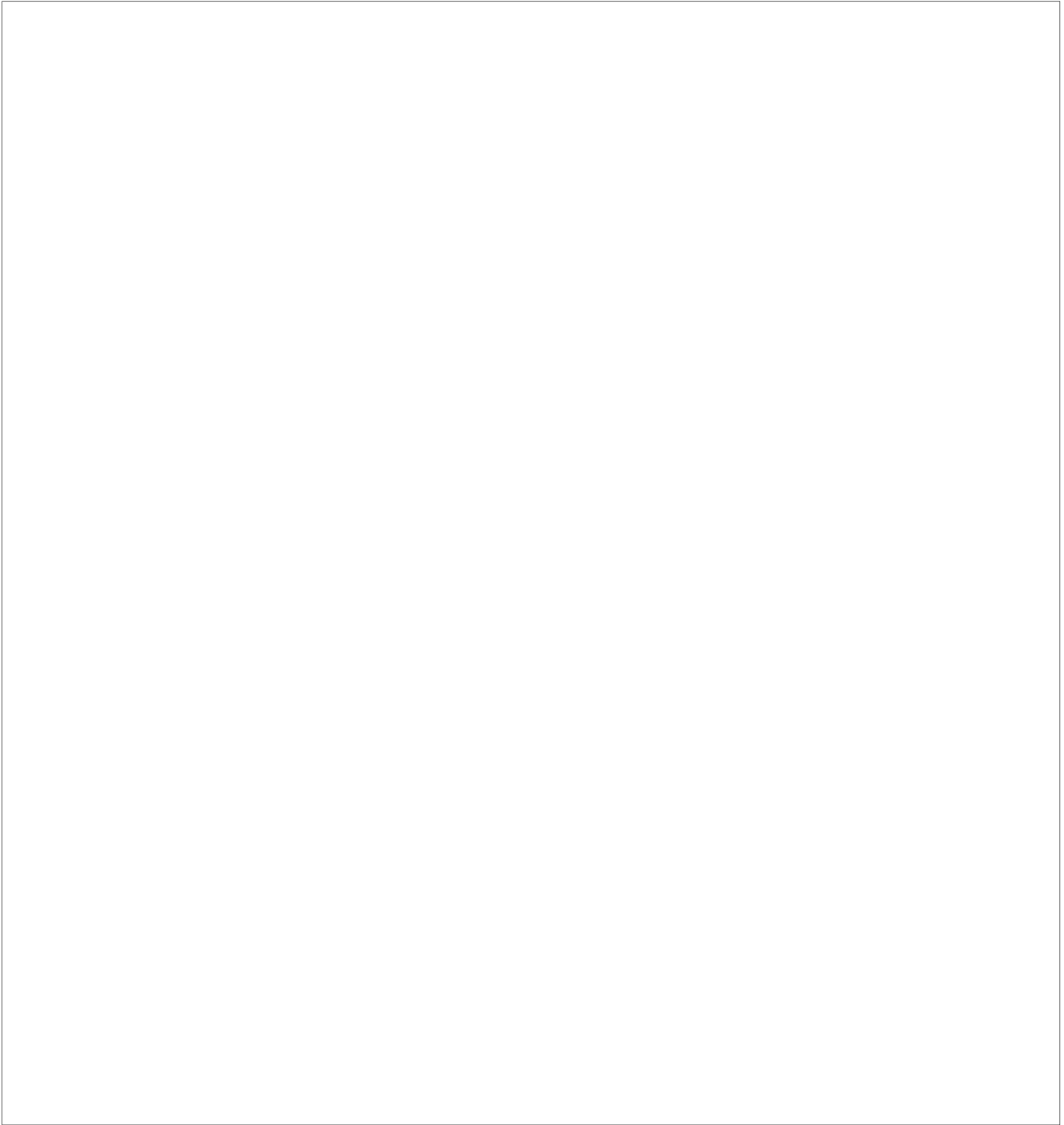


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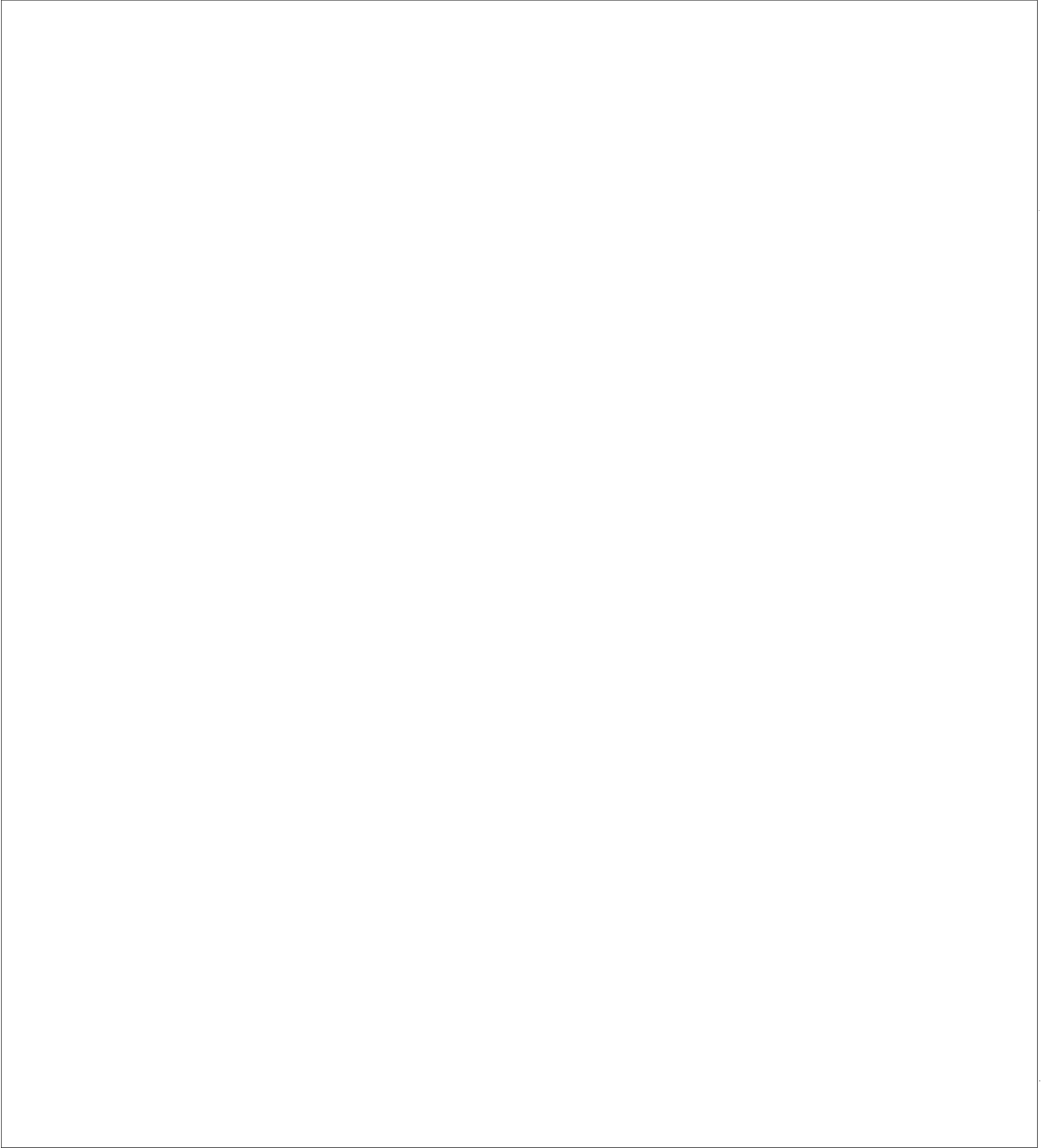
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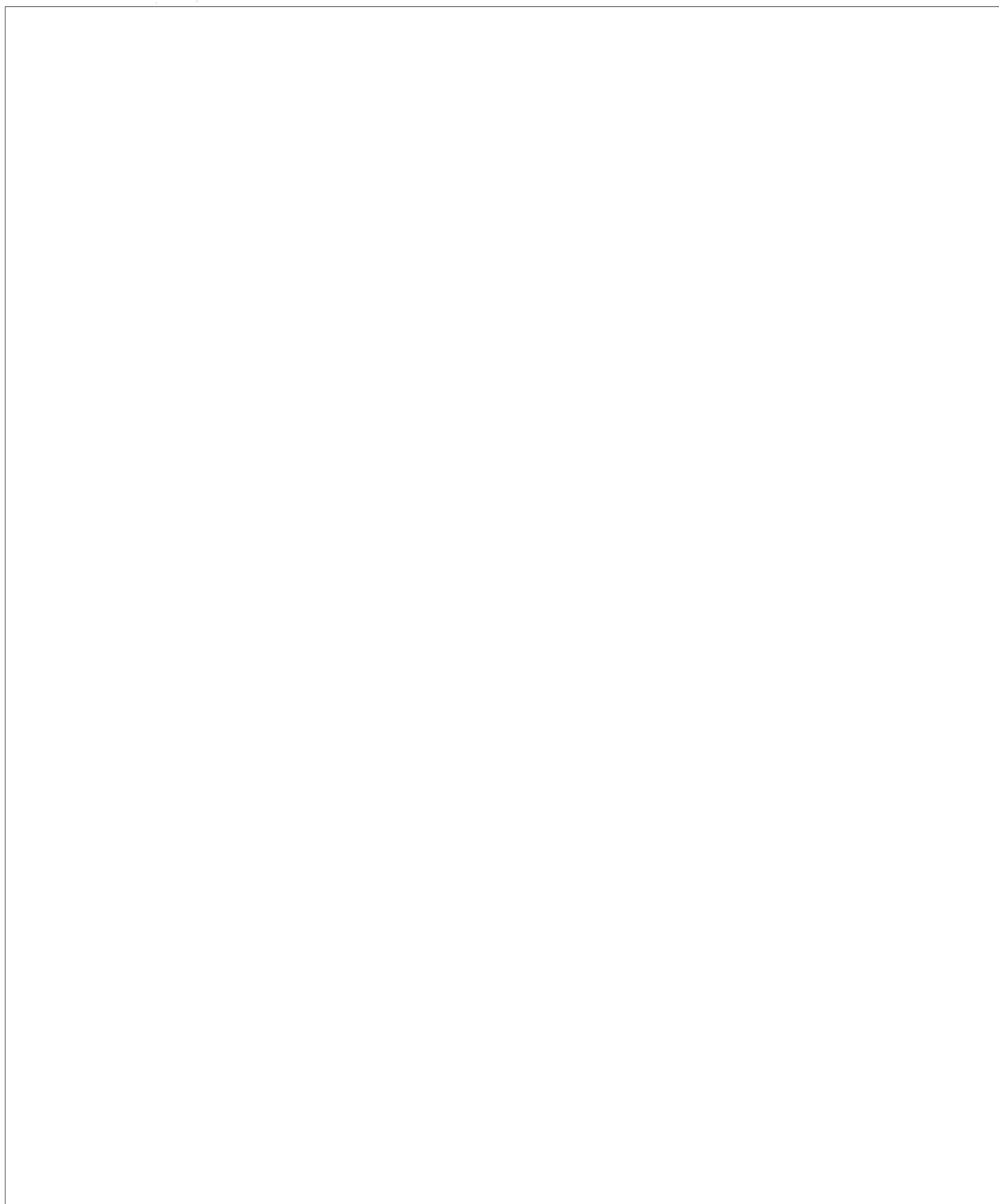
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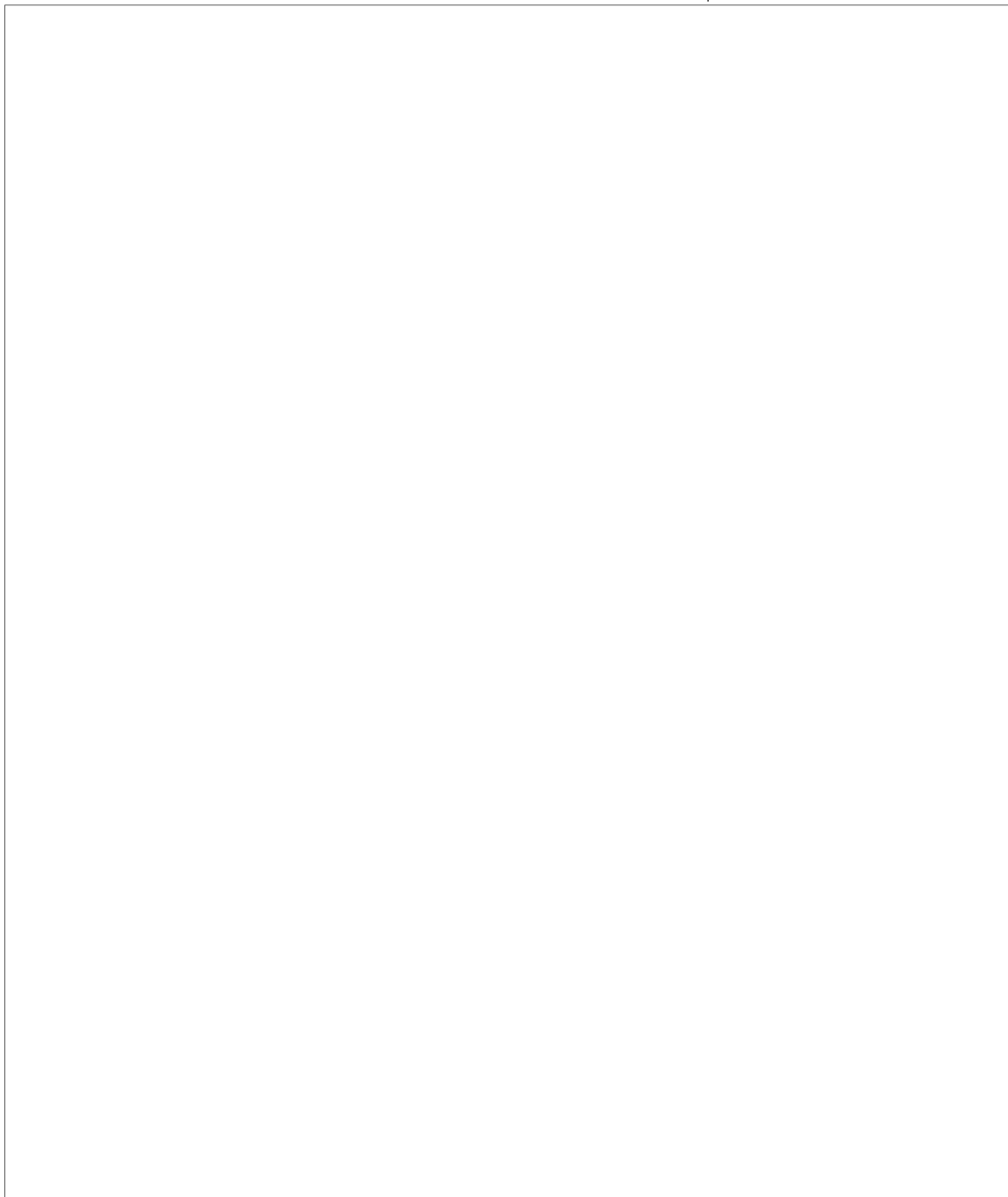
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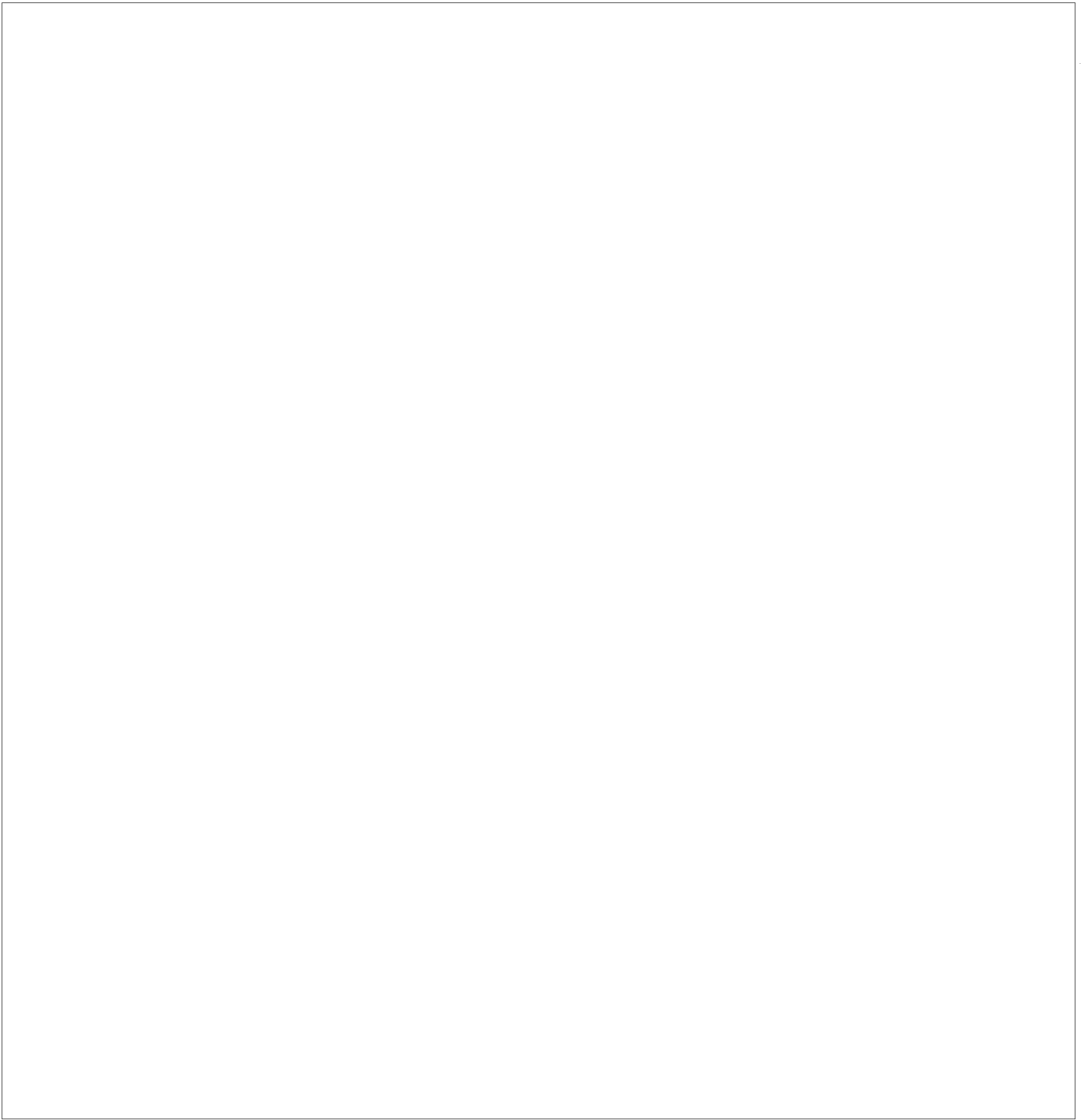
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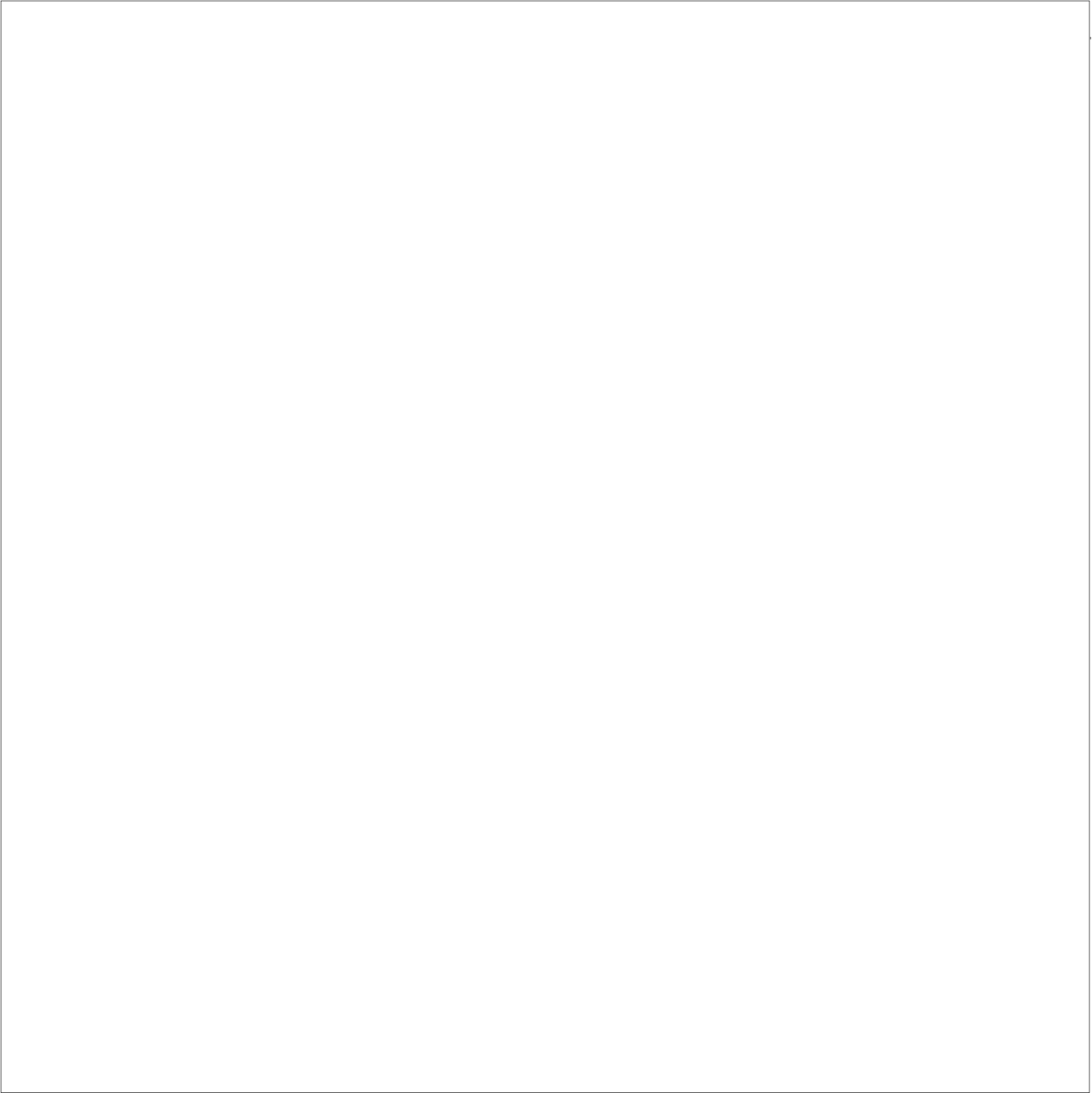
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The Terrorism Diary for July and August 1998

Below is a compendium of dates of known or conceivable significance to terrorists around the world. Our inclusion of a date or event does not indicate that we expect or anticipate a commemorative terrorist event

- 1 July 1867** *Canada.* Dominion Day.
- 3 July 1976** *Uganda:* Israeli forces conduct a successful hostage rescue operation in Entebbe.
- 3 July 1988** *Iran.* USS Vincennes shoots down Iran Air Flight 655 in Persian Gulf.
- 4 July 1776** *United States.* Independence Day.
- 4 July 1946** *Philippines.* Republic Day (date on which the Philippines became an independent republic).
- 5 July 1962** *Algeria.* Independence Day.
- 9 July 1929** *Morocco.* Birthday of King Hassan II.
- 10 July 1978** *Mauritania.* Armed Forces Day (commemorates military coup).
- 12 July 1690** *Northern Ireland.* Orangemen's Day (Protestants march to commemorate victory in Battle of the Boyne).
- 14 July 1789** *France.* Bastille Day.
- 14 July 1958** *Iraq.* Republic Day (Army coup d'etat that overthrew monarchy and established republic).
- 15 July 1946** *Brunei.* Sultan's birthday.
- 17 July 1968** *Iraq.* Revolution Day (Ba'th Party coup).
- 18 July 1994** *Argentina:* Hizballah bombs AMIA cultural center in Buenos Aires.
- 18 July 1988** *Greece:* Abu Nidal Organization carried out attack on the cruise ship City of Poros, killing nine people and injuring 98.
- 20 July 1974** *Cyprus.* Turkish Cypriot Peace and Freedom Day (commemorates intervention by Turkish forces).
- 23 July 1952** *Egypt.* National Day (commemorates military coup ousting King Farouk).

23 July 1970 *Oman.* Accession Day of Sultan Qaboos.

25 July 1957 *Tunisia.* Proclamation of republic.

25 July 1996 *France:* Bomb kills seven people, wounds 117 on Paris commuter train. Algerian Armed Islamic Group responsible.

26 July 1956 *Egypt.* Nationalization of Suez Canal.

28 July 1821 *Peru.* Independence Day.

28 July 1989 *Lebanon.* Abduction by Israel of Hizballah cleric Shaykh Ubayd.

31 July *Spain, France.* St. Ignatius' Day (patron saint of Basques).

31 July 1959 *Spain, France.* Founding of Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA).

2 August 1990 *Iraq/Kuwait.* Iraq invades Kuwait.

6 August 1825 *Bolivia.* Independence Day.

6 August 1966 *United Arab Emirates.* Accession Day of Shaykh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nayhan, Emir of Abu Dhabi.

11 August 1952 *Jordan.* Accession Day for King Hussein.

12 August 1689 *Northern Ireland.* Protestant commemorative marches mark day apprentice boys locked gates of Derry against James II's forces.

13 August 1984 *Morocco/Libya.* Union established.

14 August 1947 *Pakistan.* Independence Day.

15 August 1947 *India.* Independence Day.

15 August 1964 *Colombia.* Pro-Castro guerrilla movement the National Liberation Army (ELN) begins armed struggle.

15 August 1971 *Bahrain.* Independence Day.

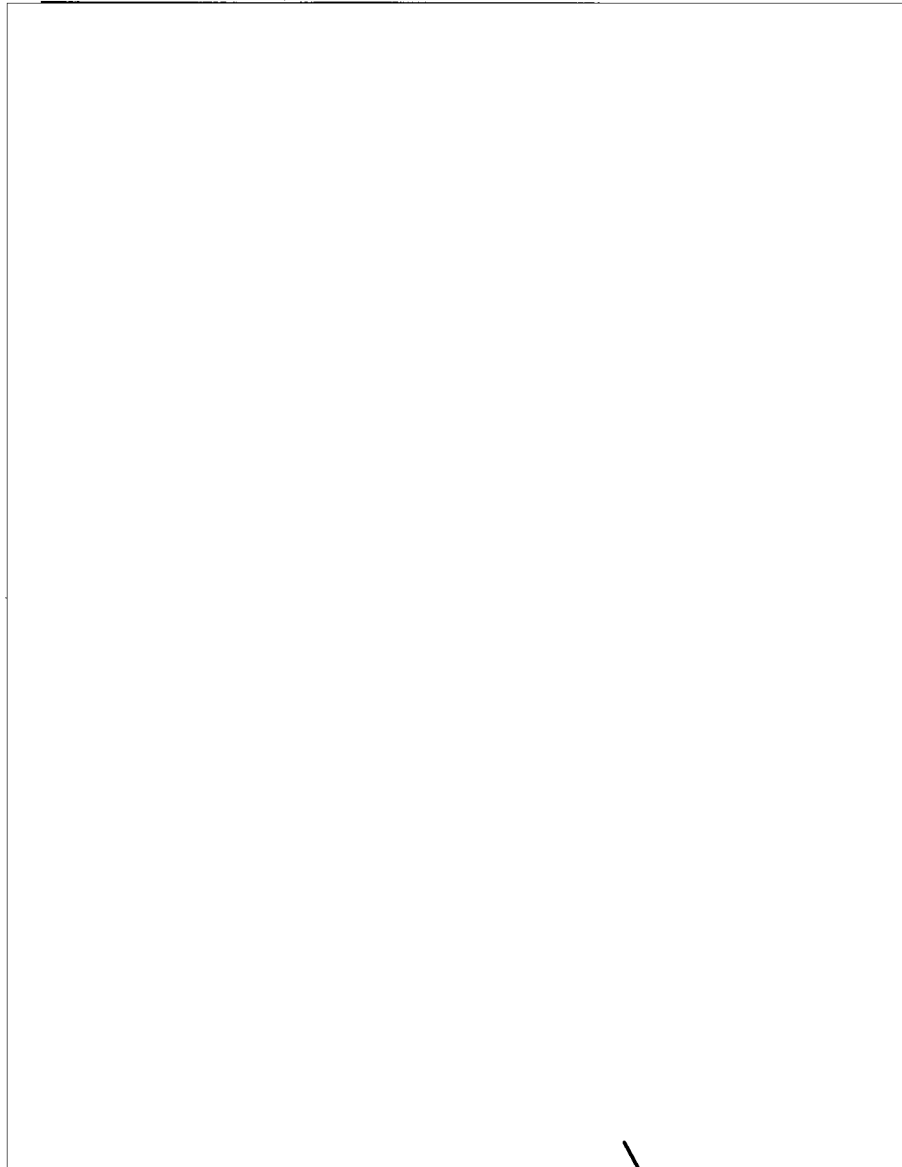
20 August 1953 *Morocco.* King's and People's Revolution.

31 August 1978 *Libya/Shia World.* Lebanese Shia cleric Imam Musa Sadr disappears in Libya.



Chronology of International Terrorism

The following incidents have met the criteria of the Intelligence Community's Incident Review Panel since publication of the previous issue of the Terrorism Review. These incidents are the basis for the State Department's Patterns of Global Terrorism, which is published annually as the US Government's official record of international terrorism.



Africa

23 March

Angola: Rebels from the Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave—Cabinda Armed Forces (FLEC-FAC) abducted a Portuguese citizen in Cabinda. The hostage is employed by Mota & Company, a Portuguese construction company. FLEC-FAC is demanding the intervention of Portuguese authorities and negotiations for the withdrawal of Portugal from Angola. []

22 April

Angola: Suspected secessionists from the Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave abducted a Portuguese citizen and nine Angolans in Cabinda. The victims are employees of Mota & Company, a Portuguese construction company. []

Late April

Angola: 150 armed militants occupied the commune of Ebanga, and then abducted a Portuguese couple involved in trading. The militants are thought to be from the *National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA)*. UNITA does not have a history of kidnapping foreigners. []

Asia

17 April

Cambodia: In Kampong Chhnang Province, between 30 and 60 suspected Khmer Rouge militants attacked two fishing villages on the Tonle Sap lake, killing 12 Vietnamese nationals and nine other persons, and wounding at least seven others. The attacks occurred in the early morning while people were still sleeping. []

3 May

Pakistan: Unidentified gunmen opened fire on an Iranian diplomat as he drove away from his residence in Islamabad. No one was injured. []

Europe

1 May

Greece: Unknown assailants threw several incendiary devices at the office of the French commercial attache in Athens, causing minor damage. The Arsonists of Conscience anarchist group claimed responsibility. []

3 May

Greece: Assailants claiming to represent the anarchist group Arsonists of Conscience firebombed two vehicles belonging to the Hungarian Consulate and the Yugoslav diplomatic mission in Athens. No injuries were reported, but both vehicles sustained minor damage. []

10 May

Spain: Unidentified assailants set fire to a Citroen car dealership showroom in Hernani, causing major damage to the building and an adjacent garage, and slightly injuring the establishment's owner. Authorities suspect members or sympathizers of the *Basque Fatherland and Liberty* organization. []

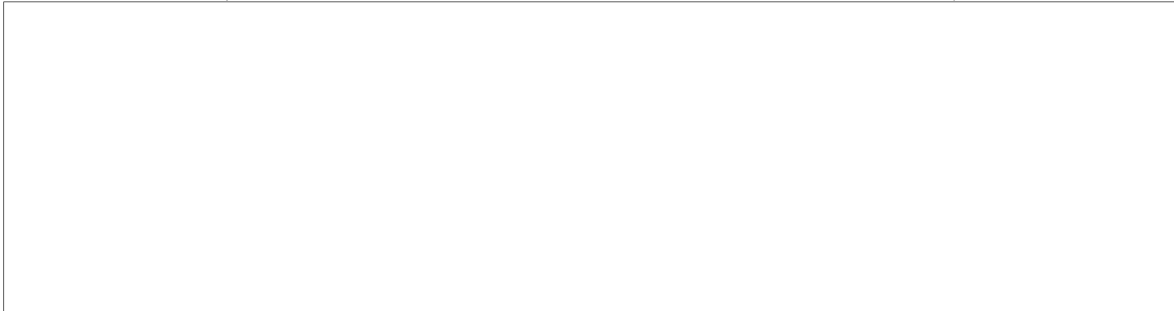
Latin America

12 April

Colombia: In the Cusiana oilfield unidentified rebels bombed a flow line leading to a pigging station where crude is cleaned. A British Petroleum spokesman said it will take a week to fix the flow line. []

15 April

Colombia: National Liberation Army (ELN) rebels bombed the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline, spilling 2,000 barrels of oil. [redacted]



19 April

Colombia: Unidentified guerrillas bombed a US soft drink company bottling plant in Cali, partially demolishing a wall and damaging equipment inside the building. Three vehicles on the street were destroyed, and buildings within a six-block radius sustained damage from the blast. [redacted]

Venezuela: Colombian guerrillas kidnapped a Venezuelan cattleman in a Los Flores hacienda. On 23 April the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services rescued the cattleman. [redacted]

21 April

Colombia: ELN guerrillas bombed the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline in Arauca Department, spilling 5,000 barrels of oil into a nearby river. [redacted]

Middle East



17 April

Yemen: Bani Dabiyan tribesmen kidnapped a British Council official, along with his wife and son, as they traveled south along a road from Aden to Sanaa. The kidnappers released the hostages on 3 May. [redacted]

22 April

Iraq: A gunman killed an Iranian clergyman and injured his two companions in Al-Najaf. No one claimed responsibility for the attack. [redacted]

23 April

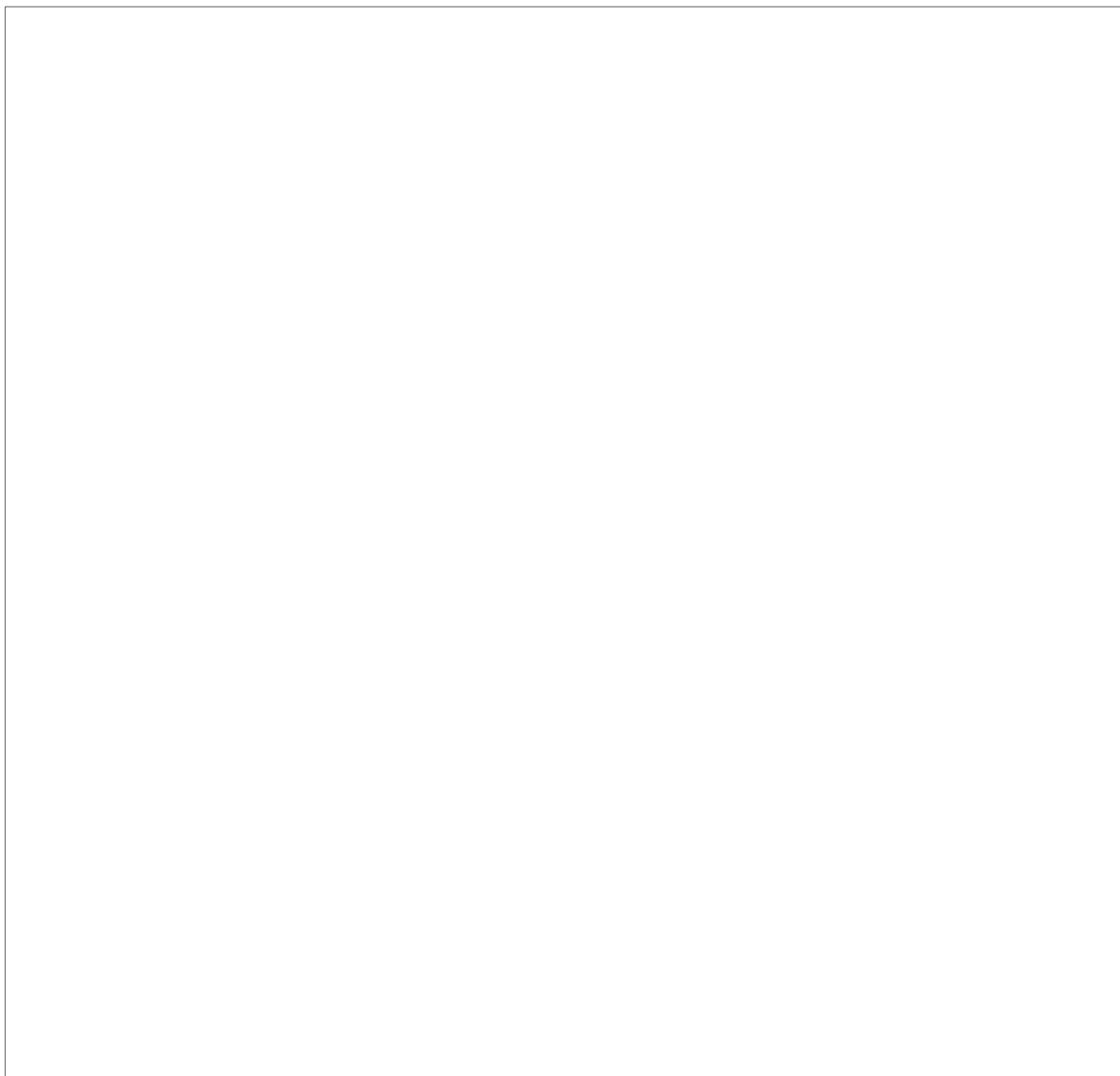
Yemen: A policeman from the Al-Marakesha tribe kidnapped a Ukrainian citizen on his way to Sanaa and handed him over to the tribe. Tribesmen released the hostage the next day. [redacted]

24 April

Yemen: A bomb exploded in the courtyard of the Al-Kheir mosque after midday prayers in the Bi'r Ubayd area of Sanaa. The explosion killed two persons and wounded 26 others, including two US citizens, a Canadian, a Libyan, and several Somalis. [redacted]

Summary of Indigenous Terrorism—May 1998

The incidents and situations listed below are not a detailed accounting of all domestic terrorist incidents, but rather provide an overview of selected indigenous terrorism worldwide.



Asia

Pakistan

On 4 May near Sialkot on the Indian border a timed explosive device detonated on a passenger train, destroying the tracks and damaging one carriage. [redacted]

On 16 May in Karachi two explosions occurred in the Gulshan-E-Iqbal residential area, killing two persons and injuring 18 others. [redacted]

On 24 May three armed men hijacked a Pakistani International Air (PIA) flight from Gwadar to Karachi, ordering the pilot to fly to India. The Pakistani Air Force forced the plane to land in Hyderabad. The hijackers, believing they were in India, left the plane to negotiate the release of the 29 passengers and four crew members and were captured by Pakistani commandos. One commando and one hijacker were injured by gunfire. The hijackers are thought to be Baluchi student dissidents protesting anticipated Pakistani nuclear tests in Balochistan Province. [redacted]

Sri Lanka

On 12 May a claymore mine exploded in Vavuniya, killing at least eight persons and wounding at least 10 others traveling in two vehicles. Five of the dead were members of the Democratic People's Liberation Front (PLOTE); the other victims were passing by when the mine detonated. PLOTE is a former Tamil rebel group that cooperates with security forces against the *Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)*. The *LTTE* is probably responsible. [redacted]

On 14 May a suspected *LTTE* suicide bomber assassinated a popular top army commander, Brig. Larry Wijeratne, and his two bodyguards when the bomber jumped in front of the brigadier's jeep. The attack occurred as he was leaving a ceremony in Point Pedro to celebrate his new post in Colombo. [redacted]

On 17 May the recently elected mayor of Jaffna was shot and killed in her home by two assailants who also wounded a member of the municipal council. A previously unknown group called the *Sangilian Force* claimed responsibility. The group is reportedly a front organization for the *LTTE*, and the government considers the *LTTE* its primary suspect. [redacted]

Europe

Spain

On 3 May a large crowd of *Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA)* supporters hurled Molotov cocktails and other objects at police during a local holiday celebration in Matiena. No injuries were reported, but the rioters damaged two banks. [redacted]

An unidentified gunman shot and killed a Popular Party politician as he left his home in Pamplona on 6 May. Police suspect *ETA* involvement. [redacted]

A gunman shot a retired civil guardsman at a bus stop in Vitoria on 8 May. The victim died the following day at a local hospital. The *ETA* organization is suspected. [redacted]

Police experts defused two letter bombs, one each sent to the Public Prosecutor's Office and the home of a university professor in San Sebastian on 12 May. Authorities believe the two bombing attempts were carried out by *ETA*. [redacted]

[Redacted]

On 9 May in Semdinli suspected *Kurdistan Workers' Party* militants attacked a police checkpoint and nearby houses, killing one person. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

United Kingdom

On 9 May unknown assailants fired several mortar rounds at a police station in Belleek, Northern Ireland. None of the explosives detonated on impact, but one exploded as police were evacuating persons from nearby homes. No injuries or damage were sustained. The *Irish Republican Army Continuity Council* is suspected, but authorities have not ruled out the involvement of another, unidentified nationalist paramilitary group. [Redacted]

Police defused an explosive device found in Belfast on 12 May. Authorities located the device after receiving a coded telephone warning from the *Irish National Liberation Army*. [Redacted]

On 17 May in Armagh, Northern Ireland, police defused a 500-pound car bomb planted near a police station after receiving a warning call from a person claiming to be a member of the "real Irish Republican Army." Police officials suspect the perpetrators are disgruntled members of the *Irish Republican Army (IRA)* displeased with the results of the Northern Ireland peace initiative. [Redacted]

An explosive device detonated under a railway bridge in Belfast on 23 May. The bomb exploded as British Army bomb experts attempted to disarm it, but caused no damage or injuries. No one claimed responsibility. [Redacted]

Latin America

Colombia

Fifty *National Liberation Army (ELN)* rebels attacked the town of Ragonvalia on 1 May, killing two police officers, wounding six others and one civilian, and destroying the town's police post and Agarian bank. [Redacted]

On 4 May *Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)* rebels ordered workers to abandon a palm oil refinery in Puerto Wilches before bombing the plant. The blast destroyed some of the processing machinery. The rebels seek to intimidate local companies into paying a "peace tax" of 10 percent of their net profits. [Redacted]

FARC guerrillas kidnapped 10 councilmen on 9 May in San Pedro. The rebels allowed a newscast team to film the councilmen and announced that they will free the hostages after the elections. [Redacted]

ELN gunmen shot and killed a former defense minister on 12 May in Bogota. [Redacted]

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ELN rebels kidnapped two radio journalists on 18 May in Cali, demanding that their message be published as a condition for the release of the hostages. [redacted]

Venezuela

On 12 May a bomb exploded in a congressional administrative building in Caracas. The explosion damaged the building and scattered political pamphlets signed by the *United Revolutionary Front*. [redacted]

Middle East

Algeria

Militants slit the throats of 22 civilians at a roadblock near Ras el Ain on 12 May. The *Armed Islamic Group (GIA)* is probably responsible. [redacted]

On 22 May a bomb hidden in a box of vegetables exploded at a market in the Algiers suburb of El Harrach, killing 16 persons and wounding 61 others. The *GIA* is suspected. [redacted]

Egypt

Suspected *Al-Gama'at al-Islamiyya* militants opened fire on a police car in Al Minya Governorate on 19 May, wounding three police officers. The ambush was an apparent revenge attack for the death of four Islamists by police the previous day. [redacted]

Israel

Two unidentified assailants stabbed a Yeshiva student to death in Jerusalem's Old City on 6 May. [redacted]

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