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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

COUNTERTERRORIST CENTER

# TERRORISM REVIEW

MAY 1997

APPROVED FOR RELEASE   
DATE: 07-25-2011

CIADI - IR 97-005

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DI TR 97-005  
May 1997

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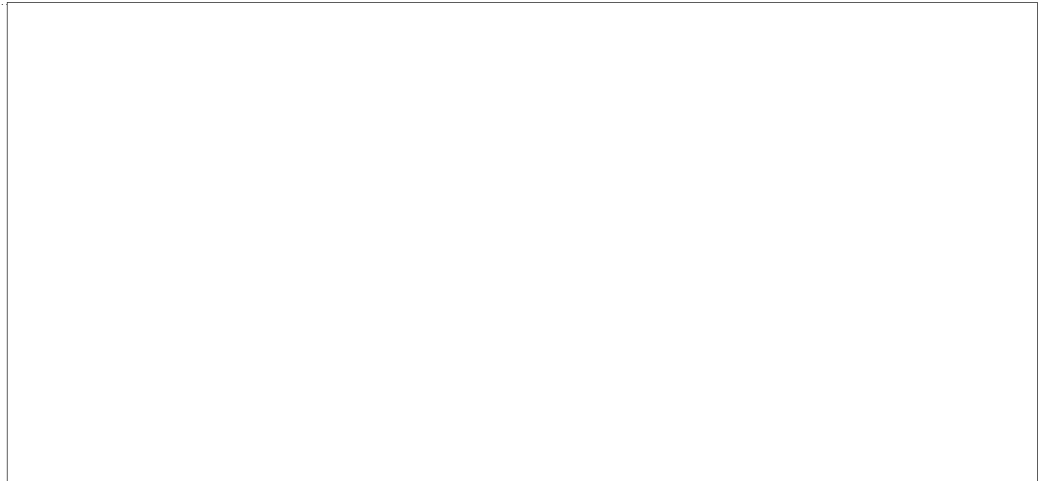
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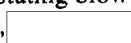
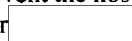


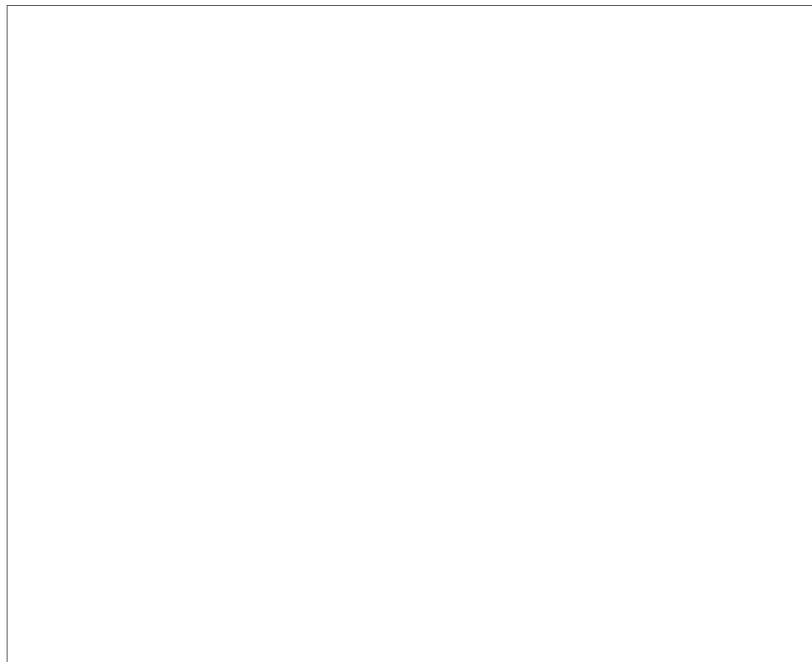


## Terrorism Review

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		<i>Page</i>
<b>Articles</b>	<b>Peruvian Terrorists: Dazed But Still Dangerous</b> 	1

  
Although the Peruvian military assault on the Japanese Ambassador's residence on 22 April dealt a devastating blow to the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA),  continues to pose a substantial threat to Peruvian interests at home and abroad, as well as to US and Japanese interests. MRTA remains capable of carrying out low-level attacks and kidnappings for ransom, and other terrorist groups may stage attacks to demonstrate their solidarity with the MRTA hostage takers. In addition, the larger and more violent Sendero Luminoso, which lay dormant throughout the hostage crisis, recently staged a car bombing in Lima and is likely to continue its terrorist activities to recapture the public spotlight from its MRTA rivals. Peru's counterterrorist police, determined to redeem itself after failing to prevent the hostage crisis, will confront these threats with renewed vigor 



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13

17

**Highlights**

**Kuwait-Bahrain: Bahraini Hizballah Still Active?**

23

[Redacted]

24

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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<b>The Terrorism Diary for June and July</b>	[Redacted]	27
[Redacted]		
<b>Chronology of International Terrorism</b>	[Redacted]	29
[Redacted]		
<b>Summary of Indigenous Terrorism—April 1997</b>	[Redacted]	33
[Redacted]		

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

[Redacted]

*Information available as of 21 May 1997 was used in this report.*

## Peruvian Terrorists: Dazed But Still Dangerous

The Peruvian military assault on the Japanese Ambassador's residence on 22 April dealt a devastating blow to the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), robbing the already-damaged organization of its last remaining senior leader and its most capable operational planner. Despite the success of the hostage rescue mission, however, terrorism continues to pose a substantial threat to Peruvian interests at home and abroad, as well as to targets associated with the United States and Japan. MRTA remains capable of carrying out low-level attacks and kidnappings for ransom, and other Latin American or European terrorist groups may stage terrorist attacks to demonstrate their solidarity with the MRTA hostage takers. In addition, the larger and more violent Sendero Luminoso, which lay dormant throughout the hostage crisis, recently staged a car bombing in Lima and is likely to continue its terrorist activities to recapture the public spotlight from its MRTA rivals. Peru's counterterrorist police, determined to redeem itself after failing to prevent the hostage crisis, will confront these threats with renewed vigor.

### Rescue Operation Leaves MRTA in Critical Condition

The assault on the Japanese Ambassador's residence dealt a devastating blow to the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement. The group's armed guerrilla cadre, already diminished by years of Lima's successful counterterrorist efforts, is now left to face increased military and psychological pressure from the government without the benefit of proven leadership or a core of experienced operatives:

- Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, the slain commander of the hostage takers inside the residence, was MRTA's most talented operational planner and the last member of its senior leadership outside of prison. His apparent successor, Hugo Avellaneda, probably lacks Cerpa's depth of expertise in planning and executing terrorist acts.

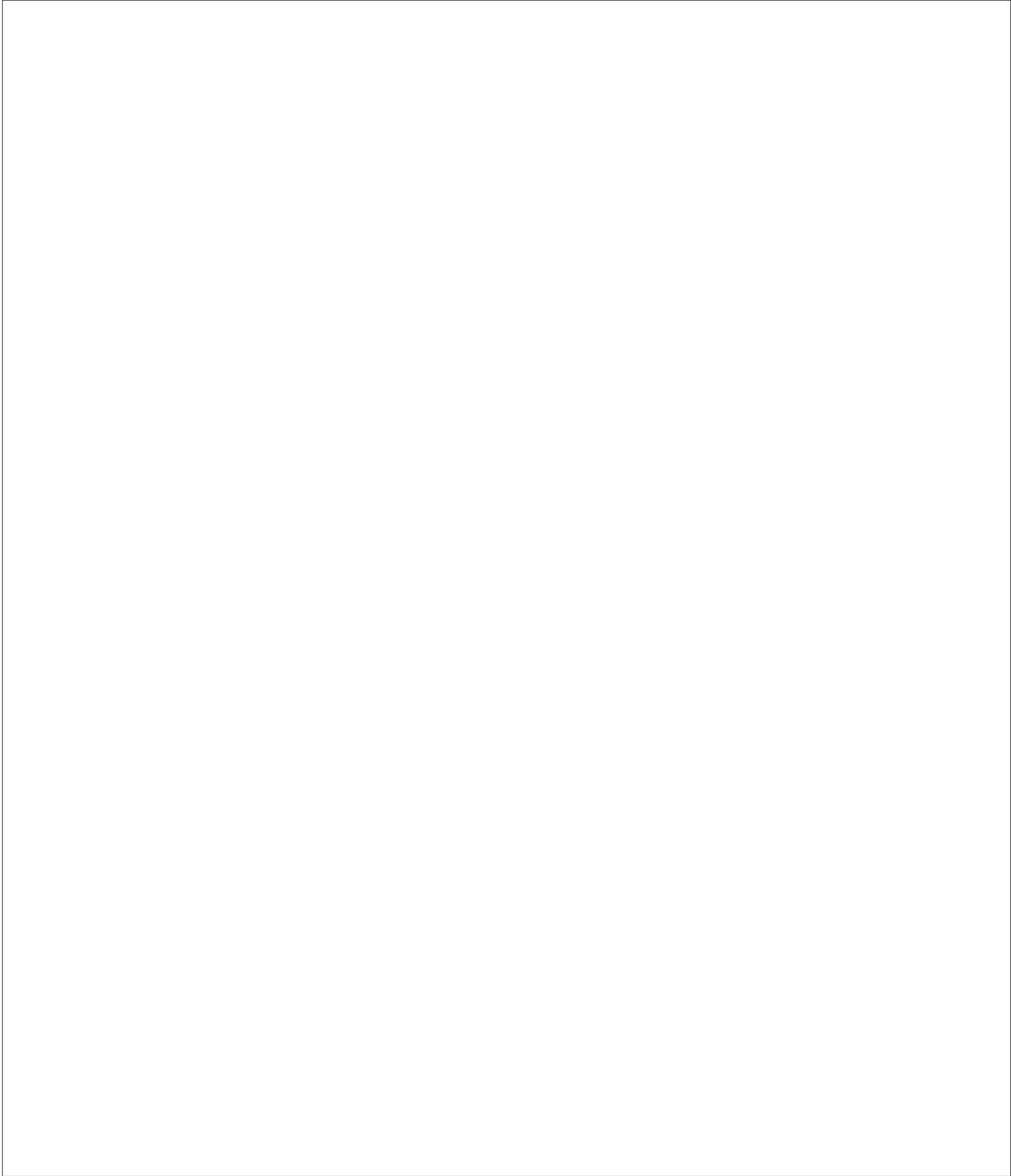
### "Operation Chavin de Huantar"

The four-month-long hostage standoff in Lima came to a sudden and decisive end on 22 April, when Peruvian commandos entered the Japanese Ambassador's residence and seized it from the MRTA terrorists after a 30-minute assault. The rescue operation—codenamed "Operation Chavin de Huantar," after an ancient ruin in northern Peru that includes a network of underground tunnels—resulted in the rescue of all but one of the 72 hostages. Two Peruvian commandos and all 14 of the MRTA hostage takers died in the assault.

The rescue force maximized its chances of success by striking while the terrorists were most vulnerable:

- At the time of the assault, eight terrorists were playing soccer in the downstairs reception area of the residence. Five other terrorists appear to have been elsewhere on the first floor. The remaining terrorist was on the second floor guarding the 72 hostages, who routinely were sequestered there during the rebels' afternoon soccer matches.
- At 1625 EST the assault force detonated explosive charges placed in tunnels under the first-floor reception area, killing or severely wounding most of the terrorists playing soccer.
- Soon after, members of the rescue force entered the second floor of the residence, killed the terrorist guarding the hostages, and ushered the hostages out across the second-floor terrace.
- Other members of the assault force then entered the residence after blasting through the front door, and another commando team entered through tunnels elsewhere on the compound.

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[redacted] MRTA maintains a force of between 100 and 150 armed combatants in Peru's central jungle region, but these guerrillas probably lack experience in urban terrorist operations. Most of the group's skilled urban terrorists were killed or arrested in December 1995, when police raided MRTA safehouses in Lima to preempt an assault on the Peruvian Congress building. As a result, Cerpa was forced to rely on younger, less experienced terrorists for the takeover of the Japanese Ambassador's residence.

- The hostage takers' failed attempt to win the release of their 400 jailed comrades and revitalize their movement is probably having a demoralizing effect on MRTA and could lead its remaining members to question the utility of continued armed activity. Possibly reflecting such uncertainty, [redacted]

As a result of its diminished capabilities, MRTA probably will concentrate its immediate efforts on recruiting new members, consolidating its leadership structure, and using its increased international profile to raise funds and conduct propaganda campaigns against the Peruvian Government. These activities could be augmented by kidnappings for ransom or symbolic attacks designed to demonstrate the group's continued viability. MRTA currently lacks the capability to plan sophisticated terrorist operations, however, and does not pose a threat to well-protected targets. [redacted]

**Sympathy Attacks Likely** [redacted]

A wide range of non-Peruvian terrorist groups are likely to stage sympathy attacks against targets associated with Peru, Japan, and the United States [redacted]

[redacted] MRTA sympathizers in Europe and Latin America already have staged low-level harassment attacks against the Peruvian Government to demonstrate their solidarity with the hostage takers:

- After the takeover of the Japanese Ambassador's residence in December, unidentified assailants fire-bombed the Peruvian Consulate in Milan, and the Fighting Guerrilla Formation, a Greek leftist group, bombed the Peruvian Embassy in Athens.

- A bomb exploded at the Peruvian Embassy in Prague shortly after midnight on 27 April, causing minimal property damage and no injuries. Several placards denouncing the Peruvian Government had been placed near the embassy the previous day.
- On 28 April, six left-wing Danish activists occupied the Peruvian Embassy in Copenhagen for two hours before they were removed by Danish police.
- On 2 May, three masked gunmen claiming to be MRTA members seized control of a cable television station in Bogota, Colombia, and broadcast a statement condemning the hostage rescue operation.

[redacted] Several other armed leftist groups, including the Colombian National Liberation Army (ELN), the Mexican Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR), and the Turkish Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C, formerly Dev Sol) also have issued statements condemning the assault. In addition, on 30 April, Panamanian students announced the formation of the "Nestor Cerpa Commando," a radical leftist group inspired by MRTA's example [redacted]

**Sendero Luminoso: Back in the Spotlight** [redacted]

Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path, or SL), Peru's larger and more violent guerrilla movement, has resumed its terrorist activities in an apparent attempt to recapture the public spotlight from its rival, MRTA:

- In its most ambitious attack since 1995, SL car-bombed a police station in Lima on 15 May, injuring at least eight officers and 17 civilians. Pamphlets left at the scene claimed the attack was intended to mark the anniversary of the start of SL's "popular war" against the government on 17 May 1980.
- The group refrained from terrorist attacks during the four-month-long hostage crisis, probably to avoid any perception that it was sympathetic toward the takeover of the Japanese Ambassador's residence. An SL spokesman dismissed the takeover as serving no "revolutionary objective." With the hostage standoff fading quickly from the public consciousness, there is no longer any danger that SL's attacks will be interpreted as supportive of MRTA.



- New attacks are especially likely to take place during the month of July, when SL often launches "armed strikes" designed to disrupt Peru's Independence Day celebrations [redacted]

SL reportedly has spent years recruiting and reorganizing its leadership structure, which was severely disrupted by the arrest in September 1992 of the group's founder, Abimael Guzman. Consistent with this effort to rebuild its base of support, SL appears to be choosing its targets more carefully than it did in the past and is tailoring its attacks to appeal to disaffected Peruvians:

[redacted]

- SL's most recent bombing campaign in Lima, conducted last July, also was directed against police and military targets. In contrast, most of SL's previous bombing campaigns were designed deliberately to inflict civilian casualties.
- SL's legacy of indiscriminate violence and intimidation, however, is sure to frustrate these modest efforts to enhance the group's public appeal. [redacted]

**Revitalized Counterterrorist Efforts** [redacted]

Blame for the security lapse that allowed MRTA to seize the Japanese Ambassador's residence has fallen largely on the Peruvian National Police (PNP) and its National Counterterrorism Directorate (Dincote):

- PNP Director General Antonio Ketin Vidal, who spearheaded the investigation that led to Abimael Guzman's capture, lost much of his influence during the hostage crisis and was forced to resign on 19 April, [redacted]

- On 2 January, President Fujimori fired Dincote chief Maximo Rivera, who was one of the hostages.
- Twenty-five other police officials responsible for security measures in Lima face military charges of insubordination and negligence [redacted]

[redacted]

Although the resulting leadership changes and personnel restructuring—Dincote's second in less than a year—might possibly hinder law enforcement activities in the short term, they probably will strengthen Peru's counterterrorist capabilities in the long run. The punishments imposed on the former PNP and Dincote chiefs will reinforce their successors' motivation to avoid further embarrassing security lapses [redacted]

[redacted]

Accordingly, the PNP and Dincote have developed strong responses to the recent activities of SL and MRTA:

- In an apparent attempt to dismantle SL's terrorist network in Lima, Dincote conducted sweeps through Lima's shantytowns and arrested 84 individuals it suspects of involvement in the group's recent car-bomb attack, according to press.

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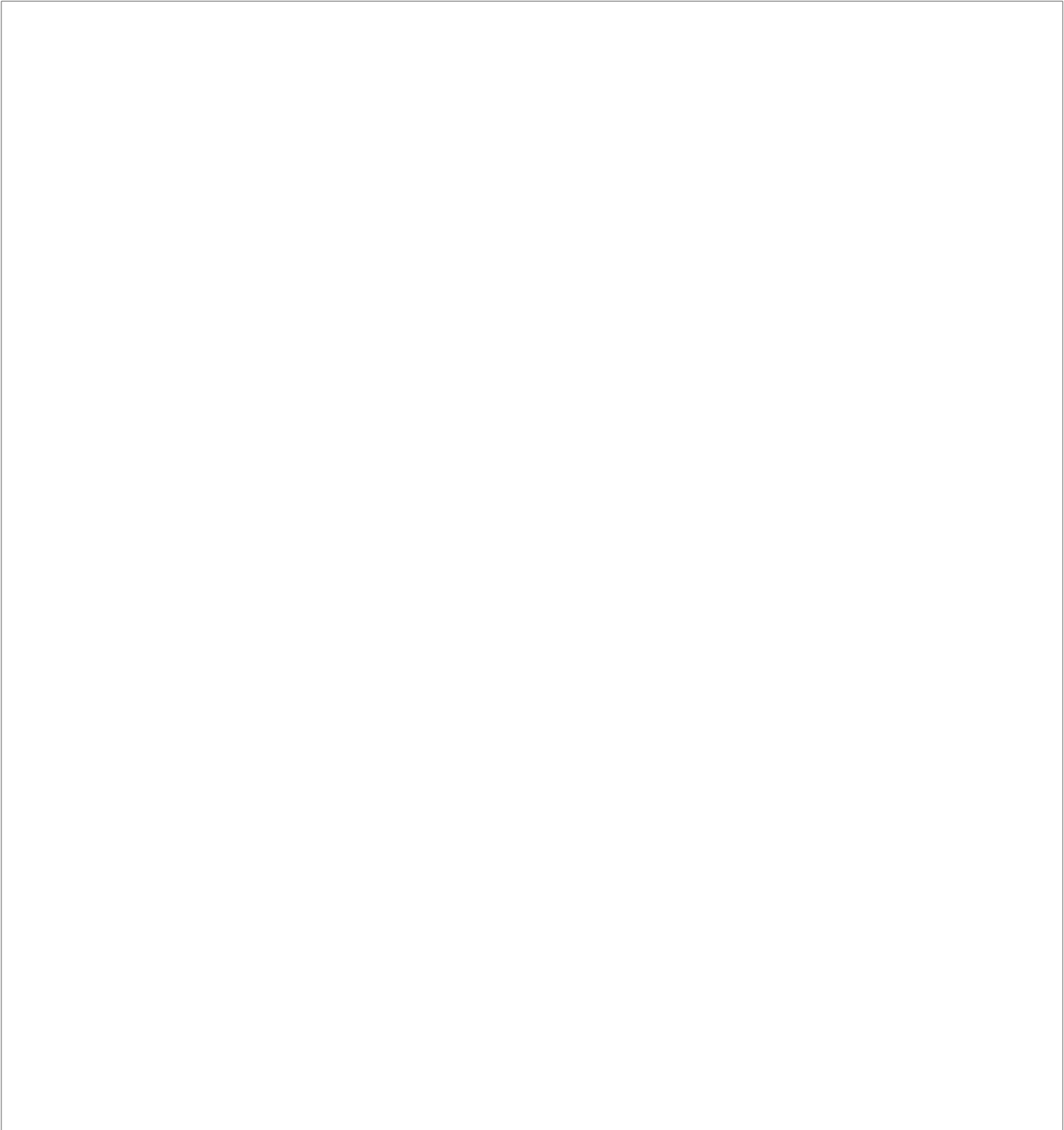


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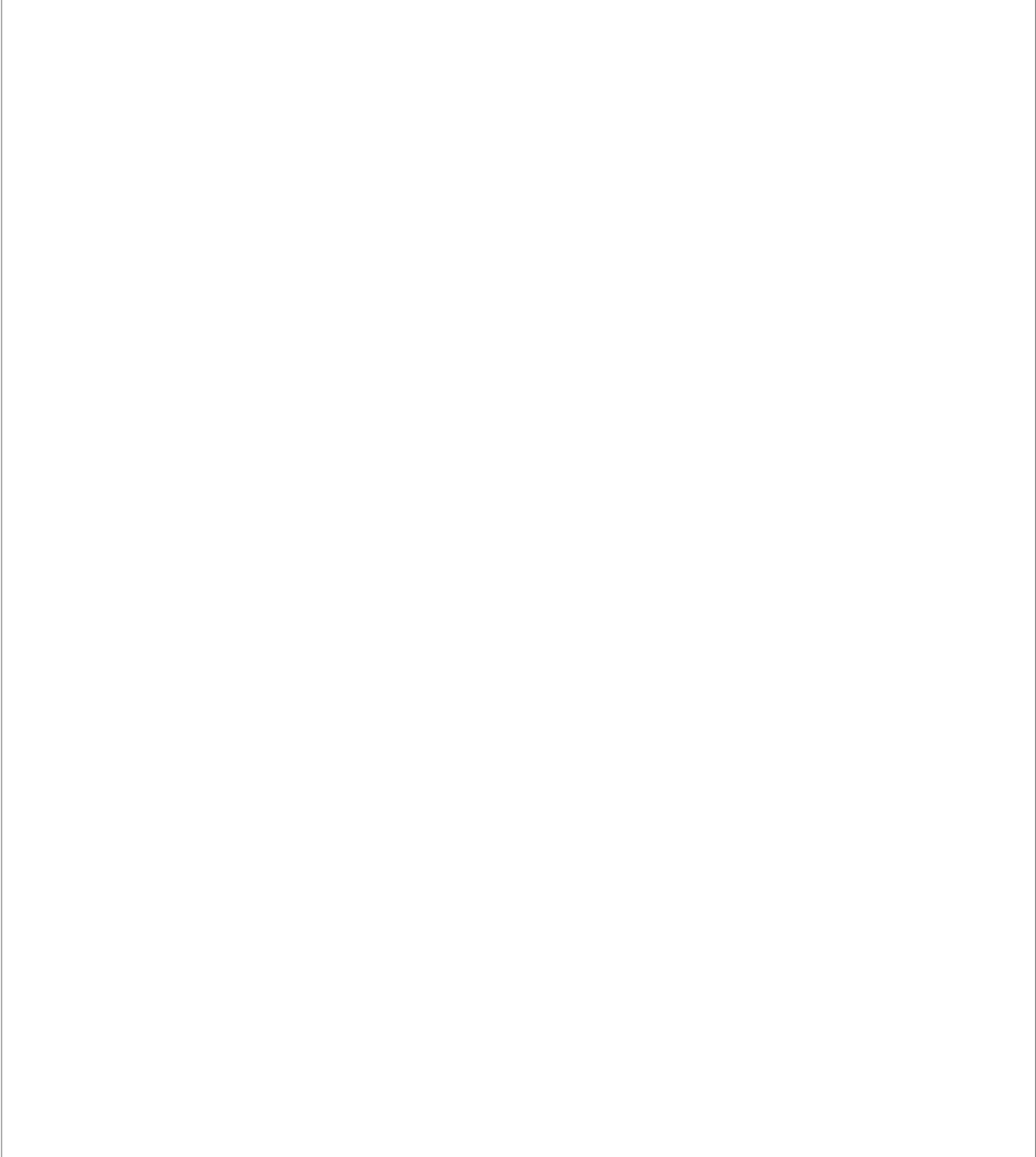
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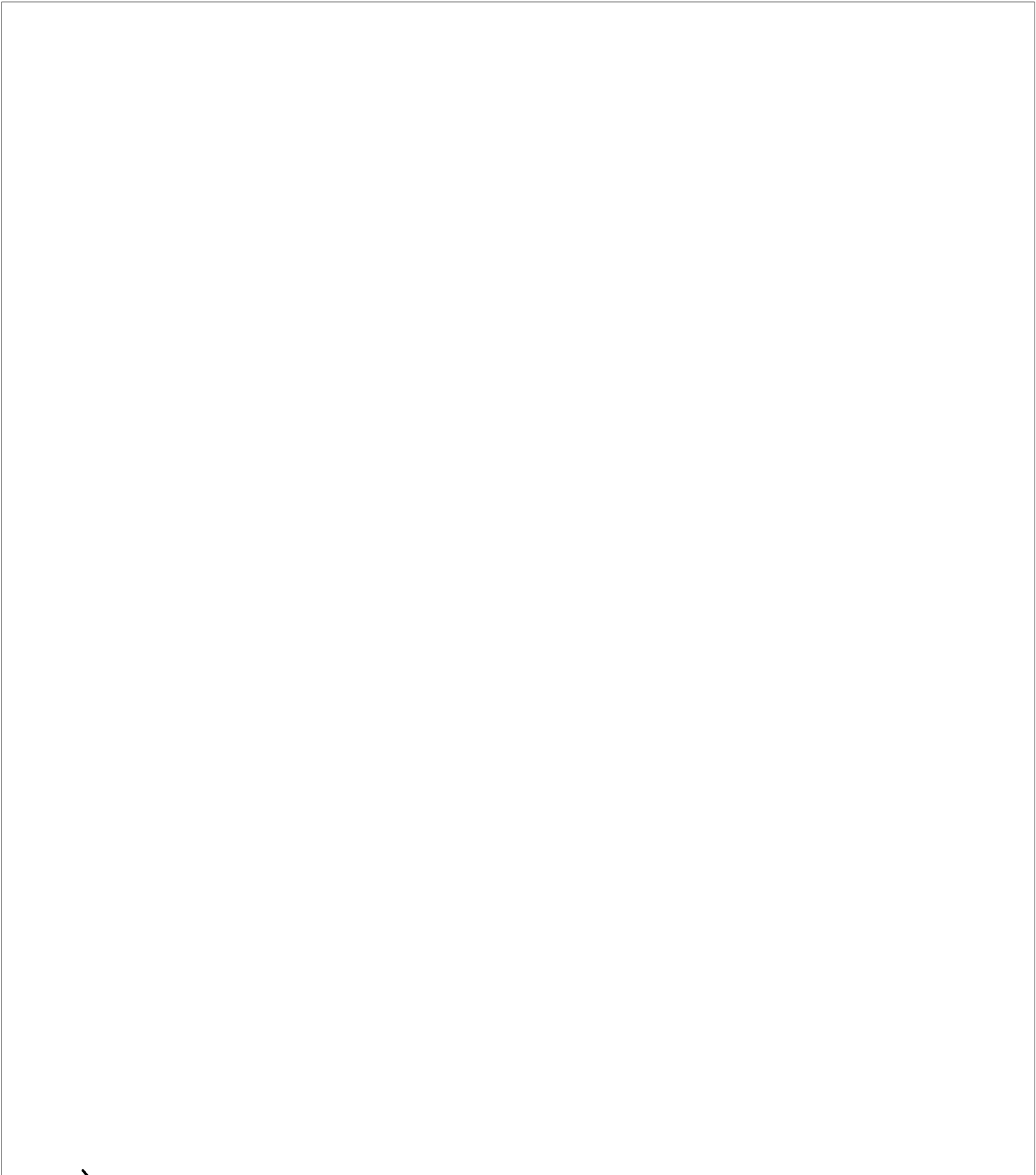


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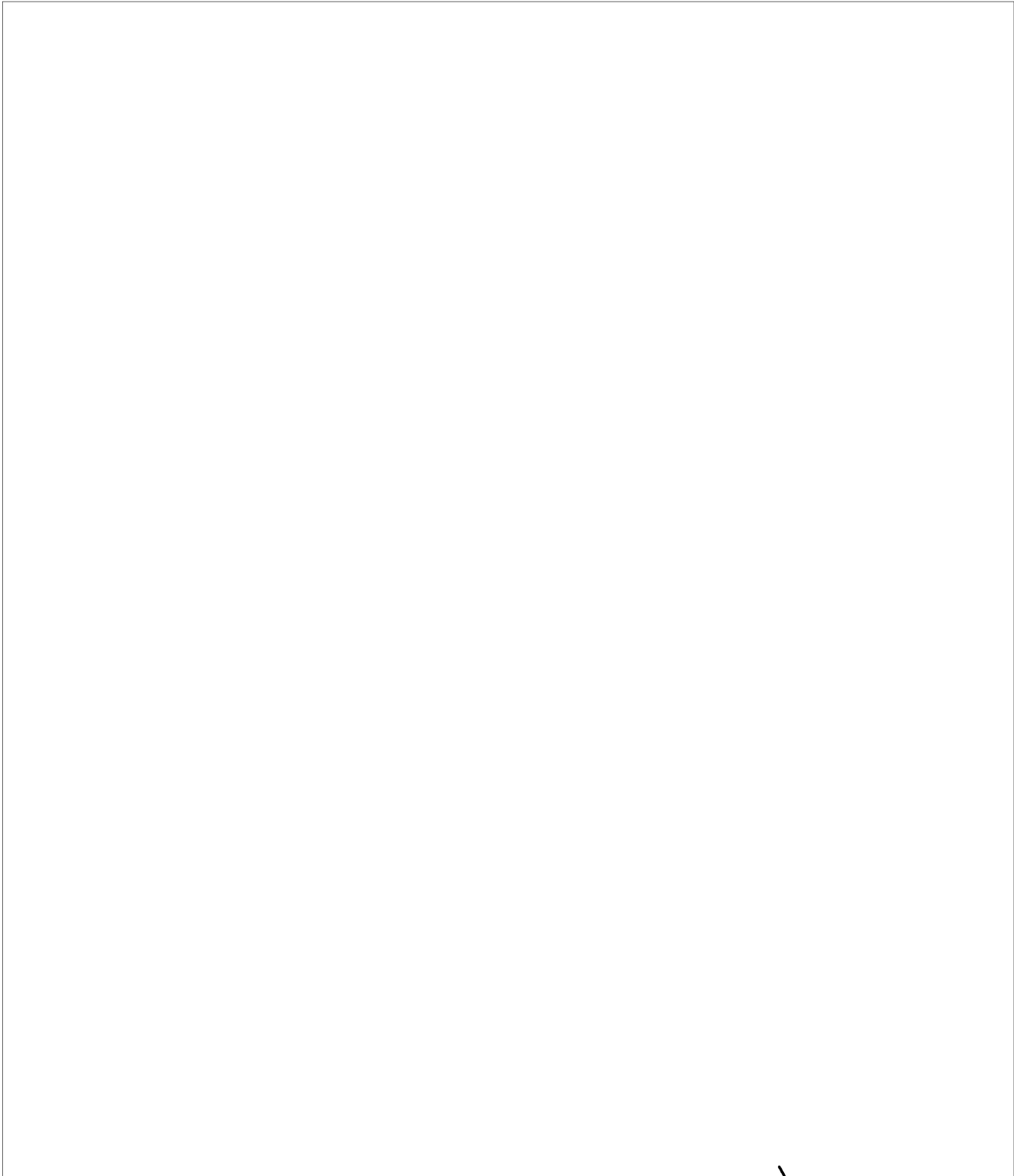
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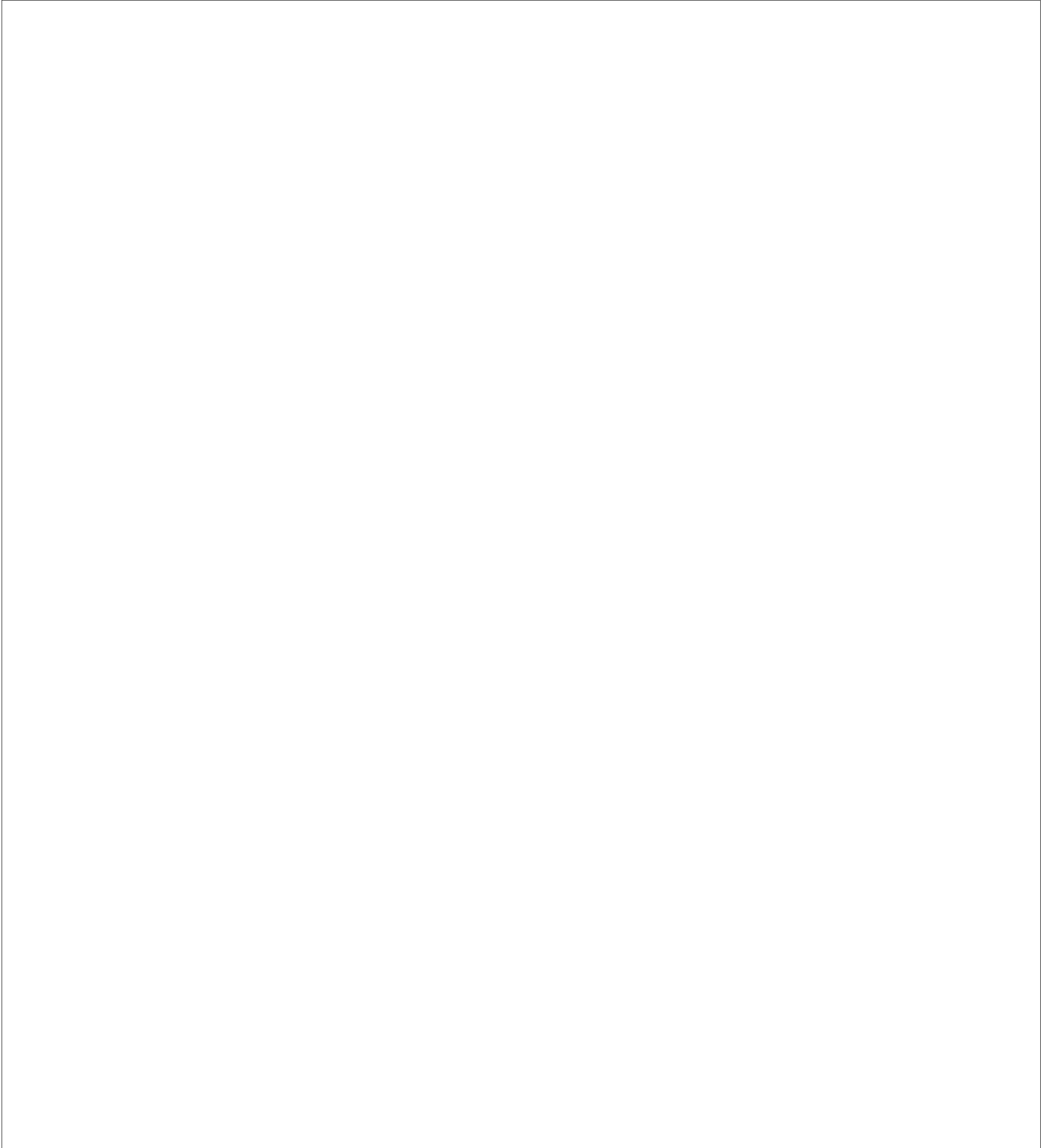
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Highlights

Significant Developments

Middle East

Kuwait-Bahrain

Bahraini Hizballah Still Active?



The Kuwaiti State Security Service (KSS) arrested 13 Bahraini nationals and two Iraqis in Kuwait City on 26 March for representing a security threat to Kuwaiti interests.  These arrests may indicate that Bahraini Hizballah still is active in the Persian Gulf region despite last year's crackdown and the recent trial of 59 of the group's members in Bahrain. There is some evidence that those arrested may be affiliated with Hizballah cells in the region or with Iran:

- Kuwaiti officials reported to Bahraini officials that the group appeared to have ties to Saudi and Kuwaiti Hizballah.  Manama press reported that the group called itself "Hizballah Gulf."
- correspondence found at the homes of those arrested indicates they had contacts in Damascus, Syria, and Qom, Iran, and the service suggests they may have been operating on behalf of the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS).

Although the Bahraini Government's crackdown last year appeared to have disabled Bahraini Hizballah, several key leaders—including three military council members—avoided capture and may be attempting to regroup and conduct Hizballah-related activities:

- Muhammad Habib Mansur Saffaf, one of the group's top leaders, lives in Kuwait City.  He reportedly has run a safe-house in Kuwait that served as key transit point between Bahrain and Lebanon, has engaged in weapons smuggling, and may still be involved in terrorist-related activities that have aroused Kuwaiti suspicions. Kuwaiti officials may try to capture Saffaf in connection with the recent arrests.
- Various reports suggest military council member Adil Shu'ala, who is still free outside Bahrain, may be associated with Hizballah al-Hijaz, the group suspected in the bombing in June 1996 of Khubar Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.
- Bahraini officials estimate that 37 other known Bahraini Hizballah members also still are free and probably have fled to Iran or Lebanon.

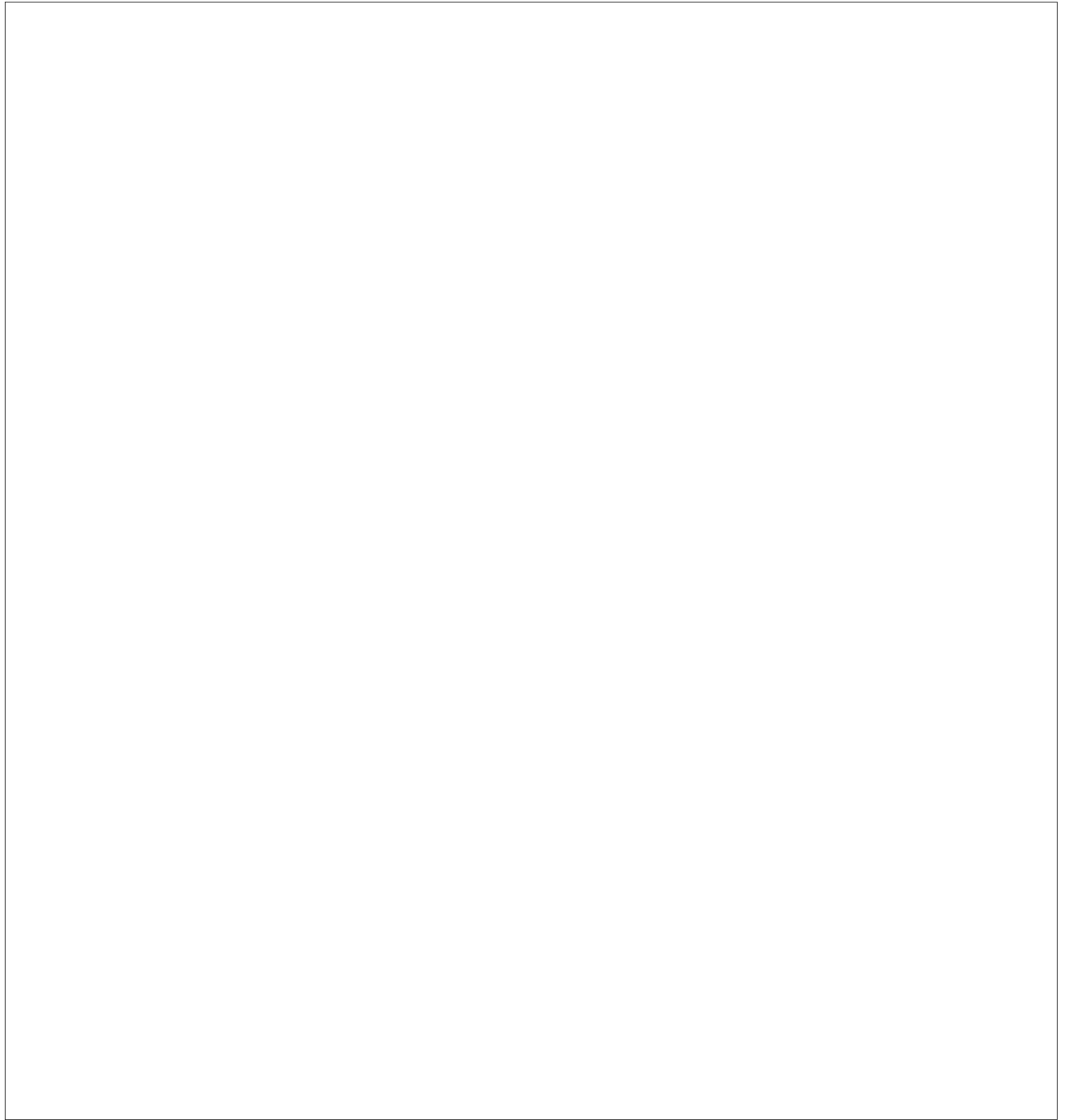
If the Bahrainis arrested in Kuwait are affiliated with Bahraini Hizballah, it would be the first indication that the group still is active. The possible ties to Iran and references to the new name "Hizballah Gulf" suggest Tehran may be working to create a new Hizballah cell to oppose the Bahraini Government [redacted]

[redacted] those arrested in Kuwait were raising money to send to Bahrain.

Recent contacts between Lebanese Hizballah and Bahraini Shias suggest that Bahraini Hizballah retains an infrastructure in Bahrain as well. Lebanese Hizballah leader Fadlallah cooperates with Bahraini Shia cleric Abdallah 'Asfur, who, as recently as April, solicited Fadlallah's ideas on how they might work together, [redacted] 'Asfur reportedly is a moderate Shia cleric, who has cooperated with the Bahraini Government in the past. Though the association of Fadlallah and Asfur may be related to legitimate religious affairs, their contact, at a minimum, indicates Fadlallah has access to the Shia community in Bahrain.

#### Europe

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## The Terrorism Diary for June and July

*Below is a compendium of June and July dates of known or conceivable significance to terrorists around the world. Our inclusion of a date or event should not by itself be construed to suggest that we expect or anticipate a commemorative terrorist event.*

- 1 June 1976** *Palestinians.* During this month, Syria entered the civil conflict in Lebanon on the side of the Christian Phalange and against the Palestinians and their Muslim allies. In response, Palestinian renegade Abu Nidal renamed his terrorist group (then based in Iraq) the Black June Organization and began attacking Syrian targets.
- 3 June 1989** *Iran.* Death of Ayatollah Khomeini.
- 4 June 1982** *Israel, Lebanon.* First Israeli bombing of Beirut.
- 5 June 1963** *Iran.* National Day of Mourning; Revolution Day; Day of Uprising (commemorates the arrest of Ayatollah Khomeini by police under the Shah).
- 5 June 1967** *Middle East.* Beginning of the Six-Day War.
- 6 June 1982** *Israel, Lebanon.* Israeli forces invade Lebanon.
- 6 June 1984** *India.* Army storms the Sikh Golden Temple in Amritsar.
- 8 June 1967** *Palestinians.* Founding of Palestinian terrorist group Sa'iq'a (Thunderbolt).
- 18 June 1953** *Egypt.* Evacuation Day (anniversary of the proclamation of the republic).
- 25 June 1964** *Mozambique.* Founding of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique.
- 25 June 1996** *Saudi Arabia.* Truck bombing of Khubar Towers facility in Dhahran, in which 19 US servicemen were killed and hundreds of others were wounded.
- 26 June 1995** *Ethiopia.* Attempted assassination of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.
- Italy.* Arrest of 13 members of the Egyptian al-Gama'at al-Islamiyya in Milan.
- 1 July 1867** *Canada.* Dominion Day.
- 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).

**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.

**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 1969**                      **Spain, France.** Founding of Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA).





**Chronology of International Terrorism**

*The following incidents were considered by the Intelligence Community's Incident Review Panel since publication of the previous issue of the Terrorism Review and were determined by the Panel to constitute international terrorism. Such incidents provide 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.*



Asia

25 March

**Philippines:** A guard at the US Embassy in Manila discovered an improvised explosive device inside the US Military Advisory Group's "Seafront" facility complex, near a residential area housing 48 families. The device, a ping-pong ball filled with explosive powder, nails, tacks, and metal filings, was designed to detonate on contact. Authorities rendered the device harmless. No group claimed responsibility [redacted]

Eurasia



23 February

**Russia:** Four gunmen kidnapped an Italian photojournalist while he traveled between Chernorechye and Grozny in the Chechen region. In late March the kidnapers demanded a ransom of one million dollars. Russian and Chechen authorities, along with the humanitarian agency Intersos, helped bring about the hostage's release. It is unknown whether any ransom was paid. Chechen militants are suspected of carrying out the abduction in an attempt to undermine ongoing talks between Moscow and the recently elected Chechen government [redacted]

Europe

3 March

**Ireland:** Police defused an explosive device found outside a Sinn Fein political party office in Monaghan. No one claimed responsibility, but Irish authorities suspect the Ulster Volunteer Force [redacted]

10 March

**Turkey:** Assailants bombed an Iraqi-owned oil pipeline in Bogaz Mardin, causing minor damage. The pipeline extends from Yumurtalik, Turkey, to Kirkuk, Iraq. The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) claimed responsibility. [redacted]

17 March

**Germany:** Unknown assailants hurled incendiary devices at a Turkish-owned grocery store in Lauterbach, causing extensive damage. The PKK is suspected. [redacted]

20 March

**Germany:** Unidentified assailants set fire to the entrance of a Turkish restaurant in Giessen, causing minor damage but no injuries. Authorities suspect PKK members or sympathizers [redacted]

21 March

**Germany:** Two Turkish-owned restaurants were attacked in Bad Vilbel in separate incidents. A handgrenade attached to propane/butane gas tanks detonated outside a fast-food restaurant, injuring one person and causing extensive damage, while assailants caused minor damage to a second restaurant. Authorities suspect the PKK in both incidents [redacted]

**Latin America**

**7 February**

**Colombia: Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas kidnapped two German and two Austrian tourists in Los Katios National Park.** The FARC demanded a \$15 million ransom. On 4 March, Colombian soldiers patrolling the Choco Department spotted the hostages with their captors. The rebels killed two of the hostages when the troops discovered their hideout. An ensuing gun battle killed four guerrillas; two others fled into the jungle. The two remaining hostages were rescued. [redacted]

**20 February**

**Colombia: Suspected National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrillas kidnapped a Norwegian employee of a Swedish-owned construction company in Urra.** The employee's car was found abandoned north of Medellin [redacted]



**17 March**

**Colombia: Unknown attackers dynamited an oil pipeline at the Barrancabermeja Industrial Complex in Barrancabermeja, leaving the turbospandex plant out of service.** [redacted]

**18 March**

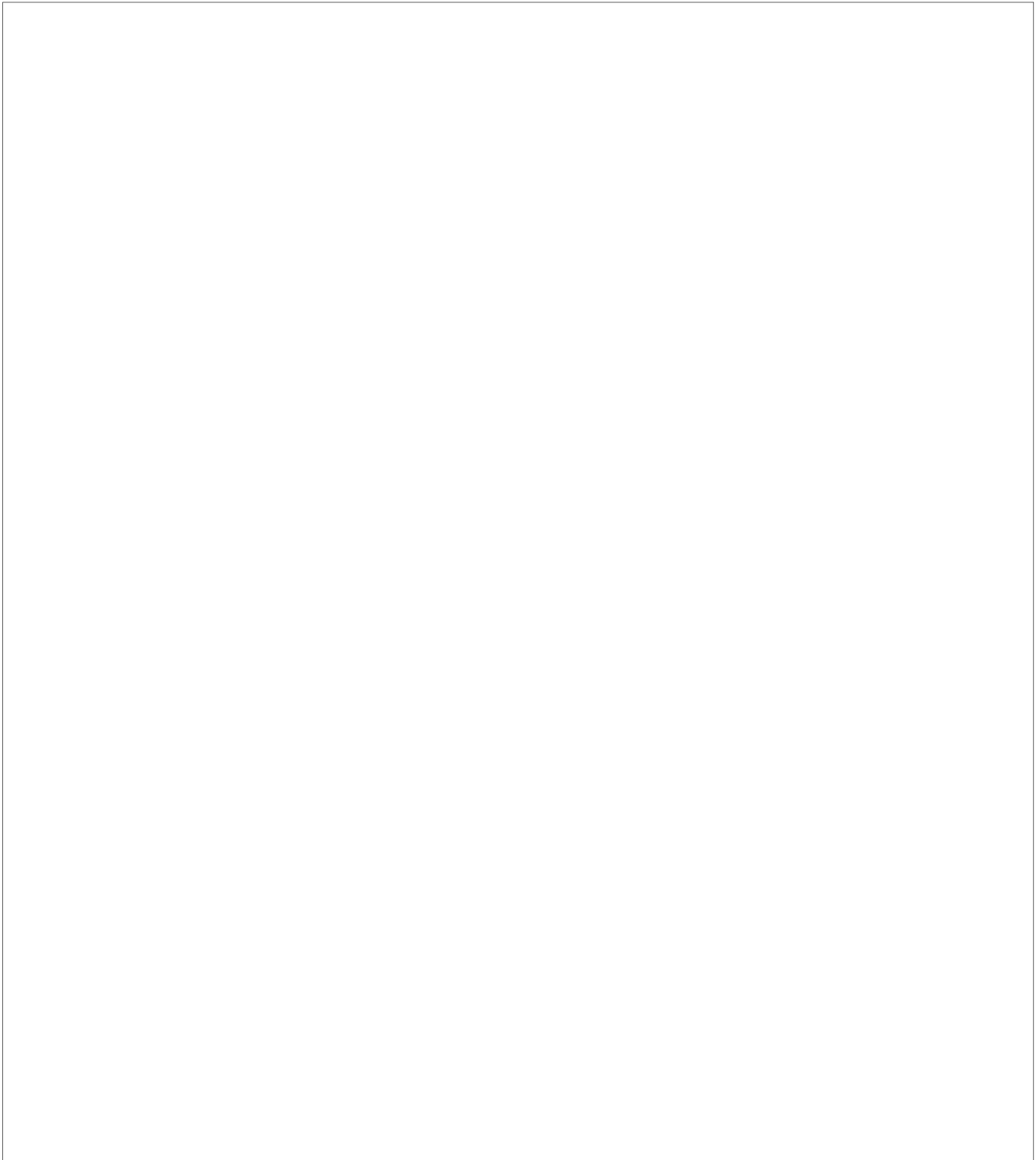
**Colombia: Assailants dynamited a section of the Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline in Cucuta, causing a large oil spill and suspending pumping operations.** ELN guerrillas are suspected in the attack [redacted]

**Middle East**

**4 March**

**Yemen: Some 50 Yemeni tribesmen kidnapped six German tourists and their German tour guide in Wadi al Dabaat.** The kidnapers reportedly demanded \$12 million from the Yemeni Government. On 12 March the tribesmen released the seven hostages. It is unknown whether a ransom was paid [redacted]

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**Summary of Indigenous Terrorism—April 1997** [ ]

*This description of incidents and situations is not meant to be a detailed accounting of all domestic terrorist incidents, but rather to provide an overview of indigenous terrorism worldwide.* [ ]

**Africa**

**Ethiopia**

On 12 and 14 April unknown attackers threw grenades into the Tigray Hotel, the Koroko Bar, and the Le Tana supermarket in Addis Ababa. One person was killed and more than 60 were wounded in the attacks. [ ]

**Asia**

**Burma**

On 6 April a parcel bomb exploded in the Rangoon home of one of Burma's senior military officers, killing his eldest daughter [ ]

**India**

Two militants shot and killed a television producer outside his home in Srinagar on 8 April. No one claimed responsibility [ ]

Kashmiri separatists shot and killed a leader of the main party in India's ruling United Front Coalition on 21 April in Ramban. [ ]

The same day, Maoist guerrillas massacred six persons and burned the house of a local Hindu leader near Patna, in Bihar. [ ]

Members of the *Maoist Communist Center* slit the throats of three men on 25 April in Champi village in Bihar [ ]

On 27 April, suspected Maoist guerrillas attacked the Nadwan railroad station near Patna, blowing up the building and the tracks. No one was injured but train service was disrupted. [ ]

**Pakistan**

On 9 April a bomb exploded in a shoe store in the Rail Bazaar in Gajranwala, injuring at least 19 persons and damaging several shops. [ ]

**Europe**

**Greece**

Authorities defused a bomb found inside a government tax office in Athens on 15 April. Both the *Fighting Guerrilla Formation* and the *Nihilist Faction* are suspected [ ]

**Spain**

Several banks, public telephones, vehicles, trash bins, and a telephone antenna were firebombed on 4 April in Vizcaya Province during a large demonstration in support of the *Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA)* organization [ ]

A bomb exploded behind a Mondragon courthouse on 11 April, causing extensive damage but no injuries. Authorities believe the *ETA* is responsible [ ]

Suspected *ETA* gunmen shot and wounded a prison worker in Bilbao as he walked home from work on 16 April [redacted]

On 22 April, a bomb concealed inside a package detonated at a construction site next to Sevilla's Santa Ana train station, injuring one person and causing minor damage. The *ETA* is suspected. [redacted]

A lone gunman shot and killed a police inspector outside his home in Bilbao on 24 April. No one claimed responsibility, but authorities suspect *ETA* involvement. [redacted]

**Turkey**

The *Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)* is suspected in the kidnapping in Diyarbakir of eight villagers and one village guard between 5 and 6 April. [redacted]

On 17 April in Istanbul, assailants hurled a Molotov cocktail at a building formerly used by the National Youth Foundation Bureau. No one claimed responsibility. [redacted]

[redacted]

**United Kingdom**

A telephone bomb threat by a person using a recognized *Irish Republican Army (IRA)* codeword forced the cancellation of the Grand National steeplechase horse race outside Liverpool on 5 April. Approximately 70,000 spectators were evacuated and denied access to the parking lots for nearly 24 hours. Several thousand were sheltered at local churches, schools, and homes. No explosive devices were found. [redacted]

An *IRA* sniper shot and seriously wounded a policewoman outside Londonderry's Bishop Street courthouse on 10 April. The weapon was later recovered in a police raid of a suspected *IRA* safehouse, but the gunman remains at large. [redacted]

A bomb exploded outside a Sinn Fein political party office in Londonderry on 21 April, causing minor damage but no injuries. Loyalist paramilitary groups are suspected. [redacted]

A series of bombs and coded hoax warnings by the *IRA* shut down highways, airports, train terminals, and subway stations throughout the United Kingdom on several occasions during April. Devices detonated at the Leeds and Doncaster railway stations on 18 April and at an electrical pylon next to a highway in Birmingham on 25 April. Police defused two bombs underneath a highway overpass in Bescot on 3 April and under a stretch of highway in Birmingham on 25 April. Authorities suspect the *IRA* was trying to create chaos in the transportation system to disrupt the 1 May elections. [redacted]

Also during April, arsonists set fire to several Catholic churches in the Northern Ireland towns of Randalstown, Tanderagee, Lisburn, Carrickfergus, and Belfast, causing damage but no injuries. Authorities suspect members or sympathizers of loyalist paramilitary groups. [redacted]

**Latin America**

**Colombia**

Some 30 *Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)* guerrillas opened fire on a helicopter in Tolima on 2 April, killing two policemen and wounding another and a civilian. The guerrillas surrounded the helicopter, which was delivering moneybags to various banks, when it landed in a soccer field. After a clash between the guerrillas and police, the rebels fled with one moneybag. [redacted]

On 14 April in Bogota, a package bomb disguised as a medical book exploded and killed the son of a congressman who was a former leader of the *Popular Liberation Movement* guerrilla group. The *FARC* had announced earlier that the former guerrilla leader would be killed before the end of the month. [redacted]

A remotely detonated car bomb exploded in Arauca on 29 April, wounding the Second Vice President of the Colombia House of Representatives and his bodyguard as they drove past; a second bodyguard was killed. The *National Liberation Army (ELN)* claimed responsibility for the attack. [redacted]

**Venezuela**

On 9 April a pipe bomb exploded outside the Venezuelan Congress building in Caracas, causing minor damage but no injuries. No group claimed responsibility for the bombing, but authorities suspect the *Bolivarian Revolutionary Movement*. [redacted]

**Middle East**

**Algeria**

On 22 April a group of militants armed with knives and farm tools killed 93 villagers in an agricultural community in Baouch Boukhelef-Khemisti in the district of Bougara. No one claimed responsibility for the attack but the *Armed Islamic Group (GIA)* is suspected. [redacted]

**Egypt**

Unknown assailants opened fire on a police vehicle passing through the village of Masarah in Markaz Dayrut on 18 April, killing two police officers and injuring four others. *Al-Gama'at al-Islamiyya* is suspected. [redacted]

**Gaza Strip**

On 1 April a suicide bomber blew himself up close to a settlement near the Netzerim Junction; there were no other casualties. About a half hour later, a second suicide bomber injured five Palestinians near the Israeli settlement of Kfar Darom. An anonymous caller claimed the *Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS)* was responsible for both attacks, but *HAMAS* denied responsibility. The *Abu Ghunaym Squad of the Hizballah Bayt Al-Maqdis* organization also claimed responsibility. [redacted]

**West Bank**

Unidentified assailants threw an explosive device at an Israeli bus transporting Yeshiva students near Nabulus on 10 April; no one was hurt. Authorities then defused a bomb found on the roadside that apparently was set to explode as the bus was passing by. No group claimed responsibility for the attack. [redacted]