

# Office of Law Enforcement Federal Air Marshal Service

## *Female Suicide Bombers*



Transportation  
Security  
Administration

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# FEMME FATALE: FEMALE SUICIDE BOMBERS





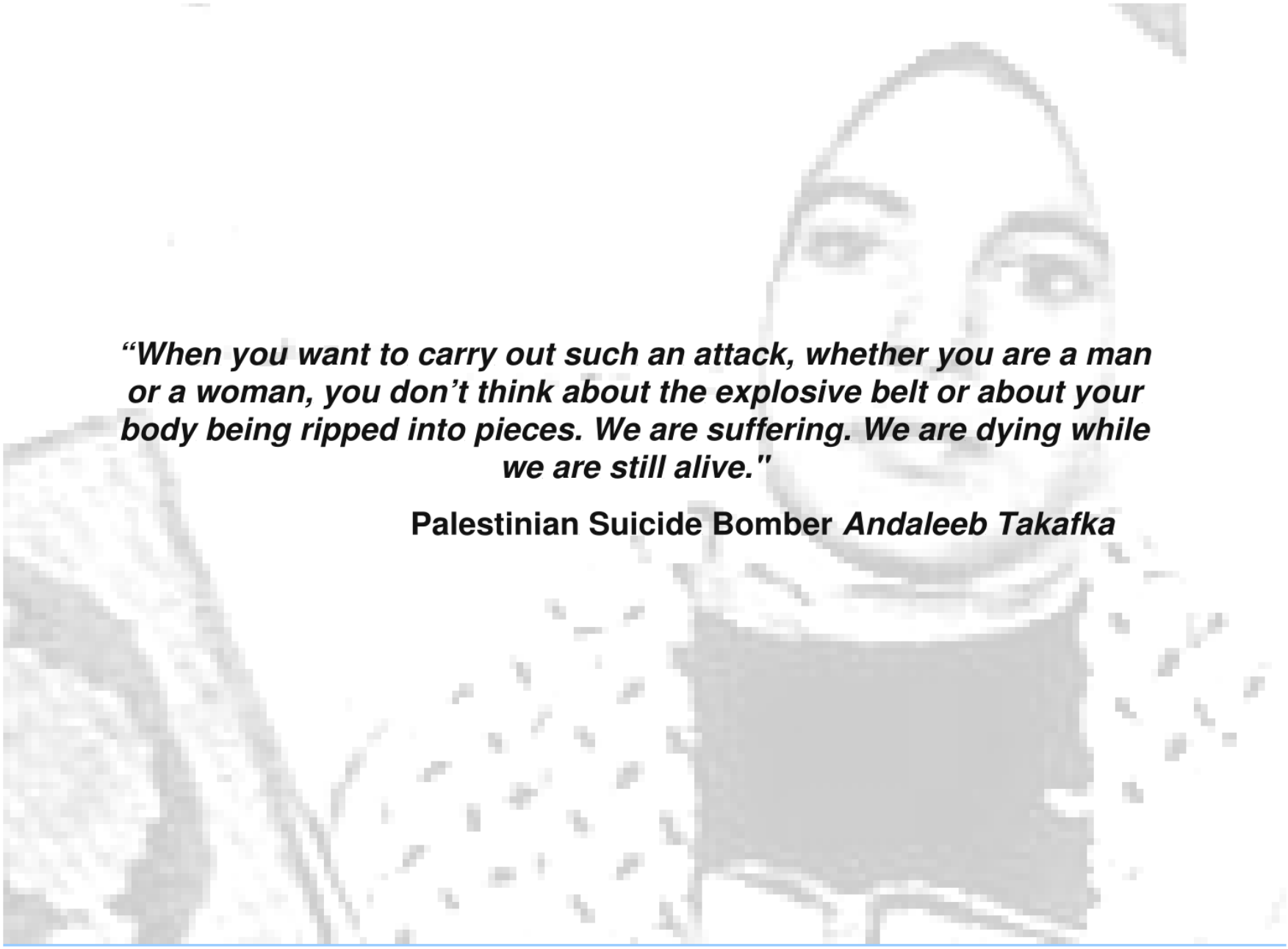
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***“When you want to carry out such an attack, whether you are a man or a woman, you don’t think about the explosive belt or about your body being ripped into pieces. We are suffering. We are dying while we are still alive.”***

***Palestinian Suicide Bomber Andaleeb Takafka***



## **Suicide Bombing**

***“Operational method in which the very act of the attack is dependent upon the death of the perpetrator....” – The Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT)***

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## The Suicide Bomber Phenomena

- ❑ Today, the suicide bomber has become the method of choice for many terrorist groups around the world; it's the “**poor man's F-16**”.
- ❑ In fact, **17 terror groups in 14 countries** use suicide attacks as part of their tactics.
- ❑ It is low costing, simpler to plan and relatively free of risk to the terrorist group.
- ❑ Since death to the bomber is almost certain, there's little chance that security forces will obtain sensitive information.
- ❑ The bomber has the flexibility to determine when and where to conduct the attack, thus maximizing casualties and, in turn, attracting the media.
- ❑ From 1980 to 2001, suicide attacks accounted for 3 percent of terrorist incidents but caused half of the total fatalities due to terrorism overall, this despite September 11<sup>th</sup>.
- ❑ Historically suicide attacks have been conducted since the **Assassins**, an 11<sup>th</sup> Century Muslim sect, introduced it as part of their strategy to advance Islam.
- ❑ However using females as the primary method of employment is relatively new.
- ❑ First seen in the mid-1980s, today female suicide bombers are becoming more common, and as a result the threat should not be underestimated or ignored.



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## Why Females?

- ❑ Terrorist organizations use females because:
  - Like most suicide operations, it's usually simple to plan and low costing.
  - In some parts of the world, females have low social status and therefore are considered more expendable.
  - Females tend to be more emotional and therefore easier to indoctrinate.
  - Since bombers will most likely perish in the attack, there is little fear of them divulging information to security forces.
    - Tamil "Black Tigers" carry cyanide pills just in case.
    - Most are deliberately uninvolved in the planning in case of capture.
  - The media coverage is extensive, especially if the attacker is female.
  - Terrorists attempt to embarrass a powerful enemy and show the world that things are desperate that women are now fighting.
- ❑ **Most importantly**, females have the **element of surprise!!**
  - Stealthier attack (tend to draw less attention); in fact on several occasions many female bombers spoke English & wore western clothing & makeup during the attack.
  - Sensitivities in searching women (especially in conservative societies).
  - Female stereotype (e.g. perceived as nonviolent, feminine, or motherly).
  - Women increase the number of combatants to a groups' depleted manpower.
  - There is greater publicity for female bombers (attracts recruits).
  - The psychological fear factor of the target (expect anyone can be a bomber).



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## Profile of a Female Suicide Bomber

- ❑ Male or female, establishing a profile on suicide bombers is very difficult as age, gender, education and economic and social status can often vary.
- ❑ Statistically, the age group falls between **17-24** for female bombers.
  - As of September 2006, the **youngest** successful female suicide bomber is thought to be Syrian **Sana'a Mouhadly (16)** in Lebanon in 1985.
  - As of September 2006, the **oldest** may be Chechen **Shakhida Baimuratov (46)** who attacked a Chechen Muslim religious festival killing fourteen in 2003.
  - **Baimuratov** had adult sons and may have been a **grandmother**.
- ❑ With both male and female, education appears to influence the percentage of those that become suicide bombers.
  - Typically half have academic backgrounds, with nearly thirty percent having at least a high school education.
  - Therefore, it's assumed that many **bombers are rather intelligent and understand their actions**.
- ❑ Though some suicide bombers have been recruited from both ends of the spectrum (impoverished and wealthy) most tend to come from the **middle class**.
  - Female suicide bombers of the Tamil Tigers and Kurdish PKK usually come from the poorer segments of the respective societies;
  - Whereas female suicide bombers associated with the Palestinian conflict tend to be from the Middle Class.

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## Profile of a Female Suicide Bomber (Cont.)

- Single, married, mothers or grandmothers;
- High school and college students;
- Working professionals such as lawyers, journalists or medical practitioners;
- Devout or non-devout in religious or nationalistic beliefs;
- Intelligent, charming and attractive;
- Very active in their cause.



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## Profile of a Female Suicide Bomber

<b>Groups:</b>	<b>Syrian Nationalist</b>	<b>Palestinian</b>	<b>Tamil Black Tigers</b>	<b>Kurdish Separatist</b>	<b>Chechen Black Widows</b>
<b>Average Age:</b>	23	21	Unknown	21	28
<b>Marital Status:</b>	Mostly Single	Mostly Single	Single	Mostly Single	Single, Married or Widowed
<b>Education:</b>	Basic with no professional skills	High School or better & professional	Basic with little education	Basic with no professional skills	Basic with no professional skills
<b>Socio-Economic:</b>	Poor to Middle Class	Poor to Middle Class	Mostly Poor	Mostly Poor	Mostly Poor
<b>Motivation:</b>	Nationalist	Islamic fundamentalist, nationalist or personal	Nationalist or Separatist	Nationalist or Separatist	Islamic fundamentalist, nationalist or personal

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## Motivation

- ❑ Motivation to commit a suicide bombing can vary. By in large however, there appears to be a desire to **avenge a perceived injustice**.
  - Death or injury of a friend or relative.
  - Mistreatment by an enemy (i.e. rape, assault, harassment, imprisonment).
- ❑ **Religion, nationalism and social liberation** may also be persuasive factors.
  - Islamic extremist groups like *Al Qaeda*, *HAMAS* and the *Islamic Jihad* use religion as a tool to recruit and manipulate (e.g. religious duty. It's the will of God and Martyrdom brings "*Paradise*"). This can be applied to both sexes.
  - The Tamil Tigers and the Kurdish Separatists, however, are secular and focus on an individual's sense of nationalism. **Note:** Females conduct **40-60%** of these groups' suicide attacks.
  - For many females, choosing to become a suicide bomber is to achieve equality in a male dominated society and cause.
  - However, there are some indications that some women, particularly the Palestinians, have been brainwashed, raped, drugged or in some other way trapped into becoming bombers.
  - Monetary and social rewards; bomber's family may receive financial support and honor and prestige after the attack (in fact, Saudi Arabia provides \$5K to the families of deceased bombers. Former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein gave \$25K).

## Selection Process

- ❑ The selection process for female suicide bombers is generally similar to that of males, however recruiters:
  - See women as being especially susceptible because of their innocence, enthusiasm, personal distress and desire for revenge.
  - Can offer the females direction, a solution to their problems and promise rewards for both them and their families in this world and the next.

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## Training of Female Suicide Bombers

- ❑ May be several weeks or as little as one hour in duration.
- ❑ Depends on the candidate's emotional well-being and dedication to the organization's cause.
- ❑ Depending on time and operational necessity, female recruits may be trained in explosive handling.
  - Six hours a day of familiarization is not unusual with Palestinian groups.
  - Females learn to wear and walk with the explosive charges strapped to their body.
  - **Note:** Groups like Al Qaeda may attempt to use women bombers for attacks on civil aviation (e.g. Chechen operation in 2004).
  - British security experts have suggested that **female bombers could possibly smuggle explosives inside their genital cavity**, thereby circumventing airport security and reassembling the device aboard an aircraft in flight.
  - Suicide belts seem to be the preferred device, however some groups have been quite imaginative such as the Tamil Tigers and Kurdish Separatist (aka PKK, Kongra Gel) who have been known to employ explosive brassieres or pregnancy prosthetics.



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## “Some Tools of the Trade”



**Explosive Belt**



**Explosive Brassiere**



**Explosive Vest**



**Hand Grenade**



**Vehicle/Vessel-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED)**



**Baggage/Brief Case**



**Pregnancy Prosthetics**

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## Areas Where Female Suicide Bombers Have Been Most Active



1. Israel, Palestine, Lebanon & Iraq

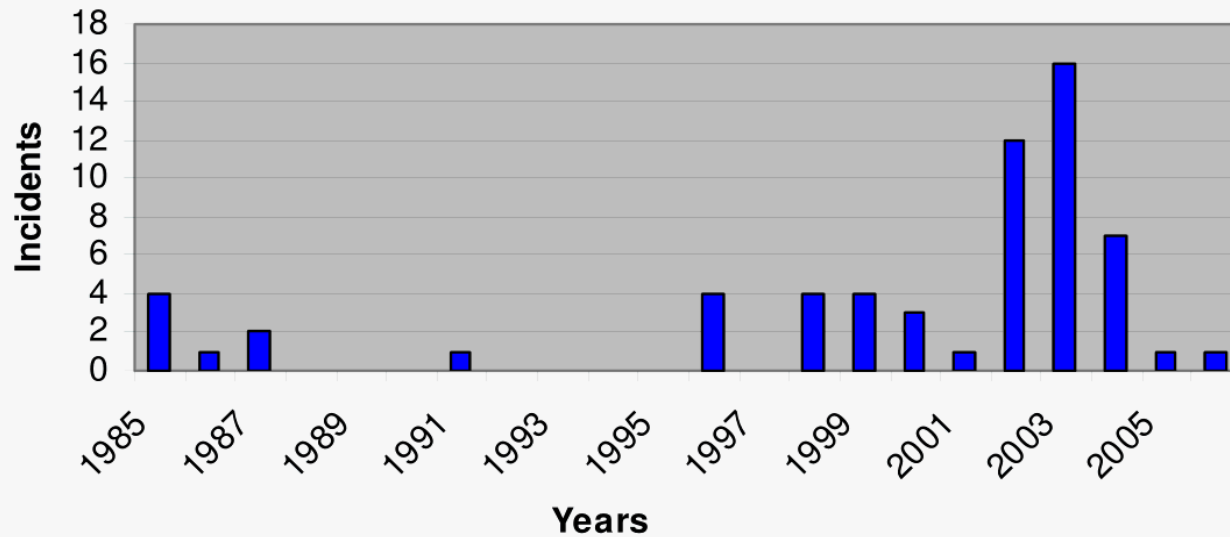
2. Sri Lanka & India

3. Russia, Chechnya & Turkey

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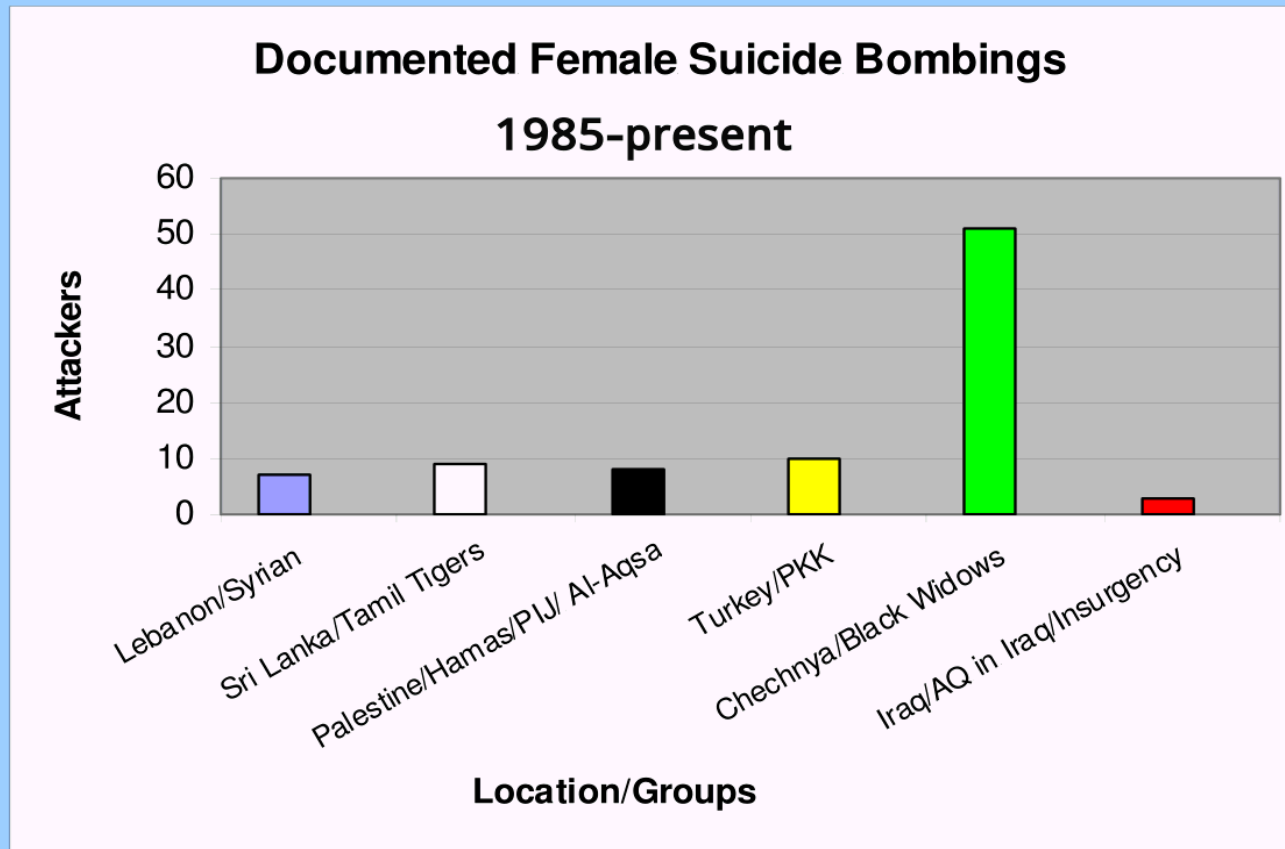
### Chronology of Female Suicide Bombings



**Note:** Information based on **confirmed and documented** female suicide bombings from April 1985 to September 2006. The years 2002-2004 display peak events and are likely the result of Chechen and Palestinian women becoming more involved in the respective conflicts. The decline seen following 2004 may be indicative of increased security and/or peace initiatives by the warring parties.

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The spike depicting the Chechen Black Widows is indicative of the females often operating in pairs or groups as was the case of the attacks against the Moscow *Dubrovka* Theatre (19) and the *Beslan* School Siege (5).

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## THE WOMAN THAT BEGAN IT ALL: *LEILA KHALED*

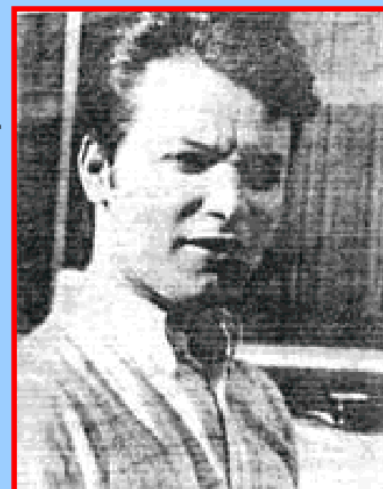


- **August 29, 1969:** *Leila Khaled* (R) was involved in the **hijacking of TWA Flight 840** Rome to Athens.

- Member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP); a leftwing/Marxist group; today defunct.
- Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. ***Yitzak Rabin*** erroneously thought to be aboard. He was not!!
- Flight diverted to Damascus, Syria and all passengers safely released.
- *Khaled* became an **international celebrity**; dubbed by the press *'the world's most beautiful freedom fighter.'*
- **April 2, 1986:** Though *Khaled* was not involved, a bomb detonated aboard the same TWA Flight 840, killing four Americans, including a 9 month old infant. The Palestinian group Abu Nidal Organization (ANO) claimed responsibility.



- **September 6, 1970:** *Khaled* and Nicaraguan-American *Patrick Arguello* attempted to hijack El Al Flight 219 Tel Aviv to New York.
  - **Israeli air marshal** shot & killed *Arguello* and captured *Khaled*.
  - *Khaled* taken into custody in Britain but later released for Western hostages taken in Dawson's Field Plot.
  - **Dawson's Field Plot** involved the hijacking of several airliners which were then forced to land at the remote airfield in Jordan and subsequently destroyed.

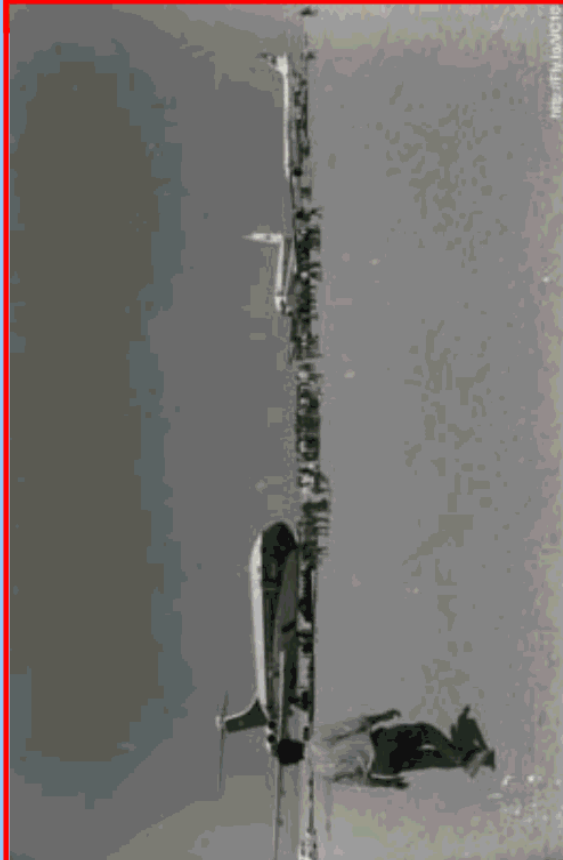


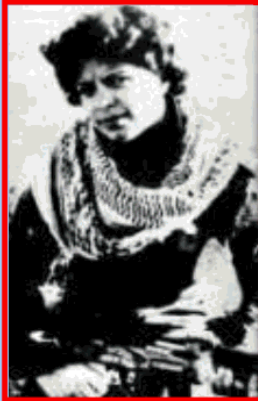
- *Khaled* is considered the **"groundbreaker" for females** becoming part of terror groups.
- Now lives in Jordan and seeks Palestinian statehood as a **peace activist**.

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# DAWSON'S FIELD JORDAN, SEPTEMBER 6, 1970





### ***Dalal Mughrabi***

- ❑ **March 11, 1978:** Eleven Palestinian terrorist led by nineteen year old female *Dalal Mughrabi* made a surprise sea-borne landing on a beach near Haifa, Israel.
- ❑ The group killed American tourist Gail Rubin, a niece to an American senator, then hijacked a bus loaded with Israeli tourists on a coastal highway.
- ❑ An Israeli army unit, led by future Prime Minister *Ehud Barak*, pursued the bus where it was finally stopped near Tel Aviv.
- ❑ The ensuing gun battle left all the terrorist dead as well as thirty-six bus passengers; known as the **Coastal Road Massacre**.
- ❑ The attack triggered the Israeli **Operation LITANI**, an invasion of southern Lebanon against bases of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) four days later.
- ❑ Coupled with *Khaled's* activities, the role of *Dalal Mughrabi* in the terrorist operation marked the emergence of women into the terrorist movement.
- ❑ Though not a “suicide bomber” *per se*, *Mughrabi* expected not to survive the attack and can be considered the **FIRST female suicide “terrorist” of modern time**.
- ❑ To this day, several Palestinians schools have been named after her. Ironically the U.S. helps fund these schools through the ANERA Foundation.

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# **EXAMPLES OF FEMALE SUICIDE BOMBERS AND THE GROUPS THAT USE THEM**

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# SYRIA & LEBANON



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### **Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP)**

- ❑ A nationalist political party in Syria and Lebanon.
- ❑ Though technically banned in Syria, it does enjoy popular support and is considered the second largest party in the country next to the Ba'ath Party.
- ❑ It advocates the establishment of a Greater Syrian national state that includes Syria, Lebanon, Israel and the Palestinian territories among others.
- ❑ It was very active in the resistance against Israeli occupation of Lebanon in the early 1980s.
  - The SSNP militias fought alongside nationalist and leftist forces against the right wing elements like the Christian militia.
  - The group was responsible for the assassination of Lebanese President *Bachir Gemayel* in 1982. He was despised by many Lebanese Muslims who saw him as collaborating with Israel.
- ❑ *Sana'a Mehadli*, a member of the **SSNP**, became the **FIRST female to commit an act of suicide bombing.**



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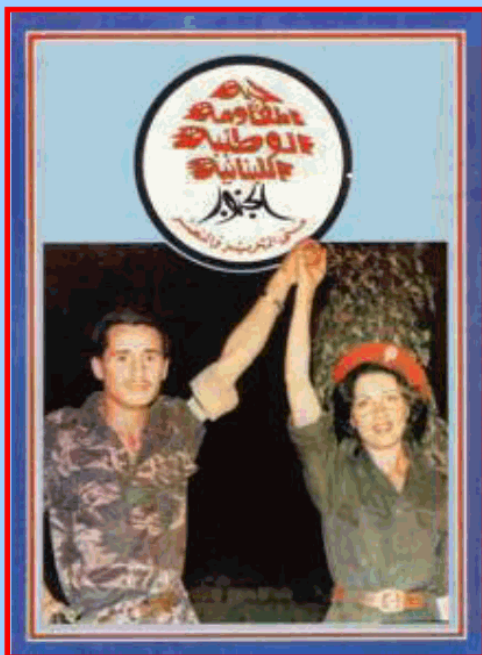


**Sana'a Mehadli (a.k.a. Khyadali)**

- Syrian national *Sana'a Mehadli* is universally accepted as the **FIRST** female suicide “bomber”.
- April 9, 1985:** Using her Peugeot as a **VBIED**, she attacked an Israeli **checkpoint** in Southern Lebanon killing two IDF soldiers and wounding two more.
- To date she is also the **youngest female suicide bomber (16)**.
- Belong to the Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP).
- Indoctrinated to hate Israel and the United States.
- Not devoutly Muslim (Shiite)**. She was, however, **passionately nationalistic** and adored (then, now late) Syrian President *Hafez al-Assad*.

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***Ibtissam Harb***

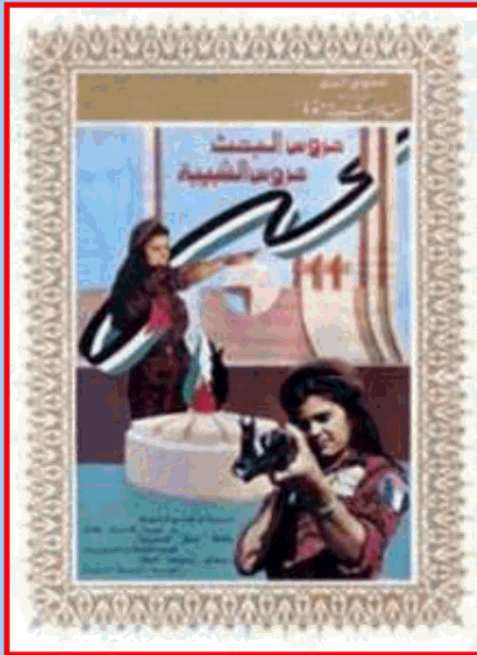
**July 9, 1985:** Twenty-eight year old (28) Syrian attacked a South Lebanese Army **checkpoint** wounding two. Considered the first to attack as a **human IED** and the second female suicide “bomber” of modern time after **Sana'a Mehadli**.



***Khaierdin Miriam***

**September 11, 1985:** Eighteen-year old (18) Syrian attacked a South Lebanese Army **checkpoint** wounding two. Considered the second to be employed as a **human IED**.

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***Al Taher Hamidah***

**November 26, 1985:** Seventeen-year old (17) Syrian *Hamidah* drove a Volkswagen Beetle packed with 100kg of explosives into a South Lebanese Army (SLA) **checkpoint** in Lebanon, detonating herself.



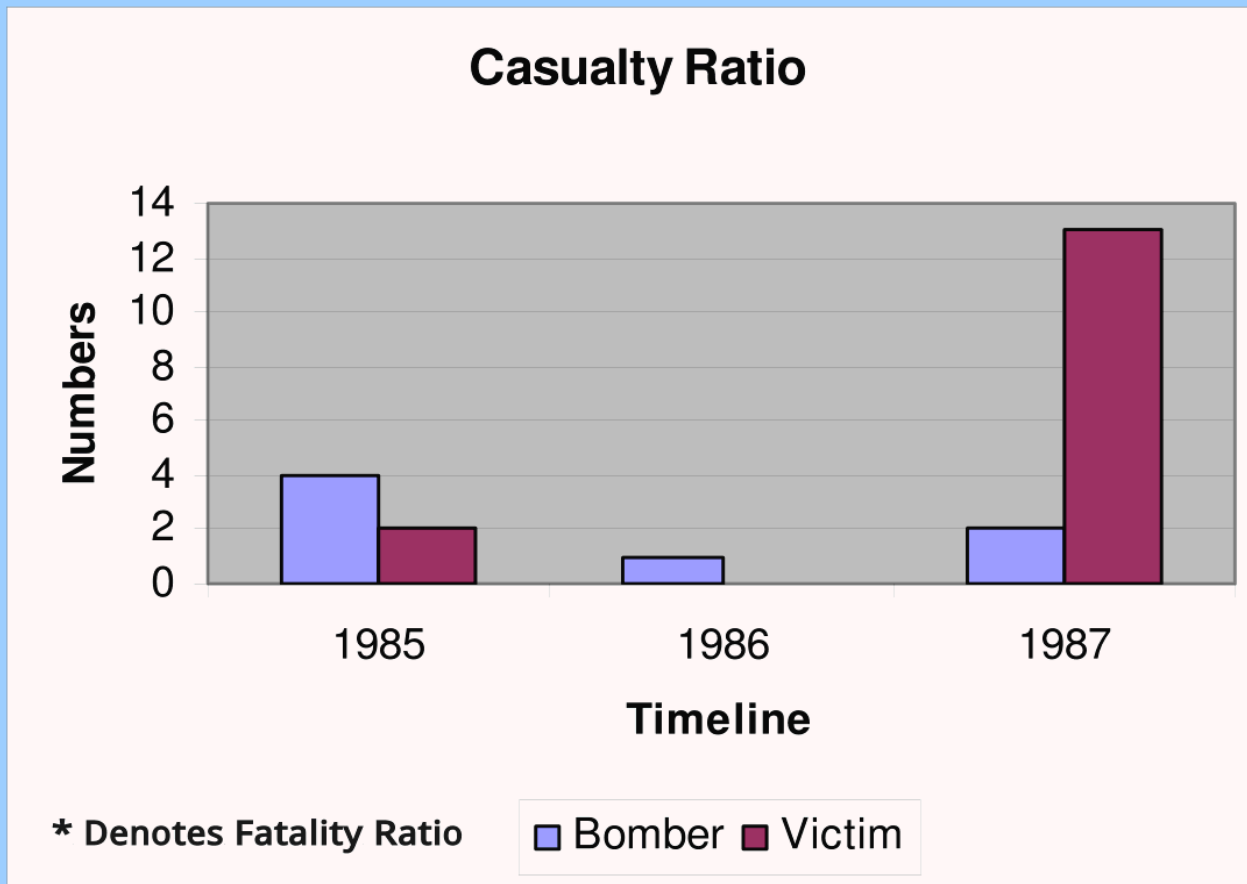
***Norma Abi Hassan***

**July 17, 1986:** Twenty-six year old (26) Syrian wounded seven in a **human IED** attack on a group of Lebanese in South Lebanon.

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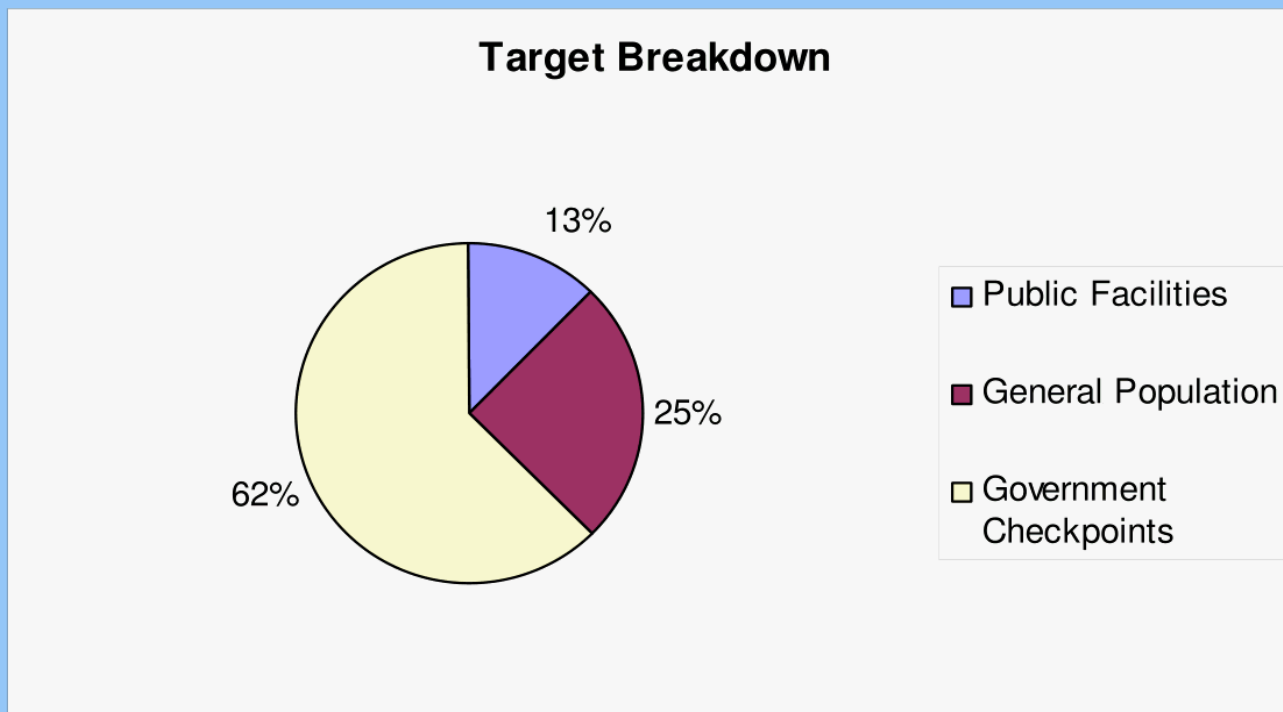
## Syrian Female Suicide Bombing (Bomber vs. Victim Casualty Ratio)



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## Syrian Female Suicide Bombing Target Breakdown



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***“Shahida all the way to Jerusalem.”***

## **ISRAEL & PALESTINE**



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## PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS



### **HAMAS (Islamic Resistance Movement)**

- ❑ Radical Islamic fundamentalist organization that actively seeks to establish an Islamic Palestinian state in place of Israel.
  - Formed in 1987 during the *First Intifada* (Uprising).
  - Has both political and military wings and supports the use of terrorism.
  - Works openly through mosques and social service institutions to recruit members, raise money, organize activities and distribute propaganda.
- ❑ Conducts attacks against Israeli civilian and military/gov't targets as well as rival Fatah factions.
  - Does not officially target U.S. interests.
  - Confines attacks inside Israel and the territories.
- ❑ Has tens of thousands of supporters and sympathizers worldwide.
- ❑ Won the Palestinian elections in January 2006 and now controls the territories.



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### ***Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade***

- ❑ Seeks to drive Israeli military and civilians from the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem and establish a **secular** Palestinian state.
- ❑ Emerged from the *Second Intifada* (a.k.a. Al-Aqsa Intifada - Uprising) in 2002.
- ❑ Members tend to be from the late *Yasser Arafat's secular* Fatah group.
- ❑ Considered the **FIRST** Palestinian militant group **to employ a female suicide bomber**, *Wafa Idris* in January 2002.



### ***Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)***

- ❑ Originated among militant Palestinians in the Gaza Strip during the 1970s.
- ❑ Seeks to create an **Islamic** Palestinian state and the destruction of Israel through holy war.
- ❑ Opposes moderate Arab governments, particular those supported by the West.
- ❑ Confines its activities inside Israel and the territories and normally does not target U.S. interests.



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### ***Wafa Idris***

- ❑ **January 27, 2002:** Twenty-seven year old (27) *Idris* became the **FIRST Palestinian female suicide bomber**, detonating herself at a **shopping mall** killing one.
  - Used an ambulance as cover to pass through a checkpoint into Jerusalem.
  - Dressed in western clothing and makeup.
- ❑ On the same day, *Yasser Arafat* had spoken at a rally stressing the importance of women in the struggle against Israel; “*Women and men are equal...you are my army of roses that will crush Israeli tanks.*”
- ❑ *Idris* carried a knapsack with 22 pounds of explosives and nails.
- ❑ Attractive, playful with a cheerful personality; socially very popular with western men.
- ❑ Recruited by the **secular Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade**.
- ❑ A **barren divorcee**; considered an **outcast** in Palestinian society.
- ❑ She was a **paramedic** with the Red Crescent and saw the horrors on the front line.
- ❑ Her emotional experiences of delivering a still born infant, coupled with abandonment by her husband plus constant exposure to the violence between Palestinians and Israelis may have contributed to her becoming a suicide bomber.

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### ***Dareen Abu Aysheh***

- ❑ **February 27, 2002:** Twenty-one year old (21) *Aysheh* became the **second Palestinian female suicide bomber**, following *Wafa Idris*, when she blew herself up at a **checkpoint** near Jerusalem wounding four Israelis.
- ❑ She was an outstanding **student of English literature** at her university.
- ❑ Known to have been very vocal about the role of Palestinian women in resisting Israeli occupation; was sent on her suicide mission by the Al-Aqsa Martyr's Brigade.
- ❑ *Abu Aysheh* was a **devout Muslim**.
- ❑ *"Let Sharon the coward know that every Palestinian woman will give birth to an army of martyrs, and her role will not only be confined to weeping over a son, brother or husband instead, she will become a martyr herself."* – *Dareen Abu Aysheh*
- ❑ On the same day of *Aysheh's* attack, *Sheikh Ahmed Yassin*, the religious leader of HAMAS (killed by Israeli forces in 2004), issued a fatwa (a religious decree) permitting females the honor and rewards of conducting suicide attacks.

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### **Ayat Ahkras**

- March 29, 2002:** Ahkras was a shy eighteen-year-old (18) Palestinian **high school student** who blew herself up at a **supermarket** killing two people.
- May have witnessed the death of a neighbor** at the hands of Israeli troops.
- The youngest Palestinian female suicide bomber to date (September 2006).
- Straight “A” student** that was engaged to be married.
- Had aspirations of going to college and becoming a news reporter.
- Not devoutly Muslim**, nor openly active in any militant groups.
- May have been **involved in a pre-marital sexual relationship** with her militant fiancé and **possibly pregnant**; a taboo that warranted death in the conservative Palestinian society.
- Father worked for a Jewish construction firm & was accused of collaborating with the Israelis. Ahkras may have acted to redeem her family’s honor.
- Like *Wafa Idris*, she is a role model to many Palestinian children. In fact, several **children’s summer camps were named after the teen bomber**.
- Recruited by the **secular Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade**.

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**“The Martyrs”, a tributary poem to suicide bomber Ayat Ahkras  
by the Saudi Ambassador to Great Britain.**



***May Allah witness that you are Martyrs,  
[May the] Prophet and Holy men witness to that  
You died to glorify the word of my God  
In the land that was glorified with the 'Israa'  
Did you commit suicide?  
[No] We are those who committed suicide  
In a life whose dead are [still] living... Tell 'Ayat' the  
bride of heaven...  
Everything that is beautiful we are ready  
To sacrifice for your eyes...***

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### **Hiba Daraghmeh**

- ❑ **May 19, 2003:** Nineteen-year-old (19) *Daraghmeh* conducted a suicide bombing at the Amakim **Shopping Mall** in Northern Israel killing three Israelis and wounding ninety-three others.
- ❑ She was a very shy, unassuming **university student** of English literature.
- ❑ She was **single** and avoided talking to men outside her family.
- ❑ Recruited several months earlier she became the **FIRST** female suicide bomber from the Islamic extremist group ***Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)***.
- ❑ May have committed the act out of **revenge for the imprisonment of her brother** by Israeli authorities & perceived harassment by Israeli troops.
- ❑ *Daraghmeh* was a **devout Muslim** and possibly **religiously obsessive**.
- ❑ She was very conservative in her beliefs, dress and how she led her life.
- ❑ On the day of the attack, however, she wore Western clothing including jeans; all which concealed her lethal intentions.

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### ***Hanadi Tayseer Jaradat***

- ❑ **October 4, 2003:** Twenty-nine year old (29) **lawyer** became the second female suicide bomber representing the ***Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)*** when she attacked the Maxim **Restaurant** in Haifa, Israel killing 19 patrons.
- ❑ Before her death she was planning to open her own law practice.
- ❑ Witnessed the death of her brother and cousin, both militants, at the hands of Israeli troops.
- ❑ May have had a **pre-marital sexual relationship** with her fiancé who was an Islamic Jihad militant.
  - Such intimate relationships prior to marriage were **considered taboo** in Palestinian society.
  - **Israeli forces eventually killed her fiancé** and all these factors may have motivated *Jaradat* to become a suicide bomber.

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### ***Reem Salih al-Rayasha***

- ❑ **January 14, 2004:** Twenty-one year old (21) Palestinian **mother** and **university student** became a suicide bomber possibly to **atone for infidelity**; a violation of conservative Palestinian moral virtues.
- ❑ From a **middle-class family**. She left behind a husband, an 18-month-old daughter and 4-year-old son.
- ❑ At the *Erez* border **checkpoint**, she **feigned a medical condition** and pleaded for assistance. As some Israelis approached, she detonated herself, killing three soldiers and a security guard.
- ❑ Considered the **FIRST** female suicide bomber representing the Islamic extremist group **HAMAS** (Recently elected to power in the Palestinian Territories).

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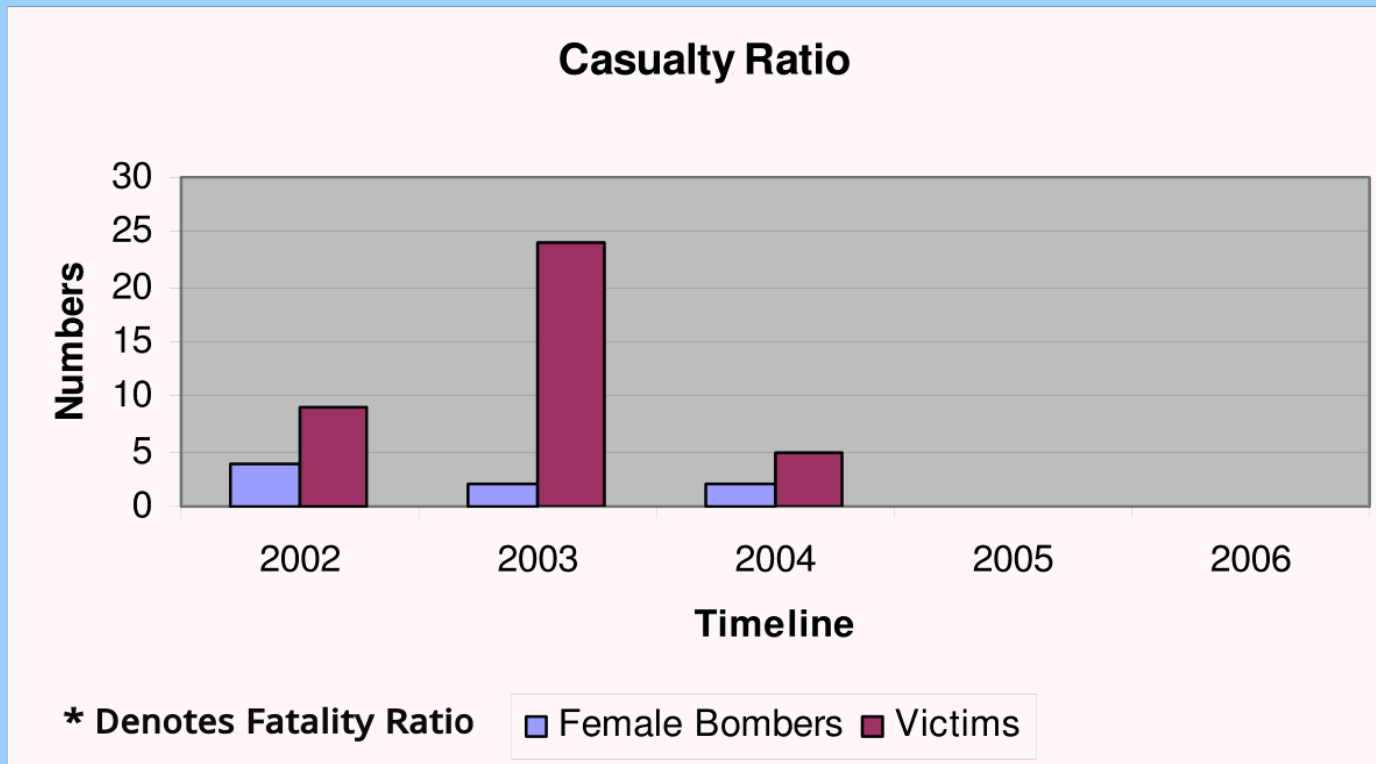
### ***Zeinab Abu Salem***

- ❑ **September 22, 2004:** Eighteen-year-old (18) *Abu Salem* became the eighth Palestinian female suicide bomber when she blew herself up at a **bus stop** killing two Israelis and wounding seventeen others.
  - Recruited by the *Al Aqsa Martyrs* Brigade.
  - Thought to have had 9 pounds of explosives concealed in a **bag**.
- ❑ Came **from a very wealthy Arab family**.
- ❑ She was a **children's TV show hostess** on a local station owned by her family.
- ❑ Had just passed her high school examinations and was contemplating attending university.
- ❑ Moments before the attack an eyewitness observed *Abu Salem*, describing her as “extraordinarily beautiful”.
- ❑ *Abu Salem's* motive for becoming a suicide bomber remains unclear.

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## Palestinian Female Suicide Bombing (Bomber vs. Victim Casualty Ratio)



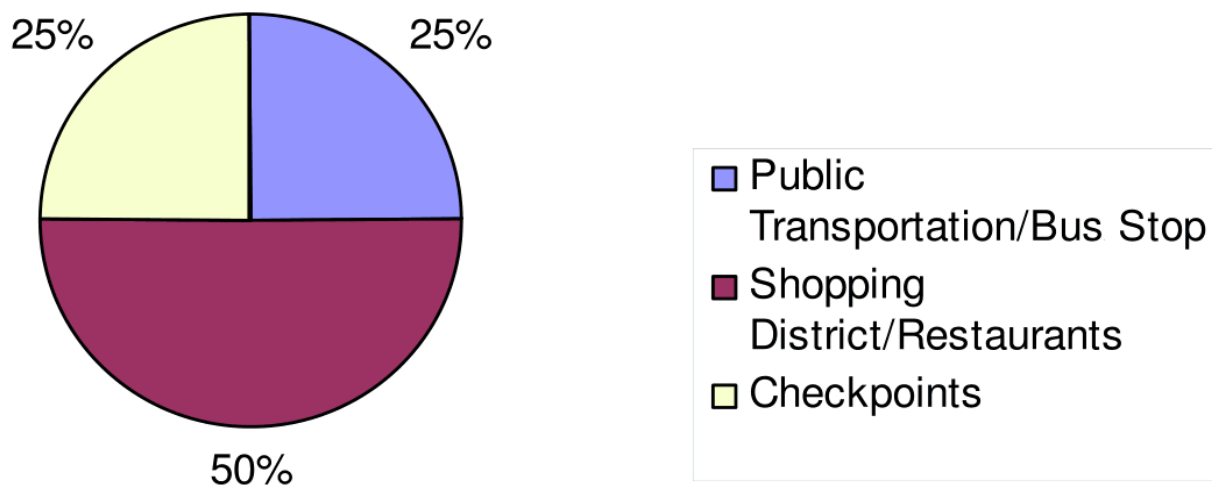
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## Palestinian Female Suicide Bombing Target Breakdown

### Target Breakdown



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# LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL EELAM



(THE BLACK TIGERS)

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### ***Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE, a.k.a. Tamil Tigers)***

- The **secular** organization was founded in 1976 and is considered by many as the most successful terrorist group in the world.
- Seeks to establish an independent Tamil state in Northeast Sri Lanka.
- Began its armed struggle with the Sri Lankan government in 1983, using guerrilla strategy including terror tactics and *suicide bombings (1987)*.
- Like the Palestinian militant group HAMAS, it provides civil services in areas it controls and has developed a military force that includes a navy and air force.
- Estimated to have 8,000 to 10,000 armed combatants and is known to forcibly recruit women and children.

### **“Black Tigers” Suicide Cadre**

- Only terrorist group known to have **assassinated two world leaders** with suicide attacks; former Indian P.M. *Rajiv Gandhi* (1991) and Sri Lankan President *Ranasinghe Premadasa (R)* (1993).
- Includes the highly dedicated women’s section **“Birds of Freedom”**.
- Bombers are selected by drawing from a *Tombola*, a sort of Martyr’s Lottery.
- Of an estimated 75 suicide attacks conducted by the Tamil Tigers, a third are thought to have been by women.



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### ***Thenmuli Rajaratnam (a.k.a., Dhanu)***

- ❑ **May 21, 1991:** Seventeen year old (17) Tamil was responsible for the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister *Rajiv Gandhi* during a **political rally**. Sixteen others also died in the attack. In June 2006, the Tamil Tigers officially apologized for the act.
- ❑ *Rajaratnam* was from a very **prominent nationalist family**.
- ❑ Supposedly **gang-raped by Indian troops** during *Gandhi's* previous tenor as prime minister; Indian troops were in Sri Lanka as peacekeepers.
  - The “rape” may have contributed to her becoming a suicide bomber.
  - In Hindu faith, once a woman has been raped, she is an outcast and may never again marry.
- ❑ Her brothers may have also been killed by Indian troops.
- ❑ She was a member of the “**Black Tigers**” but possibly left the organization after her rape.
- ❑ Wore a **belt bomb** with the RDX explosives and 10000 2mm steel balls situated along her lower back and the power pack and switches in the front.
- ❑ Twenty-six people were later convicted by an Indian court for their part in the assassination.

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***Thiagaraja Jeyarani (a.k.a. Akka)***

- ❑ **July 7, 2004:** Twenty-six year old (26) Tamil attempted to assassinate government minister *Douglas Devananda* (R) in a suicide attack on a **police station** in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
  - Attack failed when security personnel suspicious of her presence tried to conduct a physical search.
  - She detonated her **explosive brassiere** prematurely, killing four police officers and wounding nine others.
- ❑ A female accomplice who was previously employed by the minister prior to joining the Black Tigers was captured soon after and confessed to the operation.

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### **Anoja Kugenthirasah**

- ❑ **April 25, 2006:** Twenty-one year old (21) Tamil attempted to assassinate top Sri Lanka Army commander Lt. General *Sarath Fonseka* by blowing herself up in front of his vehicle.
- ❑ *Kugenthirasah* was thought to be pregnant and was able to enter the army compound under the **ruse of a maternity check**.
  - She **possessed fake ID** that showed she was the wife of a military clerk.
  - She previously attended the maternity clinic three times to establish a routine and became known to the guards.
  - She **learned the General's daily routine and lunch schedule**.
  - Her supposed **pregnancy** also **concealed** her explosive **device**.
- ❑ She was a member of the Tamil's Black Tigers suicide squad.
- ❑ The attack killed ten people and seriously injured General *Fonseka*.
- ❑ The Sri Lankan government retaliated with air strikes against Tamil bases & threatens to end a peace deal that would end three decades of violence.

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## TAMIL TIGER ATTACKS AGAINST CIVIL AVIATION



- ❑ **July 24, 2001:** Tamil Tiger rebels staged a surprise suicide attack against the main air base & adjoining *Bandaranaike* international airport in Sri Lanka.
  - Tigers **penetrated the defenses** of both the airbase and nearby international airport and **attacked with 14 operatives in three waves**.
  - Base and airport were guarded by 500 men at 90 sentry points; considered the **most secured area in Sri Lanka**.
  - The Tamil force is thought to have been **escorted by an intelligence team** which provided the attacking force security, lodging, transportation and intelligence support.
  - Tamils were **heavily armed** with assault rifles, light anti-tank weapons, automatic grenade launchers and general-purpose machine guns.

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- Members of the **Tamil force were dressed in military uniforms** and **entered the airport AOA at a playground** used by military families.
  - Attack coincided with a routine nationwide power blackout to reduce the country's electricity consumption.
  - Twenty-two people were killed, including the 14 rebels of which five were suicide bombers. Five government soldiers were also killed.
  - No civilian casualties recorded. During the battle, tourists at the airport were evacuated to local hotels, though some had to crawl to safety.
- ❑ Several **suicide bombers wearing explosive belts blew themselves up in or about the airport terminal.**
- One bomber blew himself up at the departure **cargo area**.
  - One bomber climbed to the top of the terminal roof and destroyed an Airbus 340 with an rocket propelled grenade (RPG). He died soon after.
  - Two more detonated themselves **inside the terminal** near a chiller room (refrigeration area).
- ❑ At all phases of the operation, the **terrorist displayed an intimate knowledge of the airport's layout and structure.**
- ❑ After five hours of fighting, 26 aircraft had been destroyed or damaged, including five 'empty' Sri Lankan Airlines Airbuses.



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- ❑ **Attacks may have corresponded with** the July 24, 1983 **anniversary** of riots in Sri Lanka that led to the deaths of thousands of minority Tamils and thus began the rebellion against the Sri Lankan government.
- ❑ **Next to September 11th**, the attack against the airbase and international airport is **considered the most destructive terrorist attack in the history of civil aviation.**

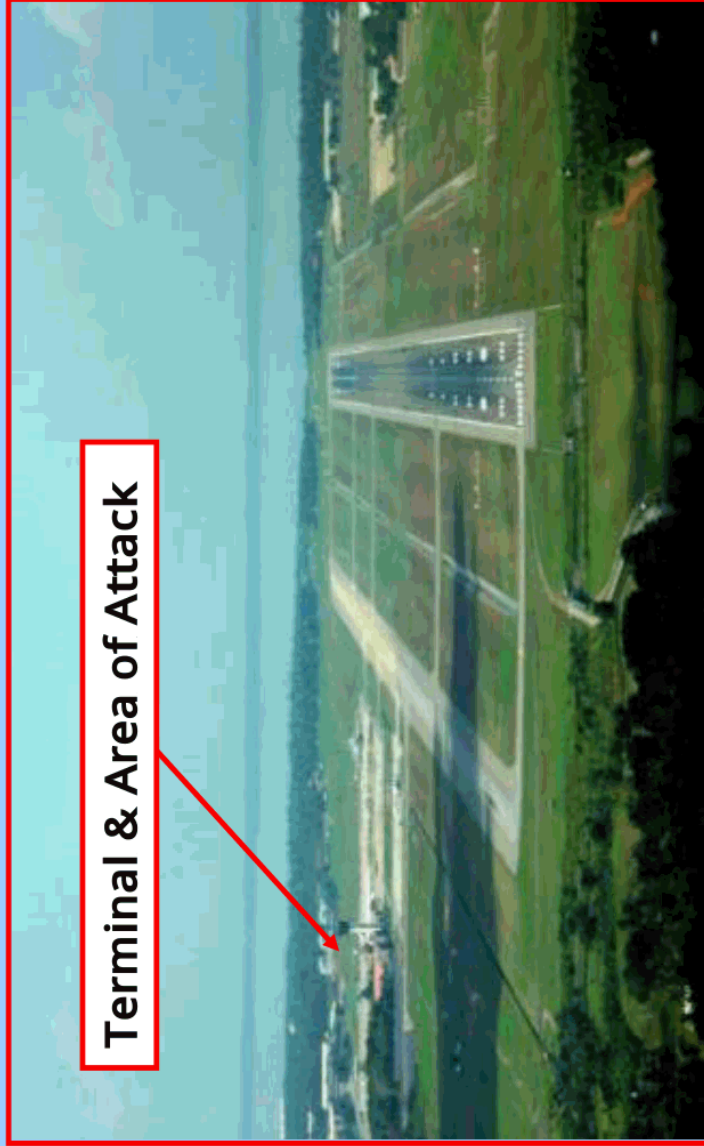
### Aftermath at *Bandaranaike* International Airport, Sri Lanka



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# Sri Lanka's *Bandaranaike International Airport*



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- ❑ **May 3, 1986:** Twenty-one people were killed and another 40 injured when a bomb exploded aboard a Sri Lankan airliner at Colombo's *Bandaranaike* International Airport.
- ❑ The flight's departure had been delayed for 15 minutes. If it had been airborne at the time the bomb went off, it is thought that all 126 passengers would have been killed.
- ❑ Tamil Tigers claimed responsibility.
- ❑ A **customs officer was coerced by terrorists** to plant a bomb aboard the aircraft (**terrorists threatened family with death**).

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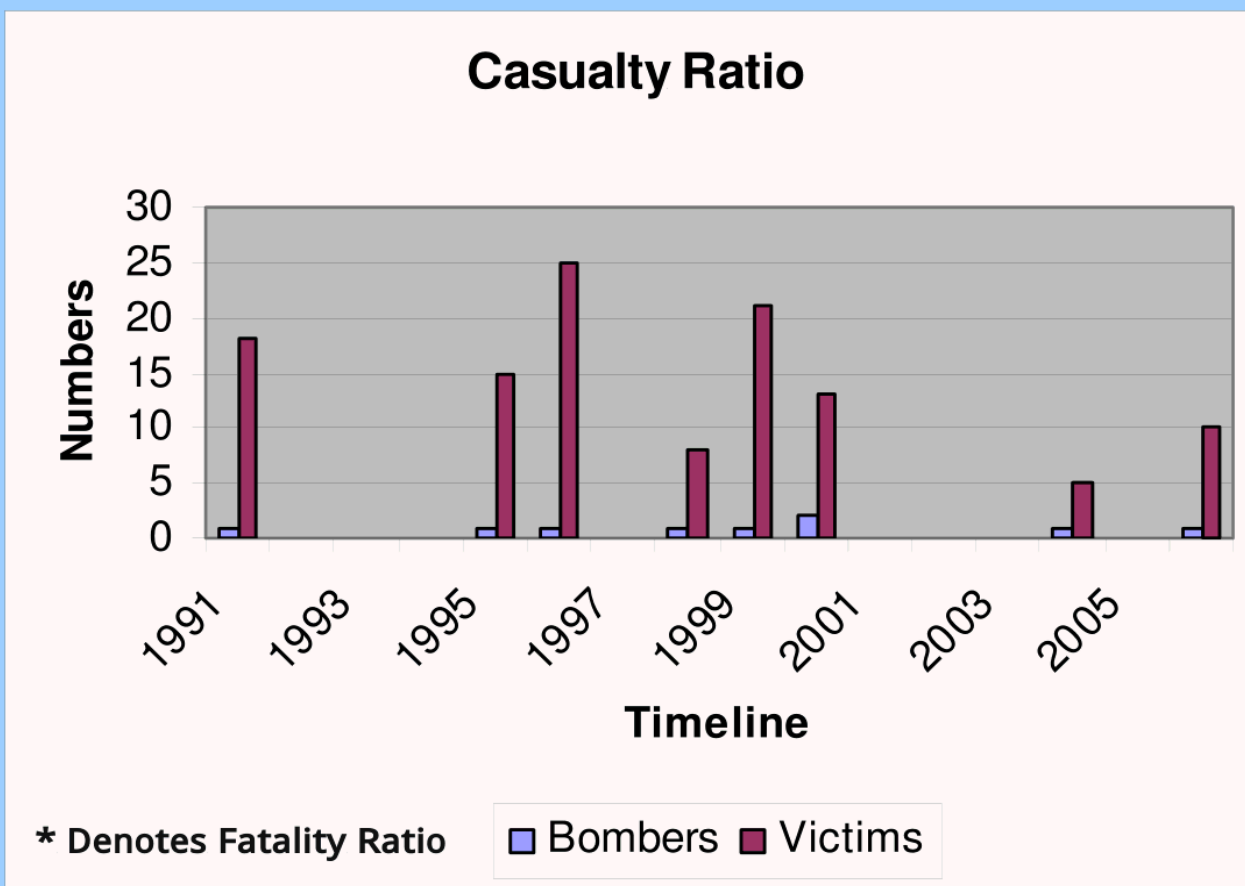


- ❑ **September 30, 1998:** Lionair Flight 602 went missing and was presumed to have been shot down by the Tamil Tigers.
- ❑ Likely downed by a **MANPAD**.
- ❑ All fifty-five (55) passengers and crew were lost.
- ❑ Flight was **passing over a fiercely contested area** between Tamil rebels and government forces and may have been **accidentally downed due to its similar appearance to a military aircraft**.
- ❑ **Note:** An uneasy cease-fire had been observed since 2002, but the recent female suicide bombing on a Sri Lankan Army commander (April 2006) and subsequent clashes between rebel and government forces seriously threatens to undermine the peace initiative.

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## Tamil Tiger Female Suicide Bombing (Bomber vs. Victim Casualty Ratio)

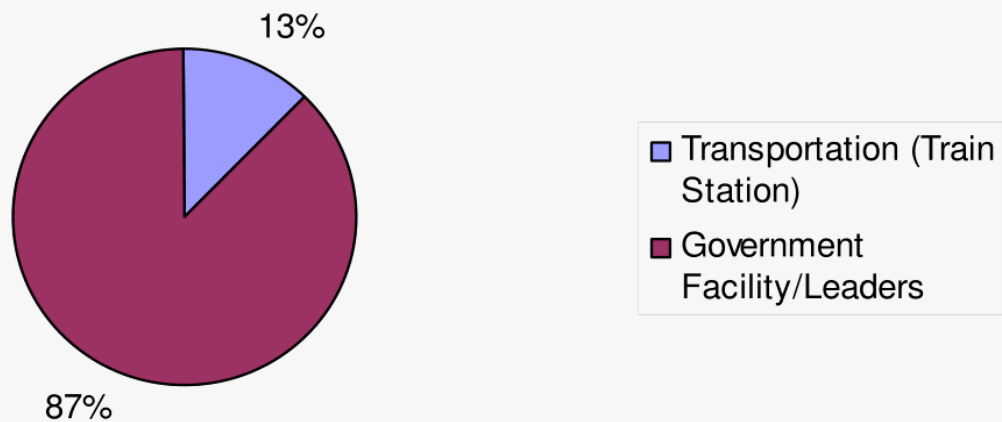


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## Tamil Tiger Female Suicide Bombing Target Breakdown

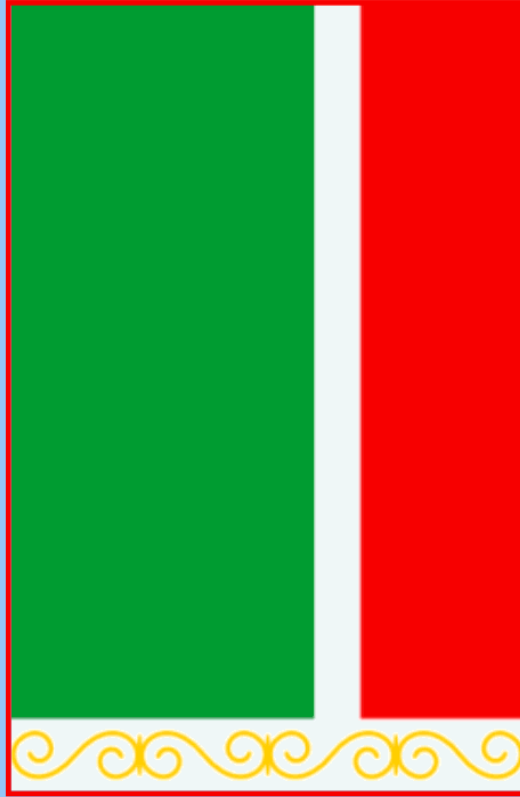
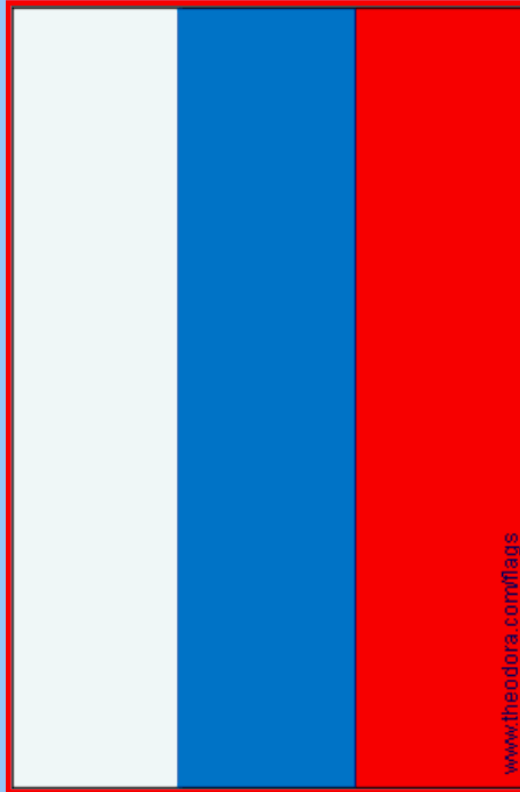
Target Breakdown



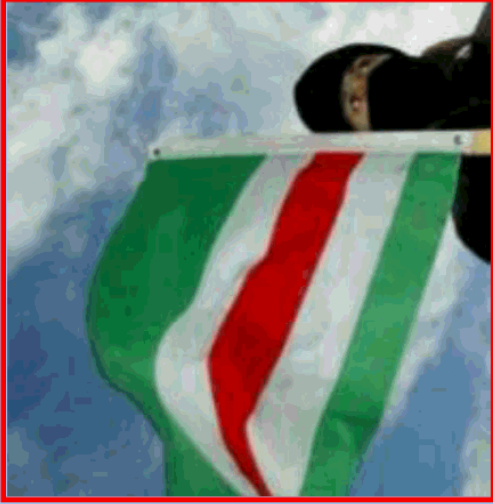
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# RUSSIA & CHECHNYA



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# CHECHNYA'S "BLACK WIDOWS"



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### **“Black Widows” (a.k.a. Brides of Allah)**

- ❑ Female suicide bombers, known as “*Shahidas*” and usually of Chechen origin, many whom lost loved ones in the on-going conflict with Russia.
- ❑ Term “Black Widow” is a Western & Russian journalistic invention.
- ❑ Some seek **Chechen independence** from Russia while others may only desire **vengeance** for their losses in the conflict.
  - First known “Black Widow” was nineteen year old *Hawaa Barayeva*; who in a **VBIED attack** blew herself up at a Russian military base in Chechnya on June 6, 2000, killing 27.
  - Many Chechen widows are convinced by separatists that they are a burden and that their losses are a punishment for their sins.
  - Some may have been drugged, brainwashed or coerced into action.
- ❑ Usually **attack in pairs or groups**.
- ❑ Though many Chechen resistance leaders deny association with the “Black Widows”, Warlord *Shamil Basayev* (R) is credited for creating and employing the group.
- ❑ **July 10, 2006:** *Basayev* was killed by Russian forces in Russia’s Ingushetia province.
- ❑ ***Smertnitsi*** - Russian for suicide bomber.



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### **Amanat Nagayeva**

- August 24, 2004:** Nagayeva (30) along with Satsita Dzhbirkhanova (37) committed suicide bombings on two Russian **civilian airliners** killing 90 people.
- Both women were Chechens and thought to have belonged to the “**Black Widows**”.
- Nagayeva was **single** & worked as a **market vendor**.
- Dzhbirkhanova was **divorced** and possibly unable to bare children; a stigma in Chechen society.
- Both had loved ones killed by Russian troops.**
- Both had **purchased their tickets at the last minute.**
- Both had shared an apartment in Chechnya.
- Crashes happened five days before presidential elections in Chechnya.
- RDX-based explosives are thought to have been used in the bombings.

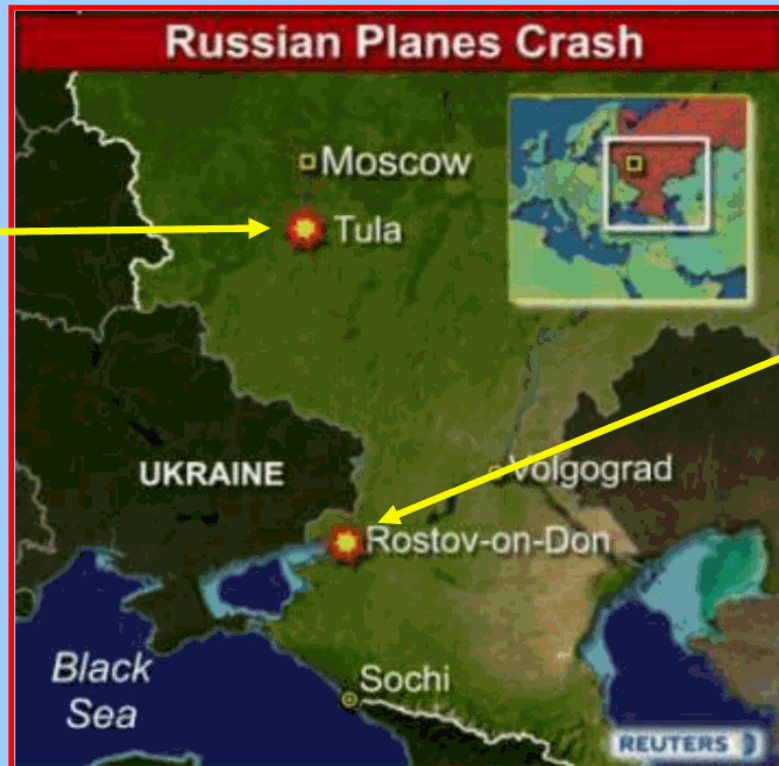
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# Russian Airliner Bombings August 24, 2004

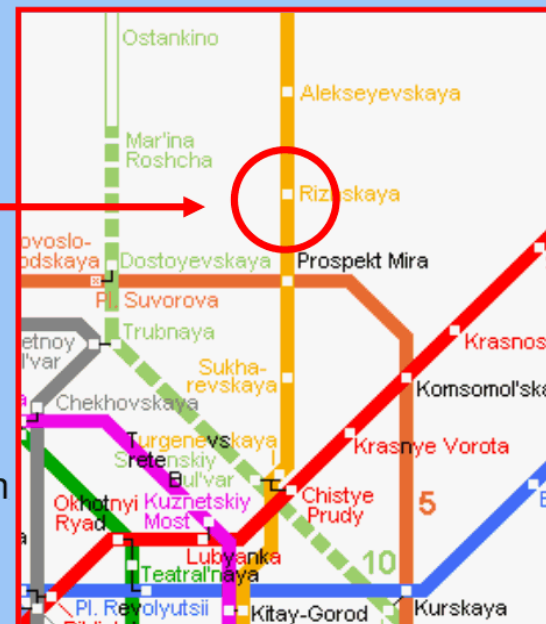


**Volga Avia Express  
Flight 1303**



**Sibir Airlines  
Flight 1047**

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### **Roza Nagayev**

- ❑ **August 31, 2004:** Twenty-nine year old (29) Chechen *Roza Nagayev*, sister of airliner bomber **Amanat Nagayev**, detonated herself outside the *Rizhskaya* Metro Station in Central Moscow.
- ❑ Ten people were killed and more than fifty injured.
- ❑ *Nagayev* was thought to have carried about 2KG of TNT around her waist.
- ❑ She intended to enter the metro station in order to inflict maximum casualties but was scared off by the presence of police searching travelers.
- ❑ The ***Islambouli Brigade of Martyrs***, an associate of Al Qaeda, claimed responsibility.

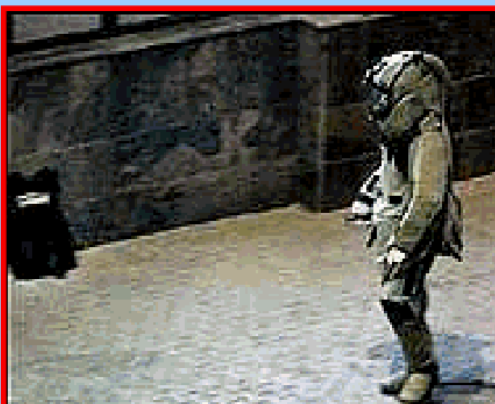
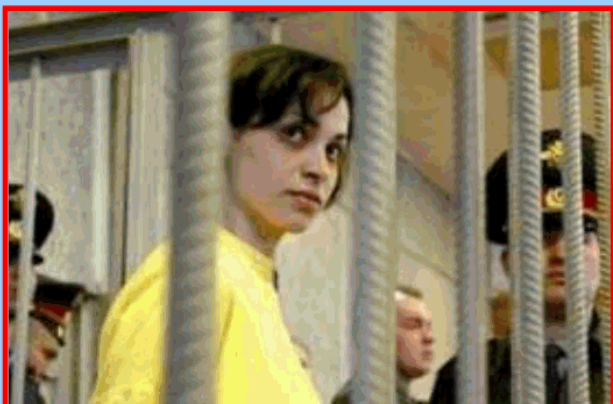
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### ***Zalikhhan Yelikhadzhiyeva***

- ❑ **July 5, 2003:** Twenty year old (20) Chechen *Yeklikhadzhiyeva* and *Zinaida Aliyeva* detonated themselves at an outdoor **Rock-n-Roll festival** at Moscow's *Tushino* airfield killing sixteen people, mostly teenagers.
- ❑ As she approached the stage *Yehlikhadzhiyeva's* explosive device detonated improperly, killing only herself. *Aliyeva* however was most successful, killing the bystanders with her device ten minutes later.
- ❑ Each carried at least **2.2 pounds of RDX-based explosives** packed with nails and other shrapnel in the belts around their waists.
- ❑ *Yehlikhadzhiyeva* lived with her sister in a small Chechen village and studied at a local **medical school**.
- ❑ Her motives for becoming a suicide bomber remain a mystery.

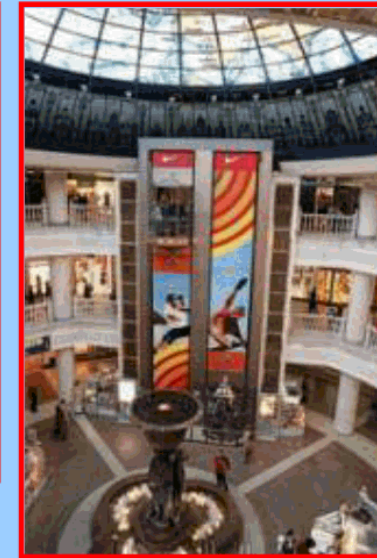
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### **Zarema Muzhakhoyeva**

- ❑ **July 10, 2003:** Twenty-three year old (23) would-be Chechen suicide bomber *Muzhakhoyeva* was captured while attempting to detonate a bomb at the central Moscow restaurant *Mon Café*. The **initial target was a McDonald's restaurant.**
- ❑ EOD expert *Georgy Trofimov* (above) was killed trying to defuse the device.
- ❑ *Muzhakhoyeva* was convicted of terrorism by a Russian court and sentenced to twenty years imprisonment.
- ❑ Stated she was **abandoned by her family** and widowed by her husband early in life. Admitted to turning to terrorism as a way out of shame.
- ❑ A female friend offered to pay her \$1000, and provide for her daughter and grandparents in return for becoming a suicide bomber.
- ❑ Boarded at safe house with bombers of the Rock-n-Roll Tushino attack.
- ❑ Her arrest and interrogation revealed much about the Chechen "Black Widows".

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### **Zara Murtazaliyeva**

- ❑ **January 17, 2005:** Twenty-one year old (21) Chechen was convicted by a Russian court on terrorism-related charges and sentenced to nine years.
- ❑ *Murtazaliyeva* was a part-time **student** at a linguistics university before traveling to Moscow for work at an insurance company in September 2003.
- ❑ **March 4, 2004:** Was stopped by Russian police for routine document checks (had been stopped once before in December 2003).
  - Police allegedly found plastic explosives in her purse.
  - Photographs of an escalator in the *Okhotny Ryad shopping mall* (Above) were supposedly found in her Moscow apartment.
  - Russian authorities believed she and two other women were planning a suicide attack against the shopping mall.
- ❑ Controversy regarding a possible “frame-up” by authorities continues to surround this case.

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# RUSSIA'S "9/11" THE DUBROVKA THEATRE SIEGE



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## MOSCOW'S DUBROVKA THEATRE SIEGE



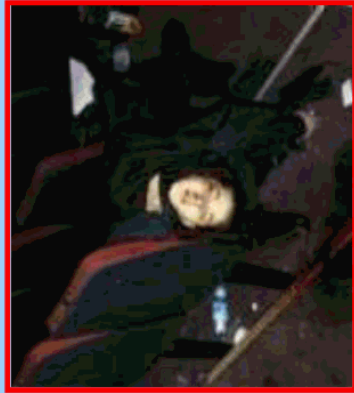
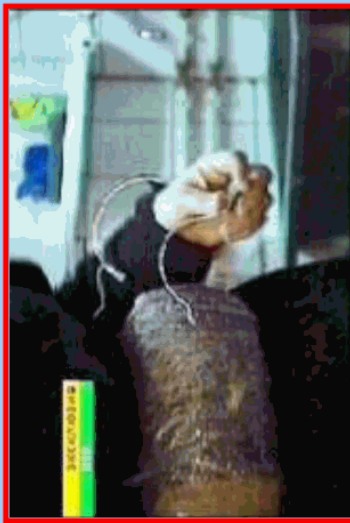
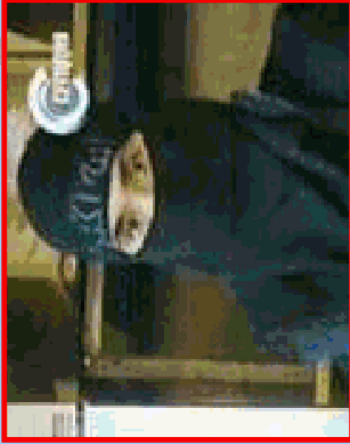
- ❑ **October 23, 2002: Forty-two** Chechen terrorists assaulted the *Dubrovka Theatre* in Moscow taking over **900 hostages**.
  - Demanded an immediate withdrawal of Russian forces from Chechnya.
  - Hostages included nationals from Great Britain, the U.S. and EU.
  
- ❑ **Nineteen of the terrorists were females** thought to be “Black Widows”; two were the *Ganiyev sisters, Aishat and Khadishat*.
  - Each female terrorist wore veils and long, black Islamic robes.
  - Each had an explosive belt strapped to her waist.
  - The average age of the female terrorists was twenty-five (25).
  
- ❑ **October 26:** Russian *Spetsnaz* (special forces) stormed the theatre assisted by a narcotic gas that was pumped in earlier.
  - All the terrorist were killed as well as 130 hostages, most from the affects of the gas. For good measure all the terrorists were also shot.
  - Chechen warlord *Shamil Basayev* claimed responsibility for the attack.



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# “Black Widows” during and violently after the siege



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# HAPPIER TIMES "BEFORE"

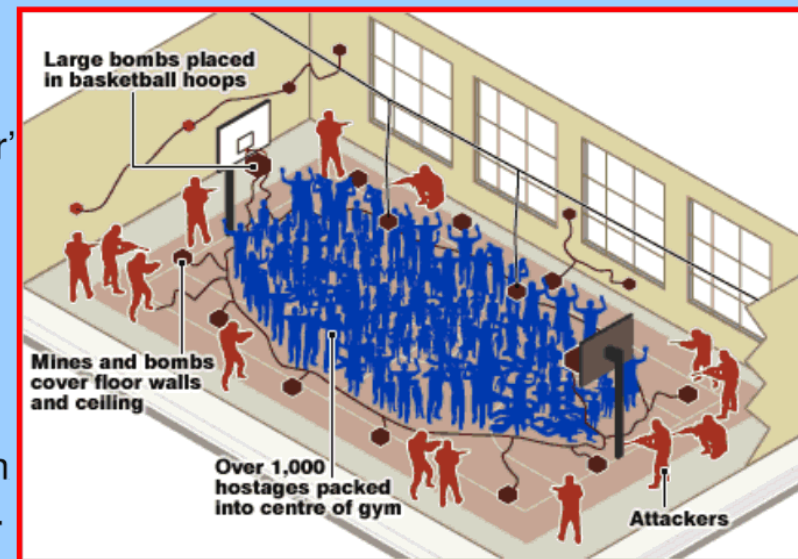


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## BESLAN SCHOOL SIEGE



- ❑ **September 1, 2004:** Thirty-two Chechen terrorists seized School Number One (SNO) in Beslan, Republic of North Ossetia in Russia.
- ❑ Group demanded the withdraw of Russian forces from Chechnya.
- ❑ Attackers wore black ski masks and carried explosive belts.
- ❑ Terrorist group included **five female Chechen Black Widows**.
  - Included *Khaula Nazirov* (45) and her sixteen year old daughter.
  - *Nazirov* was suspected of being the leader of the group.
- ❑ Group also included a mixture of Chechens, a Russian-Korean, a Georgian, several Arabs and Ingush.
- ❑ Terrorists took more than **1300 hostages**, hundreds being children.
- ❑ Russian tradition marks 'First September' as a special day where parents accompany students to school for ceremonies.
- ❑ Students at SNO ranged in ages from seven to eighteen.
- ❑ Terrorist gathered their hostages in the middle of the school's gymnasium, which was mined with explosives and tripwires.



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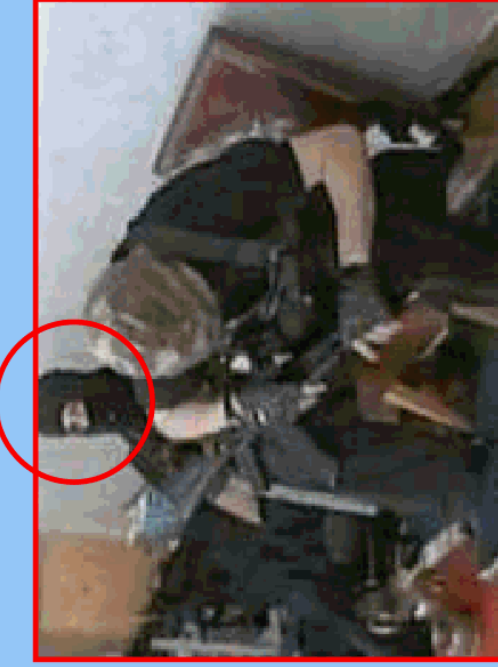
# HOSTAGES & HOSTAGE-TAKERS BESLAN SCHOOL GYMNASIUM



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**HOSTAGE-TAKERS INCLUDED SEVERAL FEMALE "BLACK WIDOWS"**



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## THE VIOLENT CONCLUSION AT BESLAN

- ❑ **September 3:** Siege ended with the impromptu storming of the school by Russian security forces. Assault lasted two hours.
- ❑ Controversy still surrounds what initiated the assault.
- ❑ Officially, **344 civilians died** in the three-day siege, **186 of them children.**
- ❑ All but one of the terrorists were killed as well as several Russian security personnel.
- ❑ Reportedly several of the female terrorists chose to detonate their suicide belts during the security forces' final assault.
- ❑ Chechen warlord *Shamil Basayev* claimed responsibility.



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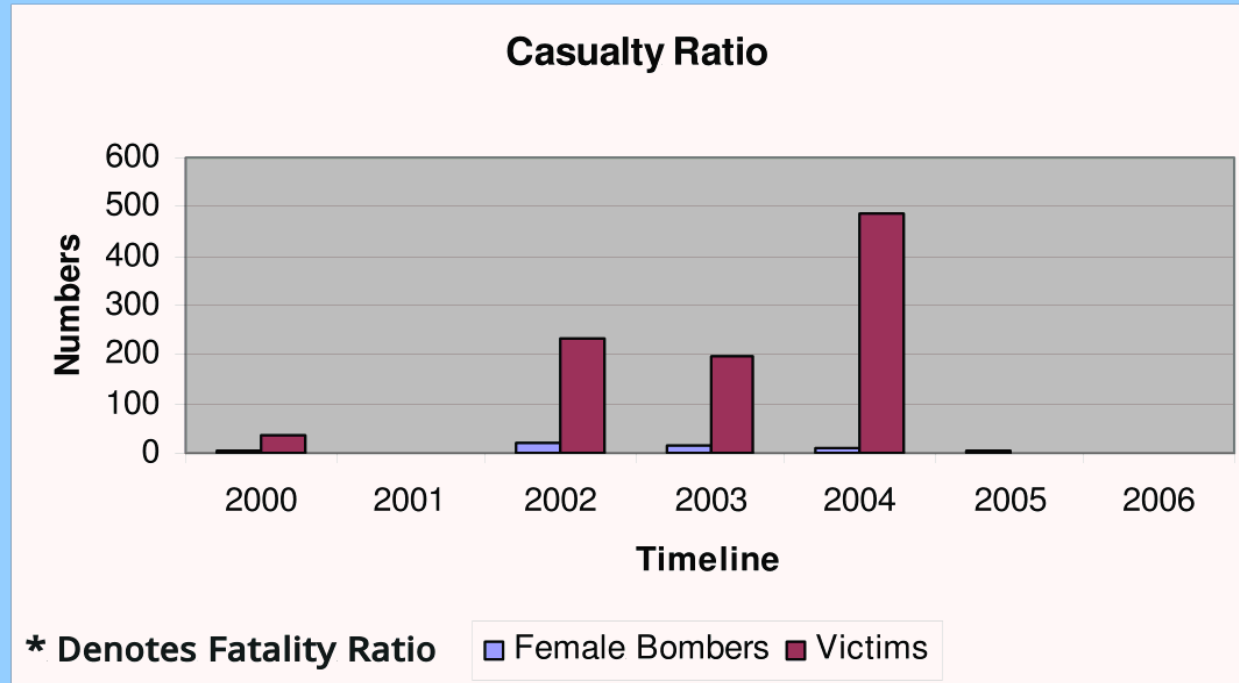


THE VICTIMS WERE MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN



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## Chechen Female Suicide Bombing (Bomber vs. Victim Casualty Ratio)



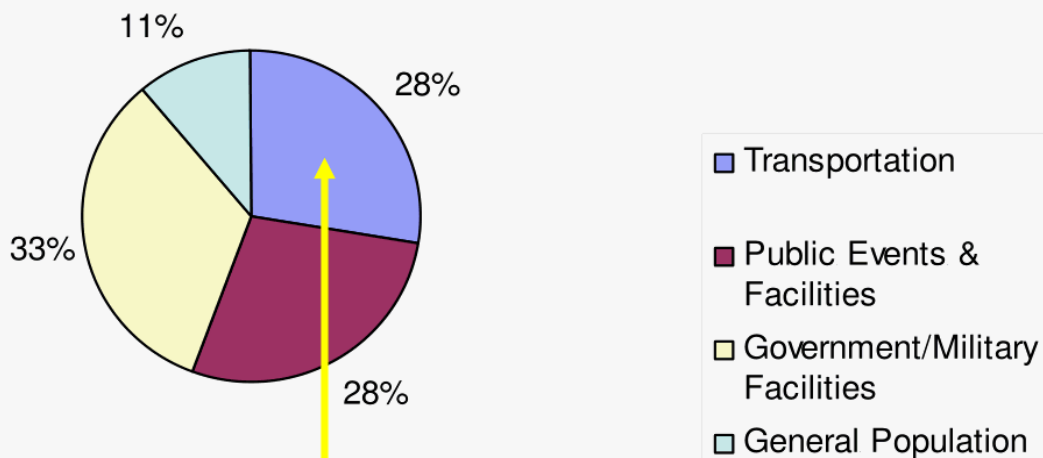
**Note:** The year 2002 reflects the Moscow theatre siege and accounts for the only documented operation involving Chechen female suicide terrorists that year. The increased lethality from 2003-2004 reflects a sustain campaign of activity by the Chechen anti-Russian forces. Most casualties in 2004 were the result of two Russian airliners being destroyed with the loss of all aboard, and the disastrous September 2004 *Beslan* school siege in which 344 civilians were killed.

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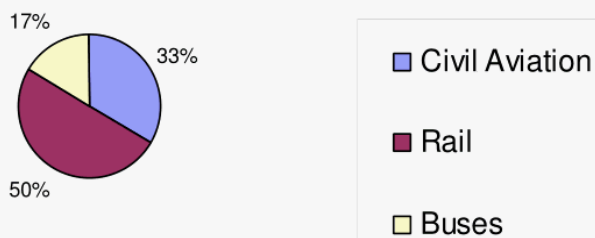


# Chechen Female Suicide Bombing Target Breakdown

## Target Breakdown



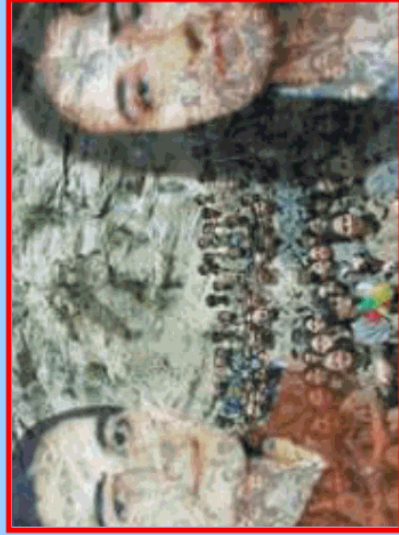
## Transportation Mode Breakdown



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# KURDISH WORKERS PARTY (PKK)



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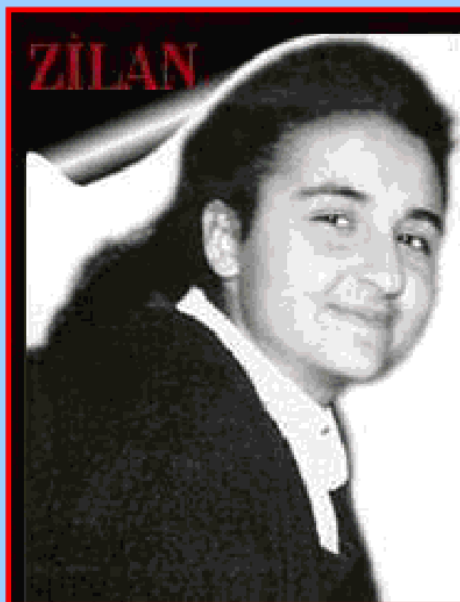


### ***Partiya Karkeran Kurdistan (PKK)***

- ❑ Is a leftist Kurdish nationalist movement founded by Turkish students of ethnic Kurdish descent in 1974.
- ❑ Its leader (now imprisoned for life in Turkey) is *Abdullah Ocalan*.
- ❑ The group's goal is to incite revolution and establish an independent Kurdish state along Maoist doctrine.
- ❑ The PKK is thought to have killed as many as thirty thousand people within Turkey during the mid-80s alone.
- ❑ Though temporarily altering its leftist ideology to accommodate Islamic beliefs, the group returned to its original goals and continues to focus on attacking the Turkish government and its tourist industry.
- ❑ Today the movement is officially known as the ***Kongra-Gel***.
- ❑ Group employs suicide bombers of which two-thirds have been female with the **first three** doing so **using pregnancy as a disguise**.
- ❑ Though several cease-fires have been implemented since the 1990s, as of 2004, the group continues to use violence, including several spectacular suicide bombings to achieve its goals.



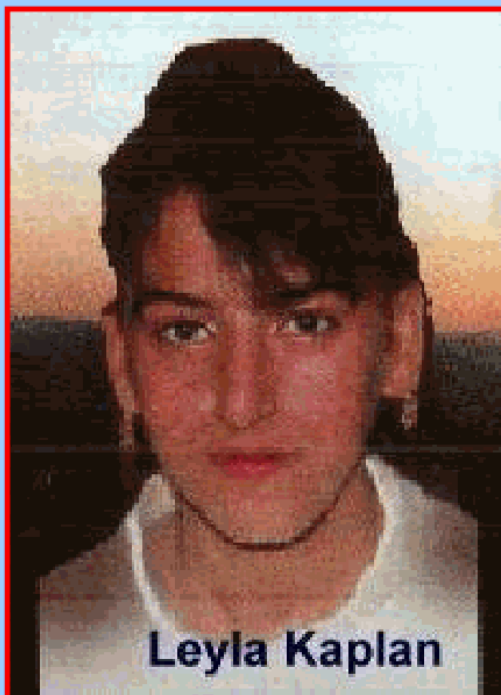
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***Zeynep Kinaci (a.k.a. Zilan)***

- ❑ **June 30, 1996: Married** twenty-four year old (24) Psychology **graduate student** became the **FIRST** suicide bomber, male or female, of the PKK.
- ❑ **Targeted a military parade** killing six Turkish soldiers and wounding more than thirty others.
- ❑ **FIRST** female known to conduct a suicide **attack using pregnancy as a ruse.**

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Leyla Kaplan

# Kadın teröristten intihar saldırısı

PKK, HAMAS usulü ikinci saldırı Adana'da düzenledi. Vücuduna sardığı bombayla Çevik Kuvvet'e dalaran kadın terörist ve üçü polis 4 kişi paramparça oldu.



**Hamile giysili** Haziran ayında Tunceli'de askerlere yapılan saldırının beşerinci Adana'da Çevik Kuvvet'e düzenlendi. 16.50 saatlerinde hamile giysili bir genç kadın, Şube Müdürüğü yakınında İstanbul plakalı otomobilin içine, hapisyne yöneldi.

**3 kiloluk bomba** Görevlilerin durdurmak istediği kadını, kosarak binaya girmek istedi. Yakalanacağını anlayanlar, bahçede polislerin arasına düşüp üzerindeki tınyeyi patlattı. Üç kilo TNT kalibrası patlamasıyla orantısız cehennemde döndü. Polislerden Metin Süer, Ramazan Keseci ve İhsan Öger ile Yaşar Çetin adlı kişiler vardı. 7 polis ile 4 sivil ağır yaralandı. ● 25. sayfa

**Vücutlar paramparça**  
Korkunc patlama sonzere genç polislerin vücut parçaları 50 metrelik bir alana saçıldı. Leyla Kaplan adlı teröristin kafası ve kolu, üç kısı Çevik Kuvvet binasının çatısına ilişti.



İl Keseci (25) Metin Süer (25) İhsan Öger (24)

## Leyla Kaplan

- ❑ **October 25, 1996:** Seventeen year old (17) *Kaplan* became the second and, to date, the **youngest female suicide bomber** representing the Kurdish guerrilla movement.
- ❑ **Disguised as pregnant,** *Kaplan* approached a **police station** in southeastern Turkey and detonated herself, killing three police officers and two civilians. Scores more were injured.

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### ***Guler Otas (a.k.a. Bermal)***

- ❑ **October 29, 1996:** Twenty-nine year old (29) *Guler Otas* detonated herself inside a police car while being interviewed by Turkish **police**; the bomber and three officers died in the blast.
- ❑ She was **disguised as pregnant**.
- ❑ She was a member of the Kurdistan National Liberation Army (ARGK), the PKK's military wing.
- ❑ *Otas* was a **factory worker** in Turkey before joining the Kurdish guerrilla movement in 1987.
- ❑ Nationalism and revenge may have been the motivation to become a suicide bomber; A nephew and brother may have been killed by pro-Turkish militia.

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### ***Semiha Kilic***

- ❑ **March 4, 1999:** PKK suicide bomber *Kilic* wounded several civilians outside a **police station** in Batman, southeastern Turkey.
- ❑ It is thought she attacked out of **protest** for the capture of PKK founder *Abdullah Ocalan* by Turkish authorities.
- ❑ Not using a traditional explosive suicide vest/belt, *Kilic* used **hand grenades**; seven were later found in her shoulder bag.
- ❑ Batman was the scene of a shootout between *Ocalan* supporters and police two weeks earlier.

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***Ozen Fatma (a.k.a. Rojbin)***

**November 17, 1998:** PKK suicide bomber *Ozen Fatma* killed herself with a bomb strapped to her body outside a **police station** in southeast Turkey. She missed her main target, which was a military convoy. Six people were also wounded in the attack.



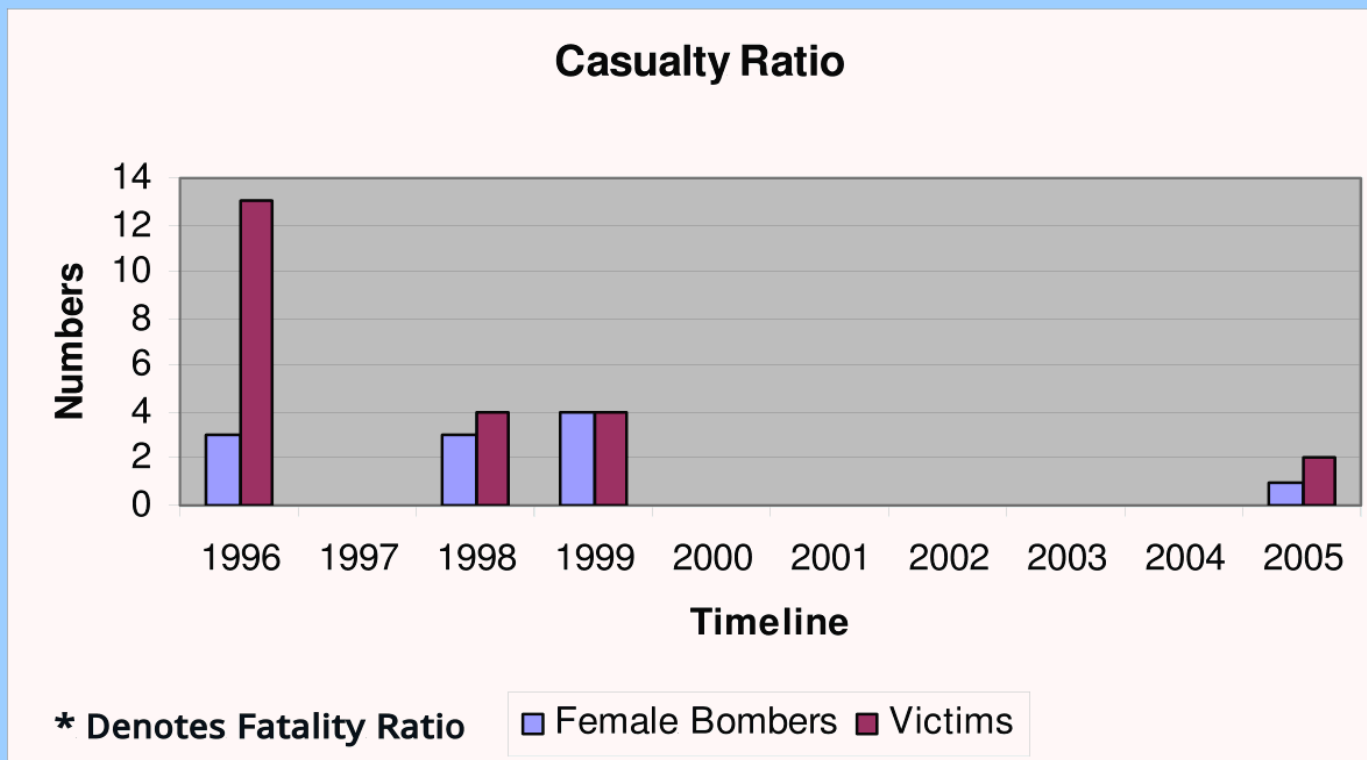
***Meral Mamyak***

**March 27, 1999:** PKK militant *Meral Mamyak* detonated her explosive device near a **police bus** at the *Taksim Square* in Istanbul, Turkey. Eleven people were wounded with only *Mamyak* being killed in the attack.

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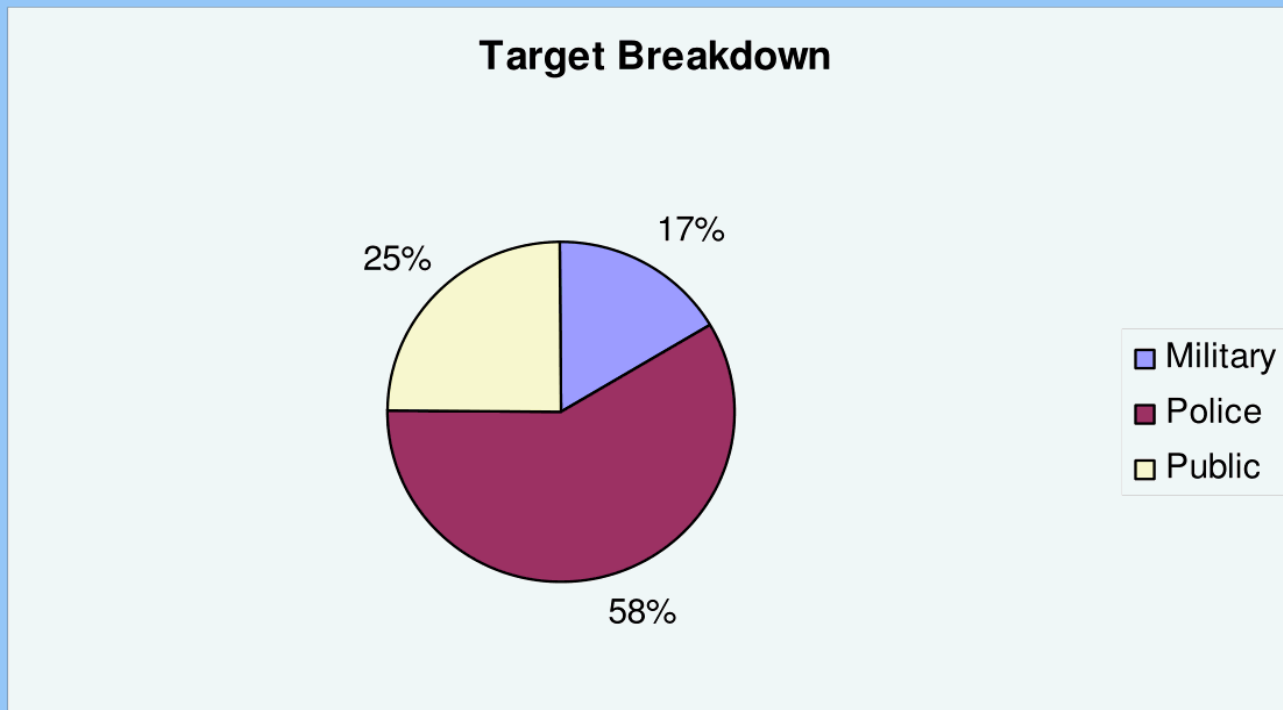
## Kurdish Female Suicide Bombing (Bomber vs. Victim Casualty Ratio)



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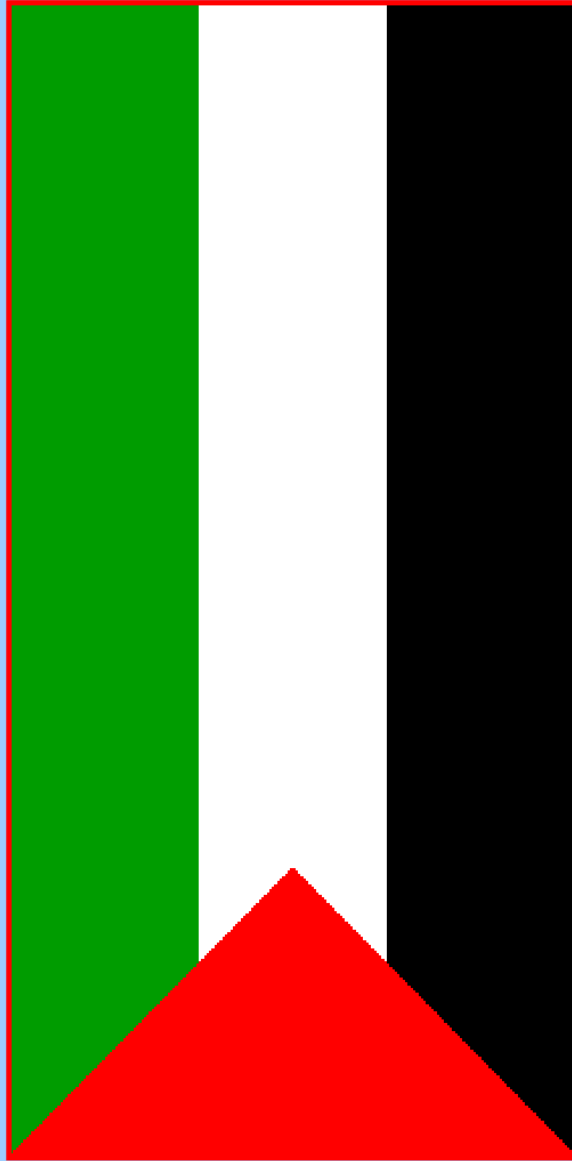
## PKK Female Suicide Bombing Target Breakdown



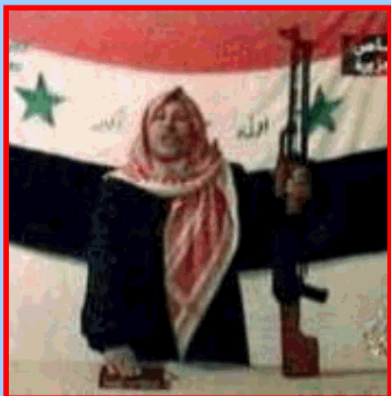
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**IRAQ**



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### ***Widad Jamil (L) and Nur al-Shammari (R)***

- April 3, 2003:** Iraqis *Jamil* and *al-Shammari* were thought to have been responsible for the suicide **VBIED** attack against a U.S. **Army check point** in western Iraq.
- Possibly as a ploy to lure the soldiers from their checkpoint, one of the women who **appeared pregnant** exited the car screaming for help.
- When the troops approached the female driver detonated the vehicle, killing both women and three Army Rangers. Several others were wounded.

### **Other Female Suicide Bombings in Iraq**

- September 28, 2003:** An unknown female **disguised as a male job applicant** standing outside a U.S. military facility detonated her explosive belt, killing eight. **Al Qaeda in Iraq claimed responsibility.**
- May 4, 2006:** An unknown female bomber removed her suicide vest when she was denied access into a Baghdad courthouse and left it outside the building. Nine people were killed and dozens wounded when it exploded.

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### ***Muriel Degauque***

- ❑ **November 9, 2005:** Using a vehicle-borne IED (**VBIED**), thirty-eight year old (38) Belgium **Roman Catholic turned Muslim convert** attacked a U.S. Army patrol near Baquba, Iraq, wounding several but killing only herself.
- ❑ Considered to be the **FIRST European woman suicide bomber.**
- ❑ Motive remains unclear.
  - **Troubled life including drug use**; considered a “*lost soul*” by family.
  - Possibly sought spirituality and attracted to exotic culture.
- ❑ Married first a Turkish man, then divorced and **married Algerian *Issam Goris*** known to Belgium police as **a radical Islamist.**
- ❑ Moved to Morocco with Algerian husband where she learned Arabic and studied the Koran; adopted **ultra-conservative Islamic beliefs.**
- ❑ Belgian gov’t alerted U.S./Iraqi authorities of couples’ intentions and a BOLO was issued but too late to stop *Degauque’s* attack.
- ❑ Husband *Goris* was shot & killed by U.S. forces before he could attack, however.

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### ***Sajida Mubarak Atrous al-Rishawi***

- ❑ **November 9, 2005:** Thirty-five year old (35) Iraqi was part of a **team of suicide bombers** that attacked three **U.S.-based hotels** in Amman, Jordan.
- ❑ **November 5:** Using **fraudulent passports**, group entered Jordan from Iraq.
- ❑ *Al-Rishawi* and her husband, *Ali Hussein Ali al-Shamari* targeted a Radisson hotel ballroom where hundreds of guests, including children were attending a wedding reception. The fathers of both the bride and groom died in the attack (above).
- ❑ Her explosive belt packed with **RDX** failed to detonate and she was later captured by Jordanian authorities at a “safe house” in the city.
- ❑ Her husband successfully detonated his device and 38 people were killed; a total of fifty-seven (57) died in attacks against the three hotels.
- ❑ *Al-Rishawi* was from the volatile Anbar province town of Ramadi, west of Baghdad and is thought to be the sister of *Mubarak Atrous al-Rishawi*, right-hand man to the “late” Al Qaeda in Iraq leader, *Abu Musab al-Zarqawi*. Her brother was killed by U.S. Marines in fighting around the terrorist stronghold of Fallujah, Iraq.
- ❑ **Al Qaeda in Iraq claimed responsibility** for the suicide bombings.
- ❑ **September 21, 2006:** Sentenced to death along with six other conspirators in Jordan.

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## Some Pre-Attack Indicators



### FBI Suicide Bomber Indicators (A.L.E.R.T.)

- A**lone and nervous.
- L**oose and/or bulky (inappropriate) clothing.
- E**xposed wires (possibly through a sleeve).
- R**igid mid-section (possible explosives device location on the person).
- T**ightened hands (person may be holding a detonation device).

### Additional Indicators

- Subject may be carrying luggage, handbag, or backpack.
- May be seen repeatedly patting his/her body, as if double-checking for something.
- No obvious emotions or displays nervousness and profuse perspiration.
- Hesitant mumbling (such as praying).
- Subject appears focused and vigilant, maybe even trance-like.
- Walking with deliberation or running in a suspicious manner.
- Subject does not respond to authoritative commands or direct salutations.
- Appears to avoid security forces.
- Makes attempts to blend in with a crowd i.e., suspicious movements or wearing disguises. Females may dress in Western clothing and wear makeup, ex. Palestinian and Chechen female bombers.
- Reluctant to have bags inspected at a security checkpoint.

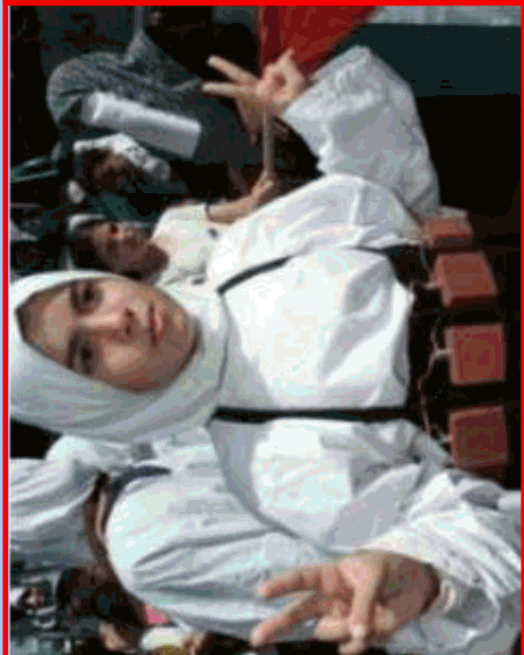
### Possible Countermeasures

- Call or shout a voice command from a distance to break the suspect's concentration.
- If possible, physically impede subject's movements.
- Ensure physical control before questioning, especially the subject's hands.
- VIGILANCE IS THE KEY!!!**

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# TOMORROW??



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# QUESTIONS?!