

# Timeline 2012

Date	Title	Summary
20 January 2012	<b>Boko Haram terrorists kill hundreds in Kano, Nigeria</b>	Several hundred people are killed in the Nigerian city of Kano. The bombings were carried out by the jihadist military organisation Boko Haram ('Western education is forbidden'), which killed hundreds of civilians in the preceding months.
21 January 2012	<b>Muslim Brotherhood wins Egypt elections</b>	Islamist parties dominate Egyptian parliamentary elections. The Muslim Brotherhood wins 235 of 498 seats.
23 January 2012	<b>EU expands Iran sanctions</b>	The EU extends restrictive measures against Iran in protest of Iran's uranium enrichment activities. An embargo on the country's oil exports and asset freezes are agreed upon.
30 January 2012	<b>EU endorses fiscal pact</b>	EU leaders, except the Czech Republic's and the United Kingdom's, endorse the Fiscal Pact at the European summit in Brussels.
04 February 2012	<b>UN Security Council Syria Resolution vetoed by China, Russia</b>	China and Russia veto a UN Security Council resolution calling upon President Assad to resign.
27 February 2012	<b>Al-Hadi succeeds Saleh in Yemen</b>	Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, having previously agreed to resign in early 2012, is succeeded by Abd Rabbuh Mansur Al-Hadi.
28 February 2012	<b>Annan appointed Syria Special Envoy</b>	Kofi Annan is appointed Joint Special Envoy of the UN and the Arab League for Syria to promote a peaceful resolution to the crisis.
01 March 2012	<b>Serbia granted EU candidacy status</b>	Serbia is granted EU candidate status by the Council of the European Union.
04 March 2012	<b>Putin elected Russian president</b>	Vladimir Putin wins the presidential election in Russia. Demonstrations against alleged fraudulent elections break out.
16 March 2012	<b>Timofti elected Moldova President</b>	After two failed attempts, an independent judge, Nicolae Timofti, is elected President of Moldova with the opposition Communists boycotting the vote.

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22 March 2012	<b>Military coup d'état in Mali</b>	Malian president Amadou Toumani Touré is overthrown by a military <i>coup</i> , which is harshly condemned internationally. Neighbouring countries impose sanctions in response.
26-27 March 2012	<b>Nuclear Security Summit, Seoul</b>	The second Nuclear Security Summit, held in Seoul, focusses on cooperative approaches to addressing the dangers of nuclear terrorism, illicit trafficking of nuclear materials and the protection of nuclear materials and facilities.
01 April 2012	<b>National League for Democracy wins Burma/Myanmar elections</b>	Burmese opposition politician and former political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi is elected to parliament and her National League for Democracy party wins the majority of seats in Burma/Myanmar.
06 April 2012	<b>Tuareg declare independence of northern Mali</b>	The National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad, a Tuareg rebel group, declares the independence of Azawad, northern Mali, from the rest of the country.
06 April 2012	<b>Burma/Myanmar government in peace deal with rebels</b>	The government of Burma/Myanmar signs a peace agreement with the Karen rebels as part of wider peace negotiations with ethnic groups.
12 April 2012	<b>Coup d'état in Guinea-Bissau</b>	Prior to the second round of presidential elections, factions of the armed forces of Guinea-Bissau stage a <i>coup d'état</i> as they arrest interim president Raimundo Pereira and presidential candidate Carlos Gomes Júnior. The events are met with international protest and the imposition of sanctions.
13 April 2012	<b>Condemned North Korean satellite launch fails</b>	North Korea's attempt to launch a satellite into orbit, condemned by the international community as a concealed intercontinental ballistic missile test (and hence in violation of UN Security Council resolutions), fails shortly after lift-off. The United States suspended the delivery of food aid in the run-up to the launch.

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21 April 2012	<b>UN Security Council establishes Syria mission</b>	The UN Security Council Resolution 2043 is adopted, establishing the UN Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS) to monitor the implementation of the Kofi Annan Peace Plan for Syria.
26 April 2012	<b>Taylor convicted of war crimes, crimes against humanity</b>	The Special Court for Sierra Leone finds Charles Taylor guilty on 11 counts of aiding and abetting war crimes and crimes against humanity during the Sierra Leone civil war.
11 May 2012	<b>Guinea-Bissau transitional government established</b>	An agreement in Guinea-Bissau, under the auspices of ECOWAS, establishes a transitional government and appoints Manuel Serifo Nhamadjo as interim president.
21 May 2012	<b>NATO Summit, Chicago</b>	At its 2012 summit, held in Chicago, NATO announces the review of its deterrence posture, and makes statements on ballistic missile defence, future defence capabilities, counter-terrorism and the withdrawal of the ISAF force from Afghanistan by the end of 2014.
18 June 2012	<b>Council of the EU approves South Sudan mission</b>	The Council of the European Union approves a new CSDP Mission, EUAVSEC, to strengthen airport security in South Sudan.
22 June 2012	<b>Turkish jet shot down by Syria</b>	Syrian forces shoot down a Turkish F-4 combat aircraft, claiming that it had breached Syrian airspace. NATO members consult on the situation in Syria.
24 June 2012	<b>Muhammad Morsi wins Egypt presidential elections</b>	Muhammad Morsi, candidate of the Muslim Brotherhood, wins the Egyptian presidential elections.
29 June 2012	<b>EU-Montenegro accession negotiations</b>	EU accession negotiations with Montenegro commence.
30 June 2012	<b>EUPM ends</b>	The mandate for the EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina comes to an end after almost ten years.
27 July 2012	<b>UN Arms Trade Treaty inconclusive</b>	The UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty concludes without agreement on a text. It is resolved to reconvene in March 2013.
07 July 2012	<b>National Forces Alliance wins Libya elections</b>	In the first elections in Libya since the end of the revolution, the National Forces Alliance prevails over Islamist parties.

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10 July 2012	<b>EUJUST LEX-Iraq extended</b>	The EU Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq (EUJUST LEX-Iraq) is extended until December 2013.
16 July 2012	<b>EUCAP Sahel Niger launched</b>	The CSDP civilian mission EUCAP Sahel Niger is launched in order to improve the capacities of the Nigerian Security Forces and contribute to facilitating stability, security and governance in the region.
16 July 2012	<b>Council of the EU approves EUCAP Nestor</b>	The Council of the European Union approves the launch of the CSDP mission EUCAP Nestor to support regional maritime capacity-building in the Horn of Africa and the states of the Western Indian Ocean.
18 July 2012	<b>Israeli tourists killed in Bulgaria</b>	Seven people die and several more are injured in a bomb attack on a bus in the Bulgarian city of Burgas. Hezbollah is later identified by the Bulgarian authorities to have carried out the attack.
31 August 2012	<b>Brahimi appointed Syria Special Representative</b>	Lakhdar Brahimi replaces Kofi Annan as the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and League of Arab States for the crisis in Syria.
17 September 2012	<b>China, Japan in islands row</b>	The Japanese purchase of the disputed Senkaku/Diaoyu islands in the East China Sea from a private owner raises tensions with China as it triggers a series of diplomatic wrangling, subtextual military stand-offs and popular demonstrations.
27 September 2012	<b>Attacks on Western embassies in Arab countries</b>	A series of demonstrations and attacks target United States, German, United Kingdom and Swiss diplomatic missions in a number of Arab countries. They are largely thought to be in response to an anti-Muslim Youtube video produced in the United States.
14 September 2012	<b>EUMM extended</b>	The EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia is extended until 14 September 2013.
01 October 2012	<b>EUSEC RD Congo established</b>	The seventh mandate of the EUSEC RD Congo is established to help Congolese authorities implement policies in compliance with human rights and good governance.

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01 October 2012	<b>Opposition coalition wins parliamentary elections in Georgia</b>	Bidzina Ivanishvili's Georgian Dream coalition wins the majority of seats in parliamentary elections. President Mikheil Saakashvili eventually accepts his party's defeat and agrees to the appointment of a new government.
04 October 2012	<b>Syrian shells hit Turkey</b>	Shelling from Syria hits a Turkish village, claiming civilian lives. Turkish forces retaliate by striking Syrian targets. NATO becomes involved and the UN Security Council condemns Syrian actions.
12 October 2012	<b>EU receives Nobel Peace Prize</b>	The EU receives the Nobel Peace Prize for advancing peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe.
12 October 2012	<b>UN Security Council requests Mali intervention plan</b>	The UN Security Council requests that a plan for military engagement in Mali be presented to halt the southward advance of rebel forces.
16 October 2012	<b>EU NAVFOR ATALANTA extended</b>	The Council of the European Union decides to extend EU NAVFOR - Operation ATALANTA until December 2014 to continue to improve maritime security off the coast of Somalia and in the Indian Ocean.
28 October 2012	<b>Ukrainian parliamentary elections unveil irregularities</b>	The Party of Regions wins the highest number of parliamentary seats in Ukrainian elections that partially reveal, as found by an OSCE observer mission, an excessive role of money and abuse of power in the election process.
21 November 2012	<b>Israel launches military operation against Gaza</b>	As a reaction to renewed rocket fire on Israeli territory from the Gaza Strip, Israel launches Operation Pillar of Defence. A ceasefire agreement is reached a week later, brokered by the United States and Egypt.
29 November 2012	<b>UN General Assembly grants Palestine non-member observer status</b>	The UN General Assembly grants Palestine the status of non-member observer state. The resolution passes with 138 votes in favour, nine against, and 41 abstentions.
12 December 2012	<b>North Korea launches satellite</b>	North Korea launches a satellite into orbit. As the test deploys ballistic missile technology, it is considered by the international community to be in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1874.

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17 December 2012	<b>UN Security Council issues terrorism resolution</b>	The UN Security Council passes Resolution 2083 on the threats posed by terrorist acts to international peace and security.
20 December 2012	<b>UN Security Council establishes Mali mission</b>	The UN Security Council adopts Resolution 2085 to deploy an African-led International Support Mission in Mali.