



## Weekly News Update

Volume 2, Issue 23

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The RAPID Weekly News Update is a weekly collection of unclassified media and news bulletins focused on noteworthy improvised explosive attacks and trends in the EOD/C-IED community. To subscribe to this weekly publication and/or to receive additional IED-related reports, please request a RAPID login at <https://rapid.a-tsolutions.com> using your government (.mil or .gov) email account.



Some of the 125 weapons, including rifles, shotguns and pistols, seized by authorities at La Planta prison  
(Photo: AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

[See [Weapons Stash Uncovered At Venezuelan Prison](#)]

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## **1. [Security, Afghanistan] Insurgents Arrested And Killed, Bomb Cache And One Civilian Dies Due To An IED**

Friday, June 1 2012

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/89336/regional-command-southwest-operations-update-insurgents-arrested-and-killed-bomb-cache-and-one-civilian-dies-due-ied#.T84H4I7uSo>

The Afghan Uniformed Police brought in 250lbs of explosives and other IED materials to an ISAF location in the Musa Qala district of Helmand province, June 1. The materials were subsequently safely destroyed and no longer pose a threat to local civilians.

Also yesterday, a local national struck an IED in the Sangin district. Local nationals brought the severely injured person to an ISAF location to receive medical attention, but he died of wounds en route.

The Helmand Governor's Media Centre reports today that in separate planned security operations conducted over the past four days an insurgent commander was killed. Afghan security forces also seized 37kg of narcotics and arrested five insurgents including a known insurgent who had been accused of killing a policeman. Afghan security forces also reacted to insurgent attacks during this period and in one incident in the Musa Qala district, 15 insurgents were killed, leaving two police injured. During this same period another police officer was killed in a separate incident in the Gereshk district.

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## **2. [Trend, Afghanistan] U.S. Missiles Kill Two In Northwest Pakistan**

Saturday, June 2 2012

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/article3482819.ece>

Pakistani intelligence officials say a suspected U.S. missile strike has killed two militants in a region along the Afghan border.

The officials say a pair of missiles hit a motorcycle near Dogh village in South Waziristan on Saturday, killing two militants who were riding on it. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorised to talk to the media.

The strike is part of America's campaign to destroy al-Qaeda and Taliban sanctuaries in Pakistani tribal regions. The covert programme is a cause of tension between the U.S. and Pakistan.

Despite Pakistan's demands for a halt in the drone attacks, the U.S. has fired scores of missiles into northwest Pakistan since 2008, targeting al-Qaeda and Taliban operatives there.

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### **3. [Attack, Pakistan] SP Injured In Bannu IED Blast**

Saturday, June 2 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-111986-SP-injured-in-Bannu-IED-blast>

A superintendent of police sustained injuries in a roadside blast near Sairu Badakhel on the Bannu-Dera Ismail Khan Road on Friday, sources said. The sources said that the Superintendent of Police (SP), Investigation, Raqiaz Khan, was on his way home from the office when an improvised explosive device planted by unidentified persons on the roadside in Sairu Badakhel village went off. SP Raqiaz Khan sustained minor injury in his hand. Following the incident, the police cordoned off the area to collect pieces of evidence. The Bannu-Dera Ismail Khan Road remained closed for some time after the incident.

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#### **4. [Attack, Pakistan] Panjgur Blast Kills One, Injures Seven**

Monday, June 4 2012

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/388652/panjgur-blast-kills-one-injures-7/>

A man was killed and seven others, including three security personnel, were injured when a remote controlled explosive device went off in Bismillah Chowk area of Chitkan bazaar in Panjgur district on Monday.

According to police, unknown persons had planted an explosive device onto a motorbike and parked it outside a private bank before detonating it by remote control. As result of the explosion, a passer-by was killed on the spot and seven others, including three security personnel, sustained injures.

Police and Frontier Corps personnel rushed to the spot and cordoned off the area. The deceased and injured were taken to the District Headquarters hospital and Javed Medical Complex for treatment.

“The target was security personnel who were inside the bank,” a police officer said, adding that an investigation into the incident has been initiated.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Rashid, son of Abdul Hakeem. Among the injured, the security personnel were identified as Zahid Iqbal, Umer Hayat and Mohammad Akhtar. The others injured were Khairullah, Muslim, Khalid and Faisal.

At least ten cars and few motorcycles were damaged in the blast. The police official said the bank building was also damaged in the attack.

According to eyewitness accounts, several security personnel were inside the bank when blast occurred.

A case has been registered against the unknown persons and an investigation into the attack has been launched.

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## 5. [Security, Pakistan] Al Qaeda's No. Two Killed In Pakistan By CIA Drone Strike

Tuesday, June 5 2012

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-pakistan-qaeda-20120606,0,6858392.story>

CIA drone strikes have killed Al Qaeda's No. 2 leader, Abu Yahya al Libi, and at least two other people in a rural village in northwestern Pakistan in what U.S. officials called a major blow to the battered core leadership of the terrorist network.

The CIA had targeted Libi with three separate drone-launched missile attacks over three days, finally succeeding early Monday in strikes that destroyed a house and a vehicle, U.S. and Pakistani officials said.

The Libyan-born commander escaped from a U.S. detention facility in Afghanistan in 2005 and later used online video messages to call for attacks on the United States, burnishing a reputation among militants as a charismatic leader and a prolific propagandist.

But relations between the U.S. and Pakistan were further inflamed by this latest strike, part of a surge in Predator drone attacks in recent weeks. Pakistan's government has condemned the CIA's use of such aircraft, which has killed civilians and which it says has provided a recruiting tool for insurgents.

On Tuesday, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry summoned U.S. Deputy Ambassador Richard Hoagland to lodge a formal protest.

The attacks "represented a clear red line for Pakistan," the ministry said in a statement. Hoagland "was informed that the drone strikes were unlawful, against international law and a violation of Pakistan's sovereignty. Parliament had emphatically stated that they were unacceptable."

Libi, who was believed to be in his late 40s, was the second top Al Qaeda deputy killed since U.S. NavySEALs killed Osama bin Laden in a raid in the Pakistani city of Abbottabad in May 2011.

Bin Laden's longtime deputy, Ayman Zawahiri, initially named Atiyah Abdul Rahman as second in command. But a CIA drone missile killed Rahman in August, and Libi, another Libyan, was chosen as his replacement.

Libi has not been publicly linked to a specific terrorist act, but he "played a critical role in the group's planning against the West, providing oversight of the external operations efforts," according to a U.S. official who confirmed the death but was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

"Zawahiri will be hard-pressed to find any one person who can readily step into [Libi's] shoes," the official said.

Libi's "religious credentials gave him the authority to issue fatwas, operational approvals and guidance to the core Al Qaeda group in Pakistan and regional affiliates," the official said. "There is no one who even comes close in terms of replacing the expertise [Al Qaeda] has just lost."



The U.S. official would not say how the CIA had confirmed Libi's death. The State Department had offered a \$1-million reward for information leading to his death or capture.

Jarret Brachman, a counter-terrorism scholar and government consultant, said Libi was more popular and more influential than Zawahiri, the leader of Al Qaeda, and his death may be significant.

"He was the only guy who could have saved Al Qaeda," said Brachman, who interviewed Libi's older brother in a Libyan prison in 2010.

A media-savvy religious scholar, Libi turned his 2005 escape from the U.S. detention facility at Bagram air base into legend among militants, highlighting it in videos posted on the Internet.

"They picked locks and slipped under concertina wire," Brachman said. When they saw U.S. soldiers, the escapees stripped off their shirts and picked up pieces of lumber, posing as contract laborers.

Libi's experience in U.S. custody left him thirsty for revenge, Brachman said.

He was killed in Hesokhel, a small village in North Waziristan. The tribal region is a stronghold for Al Qaeda, the Taliban, the Haqqani terrorist network and other militant groups.

Reports from Pakistan said as many as 15 people were killed in the drone strikes. The U.S. official said that figure was "wildly inaccurate" and insisted that the death toll was "less than a handful."

Disparate death tallies have become common in the CIA drone attacks, which strike in remote and dangerous areas of Pakistan and Yemen where journalists and independent monitors cannot easily operate.

The CIA has launched 21 drone attacks in Pakistan this year, compared with 64 for all of last year and 117 in 2010, according to Long War Journal, a website that tracks the strikes.

Despite widespread public opposition to the attacks, Pakistan's air force has not sought to stop U.S. drones from flying.

"Even if we shot down one or two, what then?" a Pakistani official asked. "Can you shoot down the whole fleet? We are talking, and we hope to find a solution to this."

After errant U.S. airstrikes killed 24 Pakistani soldiers near the Afghan border in November, Islamabad halted truck convoys used to supply U.S. and other NATO troops fighting in neighboring Afghanistan. Negotiations to reopen the supply routes appear to have stalled.

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## 6. [Security, Afghanistan] Afghan National Army 215 Corps Conduct Successful Clearance Operations

Tuesday, June 5 2012

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/89445/afghan-national-army-215-corps-conduct-successful-clearance-operations#.T9Cx-5g7uSo>

The Afghan National Army 215th Corps conducted clearance operations, June 4, in the Sangeen district of Helmand province resulting in eight insurgents killed and two others wounded. Also in Sangeen, they arrested six suspects and seized a vehicle full of explosive, which was safely destroyed.

On June 3, further clearance operations resulted in the discovery of an IED cache including pressure plates, remote controls, batteries and 300kg of explosive, which no longer pose a threat to civilians.

Similar operations in Motazakera district, June 2, resulted in one insurgent being killed. Additionally, two IEDs were found and dismantled in the Marja district, June 2 and a five more the next day in the districts of Washeer and Motazakera.

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## 7. [Attack, Afghanistan] Southern Afghanistan Suicide Bombing Kills 22

Wednesday, June 6 2012

<http://www.voanews.com/content/suicide-bombings-rock-southern-afghanistan/1178884.html>

A large double suicide bombing has killed more than 22 people and wounded at least 50 in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar.

One bomber blew up a crowded parking lot packed with truck drivers. The second waited until people rushed into help the injured and dying, then detonated his explosives.

One eyewitness, taken to Kandahar hospital with injuries to his hands and feet, described the attack. He says that when the first explosion took place, he ran out of his shop to where the bomb had gone off when the second explosion happened.

He says as he walked he saw dead bodies lying on the ground, then he does not remember anything after that.

Rahmatullah Atrafi, deputy police chief in Kandahar province, describes the site of the bombing as a busy marketplace fed by the main highway connecting Kandahar and Spin Boldak, a town near the Pakistan border.

He says the victims were innocent people busy selling goods, as well as eight people working for a security company that had a local office near the market.

The United States condemned the bombing, which officials say took place near a NATO base.

In a separate incident, two NATO troops were killed Wednesday in a helicopter crash in eastern Afghanistan. NATO said the cause of the crash is under investigation.

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## 8. [Attack, Pakistan] Four Children Injured In Bajaur Agency IED Blast

Wednesday, June 6 2012

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/389666/four-children-injured-in-bajaur-agency-ied-blast/>

At least four children were injured when a roadside Improvised Explosive Device (IED) went off in the Tank Khata area of Khar district, Bajaur Agency on Wednesday, political administration official said.

Officials said that a school boy along with three others was injured when he lifted an IED which exploded in his hand. The explosion occurred at around 12:30pm when the children were on their way home from school, he added.

They were rushed to the Agency Headquarter Hospital of Khar.

Medical Superintendent of the hospital, Riaz Khan, said that the children were in stable condition except for a boy, identified as Zahirullah, who picked the IED. "Both his hands were blown up due to the explosion," he added.

He identified the injured children as 10-year-old Ayesha, 6-year-old Zahiruallah, Bilal and Saim. "We discharged the children after providing them with first aid," while Zahirullah was admitted in the hospital due to serious injuries.

Political administration official of Khar district, Abdullah Hafiz said that the children mistook the IED for scrap. "We informed the security officials who will conduct a search operation in the area and will defuse all hidden bombs in the region," he added.

The official added that several people were injured due to IED blasts that were planted by militants before the military operation in 2008. The militants had planted them to target security forces convoys, he said.

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## 9. [Attack, Afghanistan] Kandahar Suicide Bombs Kill Tens Of Afghan Civilians

Wednesday, June 6 2012

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jun/06/kandahar-motorbike-suicide-bomb-afghanistan>

A pair of suicide bombers have struck outside the airport in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, killing at least 20 civilians, according to officials. The incident is one of the worst in recent weeks.

Four provincial governors from the south were at a meeting at the sprawling Nato base at the airport when the attacks took place, General Abdul Hameed, Afghan army commander for the southern region, told Reuters.

A bomber on a motorcycle blew himself up in a parking lot near the base, which was packed with lorry drivers and other civilians waiting to get in. A few minutes later, as people gathered at the site of the blast, another bomber walked into the crowd and detonated his explosives.

Violence has increased in Afghanistan since the Taliban began a spring offensive in April, vowing to target the government and security forces as well as the 130,000 foreign troops in the country. Kandahar has seen some of the worst attacks.

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## **10. [Attack, Pakistan] School Blown Up In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

Wednesday, June 6 2012

[http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed\\_news.asp?date1=6/7/2012&id=4#4](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=6/7/2012&id=4#4)

Militants blew up a Government-run boys' middle school in the Afzalabad area of Mera Risalpur in Nowshera District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on June 5, reports Central Asia online. Police said the explosion destroyed three schoolrooms, the main gate and the outer wall, but did not harm anyone. The bomb was hidden in a water cooler in one of the classrooms.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Transport Department is deploying security guards in the public bus terminal. "We have completed interviews of 30 security guards who would be deployed in the public bus stand next week to ensure that no untoward incident takes place there," said Jamil Ahmed, a transport department official. The Transportation Minister has issued strict directives to act against those bringing weapons inside the bus terminal, he said. All the people have been advised through media to co-operate with the security efforts. The security guards, he said, will keep watch and arrest any suspicious people and hand them over to Police.

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## 11. [Attack, Afghanistan] Scores Of Afghans Killed In Violence

Thursday, June 7 2012

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-world/scores-of-afghans-killed-in-violence-20120607-1zx37.html>

Scores of Afghans have been killed in Taliban bombings and other violence including a NATO air strike, highlighting persistent instability across the country as foreign troops begin their drawdown more than a decade after the US-led invasion.

The deadliest attack took place in the southern city of Kandahar, where suicide bombers turned a dusty marketplace into a gruesome scene of body parts, clothing, glass and other debris.

Twenty-two civilians were killed and at least 50 others were wounded.

Advertisement: Story continues below

The explosion occurred along a road about five kilometres from the main gate of a military installation used by the US-led coalition and roughly 500 metres from an Afghan military base.

One suicide bomber detonated a three-wheeled motorbike filled with explosives first, said Rahmatullah Atrafi, deputy police chief in Kandahar province.

Then, as people rushed to assist the casualties, two other suicide bombers on foot walked up to the site and blew themselves up. Eight private security guards were among those killed, he said.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi claimed responsibility for the attack.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai condemned the attack, saying it proved the "enemy is getting weaker because they are killing innocent people".

The coalition also denounced the killings and urged the Afghan people to support the government and the nation's developing security forces.

In all, at least 45 Afghans died and at least 69 were wounded on Wednesday in six incidents across the nation where Afghan forces are increasingly taking charge of security so foreign troops can go home or move into training and support roles.

Two US pilots also were killed when their helicopter crashed in Ghazni province in the east, a senior US defence official said.

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## 12. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Kills Eight, Wounds 20 In Pakistan

Thursday, June 7 2012

<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=8480327>

A bomb attack has killed at least eight people and wounded more than 20 others outside a Pakistani madrassa in the troubled southwestern city of Quetta.

The bomb was detonated outside the gates of the Sunni Muslim seminary as a degree ceremony for students was being held inside, police told reporters.

It was the deadliest attack in the city since a car bomb killed 15 Pakistanis last December.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the city suffers from Islamist attacks, sectarian violence between the majority Sunni and minority Shi'ite Muslim sects and a separatist insurgency.

Doctor Mohammad Haider at the state-run Civil Hospital said three boys and five male adults were killed. He said the children were aged seven, nine and 14.

Police official Hamid Shakeel confirmed the death toll and said that more than 20 people were wounded. "It was a remote-controlled bomb," he told AFP.

Quetta is the capital of Baluchistan province, which borders Iran and Afghanistan.

Baluch rebels rose up in the province in 2004, demanding political autonomy and a greater share of profits from oil, gas and mineral resources in the region.

It is one of the most deprived regions of Pakistan despite its wealth in resources, and human rights activists have heavily condemned the military for summary arrests and executions in its bid to put down the separatist insurgency.

Pakistan sits on the frontline of the US-led war on al-Qaeda and since July 2007 has been gripped by a local Taliban-led insurgency, concentrated largely in the northwest.

In the last five years, attacks blamed on Islamist bombers have killed more than 5,000 people according to an AFP tally.

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### 13. [Attack, Pakistan] Bus Explosion Kills 19 In Northwest Pakistan

Friday, June 8 2012

[http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world\\_now/2012/06/bomb-kills-19-bus-passengers-in-peshawar.html](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world_now/2012/06/bomb-kills-19-bus-passengers-in-peshawar.html)

A bomb tore through a bus carrying government workers in the northwest city of Peshawar on Friday, killing at least 19 people and injuring 35.

The blast ended several months of relative calm in Peshawar, a restive city perched on the edge of Pakistan's militant-infested tribal belt along the Afghan border. More than 50 people were in the bus, which was heading from Peshawar to the nearby city of Charsadda. Bashir Ahmad Bilour, a senior minister for Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, said authorities believed the bomb was planted inside the bus.

Among the dead were four women and a child, local hospital officials said. Television footage showed the mangled frame of the bus, with a gaping hole toward the rear section. Injured passengers were rushed in trucks and taxis to hospitals in Peshawar and Charsadda.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, but suspicion was likely to fall on the Pakistani Taliban, the homegrown insurgent group that has its strongholds in the tribal areas and periodically carries out strikes against Pakistani security installations as well as civilian targets, including mosques and markets. Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani condemned the attack and said it would not deter the country in its battle against militants.

The level of militant violence in northwest Pakistan has subsided in recent months, as Pakistani army troops continue to uproot local insurgents from the strongholds throughout much of the tribal belt. Pakistani officials have expressed a willingness to embark on peace talks with the Pakistani Taliban, but speaking to reporters in Peshawar on Friday, provincial Information Minister Iftikhar Hussain said the government cannot negotiate if militants persist in carrying out attacks.

"We are in favor of talks, but if (the militants) refuse, we will be forced to take action against them," Pakistani media quoted Hussain as saying.



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## 14. [Attack, Nigeria] Bomb Explosion Kills 15, Injures 42 In Bauchi

Sunday, June 3 2012

<http://www.thenationonlineng.net/2011/index.php/news/48863-bauchi-church-blast-kills-12.html>

A suicide bomber on Sunday killed 15 and injured 42 others in an attack on a chapel of the Living Faith Church in Bauchi Northeast Nigeria.

But the government has swiftly deployed in Army, police and other security agencies to the scene of the blast.

Also, security has been beefed up in Bauchi and its environs following fears of reprisals.

Chairman of the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Alhaji Muhammed Inuwa Bello, who spoke with our correspondent, the incident occurred between 9am and 9.30am.

He said: "We experienced a bomb explosion at Living Faith Church in Yelwa Tudu, which is about 10 to 12 kilometres to Bauchi in Bauchi Local Government Area.

"From the account at our disposal, the bomb explosion occurred when some worshippers were just coming out of the church. Although the car involved in the explosion had attempted to hit the church but it could not get to the building.

"The car rammed into the entrance leading into an instant bomb explosion. Of course, many cars which were parked within the premises of the church got engulfed.

"We have so far retrieved the corpses of 15 people and 42 others who were injured have been evacuated to Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Teaching Hospital in Bauchi."

Bello, who said the mopping operation was continuing at press time, confirmed that the Nigerian Army and other security agencies had been deployed in the area.

He added: "We are trying as much as possible to attend to those injured in the blast and all hands are on deck to save them."

Another source, who gave insight into the explosion, said: "We suspected that a neat Honda car was used for the dastardly act by the bomber.

He said some of them suffered high degree of burns as a result of the impact of the explosion.

He said: "The attack was targeted at a period the first set of worshippers was leaving. Most of them were caught unawares as they were exchanging pleasantries.

"The security was tight at the church but the suicide bomber defied the barricades to wreak havoc. Expectedly, the suicide bomber died alongside some security guards and other volunteers in the church premises.

"The death toll could be higher than 15 given by SEMA. Most people are still looking for their relations."

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) through its Head of Public Relations, Alhaji Yushau Shuaib, confirmed the incident.

He said: “NEMA has confirmed an explosion in Yelwa Tudu community in Bauchi State . Since NEMA does not have an office in the state, it mobilizes response agencies to the scene for rescue and intervention.”

As at press time, security has been beefed up in Bauchi and its environs following fears of reprisals.

A reliable security source said: “Given the religious configuration of Bauchi, we have so far beefed up security in the area because of likely reprisal attacks

“Anti-bomb experts have also been deploy in the scene of the blast for preliminary investigation.”



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## 15. [Special Interest, Mali] Mali: The World's Next Jihadi Launchpad?

Monday, June 4 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/04/us-mali-threat-idUSBRE8530JH20120604>

When Mali's Tuareg nomads launched a rebellion in January, many in Africa thought it would be just the latest in a long line of desert uprisings to be swiftly placated with offers of cash and jobs.

Some optimists mused that the indigo-turbaned northerners might even take on the local arm of al Qaeda, which was plying a disruptive trade in Western hostages and trafficked goods.

But instead, the Tuaregs' struggle for an independent homeland has been hijacked by better-armed Islamists from Mali and abroad, creating a safe haven for militants in the Sahara that is already being compared to similar bastions elsewhere.

"We are in an early stage of Afghanistan and Somalia. There is no doubt in my mind," said Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, a Mauritanian diplomat who has been a United Nations envoy in both west Africa and Somalia.

Mali is still a long way from the Taliban-ruled Afghanistan of the 1990s from which Osama bin Laden's then little-known al Qaeda readied the September 11 attacks on U.S. targets in 2001.

And the desert trade in hostages, narcotics and other goods has yet to reach the scale of the piracy off the east coast of Somalia, estimated to cost the global economy \$7 billion a year.

But Ould-Abdallah and a swelling chorus of security experts point to an influx of foreign fighters, a debilitating rivalry between neighboring states, and steady flow of illicit funds as making Mali and the wider Saharan zone the next one to watch.

In former colonial power France, the new defense minister warned last week of a "west African Afghanistan" in Mali.

The rebels' seizure of three major airstrips in the north - near the towns of Gao, Timbuktu and Tessalit - means that, in the absence of a functioning Malian air force, they can ferry in everything from drugs and weapons to yet more foreign fighters.

While some believe the threat can be contained within the area, others think it will stretch further afield. Among the latter is the African Union, whose chairman last week called for the United Nations to back a regional force to intervene.

"All the way across Europe, there is growing concern," one Western diplomat working in the region told Reuters.

"We have to recognize that it cannot be contained in northern Mali or even west Africa."

"COOL PLACE FOR JIHADIS"

The Sahara, and the Sahel scrubland which skirts it to the south, had already been inching up the global security agenda in recent years as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, a franchise of the militant network, became more active in the zone after a crackdown by authorities in Algeria, where AQIM has its roots.

The overspill of arms and fighters from last year's Libyan war into an already fragile neighborhood added a new layer of insecurity even before the rebellion in northern Mali.

When Malian government troops were routed in early April, a variety of groups entered the fray, in many cases appearing openly in the main towns for the first time. They included men declaring loyalty to al Qaeda and to AQIM splinter groups like the little-known MUJWA, as well as some members of Nigeria's Islamist militant organization Boko Haram.

"It has become a cool place for jihadis from the region," said one U.S. official with knowledge of the situation, adding that gunmen were also coming in to northern Mali from Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania.

Early developments in the rebellion focused on the secular National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), whose slick, European-based PR machine and Tuareg sympathizers hailed a series of small victories notched up against the army as they sought to carve a state they call Azawad out of the desert.

But the complex nature of the uprising emerged after a coup on March 22 in the Malian capital Bamako, far to the south, by soldiers angry at the government's failure to contain the revolt. Their coup, however, merely emboldened the rebels to make a lightning advance.

As rebel forces took major towns such as the ancient city of Timbuktu, it became clear that MNLA fighters were operating alongside a newly formed Islamist movement known as Ansar Dine, whose stated goal is to impose Islamic law, sharia, across Mali.

Ansar Dine is run by Iyad Ag Ghali - described in a leaked U.S. diplomatic cable from as "northern Mali's undisputed power broker". In two decades navigating northern Mali's tribal and political circles, Ag Ghali led two previous Tuareg rebellions, had a stint as a diplomat in Saudi Arabia and, once back home, acted as an go-between in hostage bargains with al Qaeda cells.

Diplomats in Mali said Ag Ghali formed Ansar Dine, commonly translated as Defenders of Faith, last year after being rebuffed in separate efforts to head both the MNLA and his Ifoghas Tuareg clan: "He lost the tribal line. He lost the rebellion. What does he have left? Religion," said a diplomat based in Bamako.

#### POWER-SHARING DEAL

Alongside the MNLA, Ansar Dine has jointly controlled Mali's north for two months. It was initially welcomed by local people for restoring a semblance of order after three months of violence and disruption. But it is now facing increasing hostility to its efforts to impose sharia on populations with a long history of practicing a more liberal style of Islam.

Girls and boys have been separated in schools. Residents have been whipped for drinking alcohol and smoking and hundreds took to the streets of the town of Gao to protest last month when Islamists there banned soccer and television.

Yet if imposing sharia has won Ag Ghali little popularity, it has been crucial in drawing him closer to AQIM, a group with which he was already familiar - literally, through family connections - and which he now needed for its firepower and the cash it had accumulated after years operating in the area.

Such has been the rapprochement that Ag Ghali is now understood to have an al Qaeda nom de guerre - Abu Fadhil.

"(Ag Ghali) is using religion, but his aim is political," said Mohamed Coulibaly of the Dawa movement, which preaches the same conservative form of Islam as that espoused by Ag Ghali but which rejects violence.

Ansar Dine and AQIM each number around 500 fighters, giving them a combined headcount roughly equal to that of the MNLA and substantial clout in an area the size of Spain with a population of little over a million.

Witnesses say the Islamists are better-resourced and more heavily armed than the Tuareg separatists, however, allowing them to shunt the MNLA aside and take effective control on their own of towns across northern Mali.

The government in the south is laboring with a fragile transition back to civilian rule after the March 22 coup and its army is still licking its wounds after the rebel advance, so Bamako is in no position to take back the north any time soon.

While the government rejects the MNLA's secession, there might have been scope for negotiations on easing poverty in the north that could have provided a platform for resolving the rift in the country. But the marginalization of the secular MNLA by the Islamists makes even that degree of dialogue impossible.

The MNLA now appears to risk tearing itself apart over a proposed power-sharing deal in the north with Ansar Dine - with the latter saying sharia is a non-negotiable part of the deal even as it consolidates its positions on the ground.

#### FUMBLING DIPLOMACY

Prospects of a solution from outside are equally dim.

Niger, whose capital Niamey is closer to much of the rebel-run zone even than Bamako, is pushing for quick military action to crush the rebels. Yet Algeria, the region's biggest military power, seeks dialogue and is prickly about any suggestion of foreign forces operating in the Sahara.

Such divisions are not new. Sour ties between Algeria and Morocco and longstanding regional frustration with Mali for its perceived laxity in dealing with the security threat on its territory, have hamstrung Western efforts to coordinate a response to the growing AQIM menace to Western interests.

On May 11, in a closed-door U.N. Security Council debate, diplomacy gave way to criticism of the west African states' ECOWAS grouping. According to a U.N. report seen by Reuters, Germany and the United States urged the United Nations to play a bigger role - a move openly supported last week by the region's main former colonial power, France, and by the African Union.

But if calls are growing for U.N.-backed intervention, memories of the disastrous 1993 U.S. foray into Somalia and the difficulties of NATO's decade-old presence in Afghanistan have dampened appetites for putting Western troops on the ground.

While Paris has military bases in Senegal and Ivory Coast together with special forces deployed to the region, France and Washington are so far only ready to provide support roles to an potential African mission to suppress the revolt.

ECOWAS has said for weeks that it has a standby force of thousands ready to deploy to Mali but the mission is short of any clear planning and mandate. It is meant to be invited in by authorities in Bamako but wrangling there between politicians and soldiers who led the coup has blocked any coherent policy.

There are questions, too, over the effectiveness of a west African force, over the cost, put by one peacekeeping source at over \$200 million, and on whether foreign troops might just further poison relations among Mali's rival groups.

Others suggest it is still not too late to use deep-running tribal ties to detach the MNLA separatists, and some Tuaregs who have joined Ansar Dine, from hardline and foreign Islamists in the hope of starting negotiations with those more ready to talk.

"If a force goes in now, before there have been any talks, it risks pushing the moderates towards the extremists," the Western diplomat in the region said.

However, Todd Moss, once a senior U.S. diplomat working on Africa and now vice-president at the Center for Global Development, said a protracted stalemate would make a military effort more likely - possibly relying primarily on Western air power rather than a regional force moving in on the ground.

"Not ECOWAS ... rather a French and US counter-terrorism campaign from the sky," Moss suggested. "Western policymakers will absolutely not allow a jihadist safe haven."

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## 16. [Attack, Nigeria] Nineteen Killed In Shootings, Bomb Attacks In North Nigeria Amid Wave Of Sectarian Violence

Tuesday, June 5 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/19-killed-in-shootings-bomb-attacks-in-north-nigeria-amid-wave-of-sectarian-violence/2012/06/05/gJQAaATtGV\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/19-killed-in-shootings-bomb-attacks-in-north-nigeria-amid-wave-of-sectarian-violence/2012/06/05/gJQAaATtGV_story.html)

An hours-long gun battle punctuated by explosions rocked a northeast Nigeria city on Tuesday, as gunmen in another city in the country's Muslim north killed police officers in attacks that left at least 19 people dead, officials said.

The violence, which authorities blamed on a radical Islamist sect known as Boko Haram, targeted the cities of Kano and the northeastern city of Maiduguri, where the group once had its main mosque.

The heaviest fighting occurred in Maiduguri, as soldiers fired on suspected sect members for several hours as bomb blasts echoed across the city, witnesses said.

Military spokesman Col. Victor Ebhaleme told journalists Tuesday night that all those killed were "Boko Haram terrorists" and that the military suffered no casualties on its side.

Soldiers also recovered weapons and ammunition in the operation which targeted areas authorities believed served as hideouts for the sect in the arid, dusty city, Ebhaleme said.

However, a man who lives in the neighborhood where the fighting took place later said that some civilians had been struck stray bullets in the fighting.

"I almost got home, but I saw soldiers shooting and I had to run back on foot," the man said. He spoke on condition of anonymity as he feared angering either the military or Boko Haram.

The crowded neighborhood, called Lawan Bukar, is close to the palace of the region's traditional ruler, the Shehu of Borno. It also is an area where suspected Boko Haram members recently beheaded two civilians and shot dead a politician.

Meanwhile, in Kano, gunmen suspected to belong to Boko Haram opened fire and killed a retired deputy inspector-general of Nigeria's federal police, as well as two other officers in the city.

Kano state police spokesman Rilwan Mohammed confirmed the attack took place, but declined to offer additional details.

Nigeria faces a growing wave of sectarian violence carried out by Boko Haram, whose name means "Western education is sacrilege" in the Hausa language of Nigeria's predominantly Muslim north.

The sect has been blamed for killing more than 560 people this year alone, according to an Associated Press count. The sect's targets have included churches, often attacked by suicide car bombers.

Boko Haram, which speaks to journalists through telephone conference calls at times of its choosing, could not be immediately reached for comment Tuesday night. The sect most recently claimed



responsibility for a suicide car bombing that struck a church in the northern state of Bauchi on Sunday that killed at least 15 people and wounded dozens more.

Nigeria, a nation of more than 160 million people, is divided between a largely Muslim north and Christian south.

Boko Haram attacks have inflamed tensions between the two religions, though many in the faiths live peacefully with each other and intermarry in Africa's most populous nation.

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## 17. [Attack, Libya] Bomb Targets US Embassy Office In Libya

Wednesday, June 6 2012

[http://www.voanews.com/content/bombing\\_targets\\_us\\_embassy\\_in\\_libya/1204110.html](http://www.voanews.com/content/bombing_targets_us_embassy_in_libya/1204110.html)

An explosion outside the U.S. mission in Libya's eastern city of Benghazi caused no injuries but heightened concerns about instability in the country as it plans for elections. A U.S. official said the administration "deplores the attack" outside the diplomatic office and will continue to support democracy in Libya.

A U.S. official in Libya says the attack late Tuesday damaged the front gate of the mission. Speaking on condition of anonymity, the official told VOA that the main building was not affected. The explosion near the U.S. diplomatic office came a day after Libya's main airport reopened following the seizure of the facility by disgruntled militiamen.

It also happened hours after U.S. officials said a drone strike in northwestern Pakistan killed al-Qaida's second in command, ( Abu Yahya al-Libi ) who was a Libyan national. U.S. diplomats reportedly asked for increased security in Libya.

David Bachmann, the head of the Austrian embassy's commercial section, told VOA that foreigners in Libya have to learn to "cope" with what he calls an escalating "unquiet" situation.

"In Benghazi, it's like every second night, every other night, there's something going on there. So you start losing overview with all the things going on like the Tripoli airport, Benghazi, ... it's simply sometimes too much," said Bachmann.

But Bachmann says members of the business community have tight security in place in Tripoli and won't change their behavior due to bombs in Benghazi.

"We know where we are, and companies over here all know that it's not the easiest place, but they act accordingly," said Bachmann.

The explosion in Benghazi comes two weeks before Libya is scheduled to hold its first free national elections since former dictator Moammar Gadhafi was killed last year amid a popular uprising. Tensions are rising ahead of the June 19 voting for a 200-member assembly that will write a new constitution and form a government. Violence between tribal factions and the interim government have led to reports that elections could be delayed.

Fadi Tarapolsi is a Libyan American who returned to Libya to celebrate his country's liberty.

"There's some frustration there and they want to see some movement, but, at the same time, we are basically building everything from scratch, so it's very important to do it right the first time," said Tarapolsi.

Western nations are counting on the elections to forge democracy in Libya.

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## 18. [Special Interest, Mali] Niger Says Afghan, Pakistani Jihadis In N. Mali

Thursday, June 7 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/07/us-niger-mali-qaeda-idUSBRE85613920120607>

Niger's President Mahamadou Issoufou said on Thursday that Afghan and Pakistani jihadis were training recruits for Islamist groups in northern Mali, the latest sign it is slipping into terrorist hands.

Speaking before a meeting with new French President Francois Hollande next week, Issoufou told France 24 that talks to reach a peaceful solution in Mali continued, but a United Nations Security Council resolution to allow military intervention would be a necessity if they failed.

"We have information of the presence of Afghans, Pakistanis in northern Mali operating as trainers," Issoufou told the French TV network in Niamey. "They are training those that have been recruited in West African countries."

Mali, once regarded as a fine example of African democracy, collapsed into chaos after soldiers toppled the president in March, leaving a power vacuum in the north that enabled Tuareg rebels to take control of nearly two-thirds of the country.

But the uprising also has involved a mix of local and foreign Islamists, who appear to be better armed and appear to have the upper hand in the rebel-occupied north with Western nations concerned about a real risk of the region turning into a West African Afghanistan.

"The jihadis control the situation in northern Mali," he said. "The other forces with other objectives are marginal. The main forces are the jihadis and drug traffickers."

Issoufou said Niger had evidence that Boko Haram, an Islamist group that has become a security threat in Nigeria's north and fostered links with al Qaeda's north African wing (AQIM), was running training camps in the Malian town of Gao.

Residents and security experts say senior AQIM figures are appearing openly in the major towns in Mali's north, having previously been limited to remote desert regions.

"If terrorists implant themselves in Africa, they will threaten Europe," Issoufou said. "I see the necessity for a U.N. Security Council resolution on the Mali situation to allow the use of force to restore integrity of Mali's territory. I am optimistic because Western powers are aware of the danger that threatens them in the Sahel."

African leaders met in Abidjan on Thursday to hammer out details of the U.N. request for a military mandate in Mali.

Ivory Coast Foreign Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan said a Chapter 7 mandate must be considered to reunite the country if talks with armed groups failed to resolve a crisis.

"ECOWAS is ready to send men for this mission which will be costly and difficult due to the hostile terrain," said Kadre Desire Ouedraogo, head of the ECOWAS commission. "It counts on the contribution of the international community."

Regional bloc ECOWAS has said for weeks it has men ready but sources close to peacekeeping officials said the price tag of over \$200 million and confusion over the mission's objectives mean deployment is still far off.

Former colonial ruler France has said it would be ready to help restore stability in Mali if there was a Security Council resolution.

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## 19. [Special Interest, Kenya] Kenya Police Have Listed Government Skyscrapers Among Possible Terror Targets

Thursday, June 7 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/un-kenya-police-have-listed-government-skyscrapers-among-possible-terror-targets/2012/06/07/gJQAxUyjKV\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/un-kenya-police-have-listed-government-skyscrapers-among-possible-terror-targets/2012/06/07/gJQAxUyjKV_story.html)

The Kenya police force has listed seven buildings, including the headquarters of the revenue authority, as being under immediate risk of a terror attack from an al-Qaida-linked militant group that has threatened to bring down skyscrapers in Kenya's capital city, an internal U.N. security report says.

Somalia's al-Shabab militant group last week said it would attack Kenya's skyscrapers within two weeks, a warning that followed a bomb attack in Nairobi's city center which killed one person and injured 32 others. Al-Shabab's warning was posted by the private intelligence firm, IntelCenter.

It was the third time al-Shabab has threatened to bomb Kenya after the country sent its troops into Somalia to pursue the militants in October.

The U.N. report circulated late Wednesday says police are restricting parking at the buildings listed and are screening all people going into them. The other buildings named in report are Kenyatta International Conference Centre, I&M Building, National Social Security Fund Building, Lornho House, View Park Towers and Nyayo House.

Police spokesman Eric Kiraithe said the U.N. report is misleading and denied designating any building as being under threat. Kiraithe said Nyayo house is a heavily guarded government building which houses the Ministry of State for Immigration and Registration Persons and does not need additional security.

The Virginia-based IntelCenter said last week that the towers most likely to be targeted are those housing hotels, those frequented by Westerners, government offices, media and prominent corporations.

"The building volume of threats and low-level activity indicate that such an attack may be attempted sooner rather than later," IntelCenter said.

Some of the buildings named in the U.N. report fit this profile.

The report says the latest threat by al-Shabab is considered serious because of last week's bomb blast which was different from grenade attacks blamed on Kenyan sympathizers of al-Shabab. Since October, the grenade attacks have killed at least 40 civilians.

Police concluded that an improvised explosive device caused last week's blast that ripped through a building full of small shops in downtown Nairobi. The explosion sent dark smoke billowing out of a one-story building on the avenue named after Kenya's second president, peeled back the front corner of the aluminum roof and shattered windows in the building. A high-rise building with a glass exterior next door was largely untouched. The U.N. said it could have been a test run for a bigger attack and that the threat of one is very high.

Al-Shabab is waging an insurgency against a weak U.N.-backed transitional government in Somalia. It carried out its first international attack in Uganda, killing 76 people watching the World Cup final on TV in July 2010.

In April the U.S. government warned that it continues to receive information about potential terrorist threats aimed at U.S., Western and Kenyan targets inside Kenya.

The Obama administration was expected to announce Thursday that it will offer up to \$33 million in rewards for information about top members of al-Shabab.

It will offer up to \$7 million for al-Shabab's founder, Ahmed Abdi aw-Mohamed; up to \$5 million each for his associates, Ibrahim Haji Jama, Fuad Mohamed Khalaf, Bashir Mohamed Mahamoud and Mukhtar Robow; and up to \$3 million for Zakariya Ismail Ahmed Hersi and Abdullahi Yare.

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## 20. [Attack, Nigeria] Bomb In Northern Nigerian City Kills One

Friday, June 8 2012

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jxJEWVyx-uP8ZgZJ9CLEgUX9opQ?docId=CNG.da95e4fe5cada5d328424246fd208664.161>

A bomb killed one person early Friday in the northern city of Maiduguri where Islamist sect Boko Haram has carried out series of deadly attacks, the army and residents said.

The improvised explosive device (IED), concealed in a bag kept under a public shed, exploded around 6:00 am (0500 GMT) in the Gidan Dambe district of the volatile city, they said.

The army said victim was a suspected Boko Haram member trying to plant an explosive device. Residents however said they thought he was a drug addict who had been trying to find out what was in the bag.

"There was an explosion in an area of Maiduguri this morning and our men immediately deployed to the area," Colonel Victor Ebhaleme, commander of the Joint Task Force (JTF) operating in the city, told AFP.

"They found a man we believe to be a member of Boko Haram, dismembered by the explosion.

"Preliminary investigation has shown that he was killed when he was trying to plant the device," he stated.

A resident said: "a resident known to be a drug addict, named Dalwa, went into the shed and tried to open the bag to see what was inside it. The device exploded and killed him on the spot. His body was blown into pieces."

The JTF has cordoned off the area.

Boko Haram has been blamed for a series of gun and bomb attacks in the northern region.

In what is their deadliest attack to date, coordinated bombings and shootings in January killed at least 185 people in the northern city of Kano.

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## **21. [Attack, Iraq] Drive-By Shooting, Roadside Bomb Kill Two In Iraqi Capital**

Friday, June 1 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/officials-drive-by-shooting-roadside-bomb-kill-2-in-iraqi-capital/2012/06/01/gJQADY5r6U\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/officials-drive-by-shooting-roadside-bomb-kill-2-in-iraqi-capital/2012/06/01/gJQADY5r6U_story.html)

Iraqi police say a drive-by shooting and a roadside bomb have killed a motorist and a government official in Baghdad.

Police say the off-duty Interior Ministry official was killed Friday midday when gunmen sprayed his car with bullets as he was driving. They say that an hour later, a roadside bomb hit a pickup truck on another main street, killing the driver and wounding two passengers.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

Violence has diminished in Iraq since a wave of sectarian bloodshed in 2006 and 2007, but insurgents carry out frequent attacks on security forces and civilians, trying to undermine the Shiite-led government. It has been deadlocked by sectarian quarrels since the U.S. pulled its troops out last December.

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## 22. [Attack, Iraq] Bomb Hits Shi'ite Site In Baghdad, 26 Killed

Monday, June 4 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/04/us-iraq-violence-idUSBRE85308O20120604>

A suicide bomber detonated an explosive-packed car outside a Shi'ite Muslim office in central Baghdad on Monday, killing at least 26 people and wounding more than 190 in an attack bearing the hallmarks of Iraq's al Qaeda affiliate.

The bombing on a Shi'ite religious office comes at a sensitive time, with the country's fractious Shi'ite, Sunni and Kurdish blocs locked in a crisis that threatens to unravel their power-sharing deal and spill into sectarian tensions.

The attacker targeted the Shi'ite Endowment - a government-run body that manages Shi'ite religious and cultural sites - leaving dead and wounded along a main street nearby and blasting part of its headquarters to rubble, police said.

"It was a powerful explosion, dust and smoke covered the area. At first I couldn't see anything, but then I heard screaming women and children," said policeman Ahmed Hassan, who was at a nearby police station when the bomb went off.

"We rushed with other police to help ... the wounded were scattered all around, and there were body parts on the main street," he said.

Violence in Iraq has eased, but Sunni Islamist insurgents tied to al Qaeda are still capable of devastating attacks and often hit Shi'ite targets to stir up the kind of sectarian pressure that pushed Iraq close to civil war in 2006-2007.

Security officials said initial evidence from Monday's blast pointed to a suicide car bomber. They said the bombing appeared to have been carried out by Islamic State of Iraq, al Qaeda's Iraqi wing, which often uses suicide bombers in its attacks.

The Shi'ite Endowment has been caught up in a dispute with the rival Sunni Endowment over control of a key Shi'ite shrine in the Sunni stronghold city of Samarra. An attack on the Al Askari shrine in Samarra in 2006 sparked sectarian fighting that killed tens of thousands in the two following years.

Last week, a truck bombing in a marketplace, a car bomb and several roadside explosions killed at least 17 people and broke weeks of relative calm in Baghdad, where daily attacks claimed hundreds of victims at the height of the war.

In mid April, more than 20 bombs hit cities and towns across the country, killing 36 people. Islamic State of Iraq claimed responsibility for those attacks.

Since the last American troops left Iraq in December, nine years after the U.S.-led invasion, tensions have been running high in Iraqi politics with critics of Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki threatening to seek a vote of no confidence against him.

Many Sunni and Kurdish leaders say they fear Maliki is shoring up Shi'ite power by sidelining them from power-sharing agreements. But Maliki supporters say his critics have long obstructed the work of his government to try to wrestle more concessions from the Shi'ite leader.



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### **23. [Attack, Yemen] S. Yemen Suicide Car Bomb Kills Four**

Monday, June 4 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-52575-S.-Yemen-suicide-car-bomb-kills-four>

A suicide bomber blew up an explosives-laden car at a checkpoint in Yemen's restive southern province of Abyan on Monday, killing four pro-army gunmen, a military source said.

"Four of our men were killed when a suicide bomber detonated a car full of explosives at a checkpoint between Loder and Shaqra," in Abyan, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The militiamen from the Popular Resistance Committees are mainly armed local residents fighting alongside the Yemeni army against Al-Qaeda militants.

Yemeni forces launched an all-out offensive on May 12 aimed at reclaiming Abyan's capital Zinjibar and several other towns and cities in the province lost to Al-Qaeda over the past year.

Since the assault began, at least 391 people have been killed, according to an AFP tally compiled from official statements, including 285 Al-Qaeda fighters, 66 military personnel, 22 local militiamen and 18 civilians.

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## 24. [Attack, Syria] Explosive Device Kills A General And Other Syrian Troops

Wednesday, June 6 2012

[http://www.solvision.co.cu/english/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=3416:explosive-device-kills-a-general-and-other-syrian-troops-&catid=3:internationals&Itemid=120](http://www.solvision.co.cu/english/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3416:explosive-device-kills-a-general-and-other-syrian-troops-&catid=3:internationals&Itemid=120)

An explosive device detonated near a school in a Damascus suburb killed a brigadier general and two soldiers on Wednesday, reported Syrian authorities.

The bomb exploded near a school in the town of Jedeidet Artouz and was apparently targeted toward security forces charged with protecting the school during its exam period.

According to the Suburban Damascus Police Command, Brigadier General Ahmad Abdo Merhej died of wounds caused in the explosion, along with two other soldiers.

The blast also wounded a first lieutenant and four additional soldiers, according to a report from the Syrian SANA news agency.

In another armed action in the town of Bweida, on the outskirts of the capital, an additional explosive charge exploded in a building housing a factory, killing a girl and wounding two civilians.

Authorities reported finding dozens of explosive devices in a section of the building used by rebel groups in attacks against military and civilian targets.

Additionally, nine bombs connected to explode simultaneously were deactivated by Syrian Army units in the province of Deir Ezzor, authorities reported on Wednesday.



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## **25. [Attack, Yemen] Yemeni Army Clashes With Al Qaeda Fighters, 25 Killed**

Thursday, June 7 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/07/us-yemen-clash-idUSBRE85613Q20120607>

Yemen's army engaged on Thursday in heavy gun battles with Islamist militants linked to al Qaeda on the edge of the southern town of Jaar, part of a month-long offensive to retake several towns seized by rebels, local officials said.

At least 20 Islamist fighters from Ansar al-Sharia (Partisans of Islamic Law), an offshoot of al Qaeda, were killed, residents said. Five tribesmen fighting alongside government forces also died, the residents said.

The Yemeni army is trying to recapture towns in the southern province of Abyan that were seized by the militants last year during a popular uprising against President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who formally stepped down in February.

Residents said military helicopters took part in Thursday's battles, bombing several rebel-held positions.

The United States has become increasingly alarmed at the situation in Yemen which it views as being in the front line of its war on anti-American Islamist militants.

In support of the army campaign, the United States has stepped up drone strikes against suspected militants.

Concerned about the humanitarian and security crisis in Yemen, Gulf Arab states and the West pledged more than \$4 billion in aid to the impoverished state last month.

About 40 percent of Yemenis live on less than \$2 a day. Aid agencies said in May almost half of them lack enough to eat.

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## **26. [Attack, Syria] Car Bomb On Outskirts Of Syrian Capital Kills Two**

Friday, June 8 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/08/us-syria-crisis-bomb-idUSBRE8570HK20120608>

A car bomb exploded in a suburb of Damascus on Friday, killing at least two security force personnel, activists said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human rights said the blast in the suburb of Qudsiya targeted a bus transporting members of Syrian security forces, and was followed by heavy gunfire.

Syria's 15-month-old revolt against President Bashar al-Assad has grown increasingly bloody. Security forces have intensified their crackdown on the uprising and rebels, who have revoked their commitment to a U.N .-backed ceasefire, clash regularly with Syrian troops.

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## 27. [Trend, Estonia] IED Found Under Car In Central Tallinn

Friday, June 1 2012

<http://news.err.ee/ffa95806-e556-4b35-b614-59af87a90ceb>

The alleged grenade found under a car in Tallinn city center yesterday turned out to be an improvised explosive device, Arno Põder, spokesman for the Northern District Prosecutor's Office said.

On Thursday at 14:50 the rescue services call center received a call about a bomb-like object that was found under a parked Mercedes-Benz on Tartu maantee 53, Põder told uudised.err.ee.

The police restricted access to the danger zone and removed the suspicious object from underneath the vehicle using a bomb robot, he said.

"We can now say that it was a homemade explosive device," said Põder, adding that the vehicle belongs to a 50-year-old individual.

The National Security Agency (KAPO) has launched criminal proceedings on the grounds of attempted murder and handling of illegal explosives. The investigation is being led by the Northern Prosecutor's Office.

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## 28. [Security, Israel] Gaza Strip Has Become A Huge Arms Depot Since Israeli Withdrawal

Saturday, June 2 2012

<http://www.thecuttingedgenews.com/index.php?article=73976&pageid=20&pagename=Security>

Israel must launch a military operation to rout terrorist organizations from the Gaza Strip immediately, Israel Security Agency head Yoram Cohen warned on May 30.

"The IDF's inaction against terrorist organizations will lead to a situation in which Hamas has far greater abilities in the next round of fighting," Cohen told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. It was his first appearance before the committee.



Cohen said Israel's dilemma was not whether to launch such an offensive, but rather how Hamas would respond. "Such action might force a significant number of people [in Israel] into bomb shelters," Cohen said.

"Since the IDF withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, the territory has become a huge weapons depot," Cohen told the committee. "Hamas currently has 8,000 rockets that can reach a range of 4 to 40 km (2.5 to 25 miles)."

He added that Hamas is rumored to have acquired a handful of rockets capable of striking even greater distances, and that some of Hamas' operational abilities have surpassed those of the Shiite terrorist militia Hezbollah.

Cohen said that terrorist groups in Gaza have developed "an Israel Military Industries-like apparatus to produce and develop rockets that might one day reach the Gush Dan region [in central Israel]."

He also warned that Gaza-based terrorists have been getting assistance from other regional players, particularly from "experts, including Iranians and other operatives who were sent overseas for training."

He said the popular uprising in Libya that toppled Moammar Gadhafi's regime has transformed that country into a "new gate to hell" through which shoulder-fired missiles and rockets have been smuggled into the Gaza Strip.

Cohen said his agency had its eye on hundreds of targets in the Gaza Strip. "When the order is given, they can be hit," he said.

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## 29. [Attack, Northern Ireland] Fury Over Bomb Attack On Police In Derry

Monday, June 4 2012

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/fury-over-bomb-attack-murder-bid-on-police-in-derry-16167782.html>

The throwing of a bomb at a police vehicle was attempted murder, the PSNI said last night. The front of the vehicle was badly damaged after the bomb was thrown at officers as they conducted a search in the Creggan area of Londonderry.

Youths also threw stones at police. The front of the four-wheel drive vehicle was almost blown off. Nobody was injured in the attack at Rathmore Park on Saturday night.

PSNI Inspector Jon Burrows said: "Those who carried out this attack have shown callous disregard for the safety of the local community and my officers. It is only by sheer good fortune that we do not have a fatality on our hands as this attack occurred in a built-up residential area. My officers should be allowed to carry out their duties without the added pressure of misguided individuals intent on causing them harm."



Police have appealed for anyone with information to come forward. A spokesman said: "Detectives in Strand Road are appealing for information following the attempted murder of police officers in the Creggan area of Derry."

A man was later arrested as part of an investigation into dissident republican activity. The 50-year-old suspect was detained after police searched a property in the Creggan yesterday. Police said he had been taken to Antrim Serious Crime Suite for questioning.

The attack is the latest in a series of incidents in the city, which have been blamed on dissident republicans. One of the most serious was the bombing of the Strand Road police station in 2010.

Dissident group Oglai na hEireann claimed it carried out that attack, in which 200lbs of homemade explosives were used. Nobody was injured in the attack but several businesses were badly damaged.

A policeman was hailed as a hero when he risked his own life when he walked past the bomb twice to bring to safety staff at a nearby fast food shop.

There have also been attacks on the City of Culture offices and an attempt to bomb the main court building.

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### **30. [Security, Northern Ireland] Two Controlled Explosions Carried Out In Belfast**

Wednesday, June 6 2012

<http://insideireland.ie/2012/06/06/two-controlled-explosions-carried-out-in-belfast-72596/>

Two controlled explosions had to be carried out overnight in Belfast.

A security alert was sparked by the discovery of a suspect object in the garden of a house in the St James' area at 11.30pm on Tuesday.

A number of families were evacuated from their homes while the viable device was examined by bomb experts.

The alert ended at just after 6am this morning. Police are appealing for anyone who has any information about the incident to come forward.

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### **31. [Attack, Northern Ireland] Grenade Blast Could Have Killed, Says PSNI**

Thursday, June 7 2012

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/grenade-blast-could-have-killed-says-psni-16169203.html>

A bomb attack in a densely populated residential area could have had devastating consequences, police and politicians have said.

A hand grenade was thrown at an armoured PSNI car after uniformed officers were lured to the Twinbrook estate on the outskirts of west Belfast just after midnight on Wednesday.

It is understood that police officers were responding to a report of a broken window at a property in the Whin Park area when they were targeted.

Dissident republicans are believed to be behind the murder bid which was a carbon copy of an attack on police in Londonderry just two days ago.

PSNI area commander Chief Inspector Darrin Jones said it was "fortunate" no-one was killed.

"Those who carried out this attack have shown callous disregard for the safety of the local community and the police officers serving this community," he said.

"We are very fortunate that no one was killed or seriously injured as this occurred in a residential area putting the lives of those living there at serious risk."

The area was partially sealed off as forensic officers examined the scene. Two local residents' cars were damaged in the blast.

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### **32. [Attack, Philippines] Isabela City IED Damages Two Vehicles, Wounds One**

Thursday, May 31 2012

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/260188/news/regions/isabela-city-ied-damages-two-vehicles-wounds-one>

A military report said Thursday that an improvised explosive device was set off in front of Isabela City Mayor Cherrylyn Akbar's home, damaging a Philippine Red Cross vehicle and Isabela City Vice-Mayor Abdulbaki Ajibun's motor vehicle, with a single person slightly injured.

Capt. Albert Caber, spokesman of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, identified the wounded man as Jonathan Cabuyao. It is uncertain if Cabuyao is a Red Cross worker.

Caber said that a black XRM motorcycle was rigged with the improvised explosive device, or IED, and was parked in front of Akbar's house in Barangay Sunrise.

According to Caber, the bomb went off around 12:25 p.m. while the Red Cross and vice-mayor's vehicles were passing by.

Caber said Ajibun, who was coming from a city council session, believes that he was the target of the attack but did not elaborate further.

The Army's 104th Brigade is coordinating with the PNP in the investigation.

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### 33. [Attack, Nepal] Explosion Near Maoist Meet Venue

Saturday, June 2 2012

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Explosion+near+Maoist+meet+venue&NewsID=334619>

An improvised explosive device of moderate intensity went off in Jalbire, Sindhupalchowk, nearby a Maoist meeting which was attended by Finance Minister Barshaman Pun.

The bomb exploded at around 4:00pm when Maoist politburo member Agini Sapkota was addressing the gathering.

The meeting was organised on the premises of Ananda Higher Secondary School in Jalbire bazaar, 50 metres from the explosion site. No was hurt in the explosion, which has caused slight damage to the school building.

Eyewitnesses claimed to have seen two persons fleeing the explosion site five minutes before the IED went off. Police said they have detained three persons. Investigation is under way, said police.

Addressing today's meeting, Finance Minister Pun held Nepali Congress, CPN-UML and rival faction of his own party led by Mohan Baidhya for country not getting a new constitution.

"Declaration of polls was a must for a fresh mandate after the Nepali Congress and the CPN-UML did not agree on identity-based federalism," Pun defended.

Maoist politburo member Sapkota took a jibe at NC and UML and termed them 'so-called democratic parties'.

Sapkota said NC and UML were against fresh polls because they were dreading to face the people.

The Maoist leader added that former combatants and YCL cadres in more number than in earlier CA polls would be deployed this time around.

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### **34. [Attack, India] Twenty-Five Injured In Chhattisgarh Landmine Blast**

Sunday, June 3 2012

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article3483961.ece>

As many as 25 persons — 19 prisoners and six police personnel — were injured in a landmine blast carried out by Maoists in the Kondagao district of Chhattisgarh on Saturday afternoon, police said.

The victims were returning after a court appearance at Kondagao when the ultras targeted the vehicle in which they were travelling.

Kondagao SP Prashant Agrawal told PTI that the vehicle belonged to the Jagdalpur Central Prison and the incident took place on the National Highway 30 near Joba village.

He said six of the victims were critically injured. Four were policemen, one was a prisoner and the other the driver. All the injured were shifted to hospital.

21 landmines recovered

Meanwhile, 21 landmines, planted serially on the Kurung-Ganeshpur path in Latehar district, were recovered during an anti-Maoist operation, the police said in Latehar.

“All the landmines, weighing between one kg to 10 kg, were planted on the route to target security forces,” Superintendent of Police Kranti Kumar told reporters.

He said the security forces discovered the explosives when they found a 10-kg improvised explosive device planted near a well.

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### 35. [Security, North Korea] North Korea Threatens To Bomb South Korean Media

Sunday, June 3 2012

<http://www.dw.de/dw/article/0,,15996649,00.html>

North Korea has said it has directed missiles at South Korean media outlets due to a "smear campaign." The Seoul media organizations had been critical of a celebration involving 20,000 schoolchildren in Pyongyang.

North Korea's military lashed out at seven South Korean media outlets on Monday, warning that it had trained missiles on them and demanding South Korean President Lee Myung-bak apologize for perceived insults.

"In case dens of monstrous crimes are blown up one after another, the Lee group will be entirely held responsible for this," the General Staff of the Korean People's Army said in what it called an "open ultimatum" carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

The threat included the unusually specific locations in longitude and latitude of the television networks, radio stations and newspapers.

North Korea objected to coverage that implied that the gathering of 20,000 schoolchildren to celebrate the 66th anniversary of the Korean Children's Union was a propaganda gimmick.

In Seoul, a spokesman for the Unification Ministry, which deals with relations between the two states, indicated South Korea was not taking the threat lightly.

"It's too serious to put aside," ministry spokesman Kim Hyung-suk told reporters.

Especially strained relations

The North's news agency reported on Saturday that the children had pledged loyalty to new leader Kim Jong Un.

Children were selected from around the country for the celebrations

"The young delegates could not hold back the endless happiness... amid unchanging longing to remember the benevolent image of respected comrade Kim Jong Un deep in their hearts," it said.

In April, the North had threatened to destroy Seoul and "conservative" media within minutes, prompting South Korea to station police at several media outlets.

Relations between the two countries have been especially strained since the North's failed attempt in April to launch a missile it said was a meant to bring satellite into orbit. South Korea, Japan and the United States said the launch was instead an attempt to test an inter-continental rocket.

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### **36. [Security, India] Bomb Detected, Defused At TMC MLA's Residence**

Sunday, June 3 2012

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/states/other-states/article3486335.ece>

Suspected militants planted a powerful bomb at the private residence of a Manipur MLA but it was detected in time and defused, official sources said on Sunday.

Sources said the bomb, an improvised explosive device, attached to a mobile handset was fixed at the gate of Trinamool Congress MLA, Th Shyamkumar's residence in interior Moirang Purel village in Thoubal district on Saturday.

Local residents reported the matter to 13th BSF who informed the nearby police station.

Mr. Shyamkumar and his family members were present at the time of removing the bomb by police experts.

No individual or group has claimed responsibility for planting the bomb.

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### **37. [Trend, India] Twenty-One Mines, 10 Kg IED Found In Latehar**

Sunday, June 3 2012

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-06-03/ranchi/32005760\\_1\\_dacoits-landmines-latehar](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-06-03/ranchi/32005760_1_dacoits-landmines-latehar)

Police recovered 21 powerful landmines from two villages in Latehar along with 10 kg of improvised explosive device.

The IED was recovered from a well at Kurunketta village while the landmines were found from Kuppu village in Burwadih block of the district, around 110 km away from here.

Police recovered the explosives during a search operation. SP G Kranthi Kumar said the bombs were defused. The recovery averted a major disaster because police often use the village roads during search operations.

The CPI Maoists are suspected to have planted the landmines. Dense forest areas connect Kurunketta to Kuppu village and are Moaist dens.

Dacoits arrested: Six dacoits were arrested in Khunti district on Saturday. The dacoits were planning to execute a robbery on Sunday. All of them were wanted in murder, rape and loot cases by different police stations in Khunti and Ranchi, Khunti SP M Tamil Vanan said.

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### **38. [Attack, India] Three Injured At Bomb Blast In Manipur**

Monday, June 4 2012

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/Manipur/Three-injured-at-bomb-blast-in-Manipur/Article1-865795.aspx>

Three persons -- two Manipur Rifles jawans and a driver -- were injured when militants exploded a powerful bomb at the housing complex of a Manipur government official at Mantripukhri in the outskirts of Imphal, official sources said on Monday.

The bomb exploded at the housing complex of managing director of Manipur Development Society Y Ningthem injuring his two security guards belonging to 2nd Manipur Rifles battalion and a driver on Sunday night. The car of the official was destroyed.

The condition of one jawan identified as TH Dhanachandra was stated to be serious.

No individual or group has claimed responsibility, but non-payment of demand money by the official was considered to be the reason for the incident.

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### **39. [Attack, Sri Lanka] LTTE Manufactured Bomb Kills A Minor In Sri Lanka's North**

Monday, June 4 2012

[http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_12/Jun04\\_1338823976KA.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12/Jun04_1338823976KA.php)

An 'Arul bomb' manufactured by the defeated terrorist group Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has killed a teenage boy in Northern Sri Lanka.

The death of the 15-year-old boy on the beach in the islet of Nainativu in Jaffna was caused due to the explosion of an LTTE manufactured 'Arul bomb' the Media Centre for National Security said.

Military Spokesperson Brigadier Ruwan Wanigasuriya said the boy found the unexploded ordnance when he was playing on the beach near the Poosari Amman Kovil this morning.

The famous Nagadeepa Buddhist temple, visited by many from the South is also located in the island.

Preliminary investigations have revealed that the device is the kind of homemade explosive devices used by the LTTE during the war with the Sri Lankan security forces.

Kayts police are conducting further investigations into the incident.

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#### 40. [Trend, Thailand] Bomb Found Underneath Motorcycle Seat

Monday, June 4 2012

<http://www.pattayapeople.com/default.asp?Folder=16&IdArticle=31161>

On Saturday afternoon, while the Pattaya Police led by the Deputy Superintendent In charge of Suppressions Pol. Lt. Col. Kiatisak Sa-tong-oy were setting a checkpoint on Pattaya Beach Road, right in front of the Pattaya Police Station, a man, identified later as Mr. Sutee Sun-torn-pak-dee, aged 25 from Surin province, was spotted driving a red Honda Wave 110 past the checkpoint with a suspicious demeanor. The police stopped him for searching, and an object looking like a homemade bomb, a little smaller than a coconut, was found hidden underneath the seat. Mr. Sutee declared no knowledge of this object.

He referred to his friend Mr. Ex, who had borrowed his motorcycle for a night. He claimed that this object belonged to Mr. Ex, but the police apprehended Mr. Sutee anyway, for further investigation, as this object would be very dangerous if it went off.



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## 41. [Security, Australia] Frankston Car 'Bomb' Drama

Tuesday, June 5 2012

<http://www.frankstonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/frankston-car-bomb-drama/2579170.aspx>

Police bomb experts detonated a live explosive device found in a car in Frankston on Friday.

The Evelyn Street area was cordoned off about 11am after police realised the device was inside a vehicle which they had earlier seized, a police spokeswoman told the Weekly.

The vehicle was in the Frankston police station's car park.

"The explosive device was made inert by members of the SOG [special operations group]," the spokeswoman said. "No arrests have been made and no one was injured."

Frankston International Hotel staff member Karen Dickinson said staff could see the bomb squad operation from the windows at the back of the hotel.

"They didn't ask any of us to leave," Ms Dickinson said, adding that her manager had called the police station to ask if the hotel should evacuate guests.

She said the police placed sandbags around a dumpster and set up small orange screens, with wires connected to the police van, to detonate the device.

Staff saw that the bomb squad robot had been deployed. "About five minutes later we heard a little pop," Ms Dickinson said.

Investigations are continuing and no further details were available when the Weekly when to press.

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## 42. [Trend, South Korea] Seoul Asks US To Sell Cluster Bombs

Wednesday, June 6 2012

[http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2012/06/116\\_112518.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2012/06/116_112518.html)

The Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), an arm of the U.S. Department of Defense, has asked the U.S. Congress to approve Seoul's request to buy 367 advanced cluster bombs.

"The Defense Security Cooperation Agency notified Congress June 1 of a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of the Republic of Korea for 367 CBU-105D/B Wind Corrected Munition Dispenser (WCMD) Sensor Fused Weapons and associated parts, equipment, logistical support and training for an estimated cost of \$325 million," according to a notification issued on the DSCA's website.

The Korea Times broke the news on Dec. 14, 2011 that the South Korean Air Force plans to acquire CBU-105s this year, one of the most lethal and advanced cluster bombs, citing multiple sources.

The paper reported that the government set aside 236 billion won (\$205 million) for the procurement of some 350 CBU-105s from the United States to boost the country's deterrence against North Korea's tanks and armored vehicles.

It did not specify the exact number of the advanced weapons at that time in order to protect the source.

The DSCA says in its notification that the South intends to use CBU-105s to "modernize its armed forces and enhance its capability to defeat a wide range of enemy defenses including fortifications, armored vehicles, and maritime threats."

The U.S. defense agency points out that the munitions' precision and low failure rate will reduce incidents of fratricide and increase overall effectiveness.

The CBU-105 is a 420-kilogram anti-armor cluster bomb that disperses 40 "ice-hockey puck-shaped" heat-seeking bomblets, or "skeets" above targets. The skeet's infrared targeting system detects and locks onto heat signatures emitted by the engine of an armored vehicle.

According to a South Korean defense official, the new cluster bombs are capable of self-destruction 15 meters above the ground to prevent possible civilian casualties in the event that it fails to find a target.

The South has CBU-87 and MK20 Rockeye cluster bombs, but the use of them has been regarded as unethical as they are seen as weapons of mass destruction due to a high failure rate.

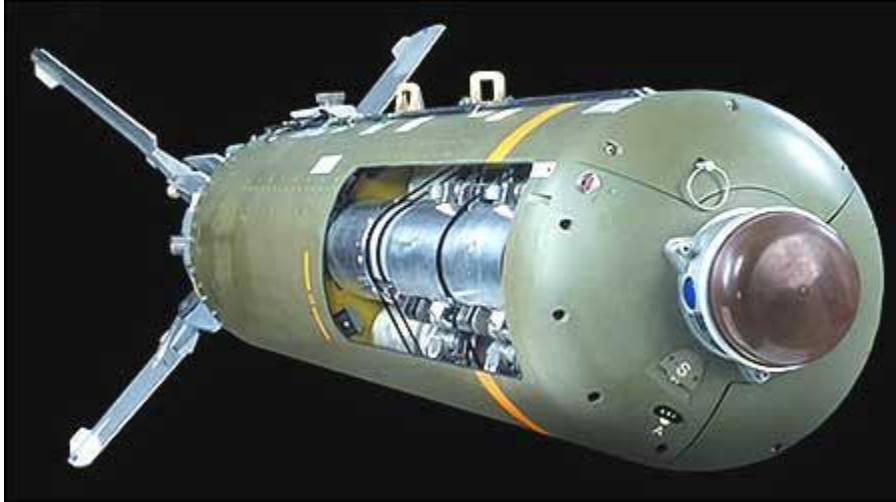
If cluster bombs don't explode, they become anti-personnel landmines that can cause civilian casualties.

"Employment of the CBU-105D/B Sensor Fused Weapon will not result in more than 1 percent unexploded ordnance across the range of intended operational environments," DSCA claimed.

The dud rate of conventional cluster bombs is believed to be more than five percent.

The National Assembly approved 2.7 billion won last year, a down payment to seal a deal with the Pentagon for the acquisition of the precision cluster-bombs.

A senior official at the parliamentary defense committee said the country's arms procurement agency will try to lower the price through negotiations with the United States.



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### **43. [Security, India] Two Militant Hideouts Busted In Kashmir; Arms, Ammunition Seized**

Thursday, June 7 2012

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Punjab/Chandigarh/Two-militant-hideouts-busted-in-Kashmir-arms-ammunition-seized/SP-Article1-867448.aspx>

Two militant hideouts were busted and a large cache of arms and ammunition seized in the Kashmir valley, official sources said here on Thursday.

They said police and 2 Rashtriya Rifles (RR), on a tip-off, launched a joint search operation at village Hanji Lawaypora in Badgam district

of Jammu and Kashmir and busted a militant hideout there.

A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including two RPG grenades, four Chinese grenades, one Chinese pistol, one pistol magazine, three rounds of pistol ammunition were seized. However, no one was arrested.

In another incident, troops of 19 RR and state police conducted a joint operation at village Schin Dialgam under the limits of Kokernag police station in Anantnag district and came across a militant hideout in the open field.

A large cache of arms and ammunition, including one UBGL, one UBGL grenade, one Chinese grenade, one hand grenade, one FM trans receiver and two pistol magazines were seized.

Also seized were one wireless set, one RPG booster, four AK 47 magazines, one AK 47 silencer, one remote control IED box, one kg explosive, one kg sharp nails for preparing IED, one pressure cooker IED, one pouch and 120 rounds of AK ammunition.

However, a senior police officer said the arms and ammunition were rusted. He said the arms and ammunition could have been dumped by the militants more than ten years ago.

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#### **44. [Trend, India] Explosives Recovered From East Singhbhum**

Thursday, June 7 2012

<http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/explosives-recovered-from-east-singhbhum/1008899.html>

Security personnel today recovered explosives from Naxal-affected Ghatsila sub-division of East Singhbhum district, police said. The recovery was made on the leads provided by the hard-core Maoist Fogra Munda, who was arrested by the police last week from the sub-division, said Senior Superintendent of Police Akhilesh Kumar Jha. The explosives including 55 pieces each of gelatin and detonators were found from Jamua and Majdiha under Ghatsila police station.

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## 45. [Security, India] Timer Bomb Recovered At Danapur

Friday, June 8 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/Timer-bomb-recovered-at-Danapur/articleshow/13913697.cms>

Panic prevailed on Janak Dhari Lal Road under the Danapur police station area on Thursday morning following the recovery of a 5-kg can bomb with live timer in front of the house-cum-grocery shop of one Panna Lal Sah.

Police said that Sah's son, Pradip Kumar Sah saw the bomb near a tree in front of his house when he came out for sweeping the front portion at around 7.30am. He picked it up and put it right in the middle of the road.

Panic prevailed in the locality when the residents saw the live bomb fitted with a watch, and informed the local police. The local police and a five-member bomb disposal squad reached the spot and cordoned off the area. Thereafter, the bomb disposal squad defused the bomb.

Patna Senior SP Amrit Raj said it appeared to be the handiwork of some mischievous elements to implicate Sah. He said that prima facie, the bomb was a mixture of ammonium nitrate and sulphur. Everything would be clear only after the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) submitted its report, he said, adding the local police are investigating the case.

Raj recalled that last month, someone had informed the local police station that there was a bomb at Sah's house. Danapur police conducted a search but could find nothing objectionable.

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## **46. [Trend, United States] Bomb Found In Suspicious Package**

Monday, June 4 2012

<http://www.theindychannel.com/news/31156808/detail.html>

Madison County officials said a suspicious package found Monday near Anderson contained a bomb.

Sheriff Ron Richardson said the package was found at 4200 N. State Road 9 and forced the evacuation of homes within a quarter-mile radius of an area just north of Anderson .

“The device that was inside a bag opened by one of the people who lived at the home has been determined to be a bomb,” Richardson said.

The bomb was designed to explode when the bag was opened, authorities said.

Officials said a robot was used to de-activate the bomb and investigators worked to determine the type of explosives used.

No injuries were reported and no arrests were made.

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## 47. [Trend, United States] Men Arrested For Explosive Device

Wednesday, June 6 2012

<http://www.wthitv.com/dpp/news/crime/men-arrested-for-explosive-device>

Two Wabash Valley men have been arrested on charges of making and possessing a destructive device.

Authorities first received a tip in late May that Bobby Freeman, 47, of Brazil, Ind. had obtained an explosive device from a co-worker. Police went to Freeman's home where they were given permission to search the house.

Inside, authorities found the device and removed it along with other items of evidence. The device consisted of a pill bottle, a plastic cup, a charge from a firework several nails and washers.

Freeman told authorities that he had planned to take the device to Illinois and detonate it. He also told authorities that he had gotten the device from a co-worker named Matthew Hay.

Police spoke with Hay, who told them that he had built the device for himself to see what it would do, according to court documents.

Both men were arrested and face charges of Possession of a Destructive Device.

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## 48. [Attack, Colombia] Bomb Wounds Three In Colombia

Sunday, June 3 2012

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2012/06/03/bomb-wounds-3-in-colombia/>

A small bomb exploded Sunday in Yarumal, a city in the northwestern Colombian province of Antioquia, wounding three people just hours before the polls opened for mayoral elections, officials said.

The victims - two adults and an 8-year-old girl - were wounded in Cedeño, a small community within Yarumal's city limits.

The bomb was planted near a church by the 36th Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, army 4th Brigade commander Gen. Jesus Martinez Espinel said.

The wounded were taken to a community clinic, while officials deployed additional troops and police to bolster security for the municipal elections.

Miguel Pelaez Henao, of the Conservative Party, and Diego Roldan Jaramillo, of the Liberal Party, are the two candidates for mayor of Yarumal.

The Colombian government has made fighting the FARC a top priority and has obtained billions in U.S. aid for counterinsurgency operations.

The FARC is on both the U.S. and EU lists of terrorist groups. Drug trafficking, extortion and kidnapping-for-ransom are the FARC's main means of financing its operations.

The FARC has suffered a series of setbacks in recent years at the hands of the Colombian security forces.

Alfonso Cano, the FARC's top leader, was killed on Nov. 4 in a military and police operation that the government hailed as the biggest blow to the FARC in its nearly 50-year history.

Cano, a 63-year-old intellectual who had entered the ranks of the FARC 30 years ago, was killed in a remote area of the southwestern province of Cauca a few hours after fleeing a bombardment.

The FARC also suffered a series of blows in 2008, with the biggest coming in July of that year, when the Colombian army rescued a group of high-profile rebel-held captives: former presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt, U.S. military contractors Thomas Howes, Keith Stansell and Marc Gonsalves, and 11 other Colombian police officers and soldiers.

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## **49. [Attack, Colombia] Two Policemen Killed In 'FARC' Attack**

Monday, June 4 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/24387-2-policemen-killed-in-farc-attack.html>

An alleged FARC attack left two policemen dead in southern Colombia, Caracol Radio reported Monday.

The two men were killed in the municipality of Montañitas, Caqueta department while responding to an emergency call concerning a pregnant woman.

The pregnant woman and a man also sustained injuries in the attack.

The police and the army are currently pursuing the suspected guerrillas.

Update:

Two more are dead after the FARC attack.

Both pregnant woman's companion and baby died in the hospital, W Radio reported.

Montañitas is the municipality where French journalist Romeo Langlois was released Wednesday, May 30 after being held captive by the FARC for nearly a month.

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## 50. [Trend, Venezuela] Weapons Stash Uncovered At Venezuelan Prison

Monday, June 4 2012

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/southamerica/venezuela/9310037/Weapons-stash-uncovered-at-Venezuelan-prison.html>

Officials are carrying out an exhaustive search of La Plata prison in Caracas and they have found some guns by destroying floors and walls where the weapons had been hidden, said Iris Varela, the government's minister for prisons. She said about 40 per cent of the vast prison has not yet been fully searched.

Ms Varela said at a news conference that the weaponry recovered included handguns, shotguns, one submachine gun, one telescopic sight, 27 explosive devices and more than 64,000 rounds of ammunition.

The three-week confrontation at the prison ended on May 17 when officials reached a deal with leaders of the inmates, who agreed to be moved to other prisons. The last of more than 1,600 inmates came out the following day. The prisoners had been holed up inside resisting authorities, and gunfire had erupted repeatedly during the standoff.

One man who lived near the prison was hit by a stray bullet and died. Ms Varela said five other people were wounded during the shoot-outs, including two National Guard soldiers and three inmates.

The government shut down the prison, which had long been overcrowded, once the violence ended and the last of the inmates were moved out.

Speaking with reporters at the empty prison, Ms Varela said officials also found 6 kilograms of various types of drugs and hundreds of contraband cellphones

She vowed a thorough investigation into how the weapons were smuggled in.

"Those who end up being responsible for this whole situation are a bunch of traitors," Ms Varela said. She said no one had been detained thus far in the investigation.

Prison unrest and crowding have become major problems for President Hugo Chavez's government. Violence is common inside Venezuela's prisons, where inmates often manage to obtain weapons and drugs with the help of corrupt guards.

The watchdog group Venezuelan Prisons Observatory says about 560 people died in Venezuelan prisons last year, up from 476 in 2010.

When Ms Varela was asked whether inmates are armed in most of the country's prisons, she said: "There's a difficult situation, but they aren't the majority."

She also confirmed a recent news report that one prison in central Aragua state has a discotheque, and said various other prisons have swimming pools. She said such perks were allowed in the prisons starting more than a decade ago in an attempt to ease violence.

The Venezuelan newspaper El Universal recently said that inmates in Tocoron prison organised a Mother's Day concert, bringing in artists to perform at a discotheque called "Tokio."

Ms Varela said the government plans to soon begin building eight new prisons, which are scheduled to be finished next year.

Venezuela currently has 33 prisons. They were built to hold about 12,000 inmates, but officials have said the prisons now hold about 47,000.



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## 51. [Security, Colombia] Nine 'FARC Rebels' Killed In North Colombia Combat

Wednesday, June 6 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/24450-nine-farc-members-die-in-north-colombia-combat.html>

Nine FARC guerrillas, among them the alleged commander of the 37th Front, have died in combat in the north fo Colombia, the country's Ministry of Defense said Wednesday.

Roberto García Márquez, the commander of the Colombian navy, said that among the "FARC" members killed is the commander of the 37th Front, alias "Silvio" or "El Frances," whose real name was Luis Enrique Benitez Cañola.

Benitez Cañola had been a member of the FARC for 34 years.

The Ministry of Defense confirmed the news on Twitter.

According to the website of newscast CM&, the fighting left another eight presumed FARC members dead and eight wounded.

The 37th Front of the FARC has historically been influential in the north of Colombia, but has in recent years been pushed further south in the Bolivar department due to repeated army and paramilitary pressure.

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## 52. [Security, Colombia] FARC's 37th Front Dismantled: Santos

Thursday, June 7 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/24456-farcs-37th-front-dismantled-santos.html>

President Juan Manuel Santos said the FARC's 37th Front was dismantled after eight guerrillas were killed in a military operation, reported local media Thursday.

"There remained a stronghold that had five to 15 bandits still in this front. I have knowledge that the blow we gave resulted in the death of eight [guerrillas] with three captured. That means that their structure was practically dismantled," said Santos in a statement to the press. Initial reports indicated that nine FARC members were killed.

Santos recalled the 37th Front's historically strong presence in northern Colombia, once controlling large amounts of land. Recent military pressure forced the unit to retreat deeper south while their numbers dwindled.

Among the dead were the commander of the front, Luis Enrique Benitez Cañola alias "Silvio" or "El Frances."

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### **53. [Security, Colombia] Two Colombian Rebels Killed By Their Own Bomb**

Thursday, June 7 2012

<http://latino.foxnews.com/2012/06/07/2-colombian-rebels-killed-by-their-own-bomb/>

Two members of the FARC guerrilla group were killed when a bomb they were planning to launch at a police post accidentally detonated, Colombian police said Thursday.

The incident occurred Wednesday in the northwestern village of Puerto Valdivia, the police commander in Antioquia province told reporters in Medellin, the provincial capital.

The bomb, a cooking-gas cylinder packed with explosives and shrapnel, went off before the rebels could use it in an attack on the police outpost, Col. Jose Gerardo Acevedo said.

Puerto Valdivia lies on the Cauca River and the guerrillas planned to launch the projectile from the opposite bank of the river, he said.

The fatalities belonged to the 36th Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, Acevedo said.

The FARC has battled a succession of Colombian governments since the mid-1960s. Thought to number nearly 20,000 fighters a decade ago, the Andean nation's largest insurgency has an estimated troop strength today of around 8,000.

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