In a global security environment, there is a growing risk that unrest or a security problem in a single country or region could immediately develop into a security challenge or destabilizing factor for the entire international community.

The conflicts occurring in recent years in various parts of the world are not necessarily of the same nature. An array of problems is at the root of conflicts, including ethnicity, religion, territory, and resources. The impacts of climate change and other global issues have also been suggested as causes of conflicts. Conflicts can take diverse forms, from armed conflicts, to the continuation of military standoffs. Furthermore, human rights violations, refugees, hunger, poverty, and other consequences of conflicts can have impacts affecting not only the countries in the conflict but also a wider area. In many cases, areas where civil wars or regional conflicts have created or expanded a governance vacuum have become a hotbed of the activities of terrorist organizations. Among them are organizations which operate across national borders and regions, which continue to pose imminent security challenges to the international community. The presence of states with weak governance has made it difficult to tackle risks such as the explosive outbreak and spread of infectious diseases.

Particularly in states with unstable political situations and weak governance, which are often found in the Middle East and Africa, border control is inadequate, leading to cross-border movement of terrorist organization members and weapons, as well as narcotics that are a funding source for terrorist organizations, posing threats to the region. Furthermore, this region has seen renewed fighting even after a temporary ceasefire is achieved pursuant to a peace agreement or other arrangements between the parties in conflict. The “Arab Spring,” which grew into a full-scale movement in 2011, encouraged transitions to democratic systems in countries in the Middle East and North Africa. However, political turmoil associated with the change in government created clashes between tribes, religions, and political parties, and these clashes have still not ended in some countries. The underlying factors are deemed to include public dissatisfaction, especially among young people, with economic and social disparities as well as with high unemployment rates. Furthermore, in developed countries, such as the United States and European countries, there has been a rise in young people who sympathize with the extremism of international terrorist organizations, including the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) that has gained strength in Iraq and Syria, against the backdrop of dissatisfaction towards estrangement from society, discrimination, poverty, and disparities. In an increasing number of cases, these people have joined the activities of international terrorist organizations as fighters and conduct “home-grown” and “lone-wolf” terrorism activities in their countries, which in turn have heightened the risk of terrorism in developed countries. As evidenced by the simultaneous terrorist attacks in Paris in November 2015 and the
act of terrorism in Jakarta in January 2014, the global expansion of such extremism has resulted in growing terror threats not only in the Middle East and Africa but also in the rest of the world. In countries such as Mali and Central African Republic, the people’s dissatisfaction with politics and economics under their weak governance systems as well as clashes over territories and resources have caused conflicts. The rapid, vast outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in West Africa in 2014 threatened the stability of the affected countries and spread the disease to other countries including Western nations, shedding light on the seriousness of the risk posed by the spread of infectious diseases.

It has become increasingly important for the international community to examine the shape of tailored international frameworks and involvement measures, and seek out appropriate responses for addressing these complicated and diverse destabilizing factors. The end of the Cold War was accompanied by rising expectations for peacekeeping efforts, and, as a result, many U.N. PKOs have been established. Their missions have recently come to include a wide range of activities including those by civilians and police, encompassing such traditional roles as the monitoring of a ceasefire or military withdrawal as well as the monitoring of disarmament, security sector reform, the monitoring of elections and administrative activities, and humanitarian assistance (e.g., return of refugees to their homeland). In this situation, the importance of the roles related to the protection of civilians and peace-building increases, and it leads to activities with a stronger mandate authorized under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter. At the same time, U.N. PKOs face challenges including the availability of required equipment, the protection of personnel safety, and the improvement of troop capabilities. Furthermore, the entire international community is undertaking various efforts in response to the rise of ISIL, including the adoption of a U.N. Security Council resolution, and their activities are sometimes handed over to U.N. PKO later. The international community also offers recommendations and training assistance and supplies equipment from a long-term perspective, prompting African nations to help themselves so that they can enhance local government organizations and improve the capabilities of their military and security organizations. Furthermore, the entire international community is undertaking various efforts in response to the rise of ISIL, including the adoption of a U.N. Security Council resolution to prevent the international movement of terrorist fighters, military actions such as the United States-led Coalition’s airstrikes on ISIL, and humanitarian assistance by partner countries that support the counter-terrorism effort.

2. Current Situation of Regional Conflicts and the International Response

(1) Political Turmoil in Syria and the Rise of ISIL

In Syria, since March 2011, the government has mobilized military and security forces in response to the outbreak of anti-government demonstrations across the country calling for democratization and the resignation of President Assad. As a result, the clashes between the military and the opposition parties have continued to take place throughout the country. Taking advantage of President Assad. As a result, the clashes between the military and the opposition parties have continued to take place throughout the country.

5 See “3 Trends in Global Terrorism” for the recent state of international terrorism, including the simultaneous terrorist attacks in Paris.
6 As of the end of June 2016, 16 U.N. PKOs are operating globally, including about 104,000 military and police personnel and about 16,000 civilian personnel (as of the end of July 2015) from 123 countries.
7 “A New Partnership Agenda Charting a New Horizon For U.N. Peacekeeping” was published in July 2009 to evaluate major policy and strategic dilemmas faced by U.N. PKOs and discuss solutions among stakeholders.
8 The world’s largest regional organization comprised of 54 countries and regions in Africa. It was established in July 2002 by reorganizing the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) (established in May 1963). Its objectives include achieving the integration and solidarity of African nations and people, accelerating political, economic, and social integration of Africa, and promoting peace, security, and stability in Africa.
9 For example, organizations such as the United Nations and the European Union are implementing initiatives in countries including Somalia and Mali.
10 According to an announcement by the U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator in January 2016, the clashes in Syria killed more than 250,000 people. Since the start of the Syrian civil war, over 11 million people have become refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).
11 In addition, Syria faces the issue of the Assad administration’s use of chemical weapons. In August 2013, when the United States, which called for a military response to the use of chemical weapons in Syria, and Russia, which sought to place Syrian chemical weapons under the control of the international community, were at odds, chemical weapons were used in the suburb of Syria’s capital city Damascus, which killed many civilians. Following this attack, U.S. President Barack Obama, who had stated previously that the use of chemical weapons would cross a red line, assessed that the Syrian government used chemical weapons. The President stated he decided that military action should be taken against the Assad administration, further heightening military tension. In September 2013, following negotiations between U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov of Russia, the United States and Russia agreed on a framework which demanded that the Syrian government declare its chemical weapons stockpile as well as accept international inspections, aimed at the complete destruction of Syria’s chemical weapons. The Syrian government submitted a list of its chemical weapons stockpile to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and took responses which were set out in the framework, including accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention. Due to these responses, military action by the United States and other countries against the Assad administration was averted. Pursuant to OPCW decisions and related U.N. Security Council resolution, international efforts were made to destroy Syria’s chemical weapons. The work to destroy the weapons, which was carried out on the U.S. government’s transport vessel Cape Ray, was completed in August 2014.
# List of Peacekeeping Operations

Note: According to the United Nations (as of the end of June 2016).

## Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>Date Established</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)</td>
<td>Sep 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire (UNOCI)</td>
<td>Apr 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)</td>
<td>Jul 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)</td>
<td>Apr 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Middle East

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>Date Established</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)</td>
<td>May 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)</td>
<td>Mar 1978</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>Date Established</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)</td>
<td>Jan 1949</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Europe/CIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>Date Established</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)</td>
<td>Mar 1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)</td>
<td>Jun 1999</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## The Americas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>Date Established</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)</td>
<td>Jun 2004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
of the instability after the “Arab Spring” democratic movement, al-Nusrah Front, designated by the United States as a terrorist organization related to Al Qaeda, and ISIL have gained strength in Syria.

Meanwhile, following the withdrawal of U.S. Forces in December 2011, the security situation in Iraq deteriorated rapidly against the backdrop of political feuds and religious confrontations. In January 2014, ISIL, which had increasingly gained strength from its stronghold in Syria, seized the unstable situation in Iraq to begin invading areas in western Iraq, and occupied Fallujah, a city west of the capital city of Baghdad. In June 2014, ISIL took control of the second largest city, Mosul, in northern Iraq. Following this, ISIL’s leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, a self-proclaimed “caliph,” unilaterally declared the establishment of the “Islamic State” and has called on Islam followers throughout the world to pledge their allegiance to him.

(2) Trends in Military Operations against ISIL

In August 2014, ISIL launched an offensive against the Kurdish Autonomous Region in northern Iraq, and made advances towards Erbil where the U.S. Consulate and other facilities are located. Based on this situation, the United States and other countries began airstrikes on ISIL in order to protect U.S. citizens in Iraq, among other purposes. In an address on the U.S. strategy for ISIL delivered in September 2014, President Obama stated that the military action would be extended to cover Syria.

The Coalition’s military action in Iraq includes providing education, training, and providing equipment, as well as extending military supports, such as operation assessments and advice, to the forces fighting the ground war, including the Iraqi Security Forces (including paramilitary troops and the police, in addition to the Iraqi forces) and the Kurdistan regional government’s military organization known as Peshmerga. At the same time, in coordination with its own airstrikes and relevant forces, the Coalition works to thwart the advancement of ISIL and recapture some of the strategic areas. Although the Iraqi Security Forces were reportedly plagued with problems such as weak command functions and low morale, primarily among the Iraqi forces, they appear to have improved their operational capabilities, through the Coalition’s education and training, among other means. In contrast, the Peshmerga has experience with the Iraq War. The Peshmerga is considered to have relatively advanced training and a functioning chain of command, and plays a critical role in the military action against ISIL. In April 2015, with the support of Shiite militias and others, the Iraqi Security Forces succeeded in recapturing Tikrit, a key area that continues onto Mosul. In November and December 2015, the Iraqi forces recaptured Sinjar and Ramadi, key points for transit between Syria and Iraq, from ISIL. In March 2016, furthermore, the Iraqi Security Forces launched an operation to recapture Mosul and strengthened an offensive in the areas surrounding the city. In June, the Iraqi Security Forces recaptured Fallujah, which is symbolic as the first Iraqi city where ISIL took control and established a foothold. In this way, ISIL is gradually being driven back in Iraq.

In Syria, meanwhile, Al Qaeda affiliate al-Nusrah Front and other opposition parties expanded their control to the vicinity of Latakia, a northwestern Syrian city where the majority of residents are supporters of the Assad administration, from around March 2015 and advanced close to Latakia in September. Under such circumstances, Russia sent its air force and other units to Syria, launching airstrikes in an apparent bid to support the survival of the Assad administration and coordi...
Against opposition parties.

recovered their strength and enhanced their offensive
have weakened, and the Syrian government forces have
military intervention, Syrian opposition parties and ISIL
cooperation with Iraq and Iran. As a result of the Russian
supporting the Assad administration through information
Syria.

34

U.S. Secretary of Defense Carter stated that the United States cannot commit to completing the military action against ISIL in three years (March 11, 2015, U.S. Defense Secretary Carter’s testimony to the

33

U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, “Worldwide Threat Assessment 2015” (January 2015). In Egypt, Ansar Bayt al Maqdis has been active on the Sinai Peninsula. See Part I, Chapter 3, Section 1, Paragraph 2,

32

As of June 2014, in addition to branches that the ISIL core had approved in Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, Russia, Pakistan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen, self-declared ISIL
branches are deemed to exist in Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines, India, France and Belgium.

29

In the airstrikes in Syria, airstrike were also conducted against the Khorasan group which was considered to threaten U.S. interests along with ISIL.

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For example, in January 2015, ISIL announced that armed groups in Afghanistan and Pakistan swore allegiance to ISIL and that it would name this region ISIL Khorasan Province.

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In addition to airstrikes with strategic bombers, Russia has used cruisers deployed in the Caspian Sea and Kilo-class submarines deployed off Syria for Kalibr cruise missile attacks.

26

In addition to airstrikes with strategic bombers, Peshmerga, the military organization of the Kurdistan regional government, arrived in Ayn al-Arab via Turkey. In addition, forces opposed to the Syrian regime, such as the Free
Syrian Army, reportedly participated in the operation against ISIL in Ayn al-Arab.

25

Russia dispatched Su-24, Su-25, Su-30 and other fixed-wing fighters, as well as Mi-24, Ka-52 and other attack helicopters, among other aircraft, to Latakia.

24

In response to ISIL’s attacks, Peshmerga, the military organization of the Kurdistan regional government, arrived in Ayn al-Arab via Turkey. In addition, forces opposed to the Syrian regime, such as the Free
Syrian Army, reportedly participated in the operation against ISIL in Ayn al-Alab.

23

The government forces have recaptured 9,000-9,200 km² or about 30% of the total ISIL-controlled area in Syria (April 2016 U.S. Central Command announcement).

22

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21

U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, “Worldwide Threat Assessment 2015” (January 2015). In Egypt, Ansar Bayt al Maqdis has been active on the Sinai Peninsula. See Part I, Chapter 3, Section 1, Paragraph 2, Item 7
"Foreigners in Afghanistan: "Situation in Egypt.” For ISIL operations in Libya, see Part I, Chapter 3, Section 1, Paragraph 2, Item 3 “Situation in Libya.”

20

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19

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, airstrikes have destroyed about 1,620 oil facilities and more than 7,800 bastions (as of May 31, 2016).

18

Anti-ISIL military operations by the Washington-led Coalition and Russia have fragmented ISIL’s command and control functions and ISIL members’ morale through the killing of ISIL fighters, including commanders, and
airstrikes on oil facilities. As a result, ISIL’s governance is believed to have been compromised. It has been noted that ISIL has been gradually driven back and weakened in Iraq and Syria. As ISIL has lost areas under its control in Iraq and Syria, ISIL fighters are feared to be spreading outside these countries. An early end to the Syrian civil war, the enhancement of the Iraqi forces and many other challenges need to be solved to eliminate ISIL from Iraq and Syria. Future trends involving ISIL are still uncertain.

17

The United States, the European Union (EU), and other countries are requesting President Assad to step down

Since September 2014, the Coalition, including the United States, has implemented airstrikes on ISIL in Syria. However, the challenge was how to nurture ground forces that can counter ISIL. Under such circumstances, the Syrian Democratic Forces, including Kurdish forces controlling areas in Northern Syria near Syria’s border with Turkey, approached Ar-Raqqah, known as an effective foothold for ISIL, in May 2016. The Syrian Democratic Forces are conducting ground operations in coordination with Coalition airstrikes. Coupled with the Syrian government forces’ action to recover control from opposition parties, ISIL is being driven back in Syria as well as Iraq.

(3) Future Outlook on ISIL

ISIL has been extending its influence not only in Iraq and Syria but also in other countries, reportedly having 38 branches in a total of 13 countries. Through cooperation with local terrorist organizations and other measures, ISIL is deemed to be building bases in regions where state control is insufficient.

Anti-ISIL military operations by the Washington-led Coalition and Russia have fragmented ISIL’s command and control functions and ISIL members’ morale through the killing of ISIL fighters, including commanders, and airstrikes on oil facilities. As a result, ISIL’s governance is believed to have been compromised. It has been noted that ISIL has been gradually driven back and weakened in Iraq and Syria. As ISIL has lost areas under its control in Iraq and Syria, ISIL fighters are feared to be spreading outside these countries. An early end to the Syrian civil war, the enhancement of the Iraqi forces and many other challenges need to be solved to eliminate ISIL from Iraq and Syria. Future trends involving ISIL are still uncertain.

(4) Syrian Peace Process

The United States, the European Union (EU), and other countries are requesting President Assad to step down
and are imposing sanctions against Syria, including an oil embargo. They have also supported the Syrian National Coalition, established as an opposition party in November 2012. In January 2014, while the first direct peace talks between the Assad administration and the opposition parties were held under the mediation of the U.N., the talks achieved no concrete progress. In January 2015, peace talks on Syria were convened for the first time in about one year with the mediation of Russia. However, the Syrian National Coalition and other groups did not participate. The talks failed to achieve concrete progress. In June 2015, individual talks between Staffan de Mistura, U.N. Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Syria, and relevant countries commenced in Geneva. While both the Assad administration and the opposition parties participated in the talks, they fell short of reaching any agreement.

In the absence of progress in the peace process, the International Syria Support Group (ISSG), including the United States, Russia and the EU, met in Vienna in November 2015 to discuss the realization of an early ceasefire and a government transition process and reached a concrete agreement including a government transition schedule. In December, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 2254 as a roadmap for the peace process. In February 2016, the United States and Russia agreed on a cessation of hostilities other than those against terrorist organizations such as ISIL and al-Nusrah Front in Syria. Later, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 2268 on the cessation of hostilities in Syria. However, ceasefire violations have been identified mainly in Aleppo, northern Syria. The future of Syria, including a possible final end to the Syrian civil war, thus remains uncertain.

(5) Growing Number of Refugees and their Impact on Europe
Against the backdrop of the unrest in the Middle East Situation, a growing number of refugees and immigrants mainly from the Middle East and North Africa have recently fled to Europe mainly via a route through the Mediterranean Sea or a route that passes through Turkey and Greece heading north on the Balkan Peninsula. In 2015 alone, more than 1 million refugees and immigrants fled to Europe, with the international community, including Europe, struggling with how to respond.

The refugee problem has led to increased terror threats in Europe, as ISIL and other terrorists have concealed themselves among the refugees, flowing into Europe and joining potential terrorists in various parts of Europe to form networks. The terrorists who attacked Paris in November 2015 included at least one terrorist who was identified as having hidden among refugees and immigrants to enter Europe. European countries thus face various challenges including the acceptance of many refugees, the prevention of ISIL fighters’ flow into Europe, the crackdown on refugee smuggling boats and the rescue of refugees on smuggling boats that capsize in the Mediterranean Sea.

In a bid to resolve problems brought about by the rapid influx of refugees and immigrants, the United Kingdom, France and other European countries are making diplomatic efforts such as engaging in the Syrian peace process and participating in military operations against ISIL to stabilize Syria and Iraq.  

Situation in Yemen

(1) Political Turmoil
In Yemen, anti-government demonstrations from February 2011 following the Arab Spring democratic movement, as well as international pressure, led to a peaceful government transition from then President Ali Abdullah Saleh to new President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi. President Hadi implemented the national dialogue process. Nevertheless, from August 2014, demonstrations led by the opposition insurgent group Houthis, based in northern Yemen, occurred in the capital city of Sana’a. In September 2014, clashes broke out between the Houthi militia and Yemeni public security forces, leading to the Houthis’ occupation of key government buildings in the city. Following an armed clash that occurred in January 2015, President Hadi and others submitted their letters of resignation, creating further tension in the situation. In February 2015, the Houthis forced the dissolution of the parliament and announced the establishment of a transitional national council and a presidential council.

35 U.N. Security Council Resolution 2254 calls for (1) establishing inclusive and non-sectarian governance and setting a schedule and process for drafting a new constitution within six months, and (2) holding free and fair elections, pursuant to the new constitution, within 18 months.
36 However, it has also been pointed out that Russian airstrikes have resulted in increasing the number of refugees and immigrants.
37 In April 2011, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait established in 1981 for their coordination, integration and cooperation in all fields including defense and economic policies, proposed a GCC initiative including a clause that the president would avoid indictment in exchange for transferring the post to the vice president.
38 The Houthis are followers of the Zaydi branch of Shiite Islam and are based in Saada governorate in northern Yemen. In 2004, the Houthis staged an armed uprising as an anti-government group, and an armed conflict broke out with the Yemeni military.
(2) Military Intervention in Yemen and Islamic Extremists’ Expansion of Power

Later, President Hadi withdrew his resignation and based his government in Aden in southern Yemen. Meanwhile, the Houthis advanced into the Red Sea’s coastal areas and key cities between the capital city of Sana’a and Aden. In response to this situation, President Hadi’s faction requested the support of Arab countries. Then, in March 2015, a Saudi Arabia-led coalition launched airstrikes against the Houthis in the so-called Operation Decisive Storm. In this operation, Saudi Arabia allegedly conducted airstrikes against the bases of the Houthis and the Yemeni military that support the Houthis, destroying ballistic missiles and other assets. Nonetheless, there were civilian and other casualties in Yemen and near the Saudi Arabian border, attributed to their involvement in the exchange of rocket fire and airstrikes, prompting the international community to express strong concerns to both sides. In April 2015, Operation Renewal of Hope was launched with the aim of settling the conflict through political dialogue. In addition, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 2216, implementing initiatives to bring the situation to a close. Nevertheless, the Houthis continued attacks on border areas in Saudi Arabia, while Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries continued airstrikes against the Houthis.

Meanwhile, Yemen has become a foothold for Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), which is based in southern Yemen. Amid the politically unstable situation following the Houthis’ takeover of government, Islamic extremists gained strength, with ISIL setting up a branch in Yemen and conducting terror attacks on key government officials and Shiite mosques. AQAP and ISIL have taken advantage of the confusion to recruit fighters and gained strength, creating a new matter of concern.

(3) Trends in Peace Talks

Although ceasefires and peace talks have been implemented under mediation by the United Nations since June 2015, no final peace agreement has been reached. Some observers pointed out that the recent confrontation between Iran and Saudi Arabia impeded progress in peace talks. In April 2016, however, a ceasefire took effect again, paving the way for peace talks to resume. Peace talks, though suspended intermittently for the reason of ceasefire violations, have continued.

Situation in Libya

(1) Collapse of the Gaddafi Regime

The anti-government demonstrations that erupted in February 2011 spread throughout Libya, leading the Gaddafi regime to crush the demonstrations by force. In response, a multinational force led by the United States, the United Kingdom, and France commenced military action. In October 2011, the National Transitional Council consisting of anti-Gaddafi forces announced the death of Colonel Gaddafi and declared the liberation of all of Libya. In July 2012, elections for a General National Congress were held. However, progress has not been made in the rehabilitation of the military and public security. Militia and tribal leaders exert strong influence, and while receiving their support, secular and Islamic groups struggle for power. In March 2014, a no-confidence motion was passed against Prime Minister Zeidan. In June 2014, elections for the Council of Representatives were held. Nonetheless, confrontation between Islamic and secular groups intensified. Consequently, Libya became fragmented with two assemblies existing in parallel – the Islamic groups’ General National Congress based in the capital city of Tripoli and the secular groups’...
Council of Representatives based in Tobruk in eastern Libya which has the support of the United States and other countries. In December 2015, the United Nations mediated an agreement to form a national consensus cabinet. In March 2016, the national unified government entered Tripoli, launching a process to establish an administration. Given many challenges including the creation of a security force, the national unified government is expected to face problems in establishing domestic governance and security.

(2) Islamic Extremists' Expansion of Power

Amid the political instability, Islamic extremists have gained strength in Libya. In December 2014, the U.S. African Force pointed out that there was an ISIL training camp in eastern Libya, indicating that the ISIL camp was kept under its surveillance. From January 2015, ISIL-related organizations in Libya conducted a series of terrorist attacks. In response, the Egyptian and Libyan governments carried out anti-ISIL retaliatory airstrikes. ISIL has three branches in Libya now, with the number of its fighters almost doubling from the previous year to about 6,000. The ISIL branches in Libya are considered the most developed ones. Based in Sirte, in particular, they have allegedly been gaining strength mainly through attacks on coastal oil facilities. Under such circumstances, a large number of refugees and immigrants from North Africa, including Libya, have been using smuggling boats to land in Europe. It has been pointed out that ISIL fighters have concealed themselves among these refugees and immigrants. In May 2016, a ministerial meeting supporting the national unified government came up with a policy of easing an embargo on lethal weapons to fight against ISIL. The international community is expected more than ever to take anti-ISIL initiatives in Libya.

Situation in Afghanistan

(1) Trends after U.S. Terrorist Attacks

In Afghanistan, following the so-called 9.11 terrorist attacks in the United States, Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) that the U.S. Forces launched in November 2001 has been engaged in the mop-up operation of the Taliban and other groups. Furthermore, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) have conducted security duties. These efforts have been reducing the Taliban’s assault capabilities. Nevertheless, the Taliban allegedly maintains the capability to conduct intermittent attacks. In September 2015, the Taliban occupied provincial government, police headquarters and central government office buildings in Kunduz, northern Afghanistan, regaining strength.

In September 2014, the Ghani administration was inaugurated based on the results of the presidential elections in Afghanistan in April and June 2014, putting an end to problems left by the previous Karzai administration regarding the stationing of foreign forces in Afghanistan.

(2) Security Situation after Completion of ISAF Mission

In December 2014, ISAF’s mission was completed. In January 2015, the Resolute Support Mission (RSM) was launched, which primarily provides education, training, and advice under the leadership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Additionally, the U.S. Forces, while providing training to Afghan forces as a member of NATO, implements Operation Freedom Sentinel (OFS) against terrorism. In October 2015, given the deterioration of the security situation in Afghanistan, U.S. President Obama announced that the U.S. troop

49 In September 2012, an Islamic extremist group attacked the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, killing four Americans, including the Ambassador. In January 2014, the U.S. Department of State designated Ansar al-Sharia, an offshoot of Al Qaeda that is deemed to have been involved in this incident, as a terrorist organization.

50 In January 2015, an armed group attacked an upscale hotel in the capital city of Tripoli, killing at least 13 people. ISIL’s “Tripoli Province” claimed responsibility for the attack.

51 In September 2015, the Taliban occupied provincial office buildings in Kunduz, northern Afghanistan, regaining strength.

52, 53 For refugees, see Paragraph 1 “Situations in Syria and Iraq in Response to the Rise of ISIL” and Part I, Chapter 2, Section 8 “Europe.”

54 The Taliban has vowed to continue fighting until foreign forces withdraw completely.

55 The Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) between the United States and Afghanistan, which sets forth the legal framework of the stationing of the U.S. Forces in 2015 and beyond, and the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) for the support mission in Afghanistan led by NATO forces in 2015 and beyond were signed before being approved by both the upper and lower houses of Afghanistan’s parliament in November 2015.

56 As of March 2016, about 13,000 troops were participating in the RSM. Based in Kabul, they were active in five locations (Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, Kundahar, and Laghman). See Part I, Chapter 2, Section 8 for NATO’s tasks for the RSM.
strength in Afghanistan would be kept at about 9,800 for 2016 before being reduced to 5,500 from 2017. In June 2016, however, U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter indicated that the U.S. Forces would expand its missions in Afghanistan to cover (1) close air support to increase firepower and (2) accompanying and advising Afghan ground and air units. As there are destabilization factors including the Taliban’s expansion of influences, there is a possibility that U.S. Forces may again expand engagement in Afghanistan. In July 2016, President Obama reaffirmed the policy of maintaining the troop strength at around 8,400 through the end of his administration.

As ISAF completed its mission in December 2015, its security authorities in Afghanistan were transferred to ANDSF, which is appreciated as having a certain level of security capability in drafting operational plans and cracking down on armed insurgents. The Afghan Ministry of Defense decided on a new national military strategy in August 2015, implementing various initiatives. As ANDSF has problems with logistics, morale, air capabilities and leadership, the Taliban is expanding its own areas of control. Meanwhile, ISIL has established a Khorasan branch in Afghanistan and its vicinity and claimed responsibility for a terror attack in Jalalabad in April 2015. However, its attacks in Afghanistan have been sporadic, leading observers to view ISIL as posing no major threats to Afghanistan.

Afghanistan faces not only security problems but also a plethora of challenges related to reconstruction, including preventing corruption, enhancing the rule of law, strengthening the crackdown on narcotics trafficking, and promoting regional development. Ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan is a common challenge of the international community, which requires continuing engagement with the country.

**Situation of the Middle East Peace Efforts**

In the Middle East, there have been four wars between Israel and Arab countries since the foundation of Israel in 1948. Meanwhile, a peace process between Israel and Palestine made temporary progress including the 1993 Oslo Agreement, but has fallen short of achieving peace.

In July 2013, Middle East peace talks between Israel and Palestine resumed for the first time in nearly three years at the strong urging of the United States. Nevertheless, the peace talks had to be discontinued in March to April 2014 owing to various developments, including Israel’s suspension of the release of Palestinian prisoners, Palestine’s international treaty accession applications, and the agreement reached between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) dominated by the Fatah and the Islamic fundamentalist organization Hamas that has effective rule over Palestine and the Gaza Strip to form a national unity cabinet. In this context, in June to July 2014, tensions grew between Israel and Palestine, developing into an armed clash. In July 2014, Israeli forces launched a ground operation. Later in the month, Israel and Palestine agreed to a ceasefire, accepting a request from Egypt to do so.

Meanwhile, in Europe, national parliaments have begun to call for the recognition of a Palestinian state since October 2014. Furthermore, in January 2015, the International Criminal Court (ICC) accepted Palestine’s...
application to accede to the ICC and opened a preliminary examination into whether or not Palestine conducted war crimes.\textsuperscript{67} Palestine officially acceded to the ICC in April 2015. Israel has protested such moves by the international community. In September 2015, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas touched on the potential abolition of the Oslo Agreement in his address to the U.N. General Assembly. Israel-Palestine relations are thus beginning to deteriorate.

As Israel has yet to sign peace treaties with Syria and Lebanon,\textsuperscript{68} the international community needs to take further initiatives.

\section*{Situation in Egypt}

In January 2011, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak’s dictatorship ended in response to anti-government demonstrations under the “Arab Spring” democratization movements.\textsuperscript{69} Mohamed Mursi from the Muslim Brotherhood\textsuperscript{70} was elected as the new president through the presidential election in June 2012. In June 2013, however, large-scale demonstrations demanding the resignation of President Mursi occurred due to an economic impasse and the chasm between Islamic groups and liberal, secular groups, which resulted in a large number of victims from clashes between some demonstrators and groups supporting the President. While this sort of disorder spread in the country, the national forces intervened in July 2013 and dismissed President Mursi, establishing a provisional government. In May 2014, a presidential election was held in line with the roadmap drafted by the provisional government, which addresses the comprehensive democratization process for national reconciliation, and former Defense Minister Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi was elected. In a parliamentary election held from October to December 2015, the “For the Love of Egypt” alliance of groups supporting the Sisi administration’s policies won.\textsuperscript{71}

In response to situations in neighboring countries including Yemen, where tensions are high, meanwhile, Egypt has been proactively procuring military equipment from foreign countries. As Egypt plans to procure two Mistral-class amphibious assault ships\textsuperscript{72} from France, Egyptian Navy troops have reportedly undergone relevant training.

Furthermore, Egypt has enhanced counterterrorism measures, including crackdown operations, in light of the rise in terror attacks by Islamic extremists in the Sinai Peninsula in recent years. Recently, however, ISIL’s Sinai Province\textsuperscript{73} has gained strength, carrying out repeated terror attacks on security forces and other targets. The group is said to have implemented operations based on very advanced, organized plans, including an attack on a coast guard ship in August 2015.\textsuperscript{74}

In October, a Russian jetliner crashed due to the explosion of a bomb set on the aircraft, killing all 224 passengers and crewmembers. Later, ISIL’s Sinai Province claimed responsibility for the incident. It has been pointed out that airport workers supported the ISIL attack. This kind of incident has become a new matter of concern that suggests that the ISIL network has been gradually penetrating into Egypt. In addition to the Sinai Peninsula, terror attacks have occurred in the Egyptian capital of Cairo.\textsuperscript{75} ISIL claimed responsibility for these attacks, indicating that ISIL threats have been spreading not only in the Sinai Peninsula but also in the rest of Egypt.

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{enumerate}
\item In the preliminary examination, the ICC collects evidence, conducts hearings with relevant stakeholders of both parties, among other activities. No deadlines for the preliminary examination are provided in the ICC Rome Statute.
\item Israel and Syria disagree on issues such as the return of the Golan Heights that Israel has occupied since the Third Middle East War. The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) has been deployed in the Golan Heights to observe the implementation of the ceasefire and military disengagement between the two countries. Concerning Israel and Lebanon, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) increased its presence following the 2006 clash between Israel and Hezbollah, a Shiite Muslim organization. Military observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) are also active in this region.
\item A Sunni political organization established in Egypt in 1928 as an organization targeting the general public to “revive Islam.” In the 1950s, it became a target of a clampdown for plotting the assassination of President Gamal Abdel Nasser. However, by the 1970s, the organization became moderate to the extent of conducting political activities through parliament. Meanwhile, extremist organizations were derived, with Muslim Brotherhood serving as the parent organization.
\item It has been pointed out that many winners in the election were those who had been close to the Mubarak administration, including former security and military force executives.
\item In December 2010 after their long negotiations, Russia and France agreed on a contract for Russia to purchase two Mistral-class amphibious assault ships. In response to the Ukraine crisis in 2014, however, the French and Russian governments agreed to cancel the contract in August 2015. As French President Francois Hollande and Egyptian President Sisi agreed later to enhance cooperation in military fields, including counterterrorism, Egypt agreed in principle in September 2015 to procure the two ships. Egypt has also procured MiG-29 fighter aircraft and Ka-52 attack helicopters from Russia.
\item The predecessor of ISIL’s Sinai Province is said to have been Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, an Islamic extremist organization based in the Sinai Peninsula that aimed to overthrow Israel. It is deemed that the organization intensified its terrorism activities targeting Egyptian security authorities following the collapse of the Morsi government in July 2013.
\item According to "Worldwide Threat Assessment 2016" by the U.S. Director of National Intelligence.
\item In June 2015, a terror attack targeted Egypt’s top public prosecutor. In July 2015, a bombing attack occurred near the Italian Consulate General.
\end{enumerate}
\end{footnotesize}
The North-South civil war that continued since 1983 between the government of Sudan, composed of Arab Muslims in the north, and anti-government groups, composed of African Christians in the south, concluded with the establishment of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005 under the mediation of neighboring countries, the United States, and others. As a result of a referendum in accordance with the rules of the CPA in January 2011, the Republic of South Sudan gained independence on July 9, 2011. On the same day, the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) was established with the adoption of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1996 in order to maintain peace and stability, and to support the establishment of an environment contributing to help with the further development of South Sudan.\(^7\) After the independence, Sudan and South Sudan held negotiations over the issues of demarcation, such as the treatment of the Abyei area,\(^8\) the distribution of oil income,\(^7\) and other problems under the mediation of the international community including the AU. The two countries signed a series of agreements regarding security measures in the border area, oil production, and other issues in September 2012 as well as a document specifying an agreement implementation schedule in March 2013.

The President of South Sudan dismissed the Vice President in July 2013, bringing to the surface a political conflict between the two groups. In December of the same year, fighting broke out among the President’s security forces in the capital city of Juba, which evolved into clashes between the pro-President faction (government) and the pro-Vice President faction (anti-government group). Subsequently, following an outbreak of the clashes between the South Sudanese government and the anti-government group, fighting and violent acts targeting specific ethnic groups spread to different areas, resulting in a large number of casualties, refugees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Under these circumstances, on December 24, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 2132 and decided to enhance UNMISS by increasing the maximum military personnel by 5,500. In addition, the “Intergovernmental Authority on Development” (IGAD)\(^8\) assisted by the U.N. and the AU initiated efforts to start dialogues among South Sudanese leaders and enable their reconciliation. The IGAD helped the government and anti-government group to sign an agreement in January 2014 on ceasing hostile activities in South Sudan. As confrontation between the government and anti-government group intensified due to repeated ceasefire violations, however, the U.N. Security Council in May 2014 adopted Resolution 2155, which stipulated that the mandate of UNMISS would be restricted to the four areas of the protection of civilians, monitoring and investigating human rights, creating the conditions for delivery of humanitarian assistance, and supporting the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. Later, IGAD added international organizations (the U.N., AU, and EU), the United States, the United Kingdom, Norway, China, and African countries (South Africa, Chad, Algeria, Nigeria, and Rwanda) to its mediation mission and continued the mediation. In August 2015, the government and anti-government group reached an agreement on the resolution of clashes in South Sudan, including the establishment of a transitional government. In response to the agreement, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 2241 in October 2015 to add support for the implementation of the agreement and other missions to the UNMISS mandate, and Resolution 2252 in December to extend the mandate until the end of July 2016. Later, efforts to implement the agreement were made. On April 29, 2016, a transitional government of national unity was established.

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76 Since around 2003, the Darfur region in the west of Sudan has experienced heightened conflicts between the Arab Sudanese government and African anti-government groups. In response to the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) entered into between the government and some anti-government groups in 2006, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 1769 in order to establish the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in 2007. In 2011, the government and an anti-government group, “Liberation and Justice Movement” (LJM), signed the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD). However, other anti-government groups rejecting the implementation of this document still continue to fight against the government forces.

77 The initial mandate period was one year with up to 7,000 military personnel and up to 900 police personnel. Specifically, according to the initial mandate, UNMISS would: (1) support peace consolidation and thereby foster long-term state building and economic development; (2) support the government of the Republic of South Sudan in exercising its responsibilities for conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution and protect civilians; and (3) support the government of the Republic of South Sudan in developing its capacity to provide security, to establish the rule of law, and to strengthen the security and justice sectors.

78 The Abyei area was one of the bloodiest battlefields during the North-South civil war. Both the North and the South claim sovereignty over the area due to its abundant oil resources. Whether the area belongs to the North or the South remains uncertain, as a referendum that will settle the territorial issue has not yet been held. In May 2011, immediately before the independence of South Sudan, a battle began between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA), which was a major military organization in southern Sudan. In June 2011, the Security Council established by its Resolution 1990 the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) in the region.

79 A vast majority of oil wells are located in South Sudan, while most pipelines and ports for export are located in Sudan.

80 IGAD was established in 1996. Its members are East African nations including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda.
Situation in Somalia

Somalia has been in a state of anarchy since its government collapsed in 1991. In 2005, the “Transitional Federal Government” (TFG) was established as the product of mediation by neighboring countries, but fighting was escalated with opposing groups such as the “Union of Islamic Courts” (UIC). In 2006, Ethiopian forces intervened with assistance from the United States and drove away the UIC. In 2007, the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) was established based on the approval of United Nations. On the other hand, Al Qaeda-related extremist insurgents derived from the UIC, “Al-Shabaab”, gained strength in the central and southern parts of the country and resisted the TFG. In response to this, neighboring countries dispatched troops to AMISOM and other organizations, and seized Kismayo, a major stronghold of Al-Shabaab, in October 2012. In August 2014, AMISOM launched Operation Indian Ocean and successfully recaptured some of the cities in the central and southern areas which had served as the bases of Al-Shabaab. In the following month, Al-Shabaab’s leader Godane was killed by the attacks of the U.S. Forces. In retaliation, Al-Shabaab frequently staged terrorist attacks on AMISOM troops and member states. It has been pointed out that these attacks are designed to restrain AMISOM member countries.

Additionally, in Somalia, especially the northern part of it, there are considered to be outposts for pirates who are active off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden. The international community implements a series of initiatives to enhance the security capabilities of Somalia based on the perception that instability of Somalia triggers the piracy issues. The international community has continued to implement initiatives off the Somali coast, which have contributed to steadily reduce the number of pirate attacks.

Somalia saw the end of transitional governance period of the TFG in August 2012 and convened a new federal assembly. A new president was elected in September 2012 and a new cabinet was formed in November 2012. This newly-integrated government established for the first time in 21 years aims to stabilize the situation in the country.

Situation in Mali

In Mali, an anti-government Tuareg, insurgent group, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), triggered a riot in January 2012, joined by other groups including “Ansar Dine,” an Islamic extremist group. The MNLA conquered northern cities and declared the independence of the northern region in April 2012. Subsequently, Islamic extremist groups including Ansar Dine that expelled the MNLA, “Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa” (MUJAO), and “Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb” (AQIM), governed the country based on the sharia law, aggravating the humanitarian and security situations in northern Mali.

In response to this situation, in December 2012, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 2085 and approved the deployment of the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA), whose tasks included revitalizing the capabilities of Malian troops and security organizations and helping Malian authorities. In January 2013, France dispatched its troops to the country based on a request from the Malian provisional government following the invasion of central and southern regions by terrorists including Ansar Dine. Subsequently, the Malian provisional government recaptured its major cities in the northern part of the country, assisted by the deployment of AFISMA. In April 2013, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 2100 to determine the establishment of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), whose tasks include the stabilization of densely-populated areas.

82 AMISOM is composed mainly of troops from Uganda, Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, and Sierra Leone, and joined by Ethiopia in January 2013. Resolution 2124 decided to increase the number of troops from 17,731 to 22,126.
83 In January 2016, Al-Shabaab attacked an AMISOM base in El Adde, southern Somalia, killing and injuring a large number of people.
84 Al-Shabaab carried out a terror attack on a shopping mall in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi in September 2013 and a terror assault on Garissa University College in Kenya in April 2015.
85 See Part III, Chapter 3, Section 2 for counter-piracy initiatives implemented by the MOD and the SDF and other countries.
86 The Tuareg Tribe is a nomadic ethnic minority in the Sahara Desert. It is pointed out that the tribe has been in conflict with the government of Mali seeking for autonomy in northern Mali.
87 Afisma receives troops from member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), including Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, and Nigeria.
88 In June 2016, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 2295, under which it was decided to extend the mandate period to June 2017, expand the maximum military personnel from the existing 11,240 to 13,290, and increase the maximum civilian police personnel from the existing 1,440 to 1,920. In case MINUSMA is exposed to imminent danger, based on a request from the U.N. Secretary-General, French forces are given authorization to intervene for the purpose of assisting the mission.
and the reconstruction of national capabilities throughout Mali. Based on this resolution, MINUSMA, which had its authority delegated by AFISMA, became operational in July 2013. With the support of MINUSMA, a presidential election was held in a peaceful manner, and a new government was established in September of the same year.  

Later, large-scale clashes broke out between Malian troops and MNLA in May 2014. However, in the same month, a ceasefire agreement was established between the two parties under the mediation of the AU. In July 2014, under the mediation of the U.N., Algeria and other parties, peace talks commenced between the Malian government and the Tuareg insurgent group, including MNLA. In June 2015, the government and the insurgent group reached a comprehensive peace agreement. In response, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 2227 to renew the mandate for MINUSMA. Nonetheless, AQIM and other armed extremist groups have conducted intermittent attacks against MINUSMA units. The situation in the region still remains unstable.

In August 2014, French troops integrated and reorganized its units in Mali, Chad, and Niger in order to deal effectively with the expanding threat of terrorism across the whole Sahel region including Mali, and launched Operation Barkhane covering the entire region. French troops are currently working with MINUSMA and the troops of the countries in the region to stabilize the Sahel region including northern Mali.

**Situation in Burundi**

In Burundi, the majority Hutus, which account for about 85% of the total population, have continued to antagonize the minority Tutsis, which account for about 14% of the population, since its independence from Belgium in 1962. From the independence through 1993, the Tutsis ran the government. In the first presidential election under a multi-party system and the democratic constitution in June 1993, Melchior Ndadaye from the Hutus won and assumed the presidency. As confrontation intensified between the Hutus and the Tutsis, however, President Ndadaye was assassinated by the military led by the Tutsis in October 1993 after serving as the President for only 100 days. In January 1994, Cyprien Ntaryamira from the Hutus was elected by the National Assembly (lower house) as the President. In April 1994, however, an aircraft with President Ntaryamira aboard was shot down in Rwanda and he was killed along with Rwanda President Juvenal Habyarimana also aboard the aircraft. The situation thus remained unstable.

In July 1996, a new government led by Pierre Buyoya from the Tutsis emerged as a result of a coup, prompting the international community to impose sanctions on Burundi. A peace process started in June 1998, and in August 2000, most of the parties to the peace process, excluding anti-government Hutu armed groups, established the Arusha Peace Agreement as a result of mediation led by former South African President Mandela. As a result, a three-year transitional government was inaugurated in November 2001. In the first half of the three years, Pierre Buyoya from the Tutsis served as the President. In the second half, Domitien Ndayizeye from the Hutus served as the President after working as the Vice President in the first half.

While the peace process made progress, anti-government Hutu groups refused to sign the Arusha Agreement and continued to fight against the government. In November 2003, however, the transitional government concluded a ceasefire agreement with Conseil National pour la Défense de la Démocratie-Forces de Défense de la Démocratie (CNDD-FDD), the largest among anti-government Hutu groups. In response to the agreement, CNDD-FDD leader Pierre Nkurunziza joined the Cabinet as the Minister for Good Governance.

In February 2005, a new constitution was established

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89 In June 2013, the provisional government and MNLA reached an agreement on such issues as allowing the northern area to participate in the presidential election and approving the dispatch of Malian troops to northern cities.

90 U.N. Security Council Resolution 2227 added a number of new missions to the mandate, including the deployment of at least 40 military observers to monitor and direct the ceasefire agreement to support the implementation of the ceasefire and peace agreements.

91 In November 2015, a rocket attack was carried out in a MINUSMA station in Kidal, killing two MINUSMA members. Ansar Dine claimed responsibility for the attack.

92 In November 2015, extremists assaulted a hotel in the Malian capital of Bamako, killing 22 hostages.

93 The Sahel region refers to the southern edge of the Sahara Desert. The countries in the Sahel region include Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad.

94 Operation Barkhane consists of a total of around 3,500 personnel. The Operation's headquarters are in Chad, and it has bases in Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso. The operation is executed through the swift deployment of units to various areas. In northern Mali, French troops collaborate with MINUSMA units, and in other areas, collaborate with the military forces of the countries in the region. The Operation mainly conducts mop-ups of terrorists and joint patrol.

95 A U.N. Security Council resolution authorizes French troops to take every measure to support MINUSMA personnel under urgent and serious threats at the request of the U.N. Secretary General. Germany has increased its MINUSMA personnel to effectively reduce the burden of France.
through a national referendum. From June to August 2006, the CNDD-FDD, which had become a political party, won the ensuing election, with Minister for Good Governance Nkurunziza elected as the President.

In September 2006, the government established a comprehensive ceasefire agreement with Forces Nationales de Libération (FNL), the only anti-government Hutu group that had continued an armed struggle against the government. Later, a process for a peace agreement stagnated. In 2009, however, the peace process was completed through the approval of the FNL as a political party and its integration into the Burundi National Forces and police.

When President Nkurunziza vowed to run for a third presidential term in April 2015 despite its unconstitutionality, this triggered protests by opposition groups in the capital city of Bujumbura. After the ruling party, police and national forces clashed repeatedly with opposition groups, President Nkurunziza was reelected in July, which escalated the clashes. The Burundi crisis resulted in approximately 200,000 people who fled the country.

The international community has enhanced its engagement in Burundi since early 2016. The U.N. Security Council sent an inspection mission to Burundi in January, and U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon visited Burundi in February. In the same month, the AU also dispatched a high-level delegation to Burundi. Furthermore, the East African Community (EAC) appointed former Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa as a facilitator for peace talks in Burundi, in addition to Uganda’s President Yoweri Museveni as a mediator, striving to facilitate national dialogue in Burundi. In April, the U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2279 requesting the Secretary General to submit options to send a police mission to Burundi. In response, the Secretary General proposed three options – (1) sending some 3,000 police officers for missions including the protection of citizens, (2) sending a 228-member police monitoring mission, and (3) sending an assessment mission comprising several dozens of people for three months. Deliberations have been underway on these options as of the end of June.

### Trends in the Spread of International Terrorism

#### Characteristics of Recent International Terrorism

International terrorist organizations including Al Qaeda and ISIL are based primarily in countries and regions where governing systems have been weakened or collapsed mainly in the Middle East and Africa. They cross insufficiently controlled national borders to expand and boost their operations. Some organizations are capable of implementing terror attacks in locations far from their bases. These terrorist organizations, though alleged to differ depending on their objectives and capabilities, generally tend to use cyberspace, including social media, for information sharing and coordination, and to form global networks to obtain weapons and funds. Some organizations use advanced public relations strategies to skillfully promote themselves, recruit fighters and inspire terror attacks. Some organizations are said to have the potential to conduct cyber attacks.

While Western countries have led the War on Terror since the September 2001 terror attacks in the United States, the number of victims of terror attacks in recent years is increasing.

In European countries and the United States, “home-grown” terrorism in which residents are inspired by the extremism espoused by Al Qaeda or ISIL and conduct terrorist attacks has become a threat. In particular, there are concerns that their nationals would conduct terrorist attacks after accumulating combat training and combat experiences in conflict-torn regions such as Iraq and Syria, becoming indoctrinated into extremism and returning to their countries.

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97 ISIL uses the Internet and social media to recruit young people as fighters. According to a U.N. report in May 2015, the international community is called on to cooperate in efforts to address the issue of women joining terrorist organizations. See Part I, Chapter 3, Section 1, Paragraph 3, “The Spread of International Terrorism.”
98 In January 2015, a cyber attack was lodged against the U.S. Central Command’s Twitter account.
99 The number of victims in terror attacks hit an all-time high of about 32,000 in 2014 (according to International Terrorism Report 2014 (June 2015)). ISIL and other Islamic extremists have increased attacks on soft targets, leading to a rise in the number of ordinary citizens becoming victims of terrorist attacks.
100 See Part I, Chapter 3, Section 1 for the situation in Syria.
In recent years, “lone-wolf” terrorism, in which individuals or groups become extremists through information found on the Internet and elsewhere, without having any official relations with terrorist organizations such as Al Qaeda and ISIL, and plan and conduct terrorist attacks, is also seen as a threat because it is difficult to detect signs of such attacks and prevent them. Given that ISIL has continued to call for terrorist attacks in Europe and other parts of the world, terrorist attacks are feared to take place in the future as well.

In connection with Japan, in early 2015, when there was a terrorist incident involving the murder of Japanese nationals in Syria, ISIL declared clearly that its acts of terrorism would target Japanese nationals. In October 2015, ISIL claimed responsibility for the murder of a Japanese national in Bangladesh. An ISIL magazine has also cited Japanese nationals as terror attack targets. In light of the terrorist attack in Bangladesh in July 2016, in which 7 Japanese nationals were murdered, Japan is not in any way immune from the threat of international terrorism.102

The proliferation of the threat of terrorism has gained momentum. The diversification of its perpetrators, coupled with the growing complexity of regional conflicts, has made it further difficult to prevent their occurrence. For this reason, international cooperation on counter-terrorism measures has become even more important. Currently, the international community as a whole is taking various steps, including military actions as well as cutting off the funding sources of terrorist organizations and preventing the international movement of terrorist fighters. 103

102 The seventh issue of the ISIL propaganda magazine “Dabiq” published in February 2015 included descriptions of the murder of two Japanese nationals in Syria and renewed a call for terror attacks on Japanese nationals and interests. Furthermore, the 11th issue (published in September 2015) called for terror attacks on Japanese diplomatic missions in Bosnia, Malaysia and Indonesia. The 12th issue (published in November 2015) described the murder of a Japanese national in Bangladesh and warned anew that Japanese nationals and interests would be the targets of terror attacks.

103 In September 2014, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 2178 on the issue of foreign terrorist fighters. The Resolution requested member states to make exits from their countries for the purpose of executing acts of terrorism punishable under domestic laws. The Resolution also includes measures obligating member states to prevent entry or transit through their territories of any individual about whom that state had credible information which demonstrates reasonable grounds for believing that the individual is attempting to enter or transit through its territory for the purpose of participating in acts of terrorism. In addition, at the G7 Summit held in Germany in June 2015, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to effectively implement the established international framework for the freezing of terrorists’ assets.

104 According to a U.N. report, ISIL’s estimated revenue from crude oil ranges from US$846,000 to US$1,645,000 per day (approx. 100 to 200 million yen). The report notes that ISIL’s revenue sources also include unilaterally-imposed levies, including ransom from kidnapping and taxation (U.N. Security Council Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee report [November 14, 2014]). Amid speculations that revenue from crude oil is becoming no longer a major source of ISIL’s funding due to the Coalition’s airstrikes and fluctuations in crude oil prices, some have indicated that ISIL has diversified its revenue sources by increasing the taxes levied on residents and companies in the areas under ISIL’s control. Some also suggest that ISIL earns profits from asset management made through its overseas supporters. However, it has been noted that pay to ISIL fighters has halved as ISIL’s income from oil smuggling, which is its main income source, has been declining resulting from Coalition airstrikes that destroy ISIL-held oil facilities.

105 ISIL boasts of advanced equipment including tanks (M1A1 Abrams, T-72s, and T-55s), artillery guns and rifles. Some reports allege that ISIL has fighter aircraft. However, there is no information indicating ISIL’s operation of fighter aircraft in battlefields.

106 ISIL uses the Internet and social media to recruit young people as fighters. According to a U.N. report in May 2015, the international community is called on to cooperate in efforts to address the issue of women joining terrorist organizations.

107 According to a report on foreign ISIL fighters (December 2015) by the Soufan Group, a think tank studying regional conflicts, about 60% of foreign ISIL fighters are from the Middle East and North Africa. A country-by-country breakdown of foreign ISIL fighters indicate (1) 6,000 from Tunisia, (2) 2,500 from Saudi Arabia, (3) 2,400 from Russia, (4) 2,200 from Turkey, and (5) 2,000 from Jordan. Fighters from the West account for slightly less than 20% of the total foreign ISIL fighters, including 1,700 from France, 760 from the United Kingdom and Germany, 470 from Belgium, and 300 from Sweden and Austria. Foreign fighters also include 700 from Indonesia, and 100 from Malaysia and the Philippines, indicating that ISIL’s supply network for fighters has spread to Asia.
ISIL has used cyberspace for a variety of purposes that include recruiting foreign fighters, raising funds, and communicating and coordinating between members. The expansion of ISIL’s activities has steered Western intelligence agencies to step up its monitoring effort, resulting in the exposure of a series of ISIL’s plots based on online communication. For example, according to media reports, a photo published online by an ISIL magazine enabled the Coalition to identify the location of ISIL’s forces and to subsequently launch airstrikes.

While ISIL has been an active user of Facebook, Twitter, and other existing social networking services (SNS), recently ISIL members have given priority to using more secure ways of communicating, and thus, have been found utilizing an independently developed messaging application. In the Paris terror attacks in November 2015, for example, it is suggested that the terrorists utilized a commercially home-use video game console which offers highly secure means of communication.

ISIL is also said to be acquiring software programs for cyber attacks as well as training and recruiting the necessary personnel. Furthermore, ISIL’s own manuals that call on members to conduct cyber attacks have been discovered. It is a cause for concern that ISIL could carry out new terror attacks by way of cyber attacks, whose targets include national critical backbone infrastructure such as power plants and airports.

Forces and other forces, and has conducted deceptive tactics, has successively taken control of key cities, oil field areas, and military facilities in Iraq and Syria, at one point expanding areas under its control, and increasing its supporters in the world.

(2) Al Qaeda

With regard to Al Qaeda that is believed to have directed the 9/11 attacks in 2001, Osama Bin Laden, the group’s leader who was hiding in Pakistan, as well as many executives of affiliated organizations, were killed in a U.S. operation in May 2011. The Al Qaeda core is now said to be focused on ensuring the survival of the organization. Nonetheless, the possibility of Al Qaeda attacks has not disappeared. While the command and control capabilities of Al Qaeda’s leadership have been declining, Al Qaeda affiliates have reportedly gained strength and are perpetrating terrorism from their bases mainly in North Africa and the Middle East.

(3) Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)

AQAP is a Sunni extremist organization based in Yemen, established in 2009 by its founder Nasser al-Wuhayshi along with Al Qaeda members active in Saudi Arabia to found a caliphate in the Arabian Peninsula and the entire Middle East and implement sharia law. AQAP is said to have been involved in attempted terrorist attacks on multiple aircraft and an assault on a French weekly magazine head office in January 2015. While Yemen has remained in a state of confusion, AQAP has expanded operations based in Yemen and taken control of a Yemeni military base. AQAP is feared to take advantage of the power vacuum to gain further strength. Meanwhile, the United States killed AQAP leader Wuhayshi in a mop-up operation using drone strikes. Arab coalition forces recaptured Al Mukalla in southern Yemen, which had been a base for AQAP since April 2015. Anti-AQAP operations have thus shown a degree of success.
(4) Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)

AQIM, a Sunni extremist organization based in Algeria, has kidnapped mainly Algerians, Europeans and Americans. AQIM swore allegiance to Al Qaeda in 2006, with its strength peaking at about 30,000. However, Algerian forces’ counterterrorism operations have reportedly reduced the AQIM strength to around 1,000. The strength of AQIM in northern Mali has declined due to a French-led military intervention started in 2013, while it is expanding its influence in Libya and Tunisia. In November 2015, AQIM attacked a U.S. hotel in Mali. In this attack, AQIM was found to have cooperated with Al-Murabitoun, which was founded by Mokhtar Belmokhtar, an offshoot from AQIM. In December 2015, Al-Murabitoun offered to join AQIM.\(^{119}\) It has been pointed out that its integration was designed to counter ISIL, which had been gaining strength in western Africa as well and hurting AQIM’s vested interests. AQIM is reportedly expected to scale up its terror attacks.

3 Trends in Global Terrorism

(1) Middle East and North Africa\(^{116}\)

Terrorist attacks by ISIL, which is gaining strength in Iraq and Syria, by Al Qaeda-affiliated groups and other Islamic extremist organizations continue to take place in various parts of the Middle East. Saudi Arabia, cited by AQAP and ISIL as their attack target, has continued to crack down on those alleged to have connections with these organizations.\(^{117}\) In particular, ISIL has frequently conducted terror attacks on Shiite mosques\(^{118}\) and issued statements vowing to continue such attacks. Therefore, ISIL is feared to continue expanding terror attacks. In Turkey, terror attacks by such organizations as Partiya Karkeren Kurdistan (PKK),\(^{119}\) which has long clashed with the government, have continuously occurred.\(^{120}\) Furthermore, alleged ISIL terror attacks have emerged in Turkey. Among them, a suicide bombing attack on Kurds in Suruc in July 2015 killed 31 people. In October 2015, a bombing attack was carried out at a demonstration held by Kurds at a central station in the Turkish capital of Ankara, killing 102 people.

Furthermore, in June 2016, a shooting and bombing attack on Istanbul’s Ataturk International Airport killed 41 people and injured more than 200 others. Turkish authorities allege that the attack was carried out by ISIL.

Among North African countries, Algeria, Egypt,\(^{121}\) Libya\(^{122}\) and Tunisia have seen frequent terrorist attacks in recent years, indicating that ISIL and Al Qaeda affiliates have been operating in these countries. In January 2013, a masked brigade of Al-Murabitoun led by Mokhtar Belmokhtar\(^{123}\) launched an assault on a natural gas plant in In Amenas, southeastern Algeria, killing numerous people including 10 Japanese nationals. In Tunisia, an Islamic extremist group attacked the Bardo National Museum in Tunis in March 2015, killing 21 people, including foreign tourists, among which were three Japanese nationals. In June 2015, an armed man fired indiscriminately at a hotel beach in the tourist spot of Sousse, killing 38 people. ISIL claimed responsibility for the attack.

(2) Sub-Saharan Africa

In Sub-Saharan Africa, Islamic extremists have gained strength in countries such as Kenya, Mali,\(^{124}\) Somalia, and Nigeria. In Kenya, Al-Shabaab\(^{125}\) launched an assault on luxury commercial facilities killing 67 people in Nairobi in September 2013 and attacked Garissa University

\(^{115}\) Terror attacks in Burkina Faso in January 2016 and in Grand-Bassam of Cote d’Ivoire in March 2016 are attributed to Al-Murabitoun.

\(^{116}\) The state of terrorism in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen are described in Part I, Chapter 3, Section 1, Second Paragraph – “Situation in Afghanistan,” “Situation in Syria and Iraq in Response to the Rise of ISIL,” and “Situation in Yemen.”

\(^{117}\) In July 2015, Saudi security authorities arrested 431 people alleged to have connections with ISIL, enhancing the domestic crackdown on terrorists.

\(^{118}\) In 2015 alone, bombing terror attacks on mosques or security forces occurred in May, July, August and October.

\(^{119}\) The PKK is a separatist organization that operates from footholds in southeastern Turkey and northern Iraq for the purpose of establishing a Kurdish state. Its targets attack mainly the Turkish government and security forces.

\(^{120}\) In February 2016, a bombing terror attack, alleged to have targeted Turkish military forces, came near the Air Force command in Ankara, killing 29 people. A PKK affiliate known as Teyrêbazên Azadiya Kurdistan (TAK) (Kurdistan Freedom Hawks) claimed responsibility for the attack, which it described as retaliation against the Turkish government continuing attacks on the PKK.

\(^{121}\) See Part I, Chapter 3, Section 1-2-3 “Situation in Libya” for trends related to Islamic extremists in Libya.

\(^{122}\) Whether Mokhtar Belmokhtar is alive or not after U.S. airstrikes in June 2015 remains unknown.

\(^{123}\) See Part I, Chapter 3, Section 1-2-6 “Situation in Egypt” for terror attacks in Egypt.

\(^{124}\) Most Al-Shabaab members are Somali and foreign fighters. In February 2015, Al-Shabaab called on Islamic followers in the United States, United Kingdom, France, and Canada to conduct attacks at shopping centers and business districts in these countries.
College in northeastern Kenya leaving 148 dead in April 2015. In Somalia, the same organization has continued attacks on AMISOM units and coordinated an attack in which a personal computer-shaped bomb exploded on a plane from Mogadishu to Djibouti in February 2016. In Nigeria, Boko Haram, which aims to create an Islamic state, has stepped up its activities since 2009, repeatedly carrying out terrorist attacks in retaliation against crackdowns by police and other authorities. The international community, including the U.N. Security Council, has been implementing initiatives to address the Boko Haram problem. Boko Haram is expanding into foreign countries such as Niger, Cameroon and Chad. In March 2015, Boko Haram swore allegiance to ISIL, in a move to gain further strength. However, some observers point out that anti-Boko Haram operations in neighboring countries have contributed to reducing the organization’s strength.

(3) Europe, Americas, Australia

In Europe, people inspired by Islamic extremists and fighters returning mainly from Iraq and Syria have been conducting terrorist attacks. In January 2015, French nationals with origins in Algeria and elsewhere who were deemed to have been inspired by Islamic extremism were involved in shooting attacks, including those at the head office of the French weekly newspaper Charlie Hebdo in central Paris. In November 2015, large-scale

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126 See Part I, Chapter 3, Section 1-2-8 "Situation in Somalia" for AMISOM.
127 Boko Haram, aiming to overthrow the Nigerian government, implement Islamic law and deny Western education, has repeatedly conducted suicide bombings and other terror attacks on military, police, and government officials, as well as Christian facilities, mainly in northern Nigeria (primarily Borno State where there are numerous Muslims). Recently, soft targets such as markets have come under Boko Haram attacks. At present, Boko Haram operates as ISIL’s western Africa branch.
128 Recently, Boko Haram has reportedly repeated suicide bombings using women and girls who are less likely to raise alarm.
129 In April 2014, Boko Haram abducted over 200 female students. In response, the United States dispatched drones and other assets to support the search activities of the Nigerian government. In addition, the U.N. Security Council Sanctions Committee added Boko Haram to its list of sanction targets.
130 Of the two brothers who conducted the shooting attack at the Charlie Hebdo head office, one is known to have received training at an AQAP camp. In addition, AQAP released a statement saying it had issued instructions directly to the brothers. Amedy Coulibaly, who attacked a Jewish grocery store, is believed to have posted a video on the Internet in which he swears allegiance to ISIL, although no clear link between these attacks has been confirmed.
coordinated terror attacks hit the national stadium, a theater and other facilities, killing 130 people. ISIL France claimed responsibility for these attacks in a statement. In Belgium, suicide bombing attacks were carried out at an airport and a subway station in Brussels in March 2016, killing 35 people, including three suicide bombers. ISIL Belgium later claimed responsibility for the attacks in a statement. It is alleged that the groups responsible for the terror attacks in Paris and Brussels cooperated with each other. These attacks demonstrate ISIL’s intention to exercise its operational capabilities even outside Syria and Iraq, prompting European governments to grow more alert. Terror threats have spread to the Americas. In December, two terrorists fired at random at a welfare facility in California, resulting in 14 deaths. ISIL’s Al Bayan radio station issued a statement praising the attack. In June 2016, a man who was allegedly inspired by ISIL’s extremism shot 49 people at a nightclub in Florida. While ISIL has claimed responsibility for the shooting, a clear relationship between the perpetrator and ISIL has not been established. This series of terror attacks led to concern that the extremism espoused by ISIL and other groups is spreading in the United States. In Canada, a male convert to Islam, who is believed to have sympathized with ISIL’s extremism, shot and killed a soldier of the Canadian forces in front of the Parliament in Ottawa in October 2014.

In Australia in December 2014, a man who is believed to have been inspired by ISIL took hostages at a Sydney café, resulting in the deaths of three people, including the perpetrator himself. Since the incident, those suspected of planning terror attacks have been continuously identified and arrested in Australia.

(4) Southeast Asia
In Southeast Asia, while some progress has been observed in the crackdown on terrorist organizations and other anti-terror efforts, it has been pointed out that moves to support ISIL nevertheless exist, as indicated by cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, a spiritual leader of Islamic extremists in Indonesia, who has sworn allegiance and provided funds to ISIL from behind prison walls. In addition, young people from Indonesia, Malaysia, and other countries have reportedly gone to Iraq and Syria as foreign fighters, posing a new threat to the region. While Indonesia has enhanced its crackdown on ISIL supporters, a bombing/shooting incident occurred at a Western coffee shop and its vicinity in Jakarta in January 2016. ISIL Indonesia claimed responsibility for the incident alleged to represent the first ISIL terror attack in Southeast Asia. While no major terror attacks have been seen in Malaysia, more than 50 ISIL supporters have been arrested since 2014, leading some observers to believe that the layers of ISIL supporters have been expanding. In Thailand, meanwhile, an explosion took place at Erawan Shrine in central Bangkok in August 2015, killing more than 20 people.

(5) South Asia
South Asia is subject to frequent terror attacks. In Pakistan, particularly, Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other terrorist organizations have frequently conducted terror attacks on educational, military and other facilities. TTP attacked a military school in Peshawar, northwestern Pakistan, in December 2014, killing more than 141 people. In January 2016, TTP launched an assault on a university in Charsadda, northwestern Pakistan, resulting

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131 In May 2014, a French national who had allegedly joined an Islamic extremist group in Syria opened fire at the Jewish Museum, killing four people.
132 After the Charlie Hebdo attack in January 2015, the French government raised the terror alert to the highest level in Paris, mobilizing numerous police officers and troops. It has also extended its emergency declaration issued just after the U.S. terror attacks. For the French government’s response after the coordinated terror attacks in Paris, see Part I, Chapter 2, Paragraph 8.
133 Much ammunition, bombs, automatic rifles and other weapons were found at the residence of the suspect.
134 It is pointed out that the terrorist organizations have weakened in the Philippines, such as the Islamic extremist terrorist organization Abu Sayaf Group (ASG), which have been the foremost security concern in the country. See Part I, Chapter 2, Section 6-2 for the situation in the Philippines.
135 Cleric Bashir is the founder of Jamaati Islamiyah.
136 However, it has been pointed out that cleric Bashir withdrew his allegiance to ISIL in early 2016.
137 In Indonesia, the government banned participation in ISIL in August 2014. Under the existing legal system, however, it is said that authorities do not have the authority to arrest ISIL supporters unless there is evidence of their clear involvement in terrorism activities.
138 It has been pointed out that security force members, public servants and other government employees, as well as housewives and other ordinary citizens, were among those arrested.
139 While no statement claiming responsibility for the explosion has been issued, two men suspected as being of Uyghur origin have been arrested.
in the deaths of more than 20 people, including students. In India, in January 2016, an armed group attacked an air force base in the northwestern state of Punjab, killing seven security force members. A local extremist group claimed responsibility for the attack. In Bangladesh, an Italian national was shot to death in September 2015, as was a Japanese national in October 2015. In addition, a terrorist attack was carried out on a restaurant in Dhaka in July 2016, in which 20 people, including 7 Japanese nationals, were murdered. ISIL Bangladesh claimed responsibility for these incidents (responsibility for the incidents in September and October 2015 was claimed in an ISIL magazine), and in particular, ISIL is said to have been involved in the attack in July.

ISIL has unilaterally established a Khorasan branch in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In the Indian subcontinent, in September 2014, Al Qaeda’s leader Ayman al Zawahiri announced the establishment of a new branch in India. Given these developments, Islamic extremists are feared to intensify terror attacks in South Asia.

(6) Russia

ISIL has gained strength in southern Russia, establishing a Caucasus branch in June 2015. Meanwhile, ISIL issued statements in October and November 2015 calling for terror attacks on Russia for implementing airstrikes in Syria. While no major terror attack has been confirmed in Russia, there have been some terror attacks including an assault on a military facility and a suicide bombing.

Given that the northern Caucasus region is one of major fighter suppliers for ISIL, ISIL-inspired fighters and ISIL supporters in the region are feared to increase terror attacks. Terror threats are also feared to spread in Russia.

See>> Fig. I-3-1-2 (Major Terrorist Groups Based in Africa and the Middle East Regions)

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140 Al Qaeda’s leader Ayman al Zawahiri has stated that the goal of Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) is to free Muslim followers who are oppressed in Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.

141 Islamic extremists in the Republics of Dagestan, Chechnya, Ingushetia, Kubindino-Balkaria, and Karachay-Cherkeressia have been organized, pledging allegiance to ISIL.

142 In September 2015, a Russian military base came under an attack in southern Dagestan. In February 2016, a suicide bombing also occurred in Dagestan. The ISIL Caucasus branch claimed responsibility for both incidents.