

2002 WMD Terrorism Chronology: Incidents Involving Sub-National Actors and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Materials

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The Chemical and Biological Weapons Nonproliferation Program (CBWNP) at the Monterey Institute of International Studies' Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) maintains a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Terrorism Project that closely monitors open-source information for reports of terrorist incidents involving the acquisition and/or use of chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) materials. Managed by Gary Ackerman, the project has developed the Monterey WMD Terrorism Database, a worldwide collection of data on 1,100 CBRN incidents perpetrated by non-state actors from 1900 to June 2003.

As with the 2001 Chronology, in order to develop a more specialized yet robust set of data, the scope of the database is now limited to coverage of politically or ideologically motivated cases, along with criminal cases involving exceptionally interesting warfare agents. We exclude incidents involving tear gas, syringes filled with HIV-infected blood, the use of poison arrows and spears in the context of tribal warfare, and the possession of cyanide "suicide-capsules" by groups in South Asia. The changes in criteria for inclusion are factors responsible for the differences in statistical data published prior to 2001. In order to account for these changes, the 2002 Chronology includes only politically and ideologically motivated cases; statistics for the previous years have been updated appropriately for comparison. It is from this version of the database that the WMD terrorism trend analyses for 2002 have been derived.[A]

It should be emphasized that since the database includes solely open-source material, certain shortcomings are inevitably present. In many cases, national and international media coverage of events is sporadic and dependent on the influx of local media sources. A further problem with open-source information collection involves relatively sparse coverage of international incidents in some regions, where the scarcity of accessible local media sources and Internet web sites can result in the omission of local incidents.

Another possible shortcoming pertains to the representation of the data. Since the annual total of CBRN terrorist incidents is very low, a small increase or decrease in the number of cases could appear to be a significant trend shift, even though in absolute terms it is not. For example, the statement that attempted acquisition of chemical agents has doubled in 2002 might sound alarming, but in absolute terms this change involves an increase of only one case. A further problem is associated with the difficulty of predicting future events based on historical data. The fact that CBRN materials have so far not been used by terrorists to bring about a mass-fatality event does not necessarily preclude the possibility of such an event occurring tomorrow. However, empirical data for the year 2002 does not suggest that a mass-casualty CBRN terrorist attack is more likely than was suggested by previous years' reports.

ANALYSIS OF 2002 INCIDENTS

During 2002, the CBWNP staff reviewed over 260,800 open-source reports and selected 1,088 of them for further evaluation.

The total number of incidents for 2002 was less than for 2001 primarily due to an overall reduction in the number of hoaxes. 2001 witnessed an astonishing number of anthrax hoaxes following the anthrax-laden letter attacks of fall 2001. The number of hoaxes has dropped to a level similar to periods prior to the fall of 2001 perhaps partly the result of a reduction in the novelty of perpetrating anthrax hoaxes. Incidents involving use, possession, attempted acquisition, plots and threats with possession have also dropped overall to 23, from 25 in 2001.

Box 1: Incidents per Year

Year	Incidents (excluding hoaxes)	Hoaxes	Total
1999	27	49	76
2000	49	25	74
2001	25	107	133
2002	23	71	94

Geographical Distribution

Since 1998, most of the world's hoaxes have occurred in the United States. This trend continued in 2002, even though there was a significant drop in the number of hoaxes from 2001. The 2001 hoax figures reflected the intense publicity surrounding the anthrax-laden letter attacks and corresponding wave of anthrax hoaxes as the term became a household name. In 2002, the media focus shifted away from anthrax-laden letter attacks and the number of hoaxes, both in the United States and abroad, has correspondingly dropped.

The overall number of uses, possessions, attempted acquisitions, plots, and threats with possession of an agent(s) remained relatively stable and very low in 2002 (dropping from 25 in 2001 to 23 in 2002). Noteworthy reductions in this category are the decrease in the number of CBRN incidents in Asia (from 5 in 2001 to 1 in 2002) and the United States & Canada (from 7 in 2000 and 2001 to 4 in 2002). Of note is a resurgence of the number of incidents in the Middle East & North Africa region (up to five in 2002 after witnessing a significant drop in 2001). Four of the five incidents involved plots or attempted acquisitions by the Palestinian terrorist organization HAMAS, the intent being to incorporate agents into explosive devices for suicide attacks. Suicide terrorism in general increased dramatically in 2002 with 48 incidents worldwide, and sub-national actors within the Middle East continue to demonstrate a willingness to conduct sensational attacks.[B] The evidence suggests that terrorists may be seeking to generate greater

casualties and higher levels of fear through CBRN attacks. This willingness may exist despite the apparent lack, as yet, of the technical capability to effectively carry out such attacks.

Box 2: Uses, Possessions, Attempted Acquisitions, Plots and Threats with Possession by Region

Region	2000	2001	2002
United States / Canada	7	7	4
Asia	16	5	1
Europe	3	5	3
Middle East & North Africa	11	1	5
Latin America	0	2	3
Russia & NIS	7	3	4
Sub-Saharan Africa	2	0	2
Australia & Oceania	1	2	1
Worldwide	1	0	0
Total	48	25	23

Box 3: Hoaxes by Region

Region	2000	2001	2002
United States / Canada	22	566	41
Asia	0	7	1
Europe	0	11	17
Middle East & North Africa	0	4	0
Latin America	0	5	2
Russia & NIS	3	3	1
Sub-Saharan Africa	0	1	5
Australia & Oceania	0	6	4
Worldwide	0	0	0
Total	25	603	71

Type of Event

The number of uses of CBRN agents has decreased dramatically from 2000 to 2002, down to only six incidents. Of the six uses of CBRN agents, only three resulted in injuries, with fatalities occurring in only one incident. The numbers in all the other categories in this table are too small to draw any robust conclusions.

Box 4: Incident by Type of Event

Event	2000	2001	2002
Use of Agent	36 (6 United States)	14 (7 United States/ 4 Vietnam/ 1 Australia/ 1 New Zealand/ 1 Israel)	6 (1 United States/ 1 Europe/ 2 Latin America/ 1 Australia/ 1 Sub-Sahara)
Possession	6	3	8
Threat with Possession	1	1	1
Attempted Acquisition	2	1	2
Plot Only	4	6	6
Hoax / Prank / Threat	25	603	71

Type of Agent

All biological cases in 2002 involved anthrax hoaxes. Chemicals on the other hand, were the agents of choice for actual "users" while remaining unpopular for "pranksters." It is not surprising that in almost all hoaxes alleging the use of biological agents was preferred, probably because simulated biological materials can be easily produced and safely handled by the perpetrator while creating difficult problems for responders in terms of identification and determining the level of threat posed by the substance used in a hoax. Conversely, many common toxic chemical agents are easy to procure and use, making them preferable for actual employment.

Radiological agents were involved in only three instances. A putative theft of unspecified amounts of radiological material by Chechen rebels from the Volgodonskaya nuclear power plant near the Russian city of Rostov-on-Donu, a plot uncovered by British authorities, by the Real IRA to steal plutonium from the Sellafield nuclear power station in the United Kingdom, and a plot in the United States, where a man was arrested for planning to build and explode a radiological dispersal device.

Although only one case involved an unknown agent type, there were six cases where the specific identity of the agent was not determined or reported, four of which were actual uses. Two cases were attacks carried out by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). In one instance the FARC allegedly poisoned a local water supply with an unknown chemical substance. In the second case, the FARC allegedly used gas cylinders filled with ammonia in conjunction with conventional attacks. A third case involved an unknown chemical substance left in front of a police station in New Zealand. The fourth case was an ideologically inspired attack with an unknown chemical spray on a forensic doctor in the United States who was in the process of testifying in a court proceeding. Of the two other cases involving unidentified agents, one was an attempted acquisition of chemical substances by HAMAS for use in concert with

conventional attacks in Israel. The other was a plot by Al-Qa'ida to detonate a “dirty bomb” in the United States.

Box 5: Incidents by Type of Agent

Agent	Number of Incidents (Hoaxes)		
	2000	2001	2002
Biological	26(22)	607(600)	70(70)
Chemical	25(0)	13(1)	20(1)
Nuclear	2(0)	4(2)	0(0)
Radiological	17(3)	2(0)	3(0)
Combination	0(0)	3(0)	0(0)
Unknown	4(0)	0(0)	1(0)
Total	74(25)	629(603)	94(71)

Agents Used

Though there were more uses of unknown chemical agents, the use of identified CBRN agents in 2002 declined or remained relatively constant in comparison with 2001, with the notable exception that no biological agents were used. All of the uses were chemical agents that lack the potential to inflict mass casualties.

Box 6: Agents Used

Agent	2000	2001	2002
Acid	8	4	0
<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>	0	7	0
Arsenic	1	0	0
Cyanide	0	1	0
Hydrogen Cyanide	1	0	0
Influenza virus	1	0	0
Iodine-125	1	0	0
Mice Poison	1	0	0
Monazite	10	0	0
Neuroparalytic poison or toxin	1	0	0
Pesticide	0	0	1
Poison Gas	0	1	0
<i>Salmonella</i> bacteria	1	0	0
Sewer water	1	0	0
Sodium Hydroxide	0	0	1

Uranium	1	0	0
Unknown Chemical	0	0	3
Unknown	8	2	1

Agents Possessed

2002 revealed an increase in the possession of cyanide and other low-tech chemicals, probably because they continue to be the easiest to acquire. The increase in the number of cases in 2002 involving possession of cyanide reinforces this point.

Box 7: Agents Possessed

Agent	2000	2001	2002
<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>	1	0	0
Arsenic	0	0	1
Chlorine	1	0	0
Chlorine, ammonia	1	0	0
Cyanide	1	0	2
Cyanide and other chemicals	0	0	4
Mercury	0	0	1
Plutonium	0	0	1
Uranium-235	0	1	0
Unknown	2	2	0
Total	6	3	9

Motive Type

In 2002, there was an increase in cases carried out by groups or individuals for unknown purposes. This reflects, in large part, a number of anthrax hoaxes carried out by actors for unstated purposes, such as general mischief and pranks by juvenile actors. A notable change from 2001 is the dramatic decrease in abortion-related motives (from 550 in 2001 to one in 2002). The number of incidents motivated by ideology/belief system also dropped from 50 to 36 over the last year. Both of these categories also show a drop from year 2000 data.

Box 8: Incidents by Motive Type

Box 8: Motive	2000	2001	2002
To Protest Treatment of Animals	1	1	0
To Express Abortion-Related Sentiment	15	550	20
To Support Other Single-Issue	3	0	2

To Fulfill Individualized Objective	13	4	4
To Establish Ethno-Nationalist Sovereignty	16	7	8
To Act Because of an Ideology/Belief System	16	50	35
Unknown	9	14	25

Casualties

The casualty figures for 2002 come from three incidents, with one incident containing the majority of injuries. Seven people were killed and 47 injured in a poisoning incident involving a religious sect of the Johanne Marange Apostolic Church in Zimbabwe. Of the remaining two cases, four were injured in ammonia gas cylinder attacks perpetrated by the FARC and a forensic scientist was injured in an attack with an unknown chemical spray.

For the sake of completeness, it is also important to mention that 778 of the 795 fatalities in 2000 occurred in a single incident -- the poisoning of members of the doomsday cult Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God in Kanungu, Uganda.[C] The impressive decrease in the number of fatalities from terrorist CBRN attacks since 2000 is therefore considerably distorted by this incident. The nature of CBRN agents lends itself to individual cases generating a large number of casualties in relation to other events, thereby potentially skewing data tremendously.

Box 9: Casualties

Casualties	2000	2001	2002
Fatalities	795	9	7
Injuries	113	18	52

CONCLUSIONS

Overall incidents involving CBRN materials in 2002 have dropped worldwide, primarily as a result of the dramatic reduction in the number of anthrax hoaxes. The preponderance of incidents still occurred within the United States and Canada though this is only when factoring in hoaxes. Not only have the number of CBRN hoaxes declined, but the number of uses of CBRN agents during 2002 decreased in comparison to previous years. In terms of CBRN use, the locus has shifted away from the United States and Canada to become more diffused worldwide.

Other trends have remained constant in 2002. Biological agents are still the preferred material of hoax perpetrators, while chemical materials are the “agent of choice” for actual usage. In terms of the type of chemical agents, “household” chemicals with a low probability of inflicting

massive casualties are found in the majority of recorded incidents. Perpetrator trends are also constant, with the majority remaining unknown perpetrators and lone actors dominating the set of known perpetrators.

In conclusion, the data presented in this chronology do not suggest a rising level of CBRN terrorist violence in 2002 over 2001. Additionally, the CBRN terrorism in evidence reflects the use of “low-end” agents and delivery systems which are unlikely to cause mass-casualty producing incidents. However, it is important to note that groups continue to attempt to acquire a mass-casualty CBRN capability and their past failures in no way exclude possible success in the future.

[A] All information cited in this report is based on the records of the Monterey WMD Terrorism Database.

[B] For data on non-WMD related terrorism see the CNS 2002 Conventional Terrorism Chronology: Incidents involving sub-national actors resulting in death or injury.

[C] Although the Ugandan police confirmed that a "majority" of the deaths in this incident were the result of poisoning, the actual number of these deaths as opposed to deaths due to strangulation, fire, or suicide is unknown. In the absence of consistent information regarding fatalities, the total number of deaths reported, 778, has been assigned for the purposes of the WMD Terrorism Database.

INCIDENTS IN 2002

* The numbers at the end of each case correspond to the case number in the Monterey WMD Terrorism database.

January 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: During January 2002, more than 20 letters suspected of containing anthrax bacteria were mailed to abortion clinics and abortion-rights organizations throughout the United States. The letters were sent to the FBI for tests, which revealed that the letters did not contain anthrax bacteria. *1450.*

3 January 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: A letter containing a white powder was discovered at the Capitol office of United States Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle. A note in the letter stated that it contained anthrax bacteria and said the United States needed to “stop the bombing” in apparent reference to the U.S. bombing of Afghanistan. Tests revealed the substance was talc. *1449.*

3 January 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The Norwegian KFOR contingent of the Kosovo force announced that they had found a letter containing a white powder believed to be anthrax bacteria on a notice board in the village of Gllobar. Analysis of the powder was not completed at the time and the four soldiers and their Albanian translator were being treated with antibiotics and being kept under supervision. *1211.*

4 January 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: A letter containing an unknown powder was sent to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France. The substance was sent to a laboratory for tests. Results of the tests were not reported, but the lack of further reports suggests the incident was a hoax. *1389.*

7 January 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: A letter containing a suspicious powder was sent to the Zimbabwean Department of Information and Publicity in Harare. Tests on the substance revealed that it was not anthrax bacteria, though authorities continued to test the substance in order to determine its contents after two postal employees became ill from handling the letter, the lack of further reports suggests the incident was a hoax. *1462.*

9 January 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: A letter suspected of containing anthrax bacteria was received at the South African Airways offices in Harare, Zimbabwe. The letter was addressed to the general manager of South African Airways. It was sent to the Veterinary Department at the University of Zimbabwe for testing. No report of the test was released, but the lack of further reports suggests the incident was a hoax. *1267.*

10 January 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: A letter emitting a powdery substance was received at the Capitol Building in Lincoln, Nebraska. Preliminary tests indicated that the powder was not anthrax bacteria, but most likely paper powder. *1226.*

10 January 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: Carson Middle School in Fountain, Colorado received an envelope containing a suspicious white powder. Subsequent tests of the material showed that the powder was not anthrax bacteria but an inert substance. *1213.*

14 January 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, DC was closed after the discovery of an envelope containing white powder. Testing revealed the substance was not anthrax bacteria. 1432.

29 January 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: Six people fell ill after handling three anonymous letters addressed to *The Chronicle* newspaper in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Three journalists and three other staff members complained of itchy skin and swelling after handling the suspect mail but were released upon treatment at a local hospital. At the time of source publishing, there was no confirmation as to whether or not the letters actually did contain anthrax bacteria. This was the second anthrax scare within a two-week period, following a letter containing white powder sent to the nation's information and publicity minister. 1263.

5 February 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: Czech Interior Minister Stanislav Gross received a letter containing a suspicious white powder. Authorities sent the letter for testing. The results of the test were not reported, but the lack of further reports suggests the incident was a hoax. 1569.

8 February 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The Office of the Speaker of Parliament in Zimbabwe received a letter containing a white powder. Tests results on the substance were not reported, but the lack of further reports suggests the incident was a hoax. 1215.

13 February 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: Two floors of the Parliament building in Auckland, New Zealand were closed after staff members discovered two letters containing white powder. Tests later determined that the powder was not anthrax bacteria. 1284.

14 February 2002

Type of Event: Possession

Agent: Potassium Cyanide

Summary: Nine Moroccans were arrested in Rome under suspicion of plotting to attack the U.S. Embassy in Rome with cyanide and gun powder explosive. Authorities seized 10 kilograms of gunpowder, 4.4 kilograms of potassium ferrocyanide and a map detailing plans for the attack. Four of the men arrested had ties to Al-Qa'ida. 1200.

23 February 2002

Type of Event: Use of Agent

Agent: Unknown

Summary: FARC rebels poisoned a water treatment plant in the town of Pitalito, Colombia. The substance, which was not identified, was detected during a routine water test. *1198.*

1 March 2002

Type of Event: Use of Agent

Agent: Sodium Hydroxide (caustic soda)

Summary: Four packages containing caustic soda in aromatherapy bottles were sent to the wife of Prime Minister Tony Blair, Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell, Member of Parliament Gwyneth Dunwoody, and an aide to Member of Scottish Parliament Mike Rumbles. A man claiming to be a member of the Scottish National Liberation Army claimed responsibility for those, as well as up to 13 additional packages. *1201.*

9 March 2002

Type of Event: Possession

Agent: Arsenic

Summary: Several dead FARC insurgents belonging to the “Arturo Ruiz” Mobile Column were found in Colombia in possession of bullets poisoned with arsenic. The bullets matched those found in the Sumapaz area where six wounded soldiers had later died under mysterious circumstances. *1228.*

11 March 2002

Type of Event: Possession

Agent: Cyanide and other chemicals

Summary: A man was arrested and charged with storing sodium and potassium cyanide in Chicago, Illinois. According to officials, the two compounds could be blended with other chemicals to produce a deadly gas. The 25-year-old man, Joseph Konopka alias “Dr. Chaos” was wanted by authorities in Wisconsin for a string of petty crimes. Authorities considered him an anarchist whose prime motivation was to “engage in random acts of violence and promote anarchy.” *1190.*

11 March 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: A Guthrie City, Iowa police officer stated he received a card containing white powder and a letter stating that the powder was “anthrax.” The officer stated preliminary tests indicated the substance was not anthrax bacteria. *1217.*

18 March 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: Authorities at the Palestinian Embassy in Moscow received a letter addressed

to Ambassador Hairi al-Oridi containing a suspicious white powder. The letter, sent from St. Petersburg, proved to be harmless. 1582.

21 March 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: An envelope covered with a white powdery substance was delivered to a provincial Health Ministry office in Victoria, Canada. Police sent the envelope to the regional health office for analysis. Results of the analysis were not reported. 1224.

22 March 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: An inmate at Mobile County Metro Jail in Mobile, Alabama was arrested and charged with mailing an envelope containing an unidentified white powder and a letter threatening to kill Senior U.S. District Judge Brevard Hand. 1219.

27 March 2002

Type of Event: Plot

Agent: Cyanide

Summary: A HAMAS suicide bomber detonated an explosive in front of the Park Hotel in Netanya, Israel. On June 5, 2002, IDF Major General Aharon Zeevi claimed that the terrorists had planned for the bomb also to release cyanide gas. Although the bomb did kill 29 Israelis, the attackers were unable to install the cyanide to the belt-bomb. They also stated that An Najah University in Nablus, and one other laboratory on the West Bank carried out the cyanide research. Zeevi claimed that the work was assisted by help from Hezbollah, Iran, and Syria. 1240.

11 April 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The Scottish *Sunday Express* received an email threatening an anthrax attack against three targets in Scotland and the United States. The Scottish National Liberation Army claimed to have sent anthrax letters to the Visitor Office of Holyrood Palace and the Minister of St. Giles' Cathedral, both in Edinburgh, and the American Scottish Foundation in New York. 1392.

14 April 2002

Type of Event: Threat with Possession

Agent: Potassium Cyanide

Summary: Chechen rebels reportedly planned to sell poisoned vodka at markets in Grozny. The Russian Federal Security Service discovered a container of potassium cyanide solution lying next to several bottles of vodka during a search of the village of Alkhan-Kala, Chechnya. Analysis of the bottles' contents determined that the potassium cyanide solution had been mixed with the vodka. 1220.

18 April 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The office of Australian Treasurer Peter Costello in Canberra, Australia, received a letter containing a suspicious mustard-colored powder. The substance was sent for tests, which revealed that it was not anthrax bacteria. *1448.*

26 April 2002

Type of Event: Possession

Agent: Potassium Cyanide

Summary: The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) allegedly discovered chemical and biological bombs during Operation Defensive Shield in the West Bank. The IDF claimed that the bombs, containing potassium cyanide, and potash, were purchased by Palestinians in Israel and were intended for use against Israel population centers and reservoirs. *1230.*

29 April 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: A letter containing a white powder was sent to Slovenian Parliament speaker Borut Pahor in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The letter reportedly had been postmarked in October 2001 in Ugovizza, Italy. The substance was sent for tests, with results not being reported, but the lack of further reports suggests the incident was a hoax. *1452.*

29 April 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: A letter was received in the office of Slovene parliament member Zmago Jelenc in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The letter reportedly had been mailed from Ugovizza, Italy in October 2001. The substance was sent for tests, with results not being reported, but the lack of further reports suggests that the incident was a hoax. *1503.*

May 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: Hindu organizations in Holland received letters containing suspicious powder and threatening notes. The letters reportedly were sent by a Muslim organization acting on behalf of a secret cell called "the Netherlands Al-Qa'ida Branch." The letters also reportedly contained notes that threatened Hindus with murder, rape, and blackmail unless they dissolved their organizations in three weeks. The exact content of the powder was not reported, but the lack of further reports suggests the incident was a hoax. *1483.*

3 May 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: Television station WTCN-15 in Stuart, Florida was shut down after a bookkeeper opened mail containing white powder. The envelope, which also contained an

Islamic prayer pamphlet, was addressed to the station owner. Tests revealed that the substance was not anthrax bacteria. *1399.*

8 May 2002

Type of Event: Plot

Agent: Unknown

Summary: An American citizen of Hispanic descent was arrested for planning to build and explode a radiological dispersal device in the United States. The suspect was identified by authorities as Abdullah Al-Mujahir, aka Jose Padilla. It was reported that Padilla obtained blueprints for hydrogen fission weapons from the internet and took them to Al-Qa'ida officials. These officials told Padilla to think smaller and instead create a "dirty bomb". He was to return to the United States to scout possible targets for the "dirty bomb". *1235.*

9 May 2002

Type of Event: Attempted Acquisition

Agent: Cyanide

Summary: A HAMAS agent admitted that he tried to develop cyanide and nerve gas with the assistance of Hezbollah. *1266.*

14 May 2002

Type of Event: Use of Agent

Agent: Unknown

Summary: The Colombian Army accused the FARC of using chemical weapons. According to Colombian military officials, FARC carried out attacks with ammonia-filled gas cylinders. *1225.*

19 May 200

Type of Event: Use

Agent: Pesticide

Summary: Seven members of the Johanne Marange Apostolic Church in Zimbabwe died and 47 other members became ill after drinking tea that was suspected of being poisoned. *1644.*

23 May 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: An inmate at the Green County Jail in Arkansas was sentenced to two years in prison for threatening the use of weapons of mass destruction and using the mail to send threats. Charles Moore threatened to send anthrax spores to Greene County Sheriff Dan Langston and his family. Moore was easy to apprehend because he put his initials on the letter and posted his jail cell as the return address. *1218.*

30 May 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The South African Premier of the Western Cape, Peter Marais, and 27 of his staffers were taken to the Chris Barnard Memorial Hospital in the Western Cape province of South Africa, after suspicion that they had been exposed to anthrax bacteria. Authorities were alerted after a registry clerk working in Marais's office opened an envelope containing traces of white powder. Authorities immediately evacuated the building and sent the substance for tests, which revealed that it was not anthrax bacteria. 1401.

30 May 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The editor of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) weekly *Sanskrit Vartapatra*, in Pune, India, received a letter containing a white powder and a threatening message. The letter was sent by authorities for testing. Results of the tests on the letter were not reported, but the lack of further reports suggests the incident was a hoax. 1557.

31 May 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: A man was charged with threatening to use a weapon of mass destruction after perpetrating an anthrax hoax on 17 December 2001. The Oakland, California, resident mailed an envelope from a post office in Laramie, Wyoming to Attorney General John Ashcroft containing white powder later determined to be talcum powder. 1472.

1 June 2002

Type of Event: Use of Agent

Agent: Unknown

Summary: A forensic scientist was sprayed in the face with an unknown chemical and then bound with barbed wire from head to toe and chained to a window gate at his office in Memphis, Tennessee. The attacker also strapped a motion sensitive bomb onto the doctor and forced him to sit motionless until a security guard discovered him three hours later. 1241.

13 June 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: Jerry Tolbert, an inmate at the South Bay Correctional Facility in Massachusetts, was charged with sending threatening letters laced with white powder. The letters, later determined to be benign, were sent to multiple targets. 1471.

16 June 2002

Type of Event: Attempted Acquisition

Agent: Unknown

Summary: Israeli Television stated HAMAS planned to use chemical weapons in the near future. According to the report, the information was contained in a HAMAS memorandum. The alleged goal was to kill bystanders that are not killed by initial bomb explosions. The organization was reportedly working with stronger chemicals in an

attempt to obtain this capability. 1279.

July 2002

Type of Event: Plot

Agent: Plutonium

Summary: British authorities reportedly uncovered a plot by the Real IRA to steal plutonium from the Sellafield nuclear power station in the United Kingdom. Authorities believed that the group was trying to acquire the plutonium in order to make a “dirty bomb”. 1619.

July 2002

Type of Event: Plot

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: Russian special services participating in counterterrorist operations in the Northern Caucasus uncovered information that Chechen rebels were planning to use a potent poisonous substance to poison water and food supplies in Groznyy. 1531.

July 2002

Type of Event: Possession

Agent: Cyanide

Summary: Pakistani authorities reportedly discovered a large quantity of cyanide after acting on information provided by a former Lashkar-i-Jhangvi informant. 1301.

19 July 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: Australian Parliament member Larry Anthony’s office in Tweed, Australia received a letter containing a white powder. Tests on the substance revealed that it was not anthrax bacteria. 1620.

19 July 2002

Type of Event: Possession

Agent: Plutonium, Cesium, Strontium, Uranium

Summary: *The Guardian* newspaper reported Chechen rebels stole an unspecified amount of radioactive materials from the Volgodonskaya nuclear power plant near Rostov-on-the-Don. The Volgodonsk Atomic Power Station vehemently objected to these allegations, stating that nothing has been stolen. 1425.

August 2002

Type of Event: Possession

Agent: Cyanide

Summary: Pakistani authorities allegedly discovered three laboratories in Karachi that were being operated by Lashkar-e-Jhangvi activists to produce chemical weapons such as cyanide. 1607.

1 August 2002

Type of Event: Plot

Agent: Cyanide

Summary: Israeli sources announced they had captured Abbas Al-Sayad, leader of HAMAS' military wing in Tulkarm. Investigations into plots revealed he intended to disperse chemical agents in a suicide bomb attack. According to Israeli sources, Al-Sayad had acquired cyanide through an accomplice with the intent to release cyanide gas to enhance the killing power of a bomb. The plan was postponed due to technical difficulties. 1409.

2 August 2002

Type of Event: Possession

Agent: Mercury

Summary: A man was arrested in Vladikavkaz, Russia for attempting to sell 3.5 kilograms of mercury. The man was connected to Chechen rebel groups and had long been suspected of participating in terrorist attacks in Dagestan. 1555.

2 August 2002

Type of Event: Possession

Agent: Potassium cyanide, arsenic, sodium azide, other

Summary: Authorities in Denver, Colorado arrested an apartment complex manager after discovering over 153 different chemicals, including potassium cyanide, arsenic, an unidentified, potentially lethal anesthetic, chloroform, and sodium azide. According to a former tenant, the manager had made threats that he was going to put radioactive devices in the Denver police ventilation system. He also said that he was mixing chemicals in the hopes of creating a "dirty bomb". 1596.

20 August 2002

Type of Event: Use of Agent

Agent: Unknown

Summary: A cylinder containing a reddish brown liquid was found outside a police station in Motueka, New Zealand. Authorities later determined that the chemical was a byproduct from an illegal drug-making process. The cylinder was treated as a chemical weapon by authorities because it contained what they described as very dangerous chemicals that could cause an explosion through a chemical reaction or emitting toxic fumes. 1613.

27 August 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: A letter containing a suspicious white substance was discovered at the Nashville, Tennessee office of former Vice-President Al Gore. Subsequent tests revealed the material in the letter was not anthrax bacteria. 1547.

5 September 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The post office in Swampscott, Massachusetts, seized an envelope addressed to the chief of the Swampscott police department that contained a suspicious white powder. Tests on the substance showed that it was not anthrax bacteria. *1628.*

5 September 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The post office in Ipswich, Massachusetts, seized an envelope addressed to the chief of the Ipswich police department that contained a suspicious white powder. Tests on the substance showed that it was not anthrax bacteria. *1627.*

11 September 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark received a letter, originating in France, containing a suspicious white powder. Tests on the substance revealed that it was not anthrax bacteria. *1618.*

11 September 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The U.S. Embassy in Luxembourg received a letter containing a suspicious white powder. Tests on the substance revealed that it was not anthrax bacteria. *1622.*

11 September 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The U.S. consulate in Frankfurt, Germany received an envelope containing a suspicious white powder. Tests on the substance revealed that it was not anthrax bacteria. *1606.*

11 September 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The U.S. Embassy in Rome, Italy received a letter containing a suspicious white powder. Tests on the substance revealed that it was not anthrax bacteria. *1617.*

13 September 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The U.S. Consulate in Bordeaux, France received an envelope containing a suspicious white powder. The substance was taken by authorities for tests. Results of the test were not reported. *1634.*

19 September 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: A newspaper office in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic received an envelope containing white powder and threatening a biological attack. Executives of the newspaper dismissed the incident as a hoax because the powder smelled like baby powder. *1554.*

20 September 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic received an envelope containing a suspicious white powder. Results of tests on the substance were not reported, but the lack of further reports suggests the incident was a hoax. *1609.*

25 September 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The Israeli Embassy in Brussels, Belgium was evacuated after receiving a letter containing a suspicious white powder. Results of tests on the substance were not reported, but the lack of further reports suggests the incident was a hoax. *1565.*

30 September 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) headquarters in Washington DC received an envelope containing a suspicious white powder after an annual World Bank and IMF meeting. Tests on the substance revealed that it was not anthrax bacteria. *1597.*

3 October 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The U.S. State Department's Office of Children Services in Washington DC received an envelope containing a white powder. Tests on the substance revealed that it was not anthrax bacteria. *1612.*

14 October 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Mustard Gas

Summary: Authorities in Denver, Colorado discovered 5-inch canisters labeled mustard gas placed along a Columbus Day parade route. The canisters did not contain mustard gas, but were intended to release a foul odor. Authorities believe that individuals protesting the Columbus Day festivities placed the canisters along the route. *1637.*

15 October 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: A courthouse in Haileybury, Canada received an envelope containing a

suspicious white powder. Results of tests on the substance were not reported, but the lack of further reports suggests the incident was a hoax. *1632.*

15 October 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: A courthouse in Newmarket, Canada received an envelope containing a suspicious white powder. Results of tests on the substance were not reported, but the lack of further reports suggests the incident was a hoax. *1633.*

16 October 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: A courthouse in Kitchener, Canada received an envelope containing a suspicious white powder. Tests revealed the substance was not anthrax bacteria. *1631.*

17 October 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: A courthouse in St. Catharines, Canada received an envelope containing a suspicious white powder. Tests revealed the substance was not anthrax bacteria. *1630.*

18 October 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: A County Justice Building in Pinedale, Wyoming was closed after receiving an envelope containing white powder and a threatening note. Tests revealed that the substance was not anthrax bacteria. *1608.*

11 November 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: Suspicious white powder was discovered in a magazine circulating in the Senate of the Australian Parliament in Canberra. Results of tests on the substance were not reported, but the lack of further reports suggests the incident was a hoax. *1604.*

25 November 2002

Type of Event: Plot

Agent: Tetranium

Summary: The South African National Intelligence Agency in conjunction with the U.S. FBI revealed members of a far-right white supremacist group planned to kill millions of black South Africans by poisoning the water supply of several major cities. *1616.*

3 December 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The Israeli Embassy in Brussels received a letter containing suspicious white powder. Tests revealed the substance was not anthrax bacteria. *1642.*

3 December 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The Belgian Federal Parliament building in Brussels received a letter containing suspicious white powder. Tests revealed the substance was not anthrax bacteria. *1643.*

3 December 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: The Belgian Justice Ministry in Brussels received a letter containing suspicious white powder. Tests revealed the substance was not anthrax bacteria. *1639.*

3 December 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: NATO Headquarters in Brussels received a letter containing suspicious white powder. Tests revealed the substance was not anthrax bacteria. *1640.*

22 December 2002

Type of Event: Hoax

Agent: Anthrax bacteria

Summary: A letter containing a white powder was discovered at a post office in Quebec City, Canada. Tests on the substance revealed that it was not anthrax bacteria. *1601.*