

Egypt Security Watch
Monthly Briefing
November 2014



Notable Developments

The month of November saw significant developments in Egypt's security situation, in terms of both activities from known terror groups, terror attacks, and in counter-terror operations. This briefing highlights these notable developments, as well as trends in both terror attacks and counter-terror operations.

Terror Groups' Notable Developments

In the most significant development in the Sinai, **Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis (ABM) pledged its allegiance to the Islamic State** on November 10, rebranding itself as "Wilayat Sinai" (a reference to its status as the Egyptian "province" of the Islamic State).

Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi accepted the pledge of bay'a, and jihadist media forums circulated a plea from jihadist "Abu Musab al Gharib" **encouraging fighters to travel to the peninsula to secure the caliphate.**

Wilayat Sinai (ABM) claimed their **first killing of an American**, oil worker William Henderson. The group published a social media statement featuring pictures of his identification, but with scant details about his death.

In a style similar to reports filed by Islamic State "provinces" in Iraq and Syria, **Wilayat Sinai (ABM) published two bulletins accounting for their activities in November**; in these publications they claimed ten attacks, including the **first claimed attacks outside of the Sinai Peninsula** since May. (See Figure 3, below)

On November 14, Wilayat Sinai (ABM) published a 30-minute video, "Sawla" ("Attack"). The video featured advanced production capacity indicating prior **outside collaboration and access to Islamic State resources.** The video depicted the group executing the October 24 attack that killed over 30 security personnel, among other mass killings.

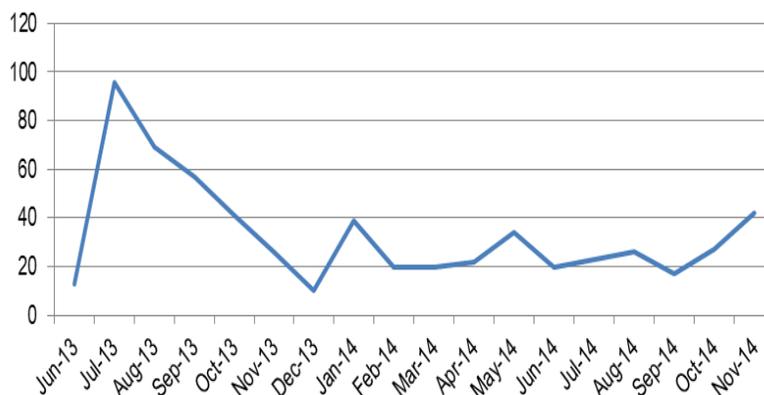
On November 27, Wilayat Sinai released a second video that showed children, horribly maimed or killed by purported airstrikes. The group alleged that these **strikes were conducted by Israeli drones operating in Sinai.**

Ajnad Misr, a terror group operating in Egypt's mainland, also **released a video documenting seven previously claimed attacks** dating from April 2014. All attacks occurred in the greater Cairo area.

Terror Attacks Trend Report

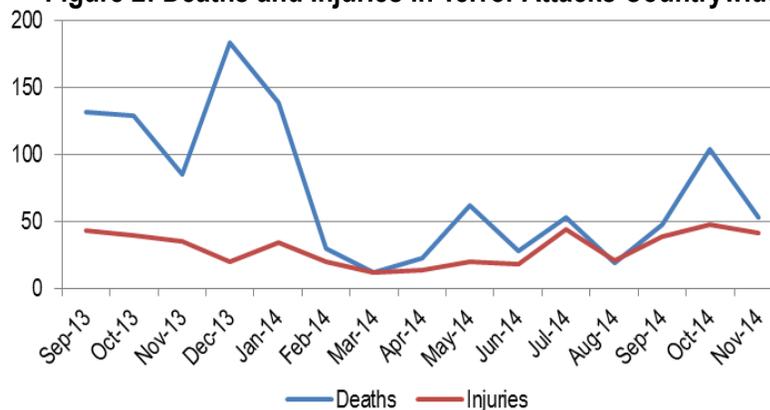
Despite intensifying counter-terror operations, the **number of terror attacks increased from October to November by 56%.** November saw 42 attacks, the most in any month since September 2013. (Figure 1)

Figure 1: Number of Attacks Countrywide



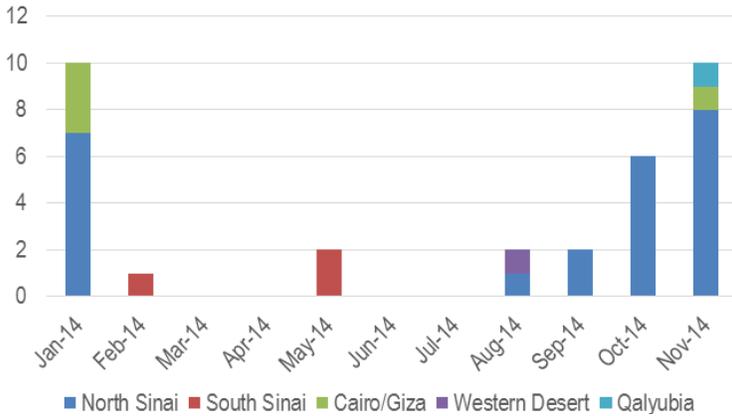
Casualties did not increase on pace with the number of attacks. October saw a high casualty count due to the October 24 Sinai bombing (the deadliest in Egypt in nearly a decade). Still, **November was well below the monthly average for the year prior**; 41 died and 53 were injured in Egypt in terror attacks. (Figure 2)

Figure 2: Deaths and Injuries in Terror Attacks Countrywide



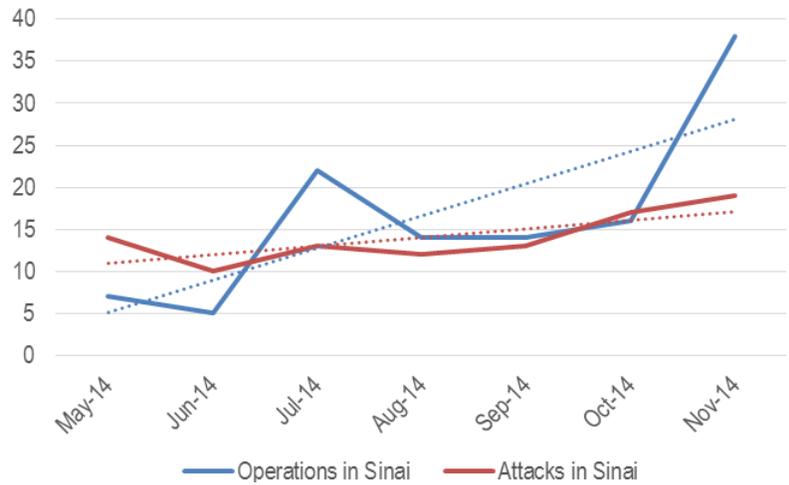
With ten attacks in November, **Wilayat Sinai (ABM) claimed the most attacks since January 2014**, with two of these taking place outside of the North Sinai province (in Cairo and Qalyubia).

Figure 3: Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis/Wilayat Sinai Claimed Attacks



Counter-terror operations continued in the Sinai Peninsula. Security forces completed the clearing of a 500 meter buffer zone on the Sinai-Gaza border. Additionally, **security forces conducted 48 distinct counter-terror operations, resulting in the deaths of 103 alleged terrorists.** (Figure 5)

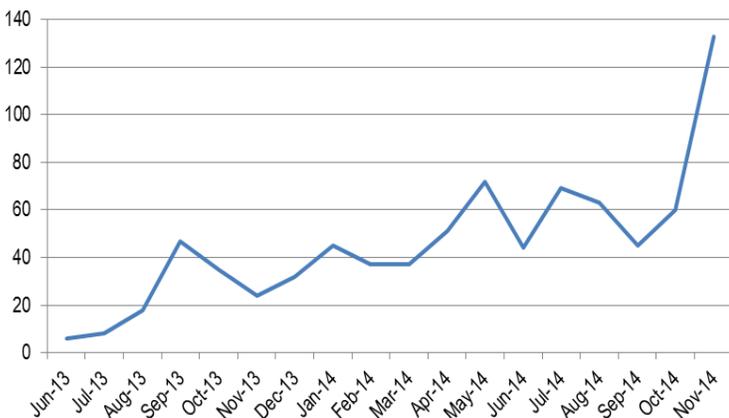
Figure 5: Terror Attacks and Counter-terror Operations (Sinai Peninsula)



Counter-terror Operations Trend Report

Counter-terror operations increased significantly in November over past months. With the execution of **133 distinct counter-terror operations**, November was the most active month on this front since at least before 2010. (Figure 4)

Figure 4: Number of Operations Countrywide



839 alleged terrorists were arrested in November 2014 – over 60% of these arrests took place in the North Sinai province. 27% of the arrests countrywide were carried out because of suspected affiliation with the Muslim Brotherhood, including **five instances involving the arrest of minors.** (Figure 6)

Figure 6: Number of Arrests in Counter-terror Operations Countrywide

