

Timeline of the Middle East in the 21st Century

2000	
January	Algeria: Civil war continues as Islamic extremists combat Algerian forces. Over 100,000 people have been killed since 1992.
	Western Sahara: UN Security Council posits options to break the impasse in the Western Sahara between local Polisario Front and Moroccan forces.
February	Iran: Reformist politicians edge out conservative and independent candidates in parliamentary elections; reformists attain majority.
	Qatar: Cousin of then emir, Sheikh Hamad al-Thani, and 32 others are jailed for life for failed coup attempt in 1996.
March	Morocco: Half a million Muslim ultraconservatives march in Casablanca to oppose government's extension of women's rights. 250,000 supporters of women's rights march in Rabat.
	UAE: Defense contractor Lockheed Martin and UAE sign a contract for 80 F-16 jets.
April	Tunisia: 1st president of Republic of Tunisia, Habib Bourguiba, dies.
May	Israel: Israeli military forces retreat from southern Lebanon due to extended conflict with the anti-Israeli faction, Hezbollah, but hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah continue.
	Lebanon: Pro-Israel South Lebanese Army collapses to Hezbollah military advances, prompting Israel to vacate southern Lebanon.
	Turkey: Ahmet Sezer is elected as the 10th president of Turkey.
June	Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia and Yemen sign an agreement to end years of border disputes.
	Syria: President Hafez al-Assad dies and is succeeded by his second son, Bashar.
July	Afghanistan: Taliban leaders forbid farmers from growing opium poppy plants, citing religious edicts. Afghan farmers are growing 75% of the world's opium exports.
	Palestine: U.S. President Bill Clinton acts as mediator in peace talks between Israel and Palestine. Peace terms fall through at the Camp David negotiations, reigniting hostilities.
September	Bahrain: Bahrain's Consultative Council appoints non-Muslims and women to its panel for the first time, including a Christian woman and a Jewish businessman.
	Jordan: Military court sentences six suspected terrorists to death for plotting attacks against Israeli and U.S. targets.
	Oman: First-ever direct elections are held and two women are voted to serve on Sultan Qaboos' advisory council.
October	Egypt: Arab leaders convene in Cairo for Arab League Summit, calling for Arab-Israeli peace talks, but remain critical of Israel.
	Libya: Libyan delegation walks out of summit, angry over Egypt's continued ties with Israel.
	Yemen: Terrorists crash an explosive boat into the USS Cole while the latter was docked outside the port city of Aden, killing 17 American sailors.
November	Iraq: Iraq rejects new U.N. Security Council weapons inspections proposals unless sanctions over its 1990 invasion of Kuwait are abolished.
December	Kuwait: Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE sign a regional defense pact.
Sudan	Dec: President Bashir, in office since 1993, is re-elected amidst opposition party boycotts.
Other	United States: U.S. intelligence agencies begin collecting information about a potential al-Qaeda plot to attack the United States. CIA and FBI fail to share information with other govt entities, which later leads to massive changes in American intelligence sharing protocol. Al-Qaeda operatives in the U.S. take aircraft flying lessons.
2001	
January	Egypt: President Mubarak and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat to discuss U.S. peace proposals prior to Arab League meetings.
	Israel: Talks falter between Israel and Palestine. Israel resumes blockade of Palestinian territories after hostilities resume.

	Turkey: French National Assembly recognizes the Ottoman Empire's 1915-17 killings of Armenians as genocide sparking heated contention from Turkey.
February	Bahrain: A referendum is held concerning political reform, and citizens strongly call for a constitutional monarchy with an elected parliament and an independent judiciary.
	Iraq: U.S. and Britain conduct bombing raids to try to disable Iraq's air defenses. These bombings have little international support.
	Yemen: Contested municipal elections and referendum extend presidential term and powers, at least 40 people killed in election-related violence.
March	Jordan: King Abdullah inaugurates the connection of electrical grids between Egypt and Syria.
	Qatar: Qatar settles border disputes with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.
April	Algeria: Security forces violently clash with native Berber protesters, resulting in many deaths. The Algerian government opens negotiations and grants concessions, including official recognition of the Berber language.
May	Libya: Troops support Central African Republic against an attempted coup.
	Syria: Pope John Paul II visits Syria, becomes first pontiff to enter a mosque.
June	Iran: President Khatami is re-elected.
	Syria: After Lebanese criticism of Syrian troop presence, soldiers vacate Beirut and redeploy in other parts of Lebanon.
Sept 11, 2001	United States: Al-Qaeda terrorists hijack four U.S. commercial airline planes and conduct suicide attacks. Two planes fly into the World Trade Centers in New York, one partially destroys the Pentagon, and the remaining flight is sabotaged and self-destructed by the civilian passengers in rural Pennsylvania. 2,996 people are killed. U.S. and an international coalition respond by invading al-Qaeda strongholds in Afghanistan to topple terrorist regime.
September	Tunisia: 14th Mediterranean Games held in Tunis.
October	Kuwait: Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, a Kuwaiti Islamist, emerges in Afghanistan as a spokesman for Osama bin Laden. Convicted in March 2014 for conspiring to kill Americans and providing material support to terrorists.
	Oman: Oman and Britain conduct military exercises in Omani desert to prepare strikes against Taliban in Afghanistan.
November	Bahrain: The Al-Wefaq opposition movement is founded.
	Morocco: Morocco reaches agreement on climate control to set mandatory targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
	Sudan: U.S. continues unilateral sanctions against Sudan, citing record of terrorism and human rights violations.
	UAE: Government orders a freeze on 62 individuals and organizations suspected of funding terrorism.
	Western Sahara: Moroccan King Mohammed VI tours Western Sahara, stirring controversy with Sahrawi opposition groups.
December	Lebanon: Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, and Jordan agree on a \$1 billion oil pipeline project.
	Palestine: Israeli troops surround Ramallah after wave of Palestinian attacks inside Israel.
	Saudi Arabia: King Fahd proclaims that terrorism is forbidden according to Islamic Law. Saudi Arabia extends women's rights by granting female citizens ID cards.
2002	
January	Iran: U.S. President George W. Bush declares Iran, Iraq, and North Korea as part of an "axis of evil." The statement incites outrage in Iran and is rebuked by both reformists and conservatives.
	Libya: Libya and U.S. begin discussions to mend years of hostility over suspected local terrorism support.
	Saudi Arabia: Unemployment rate remains around 15%-20%.
	UAE: UAE successfully enrolls 98% of all girls and women eligible for school. 60% of the student body is now female.
February	Algeria: Civil war comes to an end. The decade of war is come to be known as the "Black Decade."
	Bahrain: Through May, the country is now constitutional monarchy with an elected lower parliament,

	and also allows women to stand for office. Elections are held and over 50% of the country votes, despite local Islamists' call for a boycott.
	Yemen: Government cracks down on al-Qaeda by expelling more than 100 foreign Islamic clerics.
March	Egypt: U.S. President George Bush and President Mubarak agree on necessity of Middle East peace initiative, although no framework for achieving that goal is announced.
	Israel: After series of Palestinian suicide attacks in Israel, Israel launches Operation Defensive Shield in the West Bank, the largest Israeli military action in the area since 1967.
	Lebanon: Beirut Declaration, more widely known as the Arab Peace Initiative , endorsed by Arab League to bring cooperation between Arab states as well as a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel rejects the resolution plan.
	Palestine: Israel launches Operation Defensive Shield on West Bank. The Arab League proposes to recognize Israel in return for its full withdrawal from occupied territories since 1967.
April	Kuwait: United Nations raises almost \$1 billion for Kuwait in compensation for Iraq's 1990 invasion.
	Western Sahara: UN inspectors record that local Polisario Front has been holding 916 Moroccan prisoners for more than 20 years, the longest-held POWs in the world.
May	Sudan: Sudan People's Liberation Army and the government end 19-year civil war, and south of Sudan can now seek separate statehood after six years. African agriculturalists in the Darfur region protest unfair treatment from the Arab government and launch attacks; state responds with aerial bombings.
	Syria: U.S. Under Secretary for State for Arms Control and International Security. John Bolton, states that Syria is acquiring weapons of mass destruction. Read his presentation to the Heritage Foundation about the threats of Axis of Evil states and beyond.
	Tunisia: President Ben Ali wins referendum on constitutional changes, ending term limits and raising age requirement.
June	Afghanistan: With U.S. toppling of the Taliban, the Grand Council elects Hamid Karzai as interim head of state.
	Algeria: Elections are marred by violence and low turnout, and are boycotted as a sham by four different political parties, two of which are Berber.
	Israel: Starts construction of barrier wall in and around the West Bank, ostensibly to stop armed Palestinians from entering Israel, breaking pre-1967 ceasefire agreements.
July	Morocco: Morocco and Spain agree to U.S.-led negotiations concerning a dispute over the island of Perejil in the Mediterranean Sea. Moroccan troops had planted a flag on the uninhabited island, and Spain responded by sending in soldiers to take the island back.
September	Iran: Russian technicians start construction of Iran's first nuclear reactor at Bushehr despite strong objections from the U.S.
	Iraq: U.S. President Bush tells world leaders at UN General Assembly to confront the "grave and gathering danger" of Iraq - or stand aside as the U.S. acts.
October	Jordan: Senior U.S. diplomat Laurence Foley is fatally shot in the capital city of Amman; Al Qaeda claims responsibility but denies Foley was the target.
November	Oman: Extends voting rights from tribal leaders, intellectuals and businessmen to every citizen over the age of 21.
	Turkey: Islamist Justice and Development Party (AK) secures majority in Turkish elections.
2003	
February	Morocco: Through May, Casablanca jails three al-Qaeda members, eliciting a wave of terrorist bombings that kill more than 40 people.
	Qatar: Qatar-based, U.S. Central Command takes the lead in the U.S.-led Iraq War. Qatar voters also approve of a new constitution in which two-thirds of the parliament is elected, and the remaining one-third is appointed by the emir.
	Sudan: Two Darfur rebel factions rally jointly to destroy a Sudanese air base. Government responds by enlisting the Janjaweed militia (Arab), who target civilians and proceed with ethnic cleansing. This marks the beginning of what becomes internationally recognized as genocide.
March	Egypt: Leaders of the League of Arab States, led by Bahrain, convene in Sharm el-Sheikh to strongly

	oppose a potential Iraq war and call for Saddam Hussein to comply with UN WMD inspectors.
	Iraq: U.S. invades Iraq to capture weapons of mass destruction from Saddam Hussein and topple his Baathist regime.
	Kuwait: Tens of thousands of soldiers mass at northern border to help U.S. invade Iraq.
	Libya: President Gaddafi blames Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for U.S. intervention in the Middle East.
	Palestine: Mahmoud Abbas, an advocate for Israeli-Palestine peace, is elected as prime minister of Palestine.
	UAE: Calls for Saddam Hussein's resignation and exile in anticipation of potential Iraq war.
April	Syria: U.S. threatens sanctions, alleging that regime is developing chemical weapons and aiding Iraqi fugitives.
	Yemen: 10 suspects in the bombing of the USS Cole in 2001 escape from prison. Two are recaptured by 2004.
May	Algeria: Capital city of Algiers and countryside are hit by a powerful earthquake, resulting in 2,000 casualties.
	Bahrain: Thousands of citizens who claim to have been tortured petition the king for the right to sue previous torturers.
June	Iran: Thousands of students protest in Tehran against restrictive clerical rule.
	Turkey: Through July, in ongoing appeal to gain EU membership, parliament eases restrictions on freedom of speech and Kurdish language rights; AKP moves to reduce military influence on politics.
July	Kuwait: Islamist and pro-government candidates gain traction over liberal party in parliamentary elections.
August	Afghanistan: NATO conducts security operations in Kabul, its first non-European operational deployment.
	Jordan: Jordanian embassy in Iraq is attacked, killing 11. Jordan's Central Bank releases frozen accounts of Hamas leaders. First parliamentary elections under King Abdullah II take place.
September	Israel/Lebanon: Hezbollah and Israel exchange artillery attacks, bombings, and gunfire, 3 years after Israel retreated from southern Lebanon.
October	Oman: First elections to the Consultative Council with little change to political make-up of the house. Western Sahara: UN proposes referendum plan between Western Sahara and Morocco, fails.
November	Iran: Government allows tougher UN inspections of its nuclear reactors. IAEA concludes there is no evidence of weapons program.
	Saudi Arabia: King Fahd grants the national Consultative Council the ability to propose legislation without his permission.
December	Libya: Government states that it will no longer pursue weapons of mass destruction. Tunisia: An informal two-day summit brings France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Malta into talks with Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Mauritania and Libya.
2004	
January	Syria: Assad visits Turkey, the first Syrian president to do so.
	Turkey: Turkey bans death penalty in all circumstances, in further attempt to curry favor with EU.
February	Iran: Conservatives win majority in parliamentary elections. The Council of Guardians disqualifies thousands of reformist candidates prior to voting.
	Israel: Israeli civil rights groups take legal action against West Bank "security barrier," claiming that it infringes on Palestinian civil rights.
	Qatar: Former Chechen president Zelimkhan Yanderbiyev, is assassinated in capital city of Doha. Qatar's courts sentences two Russian agents with life imprisonment, resulting in deterioration in relations with Russia. Prisoners later extradited back to Russia.
	Saudi Arabia: A stampede at Hajj pilgrimage leaves 251 dead.
March	Libya: British Prime Minister Tony Blair visits Libya, the first time a British pm has done so since 1943. Oman: Sultan appoints Oman's first female minister with significant responsibilities in any GCC country. Sudan: Army officers and opposition politicians are detained over an alleged coup plot.

	Other – Spain: Al-Qaeda in Europe detonates ten backpack bombs on Madrid trains during rush-hour, killing 191 people and wounding 1,800. Police begins arresting culprits and Spanish Prime Minister withdraws military soldiers from Iraq.
April	Algeria: Incumbent Bouteflika re-elected with a strong percentage of the votes.
	Bahrain: First female cabinet member is appointed health minister.
	Jordan: Officials arrest al-Qaeda suspects while seizing several explosive-laden cars. Eight Islamic terrorists are sentenced to death for the killing of senior U.S. diplomat Laurence Foley in 2002. Arrested militants allege confession was coerced.
	Lebanon/Syria: UN Security Council demands that Syria remove its troops from Lebanese borders. Syria refuses.
	Saudi Arabia: Waves of terrorist attacks are launched by Saudi-based affiliates of Al Qaeda against Riyadh police, foreign journalists, and a U.S. consulate.
	Western Sahara: UN Security Council urges Polisario Front and Morocco to accept autonomy plan. Polisario accepts, but Morocco balks. Conflict continues.
June	Iraq: U.S. transfers sovereignty to interim Iraqi government headed by Prime Minister Iyad Allawi.
	Saudi Arabia: Security forces kill leader of Al-Qaeda leader in Saudi Arabia, Abdel Aziz al-Muqrin; make attempts to curb Al Qaeda recruitment.
	Turkey: State TV broadcasts first Kurdish-language program. Four Kurdish activists are freed from jail.
July	Israel: The Israeli supreme court and the International Court of Justice determine the West Bank security barrier as illegal and order for it to be torn down.
	Morocco: Morocco is designated by the U.S. as a major non-NATO ally, with a free trade agreement following.
	Palestine: Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat falls ill and dies in Paris. Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas named his successor.
September	Bahrain: The government signs a free trade pact with U.S., while Saudi Arabia expressed discontent that this move could hinder regional integration.
	Egypt: 500 intellectuals and political activists form the Kefaya (“Enough”) movement call for end to government corruption and the resignation of President Mubarak.
	Sudan: UN states that Sudan has not achieved disarmament of pro-government Darfur militias and must accept outside help to protect civilians.
	Syria: UN Security Council calls for all foreign troops to leave Lebanon.
	Yemen: Hussein al-Houthi, founder of the Shia separatist group, is killed by government troops.
October	Afghanistan: Through November, Afghanistan holds first democratic presidential elections; Hamid Karzai declared the winner.
	Egypt: Al-Qaeda responsible for three bombings in Sinai Peninsula, targeting tourists and resulting in 34 deaths.
	Tunisia: President Ben Ali wins 4 th term. Since Mr. Ali’s successful 1987 coup, he has never received less than 94% vote.
November	UAE: UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin-Sultan Al Nahyan dies and is succeeded by his son, Sheikh Khalifa.
December	Kuwait: Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas apologizes to Kuwait for the Palestinian support of Saddam Hussein after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.
2005	
January	Kuwait: Islamist militants and police fight in lethal gun battles.
	Libya: Return of US-Libyan economic relations after 20 years begins with first auction of oil and gas licenses.
	Oman: 100 Islamists are arrested of trying to overthrow the government but some are pardoned.
	Other, England: Four terrorist suicide bombers detonated on London trains, killing 39 and wounding 700. Al-Qaeda claims responsibility, but the terrorists were likely radicalized natives.
	Palestine: Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas is elected as president of Palestine. He and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced suspension of hostilities, with Israel withdrawing its troops from Palestinian lands.

	Sudan: Government and southern rebels agree to a peace deal. The contract includes a permanent ceasefire and accords on wealth and power sharing.
February	Iraq: 114 people are killed by car bomb near Baghdad, in the worst single bombing incident since the U.S.-led invasion.
	Lebanon: Former Lebanese Prime Minister Hariri is killed in Beirut. Washington points to Syrian influence. Lebanese activists kick start the Cedar Revolution, a mass protest for Syria to vacate its soldiers from Lebanon.
	Saudi Arabia: First-time municipal elections are held, but women were barred from voting.
March	Algeria: A government commissioned report indicates that security forces were responsible for 6,000 civilian disappearances during the Algerian Civil War.
	Yemen: Supporters of deceased al-Houthi resume revolt in northern Syria for roughly two months, resulting in 200 deaths.
April	Jordan: King Abdullah pressures the parliament to instill new reforms, which prompts the cabinet to resign and a new cabinet to be sworn in.
	Lebanon/Syria: Damascus withdraws its armed forces from Lebanon.
May	Kuwait: New law allows women to vote and the first woman is appointed to cabinet.
June	Iran: Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Tehran's ultra-conservative mayor, wins presidential election. Government announces it has resumed uranium conversion for peaceful purposes. IAEA finds Iran in violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
	Qatar: Qatar's first written constitution is put fully into effect, extending democratic reform.
July	Egypt: Islamist terrorists launch bomb attacks at a Red Sea resort.
	Tunisia: Parliament inducts a new upper house that is run by the ruling party, the Chamber of Councillors.
	Yemen: Demonstrators and police clash over cuts in fuel subsidies, resulting 36 deaths.
August	Jordan: Insurgents in southern Jordan launch a rocket attack against the USS Ashland, missing the vessel but killing one Jordanian soldier.
	Saudi Arabia: King Fahd passes away, succeeded by crown prince Abdullah.
September	Afghanistan: Through December, first parliamentary elections are held in more than 30 years, with warlords and strongmen winning majority.
	Algeria: Referendum passes to extend amnesty to many who fought in the Civil War.
	Israel: Israel withdraws Jewish settlers and military from Gaza, but maintains control of airspace, coast, and borders.
	Morocco: The government deports hundreds of African migrants who attempt to cross illegally into Spanish enclaves.
	Western Sahara: World Food Programme delivers \$40 million in relief in recovery for Western Sahara refugees.
October	Sudan: A separate government is created in the south and is dominated by former rebels.
	Turkey: Turkey and the European Union formally begin talks about potential Turkish inclusion into the EU.
November	Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia joins the World Trade Organization, after 12 years of deliberations.
December	Egypt: Muslim Brotherhood wins record 20% of seats by running as independents.
	Iraq: Iraqis vote for first, full-term government and parliament since the fall of Saddam.
	UAE: President Sheikh Khalifa announced the first UAE elections. Half of the consultative Federal National Council is elected by a limited number of citizens.
2006	
January	Morocco: Spanish Premier visits Spanish enclaves in Morocco, for the first time a Spanish leader visits the territories.
	Oman: Oman and the United States sign a free trade deal.
	Saudi Arabia: 363 Hajj pilgrims are killed in a stampede.
February	Iraq: An important Shia shrine in Samarra is bombed and sparks sectarian violence, hundreds of people are killed.

	Tunisia: US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Tunisian leaders pledge stronger military ties against extremism.
March	Algeria: Six month window of Civil War amnesty begins. Some Islamic militants are freed from prison.
	Palestine: The Palestinian militant movement Hamas wins the majority of the Palestinian Legislative Council. Hamas is decidedly antagonistic towards Israel and is willing to fight for the creation of an Islamic state of Palestine.
	UAE: Announces economic changes; reduction on dependency of foreign laborers and allowance of trade unions.
	Yemen: More than 600 al-Houthi supporters are released under amnesty negotiations.
April	Egypt: Bomb attacks in another Red Sea resort kill more than 20 people.
May	Libya: The United States begins restoring full diplomatic ties with Libya.
	Turkey: A gunman assaults Turkey's highest court, killing a prominent judge and wounding four others.
	June: Parliament legislates new anti-terror initiatives. This move worries EU as an opportunity for torture.
June	Kuwait: Islamists, reformists, and liberals form a temporary alliance to win 2/3 of parliamentary seats. No women are elected.
July	Israel: : Israel responds to Hezbollah assaults with 34-day war. 1,100 Lebanese and 160 Israelis are killed, and 1 million Lebanese are displaced. Hezbollah's fighters became heroes to anti-Israeli sympathizers throughout Middle East.
	Lebanon: Hezbollah attacks Israel from southern Lebanon, killing Israeli soldiers and abducting two prisoners of war.
August	Iran: UN Security Council deadline for Iran to halt its work on nuclear fuel passes. UN Council votes to impose sanctions on Iran. Iran condemns the resolution and declares that it will speed up uranium enrichment.
	Jordan: King Abdullah II criticizes the U.S. and Israel for conflict in Lebanon.
	Sudan: Sudan rejects a UN resolution for a UN peacekeeping force in Darfur, claiming it would violate sovereignty
September	Syria: U.S. embassy in Damascus is unsuccessfully assaulted by four gunmen. Three are killed, one is captured.
	Yemen: After being pressured by the public to seek another, incumbent President Saleh wins the election.
October	Afghanistan: NATO takes control of security across Afghanistan, taking command from US-led coalition force.
	Saudi Arabia: Monarchy sets sturdier guidelines to royal succession to prevent possible rivalries amongst next generation of princes.
	Western Sahara: Morocco calls U.N. report critical of human rights record in Western Sahara biased in favor of Polisario Front.
November	Bahrain: Shia party wins 40% of the country's election, with Jawad bin Salem al-Oraied named Deputy Prime Minister.
	Egypt: IAEA reports Egypt is one of at six Arab countries developing domestic nuclear programs to diversify energy.
	Sudan: Northern Sudanese forces and southern rebels restart conflict.
	Syria: Syria and Iraq reestablish diplomatic relations after nearly 25 years.
December	Iran: Iran hosts a controversial Holocaust conference, which includes prominent Holocaust deniers.
	Iraq: Saddam Hussein was executed by new government of Iraq after he was convicted of crimes against humanity.
	Qatar: Becomes first Arab country to host the Olympic Asian Games.
	UAE: Very first national election is held, but voters are a small group of handpicked citizens.
2007	
January	Iraq: U.S. President G.W. Bush announces new Iraq strategy, the "Surge," where 30,000 additional U.S. troops will be deployed to help sectarian violence.
	Libya: Prime minister announces plans to increase government jobs by a third (400,000 more), to

	promote the private sector and relax spending.
February	Algeria: Through April, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb carries out months of terrorist attacks. Army fights back.
	Western Sahara: Morocco extends option Sahrawis for vote to either integrate into Morocco, or become an autonomous region under the kingdom. Polisario Front counters that option with demand for full independence. Morocco denies request.
March	Egypt: Government amends the constitution to ban political parties based upon religion and also dilutes judicial oversight of elections.
April	Iran: Through October, President Ahmadinejad declares that Iran can produce nuclear fuel at an industrial level. U.S. announces new sanctions against Iran, the strongest since first sanctions were imposed 30 years prior.
	Morocco: Multiple waves of suicide bombers assault Casablanca.
	UAE: UAE reveals strategy of national development so that it can become a world leader and diversify economy.
May	Lebanon: Through September, intense infighting between Islamist movement Fatah al-Islam and government forces at the Palestinian refugee camp Nahr al-Bared.
	Sudan: International Criminal Court issues arrest warrants for a government minister and a Janjaweed militia officer suspected of war crimes in Darfur.
June	Oman: Cyclone Gonu, disrupts oil production and kills more than 50 people.
	Palestine: President Mahmoud Abbas declares a state of emergency as infighting between Hamas and Fatah intensify. PM Abbas withdraws Fatah forces from Gaza strip, Hamas claims territory for itself.
July	Kuwait: Kuwait experiences record oil exports and economic growth. However, power generators are unable to keep up with new electricity demands, and citizens have to conserve power.
	Saudi Arabia: Religious police are banned from detaining suspects due to compounding criticism for overzealous behavior after recent deaths in custody.
	Turkey: Islamist AK Party wins parliamentary elections.
August	Afghanistan: Opium production has soared to a record high, the UN reports.
September	Bahrain: Bahrain extends amnesty to thousands of illegal foreign workers.
	Israel: Launches airstrike and destroys suspected Syrian nuclear site.
	Morocco: Parliamentary elections favor conservative Istiqlal Party.
	Qatar: Qatar and Dubai manage to become the two biggest shareholders of the London Stock Exchange, which is the world's third largest stock exchange.
	Syria: Israel launches airstrike against northern Syria site said to be a nuclear facility.
October	Iraq: Number of violent civilian and military deaths decreases, as does the frequency of rocket attacks.
	Turkey: U.S. congressional committee recognizes killings of Armenians under Ottoman Empire as genocide, causing diplomatic row with Turkey.
November	Jordan: Parliamentary elections strengthen role of tribal leaders and other advocates for the government. The Islamic Action Front opposition party begins to lose electoral power, and moderate Nader Dahabi is appointed prime minister. IAF claims that the government rigged the election.
	Tunisia: Government blocks popular video-sharing sites, including YouTube, to censor material by and about opposition activists.
December	Western Sahara: A Human Rights Watch employee is arrested and beaten by Moroccan security forces, then released.
2008	
January	Sudan: UN replaces Darfur peace force. Government aircraft bomb rebel positions in West Darfur, creating no-go zones for aid workers.
	UAE: Government signs a deal allowing France to set up a permanent military base in the country.
	Yemen: Houthi rebels and government forces combat again.
March	Iran: President Ahmadinejad makes official visit to Iraq, where he calls upon U.S. coalition troops to withdraw. Ahmadinejad conveys that Iran wants to help rebuild Iraq and he signs cooperation agreements.
	Qatar: Christians are now allowed to worship openly with the first official Christian church inaugurated, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church.

April	Egypt: Military courts jail 25 leading Muslim Brotherhood members in crackdown on organization's funding.
	Morocco: Two Moroccan terrorists involved with the Casablanca bombings are arrested in Spain.
	Oman: The Olympic torch passes through country without issue amidst high security in its worldwide travel.
	Western Sahara: Polisario Front and Morocco fail to reach referendum agreement.
	Yemen: Southern Yemenis protest and fight against government troops for suspected bias in job allocations towards citizens in northern Yemen.
May	Bahrain: The government appoints a Jewish woman, Houda Nonoo, as its ambassador to the United States. She is the first Jewish female ambassador in the Arab world.
	Kuwait: Radical Islamists win more than half of parliamentary seats. No women are elected.
	Western Sahara: Polisario Front publicly commemorates 35th anniversary resisting Moroccan occupation.
July	Iran: Government test-fires new long-range Shahab-3, a missile claimed to be capable of hitting Israel.
	Israel: Israel and Hezbollah agree to exchange Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners, along with the remains of deceased fighters, for the remains of fallen Israeli soldiers.
	Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia and Qatar agree to a formal delineation between their borders.
	Sudan: The International Criminal Court's top prosecutor calls for the arrest of President Bashir on charges of genocide.
	UAE: UAE cancels the debt owed by Iraq, totaling nearly \$7 billion.
August	Algeria: Al-Qaeda carries out more terrorist attacks.
	Jordan: Jordan's King Abdullah II visits Iraq, the first time an Arab leader had done so since the U.S. invasion in 2003.
September	Afghanistan: President George W. Bush deploys 4,500 more US troops, coined as a "quiet surge."
	Libya: U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's visit signifies the highest level U.S. visit to Libya since 1953.
	Syria: Hosts a summit between Syria, France, Turkey and Qatar, in an effort to boost Middle East peace. An explosion kills 17 near Damascus, government blames Islamist militants.
October	Lebanon: Lebanon and Syria formally establish diplomatic relations for first time since the 1940s.
November	Algeria: Parliament allows presidents to run for third term.
	Iraq: Parliament approves security pact with U.S. where all U.S. troops are to leave Iraq by the end of 2011.
	Palestine: Israel launches attacks in Gaza. Hamas declares a ceasefire violation and launches its own rockets.
December	Israel: Launches a full-scale invasion of Gaza to halt rocket attacks, while also targeting political actors, beginning the 3 week Gaza War.
	Morocco: Two additional suspects are jailed in Morocco for their involvement in the 2004 Madrid train bombings.
2009	
January	Palestine: The Gaza War comes to an end between Hamas and Israel, with a unilateral ceasefire.
	Qatar: The government cuts ties with Israel over the Gaza offensive. Qatar was the only Gulf state to have traded with Israel.
	Western Sahara: Polisario Front declares exclusive economic zone, extending 200 nautical miles west of the country.
February	Israel: The right wing Likud party, led by Benjamin Netanyahu, wins majority of parliamentary elections.
	Libya: President Gaddafi is elected as chairman of the African Union, with ambitions to unify the organization as the United States of Africa.
	Saudi Arabia: King Abdullah fires head of religious police, the highest senior judge, and the central bank head and replaced with newly selected officials. First woman minister appointed.
	Yemen: Government releases 176 al-Qaeda suspects.
March	Kuwait: Emir dissolves parliament after corruption allegations against his nephew and the Prime Minister.

	UAE: Sulim Yamadayev, rival to the Chechen President, is assassinated in Dubai.
April	Algeria: President Bouteflika wins third term.
	Bahrain: King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa pardons more than 170 prisoners, most of who were accused of endangering national security, including 35 Shiites.
June	Afghanistan: Hamid Karzai re-elected as president.
	Iran: President Ahmadinejad is re-elected president. Rival candidates allege that the vote was rigged. Protesters clash with security forces, and at least 30 people are killed and more than 1,000 arrested.
	Iraq: U.S. withdraws soldiers from towns and cities in Iraq, formally handing over security duties to new Iraqi forces.
	Lebanon: Cedar Revolution-inspired, pro-Western politicians win parliamentary elections and form a coalition government.
	Syria: The IAEA claims traces of undeclared uranium have been found at a reactor in Damascus.
July	Algeria: Algeria, Nigeria, and Niger formally agree to build a \$13 billion pipeline for Nigerian gas to cross the Sahara Desert to the Mediterranean.
	Morocco: Alleged al-Qaeda leader in Morocco, Abdelkader Belliraj, is imprisoned for life for committing six murders in Belgium.
August	Egypt: 26 members of Hezbollah go on trial in Cairo for plotting attacks in Egypt and sending weapons to Hamas in Gaza.
	Yemen: Army launches new attacks against Houthi rebels, displacing tens of thousands of people.
October	Iran: Five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany propose to Iran for the enrichment its uranium abroad. Iran rejects the proposal.
	Tunisia: President Ben Ali wins fifth five-year term, amid criticisms of unfair election process.
November	Jordan: Jordan's King Abdullah II dissolves parliament and appoints a new premier to push economic reform.
	UAE: UAE begins to experience economic slowdown and withdraws from the planning table for the Gulf Monetary Union, hampering economic integration in the region.
December	Afghanistan: U.S. President Obama decides to deploy 30,000 soldiers, stating that U.S. will begin to withdraw by 2011.
	Sudan: North and South leaders agree to terms of referendum on independence due by 2011.
	Turkey: Turkey's government introduces the "Kurdish Initiative", which expands the linguistic and cultural rights of the Kurd minority, while also curtailing military presence in the Kurdish southeast.
2010	
January	Libya: Russia agrees to an arms deal worth \$1.8 billion, which includes fighter jets, tanks, and air defense systems.
	UAE: Burj Khalifa tower, the world's tallest building, completed. In Dubai, Palestinian military leader, Mahmoud al-Mabhouh, is assassinated and Israel's involvement is alleged.
February	Palestine: Fatah and Hamas resume talks on reconciliation. Direct talks resume between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, but are hampered by settlement disputes.
	Turkey: Nearly 70 members of the military are arrested over alleged "Sledgehammer" coup plot.
	Yemen: The government and Houthis negotiate a ceasefire which fails by December.
April	Algeria: Algeria, Mauritania, Mali and Niger set up joint command to combat against area terrorism.
May	Israel: 9 Turkish pro-Palestinians are killed when several civilian ships attempt to break Gaza blockade as part of the Gaza Freedom Flotilla. Israel apologizes to Turkey in 2013.
	Syria: U.S. continues sanctions, claiming that Syria aids terrorist groups, seeks weapons of mass destruction, and provides Hezbollah with Scud missiles in violation of UN resolutions.
June	Iran: UN Security Council implements fourth round of sanctions against Iran over its nuclear enrichment program, which includes tougher financial restrictions and an expanded arms embargo.
	Libya: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a UN refugee agency, is kicked out of Libya.
July	Sudan: International Criminal Court issues second arrest warrant for President al-Bashir. Mr. Bashir ignores warrant by visiting Kenya, an ICC signatory. The Kenyan government does not enforce the warrant.

August	Iraq: The last U.S. combat brigade leaves Iraq.
September	Israel: Talks resume between Israel and Palestine, but talks cease over discussion of settlements. Yemen: Army fights against southern separatists, displacing thousands of civilians.
October	Bahrain: Elections favor Shia opposition group, the Islamic National Accord Association, allowing it to retain previous gains. Lebanon: Hezbollah calls for Lebanon to boycott UN Hariri tribunal, claiming the procedure is "in league with Israel."
	Western Sahara: Ethnic Sahrawi youths protest Moroccan occupation and human rights abuses. Moroccan police attack, killing dozens in what became known as the Gdim Izik incident.
November	Afghanistan: NATO agrees to pass control of security to Afghani forces by end of 2014. Egypt: Muslim Brotherhood fails to win a single seat in Parliamentary, alleges vote rigging.
	Jordan: Government introduces a new electoral law, but critics say that it does not make elections more representative. Parliamentary elections are boycotted by Islamic Action Front (IAF), and riots ensue after elections heavily favor pro-government candidates.
	Morocco: Security forces assault a protest camp in the disputed territory of West Sahara, triggering violent demonstrations.
	Saudi Arabia: In an 8 month sting, 149 suspected al-Qaeda members are arrested. Also, the first metro system in Mecca opens.
December	Kuwait: Parliament members injured as protesters fight police over alleged government conspiracy to change constitution. Oman: The 2nd Asian Beach Games is held in Muscat.
	Qatar: Wins bid to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup.
	Tunisia: Mohamed Bouazizi, a street vendor, lights himself on fire in public to protest government mistreatment. His death sparks protest movement, the Jasmine Revolution, and Tunisian government reacts aggressively, launches the Arab Spring movement.
Other	Islamic State of Iraq: Islamic State of Iraq's new leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, recruits ousted high-ranking Ba'athist officials from Saddam Hussein's toppled regime. ISI restructures into being cohesive, adaptable, and capable of prolonged combat. ISI begins oil-smuggling, blackmailing Mosul traders, and fostering sympathy from the Iraqi Army.
2011	
January	Algeria: Through April, Arab Spring protesters clash with security forces. In response, President Bouteflika cuts food prices, ends 19 year state-of-emergency, and ends state monopoly over the radio. Al-Qaeda continues terrorist attacks. Egypt: Arab Spring protesters clash against security forces, and Egyptian Army refuses to fight civilians. President Mubarak steps down and senior military council replaces his rule. Protesters are wary of military council motivations and intentions. Lebanon: Government collapses after Hezbollah and sympathetic ministers resign. South Sudan: People of southern Sudan vote for full independence from the north. South Sudan gains independence.
	Tunisia: Security forces are overwhelmed by Arab Spring protesters, prompting President Ben Ali to cede his office and go into exile. Democratic elections are held and a new president and prime minister are elected.
	Yemen: Through June, Yemen Arab Spring protesters clash with loyalists of President Salih. After being injured in a bombing attack, Salih agrees to transfer power to the vice-president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, and democratic elections are scheduled.
February	Bahrain: Security forces are aided by Saudi Arabian soldiers to successfully suppress Arab Spring protesters. Shia Muslims blamed for the protests and many are detained; reports of torture surface. Iran: Protests occur and are met with heavy resistance. Jordan: Arab Spring protests compel King Abdullah II to replace the prime minister, calming protesters.
	Libya: Arab Spring protesters clash against country's leader, Colonel Gaddafi. Rebel forces are nearly defeated by the government, but NATO intervenes with airstrikes against Gaddafi's military forces. Rebel factions rebound and overwhelm Libyan security forces and eventually capture and execute

	Gaddafi.
	Morocco: Through July, thousands of protesters call for parliamentary reforms. King Mohammed VI updates constitution, but demonstrations continue to press for deeper reforms.
	Oman: Arab Spring protesters clash with police, and Sultan Qaboos responds by promising jobs and economic benefits. The Sultan also promises greater powers to elected Consultative Council.
	Saudi Arabia: King Abdullah announces increased welfare spending to quell calls for reform from citizens.
March	Kuwait: Protesters call for reform. Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah dissolves parliament and replaces prime minister over corruption allegations.
	Syria: Arab Spring demonstrators are assaulted by government, resulting in increased allegations of human rights violations. Russia and China veto UN Security Council resolutions to force President Assad to cease inhumane actions.
	UAE: Joins international military operations in Libya.
April	Qatar: Joins international military operations in Libya, calling on Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi to resign. Qatar is suspected of supplying arms to Libyan rebel groups.
May	Afghanistan: Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin-Laden is killed by U.S. Special Forces in Pakistan.
Other	Pakistan: On May 2 nd , Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden is killed by U.S. Special Forces. Bin Laden's remains are captured by Spec Ops and he is buried at sea according to Islamic law and to prevent his burial site from becoming a jihadist rallying point.
June	Lebanon: Prime Minister Najib Mikati forms cabinet dominated by Hezbollah.
	Turkey: Ruling AK party wins general election, and Prime Minister Erdogan begins third term.
July	Western Sahara: UN peace talks fail on 20th anniversary of failed referendum initiative for country's independence from Morocco.
August	Iraq: Violence escalates. Estimated 40 nation-wide attacks are coordinated in one day.
September	Saudi Arabia: Women granted the right to vote in municipal elections and are now eligible for the consultative Shura Council.
October	Israel: Israel and Hamas exchange prisoners, one Israeli soldier for 1,027 Palestinians, brokered by Egypt and Germany.
	Palestine: Palestinian National Authority campaigns for UN membership for Palestine and new talks with Israel. The bid fails, but Palestine is upgraded to being a "non-member observer state."
November	Afghanistan: President Karzai negotiates with tribal elders for U.S. to keep troops 10 years after 2014 withdrawal deadline.
	Morocco: New parliamentary elections are won by the moderate Islamist Justice and Development Party (PJD).
	Sudan: A Kenyan judge issues arrest warrant for President Bashir, to be detained if enters the country again.
December	Iraq: Arrest warrant for Vice-President al-Hashemi, a renowned Sunni politician. Sunni parties boycott parliament.
2012	
January	Egypt: Egyptian military council agrees to democratic elections, and Egyptians vote in new People's Assembly.
	Iran: EU announces further sanctions, focusing on banks, trade and vital gas imports.
	Morocco: New coalition led by the Justice and Development Party begins office. Months later tens of thousands of protesters rally, and accuse the PJD of not delivering on their platforms.
February	Bahrain: Bahraini police break up an attempt by protesters to commemorate the one year anniversary of Arab Spring demonstrations. Renewed protests spark again and activists are jailed.
	South Sudan: The government signs a non-aggression pact with Sudan, but then Sudan closes oil pipelines into South Sudan, forcing the government to cut public spending by half.
	Western Sahara: Members of the local protest group, Gdeim Izik, are assaulted in their jail cells by Moroccan officers.
	Yemen: Yemen democratically holds elections, with interim-president Hadī as the only candidate on the ballot. Mr. Hadī is elected.
April	UAE: UAE ambassador to Iran is recalled after a dispute over an island that both countries claim.

May	Afghanistan: NATO plans to withdraw foreign troops by the end of 2014.
	Palestine: Hamas and Fatah's interim government Mahmoud Abbas as the president. The government agrees to a non-violent settlement with Israel.
June	Saudi Arabia: The government agrees to allow women to compete in Olympics for first time, as gender discrimination issues can potentially bar the country from participating.
	Tunisia: Hardline conservatives attack an art show deemed offensive to Islam. Government blames Salafists, but also criticizes artists on content. - Former President Ben Ali is sentenced to life in prison for the deaths of 23 protesters.
July	Turkey: Syria shoots down a Turkish plane and Turkey respond by stating that Syrian troops will be seen as a military threat if they approach Turkish borders.
August	Libya: Libyan Transitional Government hands power to newly elected General National Congress.
	Syria: Prime Minister Riad Hijab defects. U.S. President Obama warns that Syrian use of chemical weapons could lead to U.S. intervention, his so-called "red line".
September	Libya: On September 11 th , terrorists attack a CIA compound in Benghazi, Libya, and kill four American citizens, including U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens.
	Oman: Activists are tried in court for criticizing the government online during protests over unemployment and lack of democracy.
	Sudan: Sudan and South Sudan agree on a demilitarized buffer zone and resume oil sales after days of talks in Ethiopia, but fail to resolve border issues.
October	Algeria: Army kills Algerian al-Qaeda's deputy leader, Boualem Bekai.
	Iran: The currency drops to a record low, losing about 80% of its value since 2011 due to international sanctions.
	Jordan: Jordan's parliamentary elections are boycotted by the Islamic Action Front (IAF), the political wing of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, and a new prime minister is appointed. Demonstrations erupt against the lifting of fuel subsidies, and there are calls by activists for the end of the monarchy.
	Kuwait: 5,000 protesters fight security forces outside parliament over fears that government will redraw constituencies.
November	Egypt: Elected President Morsi reduces judiciary's ability to challenge his decisions, but backtracks after protests escalate.
	Israel: After months of escalating rocket attacks, Israel launches military attacks into Gaza.
	UAE: In the wake of the Arab Spring, the UAE bans online mockery of the government or organization of protests against the government.
December	Algeria: French President François Hollande acknowledges France's role Algerian suffering during period of colonization, but does not directly apologize.
	Egypt: Islamist-led parliament approves changes to constitution that increase Islamic role and restrict of freedom of speech and assembly.
	Iraq: Sunni Muslims stage mass protests against claims of marginalization by Shia-led government.
Summer (ongoing)	Lebanon: Syrian civil war violence arrives in Lebanon as clashes break out between Sunni Muslims and Alawites.
2013	
January	Algeria: Dozens of foreign hostages are killed by Islamist al-Murabitoun group prior to raid by Algerian special forces.
	Jordan: Pro-government candidates win parliamentary elections and opposition Islamic Action Front boycott elections.
February	Saudi Arabia: King Abdullah appoints 30 women into the Shura Council, the first time women hold any political office. Amnesty International accuses Saudi Arabia of failing to meet human rights standards and of increasing repression.
March	Oman: Sultan Qaboos pardons around 30 people, including online activists and protesters.
April	Iraq: Insurgency intensifies violence and is described as being in a new sectarian war.
	Morocco: Cancels joint military exercises with the U.S. as latter supports UN monitoring of human rights in the disputed territory of Western Sahara.

May	Israel: Israeli and Syrian troops exchange fire as Syrian civil war reaches Golan Heights.
	Libya: New law bans Gaddafi-era officials from holding public office.
	Turkey: Through June, plans to construct on one of Istanbul's few green spaces stirs mass anti-government protests, known as the Gezi Park or Taksim Square protests. Police respond with violence, and two protesters die. PM Erdogan remains stubborn over issue. At Germany's direction, the EU puts membership talks with Turkey on hold.
June	Afghanistan: Afghan army takes command from NATO of all military and security operations.
	Iran: Reformist Hassan Rouhani wins presidential election. He states that Iran has no nuclear weapon ambitions.
	Kuwait: Constitutional court dissolves new parliament, negating results of latest parliamentary polls.
July	Egypt: Army ousts President Morsi as mass protests escalate demanding him to quit.
	Lebanon: EU designates military wing of Hezbollah as a terrorist organization.
	Palestine: Fall of Morsi's government in Egypt ends Palestinian hopes for lifting Egyptian blockade of border with Gaza, and interrupts Egyptian mediation in Fatah-Hamas reconciliation process.
	UAE: UAE detain 68 members of Al-Islah (affiliates with Muslim Brotherhood) on charges of attempting a coup.
September	Bahrain: Shia activists withdraw from negotiations with the government after party leader is arrested.
	Lebanon: UN refugee agency reports that there are 700,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon.
	Sudan: Demonstrations across the country begin over government's decision to cut fuel subsidies. Many people die in clashes with police.
	Western Sahara: A dozen Sahrawi protesters camp in a field of Moroccan land mines, protesting the 1,677 mile barrier wall.
October	Morocco: King Mohammed VI appoints a new government after discovery of internal failings of the JDP.
	Qatar: Court jails poet Mohammed al-Ajami for attempting to incite people to overthrow the government.
	Syria: President Assad allows international inspectors to destroy chemical weapons, per terms of U.S.-Russian agreement.
December	Egypt: Government declares Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist group after a bombing attack kills 12.
	South Sudan: Civil war erupts as President Salva Kiir accuses ex-Vice-President, Riek Machar, of plotting a coup.
	Tunisia: After months of quarreling, Ennahda and secular opposition agree on appointment of independent Mehdi Jomaa as head of interim government.
	Yemen: Parliament calls for end to drone strikes after a U.S. missile mistakenly hits a wedding convoy, killing more than a dozen people.
Other	Islamic State of Iraq: Enters Syrian civil war and becomes known as Islamic State of Iraq and Greater Syria, or ISIS. Al-Qaeda's Syrian front calls for ISIS to return to Iraq, and ISIS responds by attacking al-Qaeda and other jihadist groups.
2014	
January	Egypt: New constitution bars parties based on religion.
	Syria: Through February, UN-backed peace talks fail, primarily because Syrian officials reject terms of a transitional government that would lead to end of Assad presidency.
	Tunisia: Parliament formalizes the country's first constitution since President Ali was expelled in 2011.
February	Libya: Libyan protesters criticize General National Congress for refusing to disband. Libyan Army General attacks Islamist groups in Benghazi. New elections are held, Islamists heavily defeated, and violence erupts between GNC advocates and loyalists to the newly elected parliament. As civil war erupts, Islamic State of Iraq and Syria [see Other] captures port city of Derna.
	Morocco: Halts French judicial cooperation after Paris accuses Morocco's intelligence chief of complicity in torture.
March	Israel: Mass protests by Orthodox Jews against legislation ending exemptions for religious students from military service.

	Qatar: Qatar is temporarily isolated from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and the UAE after allegations that Qatar had been tampering with their internal affairs.
	Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia bans funding for known terrorist groups and conducts airstrikes against Islamic State in Syria.
	Western Sahara: EU grants Morocco authority over Western Saharan fishing rights. Local human rights campaigners lobby the UK ahead of UN security council debate.
April	Algeria: President Bouteflika wins fourth term as president.
	Lebanon: UN reports that there are over 1 million Syrian refugees registered in Lebanon, meaning one in every four people living in Lebanon is now a refugee.
May	Egypt: Former army chief Abdul Fattah al-Sisi wins presidential election.
	Oman: Former Omani commerce minister sentenced to three years in prison for corruption.
	South Sudan: UN envoy states that conflict has resulted in thousands dead, more than a million displaced, and five million needing humanitarian aid.
June	Iran: President Rouhani states that Iran is ready to help Iraq fight Sunni extremists, (specifically Islamic State).
	Iraq: ISIS launches surprise attacks against the Iraqi Army and succeeds in capturing several northwestern key cities; repelled outside the capital city of Baghdad.
	Kuwait: A number of TV channels are banned from airing news about alleged plot against the ruling elites.
Other	ISIS: On first day of Ramadan, ISIS declares itself as the world caliphate, "Islamic State." It calls all Muslims to integrate, but millions of Muslims denounce the terrorist group and respond by referring to IS as "Daesh", an Arabic acronym that is a pun on the Arabic word "to trample down and crush." Roughly 25,000 jihadists join.
July	Iran: P5+1 begin talks with Iran in Geneva and Vienna concerning scaling back the latter's enrichment program and granting inspector access.
	Palestine: Fall Morsi's government in Egypt ends Palestinian hopes for lifting Egyptian blockade of border with Gaza, and interrupts Egyptian mediation in Fatah-Hamas reconciliation process.
August	Turkey: Prime Minister Erdogan wins first direct popular election for president.
	UAE: Intervenes in Libya, targeting Islamist militants with airstrikes.
September	Afghanistan: Ashraf Ghani wins presidential election, after sharing power with Abdullah Abdullah.
	Afghanistan Dec: NATO officially withdraws from combat missions. Violence reignites across the country.
	Jordan: Jordan launches airstrikes against the IS in Syria [see Other].
	Qatar: Isolation by other Gulf States ends (see March) after four countries work together to launch airstrikes against IS.
	UAE: joins the airstrikes against the IS.
	Yemen: Yemen's Houthi ethnic rebels launch assaults against the state and invade the capital city of Sana'a, successfully taking control of government facilities.
December	Sudan: Chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court halts investigations into Darfur war crimes for lack of support from UN Security Council.
2015	
January	Lebanon: Israel launches air strikes on Syrian side of Golan Heights, killing Hezbollah fighters and an Iranian general. Clashes ensue along Israeli-Lebanese border.
	Libya: UN-sponsored negotiations in Geneva compel Libyan Army and Tripoli militia to agree to a ceasefire.
	Saudi Arabia: King Abdullah passes away and his younger half-brother, Crown Prince Salman (79), ascends the throne.
	Yemen: Yemen's president, Mr. Hadi, relocates national operations to the city of Aden, while Saudi-led coalition of the GCC, launches airstrikes against Houthi fighters.
Other	France: Jihadists gun down 12 cartoonists at the office of Charlie Hebdo, a satirical magazine, in Paris.

February	Egypt: Egyptian aircraft bomb IS in eastern Libya after Daesh's killing of 21 Coptic Christians.
	Jordan: Continues airstrikes against Daesh, and receives \$113 million in EU loans to help Syrian refugee crisis. Jordan also joins the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in airstrikes against Houthi rebels in Yemen.
	Morocco: Government officials clear migrant camps near Spanish enclave of Melilla, as new migrants attempt to enter Europe.
March	Afghanistan: U.S. President Obama announces that U.S. will delay troop withdrawal, requested by President Ghani.
	Bahrain: joined the GCC states in launching airstrikes against Houthi rebels in Yemen.
	Israel: Benjamin Netanyahu is elected as Israel's prime minister and forms new coalition government.
April	Sudan: Pres. Bashir is re-elected, winning nearly 95 percent of the vote in an election with low turnout and boycotts.
May	Egypt: Imprisoned ex-president Morsi sentenced to death over 2011 mass breakout of Muslim Brotherhood prisoners.
	Palestine: The Vatican announces that it will formally recognize Palestine as a state.
	Qatar: Amnesty International criticizes Qatar for gross workers' rights violations in preparing for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.
June	Algeria: U.S. airstrike reportedly kills Mokhtar Belmokhtar, leader of al-Murabitoun, a militant African jihadist organization responsible for killing foreign hostages in 2013.
	Western Sahara: Leaked reports reveal that Moroccan government may have made significant donations to the UN to ignore human rights abuses Morocco committed against Western Sahara.
July	Iran: P5+1 and Iranian officials negotiate a deal to limit Islamic Republic's nuclear energy capacity and give IAEA investigators access in exchange for relaxations on some sanctions.
	Turkey: Breaks neutrality concerning Islamic State by opening Turkish military airports for U.S. aircraft and conducts airstrikes itself. However, Turkish military also begin targeting Kurdish forces.
August	Iraq: Parliament unanimously approves reforms to curtail corruption and sectarian government job quotas after riots against frequent power cuts.
	South Sudan: President Kiir signs internationally-mediated peace deal, with rebel leader Riek Machar to return as vice-president.
September	Syria: Russia militarily outfits Syrian government, launches airstrikes against Islamic State and Syrian rebel groups, and begins stationing ground personnel at Russian bases in Syria.
October	Egypt: Islamic State claims credit for bombing a Russian airliner while in mid-flight, killing 224.
	Oman: New Majlis al-Shura (consultative council) is elected, with a woman becoming a member.
	Tunisia: National Dialogue Quartet, a coalition of Tunisia civil society groups, receives the Nobel Peace Prize for helping country transition to democracy.
November	Iraq: Kurdish Peshmerga fighters reclaim city of Sinjar from IS; Sinjar is a border connecting Iraq and Syria.
	Lebanon: IS launches two suicide bombings that kill 41 people in deadliest bomb attack since the end of the civil war.
	Turkey: Turkey shoots down a Russian warplane, with both countries claiming that the other acted aggressively.
	Yemen: Cyclone Chapala is the first known hurricane-strength storm to hit Yemen.
Other	France: Islamic State launches waves of terrorist attacks on Paris, killing 129.
December	Iraq: Iraqi forces retake city of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province, from Islamic State.
2016	
January	Egypt: Islamic State carries out attack at Giza, killing nine, and is suspected of being behind another in Hurgada (three wounded).
	Iran: International sanctions are lifted as UN reports satisfaction with nuclear agreement progress. Crowds set the Saudi embassy in Tehran alight after the Saudis execute leading Shia cleric Nimr al-Nimr; Saudi Arabia; Saudi Arabia and several allies break off diplomatic relations with Iran.
	Libya: UN announces new interim government, based in Tunisia; neither Tobruk nor Tripoli recognizes

