



*Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data*

## Weekly News Update

Volume 2, Issue 20

18 May 2012

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.



Syrian security forces gathering at the site where SANA said authorities foiled an attempted suicide attack in the Al-Shaar area of Aleppo on May 11, 2012. (AFP PHOTO/HO/SANA)

[See [Syrian Forces Stopped Car Bomb Filled With 1,200Kg Of Explosives](#)]

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## 1. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Planted In Manhole Misses Police Target In Peshawar

Friday, 11 May 2012

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/377317/bomb-planted-in-manhole-misses-police-target/>

An improvised explosive device (IED) planted inside a manhole, which had intended to target Deputy Superintendent of Police Faqeerabad, Banaras Khan, went off on GT Road in Peshawar on Friday, causing no casualties or injuries, Express News reported.

The explosion, however, shattered windows of cars and a nearby Edhi Centre on GT Road.

DSP Khan said, "I was going from Ring Road as per routine when the bomb went off in a manhole near my car."

According to sources, operations against insurgents are underway in the Khyber Agency which could be the possible reason for this attack.

Police cordoned off the area to search for evidence, including ball bearings from the blast site, whereas the damaged vehicles were moved from the area.



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## 2. [Attack, Afghanistan] Afghan Roadside Bomb Kills Four Police

Saturday, 12 May 2012

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ioTzN6E5XILnnp0tL1zwNYGJsDeQ?docId=CNG.d42f90192cb07027f3a65be96b19915a.b1>

A roadside bomb killed four Afghan policemen when it ripped through their patrol vehicle in western Afghanistan, a provincial government official says.

"A police pick-up truck hit a roadside bomb planted by insurgents in Qaraghul area in Qadis district of western Badghis province," a provincial governor spokesman, Salahuddin Majeedi told AFP.

"Unfortunately, all four policemen onboard were killed."

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but roadside bombs are regularly planted by Taliban insurgents fighting a decade-long war against NATO-led foreign troops and Afghan government forces.

Afghan security forces are particular targets of the Taliban, as they prepare to take over full responsibility for security from 130,000 foreign troops by 2014.

But roadside bombs often kill civilians, with two consecutive bombings in the southern Afghan province of Helmand killing eight people on Thursday, including seven members of one family.

Over 3,000 civilians were killed in the war in Afghanistan last year, the fifth consecutive year the number has risen, the majority of them victims of roadside bombs, according to UN figures.

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### **3. [Attack, Pakistan] One Killed, 11 Hurt In Peshawar Bombing**

Saturday, 12 May 2012

[http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/south-asia/one-killed-11-hurt-in-peshawar-bombing-lead\\_100617578.html](http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/south-asia/one-killed-11-hurt-in-peshawar-bombing-lead_100617578.html)

A policeman was killed and 11 other people were injured Saturday in a massive blast that targeted a police vehicle in Peshawar, a media report said.

Geo News said an improvised explosive device (IED) targeted the police van that was used to transport prisoners.

One policeman was killed and four were injured. Seven civilians were also wounded.

Several vehicles were damaged in the deafening blast.

At least five kg of explosives were used in the blast, revealed an initial probe.

The bombing took place a day after Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Banaras Khan narrowly escaped death when a remote-controlled bomb exploded Friday.

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#### **4. [Law Enforcement, Afghanistan] Taliban Narcotic Cache Discovered In Helmand**

Saturday, 12 May 2012

<http://www6.lexisnexis.com/publisher/EndUser?Action=UserDisplayFullDocument&orgId=574&topicId=100049843&docId=:1664997530&Em=7&start=7>

A large narcotic cache of Taliban was discovered in Helmand province yesterday. This cache was discovered in operation of Afghan and NATO forces from outskirts of Baghran district of that province. According to NATO press statement, nearly 750 kg of heroin, opium, and hashish, and 910 kg of explosive materials were discovered from this cache. It is said that in this operation several cache of arms and narcotic of Taliban were discovered. In this statement, NATO said nothing about casualties of Afghan, NATO and civilians in this operation.

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## **5. [Attack, Pakistan] Roadside Bomb Kills Police Officer In Northwest Pakistan**

Saturday, 12 May 2012

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/roadside-bomb-kills-police-officer-northwest-pakistan-article-1.1076923>

Pakistani security officials say a roadside bomb targeting a vehicle carrying police has killed one of them in the country's northwest.

Police officer Javed Khan says 12 civilians and five police officers were also wounded in Saturday's attack in the northwestern city of Peshawar.

He says the officers were escorting a prison van, but no prisoner was hurt.

No group has claimed responsibility, but the Pakistani branch of the Taliban often targets police, military troops and other security forces to pressure the government to end support for the United States in its campaign against al-Qaida and other militant groups.

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## **6. [Attack, Afghanistan] Bomb Kills Nine At Market In Northern Afghanistan**

Monday, 14 May 2012

<http://news.yahoo.com/bomb-kills-9-market-northern-afghanistan-073349580.html>

Authorities say a bomb has exploded at a market in northern Afghanistan, killing nine people, including a local official.

The Ministry of Interior says the bomb went off on Monday morning inside a shop in a market in Faryab province's Ghormuch district. The ministry's statement says the nine dead included a council member from a neighboring province.

The ministry says it has no other details.

In a separate statement Monday, the ministry said police killed 18 insurgents in operations across the country over the past 24 hours.

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## 7. [Attack, Afghanistan] Seven Dead In Suicide Attack On Afghan Government Compound

Thursday, 17 May 2012

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/seven-dead-in-suicide-attack-on-afghan-government-compound-7762513.html>

A group of suicide bombers armed with explosive-laden vests, automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenades stormed a government compound today in western Afghanistan, killing at least seven people, officials said.

One of attackers first blew himself up at the gate of the governor's complex in Farah province, then three others fought their way inside, said Raouf Ahmadi, the regional police spokesman.

An ensuing two-hour gunbattle with the police left all the attackers dead, Ahmadi said. He said six policemen and one civilian were also killed in the attack, while another 12 people were wounded.

Government offices are a common target for militants in Afghanistan. Last month two Taliban fighters smuggled guns into the governor's compound in Kandahar, sparking a gunbattle in which two guards and both attackers were killed.

Elsewhere, Taliban militants attacked a NATO supply convoy overnight in Herat province. Provincial police spokesman Raouf Ahmadi said one police officer, two security guards and a militant were killed in the fighting.

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## 8. [Attack, Pakistan] Grenade Attack Leaves One Dead, Eight Injured

Thursday, 17 May 2012

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\05\17\story\\_17-5-2012\\_pg12\\_11](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\05\17\story_17-5-2012_pg12_11)

After a brief lull, the city was gripped by another vandalism spree as unidentified riders hurled a hand grenade at cafes located near Dawood Chowrangi in the limits of Shah Latif police station, leaving a man killed and eight others injured on Wednesday.

According to DSP Shah Latif Rao Iqbal, two helmeted riders hurled a hand grenade from the bridge towards cafes — Allah Malik and New Quetta Noorani near Dawood Chowrangi and escaped.

The body and injured were shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) for medico-legal formalities and treatment. The deceased was identified as Wajahat, 35, while the injured persons as Faiz Ullah, Yasir, Nasir, Muhammad Sadiq, Bashir Ahmad and Javed. The victim Wajahat was a resident of Quidabad and had been serving as a waiter at Allah Malik Hotel.

DSP Iqbal said the culprits used Russian-made grenade (VARD), which was filled with highly explosive material that caused severe burn injuries to the victims. Moreover, he said this grenade attack was aimed at spreading panic in the locality as the culprits threw the hand grenade from bridge without targeting anyone.

Following the said attack, shopkeepers of the locality took to the streets and started marching towards National Highway to express resentment against the incident that caused severe gridlocks for hours. Later, heavy contingent of police and Rangers rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control.

JPMC Emergency Department head Dr Seemi Jamali said that they had received one body and eight injured persons and all of them had received burn injuries. She said although the conditions of all victims were stable, two of them were admitted in the Neurosurgery ward and chest surgery ward, respectively while rest of were in the general ward. Case could not be registered till filing of this report.

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## 9. [Attack, Afghanistan] Rocket Attack Kills Two NATO Troops In Afghanistan

Friday, 18 May 2012

<http://blogs.voanews.com/breaking-news/2012/05/18/rocket-attack-kills-2-nato-troops-in-afghanistan/>

NATO says a rocket attack in eastern Afghanistan has killed two of its service members.

Local coalition officials say six other NATO troops were slightly wounded in Friday in the Nari district of Kunar province.

So far this year, at least 154 coalition service members have been killed in Afghanistan.

Officials say another insurgent rocket attack in the Watapoor district of Kunar killed two women and a child on Friday. At least six other civilians were wounded.

The attacks come a day after a group of suicide bombers dressed in police uniforms killed seven people in an assault on a government compound in the western province of Farah.

Earlier this month, the Taliban announced the start of its annual spring offensive.

NATO has transferred security control of large portions of Afghanistan to local authorities. Most of the 130,000-strong foreign force is set to leave the country by the end of 2014.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai and leaders of the foreign donor nations meet Sunday in Chicago to finalize details of the foreign troop withdrawal and outline future international assistance to the war-torn country.

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## 10. [Attack, Nigeria] Explosion Rocks Jalingo

Friday, 11 May 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201205120013.html>

An explosion at the heart of Jalingo town in Taraba state has forced many business places closed as shop owners and fun seekers at the notorious Dorowa area of the town scampered for safety.

The explosion which occurred at about 12:15pm on Hammaruwa Way was heard by many people around the area.

An eye witness Happiness Kamai, said she saw a bike man drop something in a polythene bag as he overtook a police hilux van on Hammaruwa Way, opposite Skye Bank, just in front of the red light area of Dorowa.

No casualties were recorded but shop owners, passersby and fun seekers around the area closed their shops and ran for their dear lives. Skye Bank too was shut when our correspondent visited the scene of the blast.

A police man with the bomb disposal unit was also seen taking the polythene bag which contained a granular substance that looked whitish like fertilizer or garri. The police man confirmed that the substance was explosive.

The Police has confirmed the incident but said no arrest has been made. The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Ibiang Mbasekei who spoke with our correspondent on phone said the unidentified person who dropped the polythene bag containing Improvised Explosive Device (IED) left the scene a few minutes before the explosion went off.

He said there was no way the person could be traced and called on the public to always apprehend anybody dropping unidentified items.

The explosion is coming on the eve of the local council election in 14 local governments out of the 16 local governments of the state.

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## 11. [Security, Somalia] Al-Shabaab Fighters Arrive In Mudug, Galmudug

Saturday, 12 May 2012

<http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/3343/Al-Shabaab-Fighters-Arrive-in-Mudug-Galmudug>

While it was known that the fighters had moved recently to Mudug region, Galmudug officials today confirmed al-Shabaab fighters arrived in their territory last night.

“We received information that al-Shabaab militia with number of armed cars arrived in parts of our province. They reached the villages of Bud-Bud and Barwaaqo, which are parts of Hobyo district of Galmudug state. We prepared our troops in order to prevent them from coming and our army are moving forward to these areas. We are ready to defend our people and our territory,” said Galmudug Security Minister Abshir Diini.

Somalia Report discovered that Abdi Shakur Ali Oma, the al-Shabaab official leading the migration, originated from Galmudug. Mr. Omar talked to elders and people of Bud-Bud and Barwaaqo villages calling on them to obey Islamic faith. He also called on them to support an Islamic administration that he plans to announce, according to villagers.

The same sources confirmed that this unit of al-Shabaab established bases in the towns they reached, provoking Galmudug officials to initiate a state emergency meeting. Officials are concerned the fighters will begin a terror campaign of hit and run attacks, suicide bombs and assassinations, as they have done in Mogadishu.

Harardhere, a well-known pirate hub in Mudug region, has also been slowly becoming an al-Shabaab town. Over the last two years, al-Shabaab has been extending its power to the difficult-to-access area since it lacks any law enforcement or effective government. Currently, al-Shabaab controls the main town and surrounding villages, while the pirates control the shore and the sea.

### Shabaab in Puntland

Extending their reach further north in Puntland, al-Shabaab killed two relatives, Puntland security official Minjir Hassan Gurhan and Ali Diib Gurxan, a civilian, in Bosaso, a commercial port city. The men were assassinated in a tea shop near Juba Hotel on Thursday. Both men hailed from the Dubays clan.

Somalia Report learned that Mr Minjir Hassan Gurhan was one of the officers in charge of leading the attacks in Galgala Mountains in Bari region against Sheikh Atom's militia, which recently aligned with al-Shabaab. He was recently on the frontlines and his close relative told Somalia Report they believed he was targeted because of his participation in the Galgala war and because he was Puntland security staff. Previously he was also injured in 2005 during fighting between the Puntland forces and local people at Majiyahan.

The pro-al-Shabaab Radio Al-Andalus said the militants were responsible for the murders and claimed the men worked for the Puntland Intelligence Service.

Khalif Isse Mudan, Puntland's security minister, said that they have captured suspects. "We arrested seven persons over the incident and five of them are al-Shabaab intelligence. Our security are still investigating the matter. One of the deceased was among our security officers, while other was a civilian," said Mudan.

#### Locals Residents Fight Al-Shabaab in Baidoa

Meanwhile heaving fight broke out around noon outside Baydabo (Baidoa) village, the capital of Bay region, between al-Shabaab and local residents of Labaatan Jirow. Both sides used was used different weapons included heavy and small arms. Source told Somalia Report weapons and other supplies were given to the Labaatan Jirow residents by the people of Baydhabo, government troops and their allied forces of Ethiopian.

The rift began on Thursday when al-Shabaab militias were ousted by the people of the city. In turn, al-Shabaab killed boy from the village after accusing him of spying, sparking outrage from the local residents.

"It's true, they killed on Thursday morning a young guy accusing him of spying for the Somali government. They shot him. We cannot tolerate their horrific actions. They want to kill and torture innocent people so we decided to fight against them. We got support from the people and forces of Baydhabo city. We ousted the militia from our territory," said Mohamed Hilow, a resident of Labaatan Jirow.

These incidents come a day after al-Qaeda's global leader, Dr. Ayman Al Zawahiri, sent a video to al-Shabaab fighters in Somalia, encouraging them to change their tactics into hit and run. He also urged them to oust Somali the AMISOM forces and to double their attacks inside Somalia. He further added that the fighters should not be worried about American drones, saying that they cannot change your faith of war.

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## 12. [Security, Nigeria] Boko Haram 'Militant Leader' Captured In North Nigeria

Saturday, 12 May 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-18048617>

Nigerian police say they have arrested a senior commander of the Islamist militant group Boko Haram.

The group has carried out numerous attacks across northern Nigeria, killing hundreds of people.

The detainee, Suleiman Mohammed, is said to be a Boko Haram commander in the northern city of Kano.

It has been the scene of several deadly attacks, including one on a church service two weeks ago that left 16 people dead.

Another attack in January killed more than 180.

It has, however, been impossible to independently verify whether or not Suleiman Mohammed is indeed a key figure in the Boko Haram group, the BBC's Will Ross reports from Lagos.

The commissioner of police for Kano State said the man was with his wife and children in what he described as a hideout in Kano when he was arrested.

Explosives, ammunition and guns were found there, police said.

The suspect has been flown to the capital, Abuja, for questioning.

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### 13. [Special Interest, Nigeria] Boko Haram Gets N40Million Donation From Algeria

Sunday, 13 May 2012

<http://saharareporters.com/news-page/boko-haram-gets-n40million-donation-algeria-premium-times>

A security report before the presidency indicates that the extremist sect recently received a huge financial donation from a group in the North African country

The extremist Boko Haram sect, which has since 2009 launched sustained attacks on security installations, places of worship, educational institutions and media outfits, recently got cash support of N40 million from an Algerian terrorist group, an intelligence report recently submitted to the presidency has said.

The report, a product of a joint police and military investigations and raids, carried out in Kano and Sokoto in December 2011 indicates that the Algerian sect gave out the funds as its first installment in a planned long term partnership with Boko Haram.

According to the report, seen by PREMIUM TIMES, the Boko Haram sect and the unnamed Algerian terrorist group have met a number of times in their bid to hammer out modalities for a long term partnership.

The document quoted some arrested members of the sect as having made the confession.

The partnership would see the richer, more influential, and more organized Algerian terror gang mentor members of the Boko Haram through trainings in activities that will help it fortify its financial base locally.

The Algerian sect is also expected to train the Boko Haram insurgents in hostage taking and weapon handling.

The report provides an insight into how the dreaded Nigerian sect has been funding its activities. The sect members have been fingered for a string of bank robberies, and there is also deep suspicion that they receive discreet support from local politicians.

But it has never been this established that the group receives donations from overseas.

Al Qaeda links

The extremist Boko Haram has of recent been associated with links to international terror gangs like the Al Qaeda.

The first official document linking the group to Al Qaeda is a United States' cable dated June 29, 2009, leaked by Wikileaks. The cable, written before the Boko Haram sect began its terror campaigns in August that year, documented the sect's link to a well-trained veteran Chadian extremist, Abu-Mahjin.

The cable described Abu-Mahjin as having “limited ties to al-Qa'ida associates,” and was, on behalf of the Boko Haram sect, seeking more funds to facilitate a massive terrorist attack. The extremist sect began its terror attack on the Nigerian state two months after the cable was written.

Boko Haram’s successes in attacking defenceless religious congregations, bank robberies, and vandalization of police armouries validated its growing link with established terrorist groups outside the country.

Previous security intelligence on the sect suggests that its recent transformation, successes, and organization is partly because of the help it received from al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), a branch of the international terrorist network based in the Saharan states of Mali, Niger and Algeria.

In January this year, The UK Guardian interviewed the sect's spokesperson, Abu Qaqa, who reportedly said his group’s leaders met with high ranking members of al-Qaeda in Saudi Arabia during a pilgrimage in August 2011.

The meeting, Mr. Qaqa told the paper, was to finalise the group’s financial and logistics arrangements with Al-Qaeda.

“Al-Qaeda are our elder brothers,” he told the Guardian. “We enjoy financial and technical support from them. Anything we want from them we ask them.”

A UN report released shortly after the Libyan crisis also said weapons from Libya may have been smuggled to Boko Haram in Nigeria.

Both the government and its security agencies had, in the past, claimed the group gets foreign funding and support from other terror gangs like Al Ahabab in Somalia.

#### Kidnap Training

The intelligence report, which is now lying in a shelf at the president’s office, also detailed how members of the Boko Haram sect recently got trainings in kidnapping from the same Algerian terrorist sect.

The report listed names of nine members of the terror sect who had successfully received trainings in kidnappings, in addition to bomb making skills.

As its part of the deal, Boko Haram is expected to kidnap white skinned foreigners - especially expatriates - in Abuja and exchange them for more money and arms and ammunitions with the Algerian sect. “Or demand ransom as the case may be,” the report said.

As at the time of the investigation, December 2011, the sect had finalised its kidnap strategy and was scouting for houses to keep their kidnap victims and suitable cars to transport them across the desert.

“They are targeting expatriates from (Julius) Berger, and Dantata and sawoe as well as other places they could find any,” the report said.

The report claims that a cell of the sect led by one Abu Mohammad carried out the kidnap of “white men” - a Brit and an Italian.

Both men were later killed in February this year during an attempt to rescue them by a combined squad of British and Nigerian security agents.

The Boko Haram terrorist sect, however, denied involvement in the kidnapping in one of its teleconference shortly after the incident.

Transformed sect

Boko Haram set out seeking to impose a stricter form of Sharia or Islamic law in northern Nigeria and end corruption.

Violence by the group, which had only religious interest in the past, is traceable to the five days of clashes in July 2009 between the group and members of the security forces in Borno, Yobe, Bauchi, and Kano states that left more than 800 people dead, including at least 30 police officers.

The police summarily executed the captured Boko Haram leader, Mohammed Yusuf, along with several dozen of his followers in front of the police headquarters in Maiduguri. Dozens of its members were also arrested.

Boko Haram frequently said its attacks on the government, especially the police, are in revenge for these killings and an attempt to set free members incarcerated by the police.

Political collaboration

Recently, the ideology behind Boko Haram attacks got more confusing with increasing attacks on schools, media houses and almost any soft target with wide media reach.

The National Security Adviser, Andrew Owoye Azazi, in a recent public appearance, said the group was a creation of the disgruntled members of the ruling People’s Democratic Party, PDP.

He said members of the party, angered by the emergence of President Goodluck Jonathan, created the group to destabilize the government. He also admitted the sect had members trained by more sophisticated international counterparts.

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## **14. [Security, Somalia] Al Shabaab Agent Caught With Explosives In Mogadishu**

Monday, 14 May 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201205141101.html>

The Transitional Federal Government (TFG)'s National Security Service (NSS) apprehended a young man who had on him explosives, Radio Garowe reports.

The NSS apprehended the young man at a military post near the ex-border of Afgoye in Mogadishu's Hodon district. According to authorities, the would-be bomber was given explosives to plant on a car driven by Mogadishu's Hilawa district representative.

Abdirahman Farah Mohamed was displayed to press by the NSS, who foiled the Al Shabaab agent's plot.

Mr. Mohamed seemed frighteningly calm while being photographed by Mogadishu media after his capture. Authorities say that Mr. Mohamed came from the lower Shabelle region, an area controlled by Al Shabaab.

The director of the NSS Ahmed Ma'alim Fiqi, told reporters that Mr. Mohamed was under surveillance and his movements were carefully watched. According to TFG sources when Mr. Mohamed left the lower Shabelle region to Mogadishu NSS authorities were awaiting his arrival.

"These type of explosives are meant to be planted on vehicles. The culprit planned to plant this device on a government official's vehicle, a new technique that the Al Shabaab are using to commit heinous acts on the people of Mogadishu," said Mr. Fiqi.

The TFG is getting ready to host the very important constitutional meeting, where 825 representatives will be voting on adopting the constitution. Security in the war-ravaged capital has been beefed up to help quell growing fears.

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## **15. [Attack, Somalia] Six Killed In Clash Between Military, Al-Shabaab**

Monday, 14 May 2012

[http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/World-News/2012/05/14/6-killed-in-clash-between-military-al-Shabaab/UPI-43861337011642/?spt=hs&or=tn](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2012/05/14/6-killed-in-clash-between-military-al-Shabaab/UPI-43861337011642/?spt=hs&or=tn)

Fighting in a Somali town between al-Qaida-affiliated al-Shabaab militants and forces from Somalia and Kenya killed six people, witnesses said.

The fighting began, witnesses said Monday, when militants attacked joint Somali and Kenyan military bases on the outskirts of Badade in the Lower Jubba region of southern Somalia, the Shabelle Media Network reported.

Somali and Kenyan forces controlled Badade since militants withdrew a few months ago after a bloodless takeover, a military spokesman said.

SMN also reported residents said a landmine blast hit an Ethiopian convoy in Somalia's central town of Beledweyne.

The blast caused an undetermined number of fatalities among troops, SMN reported. One witness said Ethiopian soldiers fatally shot two civilians after the explosion.

No one had claimed responsibility for the attack.

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## **16. [Law Enforcement, Somalia] Foreign Al Shabaab Fighter Caught Near Kenya Border**

Monday, 14 May 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201205141153.html>

An alleged foreign fighter for the Al Shabaab was captured near Hosingow located in Lower Jubba region, Radio Garowe reports.

Ali Bakaari, was captured near the Kenyan border, after Transitional Federal Government (TFG) troops stopped a vehicle Mr. Bakaari was in.

TFG officials say the vehicle was stopped at night, after Mr. Bakaari attempted to flee troops who were conducting a search of the bus. The bus was carrying civilians headed from Kismayo to Kenya when it was stopped at Hosingow located 160 kms west of Kismayo.

Mr. Bakaari is an alleged foreign fighter with high ranking ties with Al Shabaab officials in Kismayo. According to authorities he is a white male with a Tanzanian citizenship.

TFG authorities also allege Mr. Bakaari fought in Mogadishu previously for the Al Shabaab, and moved to Kismayo shortly before Al Shabaab pulled out of the capital.

The TFG have yet to confirm if in fact Mr. Bakaari is a Tanzanian national. The Tanzanian government still haven't released a statement on the arrest.

Foreign fighters have had until recently, very little difficulty operating and traveling in and out of Somalia. In January of this year a US drone strike killed British foreign fighter Bilal el Berjawi and other Al Shabaab agents.

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## 17. [Security, Somalia] Toughening Its Stand, European Union Sends Forces To Strike Somali Pirate Base

Tuesday, 15 May 2012

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/16/world/africa/european-forces-strike-pirate-base-in-somalia.html?\\_r=1&smid=tw-nytimesworld&seid=auto](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/16/world/africa/european-forces-strike-pirate-base-in-somalia.html?_r=1&smid=tw-nytimesworld&seid=auto)

The European Union, which had vowed to take a tougher stand against the scourge of Somali piracy, took the fight to the pirates' home base for the first time on Tuesday, destroying several of their signature fiberglass skiffs as they lay on the beach in a notorious pirate den.

The Europeans struck via combat helicopter, with forces never actually landing in Somalia, and European officials said it was likely that there would be more strikes in the future. "This is a fantastic opportunity," said Lt. Cmdr. Jacqueline Sherriff, a spokeswoman for the European Union's antipiracy force. "What we want to do is make life more difficult for these guys."

European officials said that only one helicopter carried out the assault. But residents reached by telephone in Xarardheere, the pirate den that was attacked, said that more than one helicopter was involved. Some residents spoke of the deep unease they felt over the past few days as aircraft believed to be European spy planes buzzed over town and patrol boats spied from offshore, apparently in preparation for the raid.

"Two nights ago, they came with small speedboats to the seashore of the town, but they went back without shooting," one resident said. Another spoke of the early-morning raid and of having his livelihood interrupted: "We were preparing to go in the sea for fishing last night, but we heard the noises of helicopters moving upstairs in our sky." Both residents said they were too frightened to give their names.

Residents also said the European helicopter attack that strafed the pirate skiffs, which the pirates call their hunting boats, destroyed several old-fashioned Arab dhows, wooden sailboats sometimes used by the pirates to ferry supplies to captured ships.

In March, the European Union toughened its antipiracy mandate to allow forces patrolling the Indian Ocean to attack bases on Somali land. Before that, the forces were allowed to pursue pirates only at sea. The mandate is explicit, though, that the European forces are not supposed to step ashore. A statement from the European Union emphasized that "at no point did E.U. Naval Force 'boots' go ashore."

European Union officials said no one was wounded in the attack. A pirate interviewed on Tuesday said the pirates had heard helicopters coming and had run away.

Somali pirates have hijacked hundreds of ships in the past few years, everything from a sailboat skippered by a retired British couple and rusty fishing trawlers to a 1,000-foot supertanker owned by the Saudi government. The pirates have netted hundreds of millions of dollars from the hijackings, money that they often reinvest in weapons and men. Recently, they have attacked ships as far away as Sri Lanka, more than 2,000 miles from home.

Their standard operating procedure is to swarm a vessel with a bevy of skiffs, each packed with armed men; gain control of the ship; steer it back to a pirate base like Xarardheere; and then demand a ransom from the ship's owner, the families of the crew or both.

Often the ransom money literally falls from the sky. The favored way of making payment these days is to drop a brick of shrink-wrapped cash from a small plane and let it drift down by parachute to the pirates.

Because so much of Somalia is lawless, the pirate gangs have dozens of hiding places where they can hold hostages with impunity.

But this year the piracy business seems to have taken a hit. Though Somali pirates are still holding about a dozen vessels and several hundred crew members, that figure is sharply reduced from a few years ago, when the pirates had dozens of captured ships under their control and nearly 1,000 seamen to ransom.

The combination of strengthened foreign naval patrols, an increase in prosecutions and some progress toward a stable Somali government appears to be hurting the ability of the pirates to operate. Somalia has languished without a functioning central government for more than 20 years, though in recent months the transitional government seems to have been gaining momentum and doing a better job of controlling at least the capital, Mogadishu.

Somali officials commended the raid, saying they had given the Europeans approval to take whatever measures necessary to stamp out the pirates.

Recent studies indicate that with all the insurance increases and protective measures, Somali pirates are now costing the world more than \$5 billion each year.

It was not clear how the pirates would respond to having the tools of their trade destroyed. They possess dozens, if not hundreds, of boats, and European officials estimated that they destroyed only five on Tuesday.

In the past, when pirates have been raided by Navy Seals or attacked at sea, they usually did not retaliate against hostages, because keeping hostages safe and in relatively good condition is the key to big ransoms. Still, one pirate said on Tuesday, "we will try to stop this kind of attack from the deep Indian Ocean by any means."

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## **18. [Attack, Kenya] Three Dead In Suicide Bombing In Dadaab**

Tuesday, 15 May 2012

[http://somalireport.com/index.php/post/3354/3\\_Dead\\_in\\_Suicide\\_Bombing\\_in\\_Dadaab](http://somalireport.com/index.php/post/3354/3_Dead_in_Suicide_Bombing_in_Dadaab)

At least three people were killed when someone dressed as a woman detonated a suicide bomb jacket in a busy livestock market in the Dagahaley sub-camp of Dhadhaab refugee camp in north-east Kenya.

Hassan Momamed Gure, an eyewitness at Dagahaley refugee camp, reported a policeman and student were amongst the dead. "I saw a police officer and student lying dead on the ground, and another policeman was pleading for his life," Hassan said.

Police Chief George Kibambo in Lagh Dera confirmed to Somalia Report that three were killed. "The refugees are not giving us information, so it is difficult to know who is criminal and who is not, but so far at least three," said Kibambo.

The attack targeted a police vehicle which was passing the area at that time. Dozens of peoples were arrested after the explosion, fear is widespread and local businesses are closed.

There have been high tensions and curfew over recent months after a series of roadside bombs.

Dadaab camp is the biggest refugee camp in northeast Kenya, having three sub-camps: Dagahaley, Hagadera and Ifo. Most residents are Somali refugees.

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## 19. [Attack, Kenya] Two Wounded In Explosion On Kenya's Coast

Wednesday, 16 May 2012

[http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Two-wounded-in-explosion-on-Kenya-s-coast\\_11481647](http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Two-wounded-in-explosion-on-Kenya-s-coast_11481647)

Police say assailants have set off an explosive device outside a nightclub in Kenya's coastal town of Mombasa, wounding two people.

The assailants fled on foot and no one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but Kenya has seen several hit-and-run grenade attacks in recent months in the capital, Nairobi, and in northern Kenya.

They have been blamed on the Somali militant group al-Shabab.

It has vowed to carry out terrorist attacks in Kenya for its military incursion in Somalia. Kenya has sent troops into Somalia to pursue militants whom it blames for attacks on its soil.

Yesterday's attack in Mombasa occurred outside the Bellavista nightclub, said Kenya's coastal region police Chief Aggrey Adoli. A pistol was recovered at the scene.

The blast came a month after two separate grenade attacks killed one person and wounded 12 in Mombasa.



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## 20. [Security, Nigeria] JTF Uncovers Terrorists Hideout In Kogi

Thursday, 17 May 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201205170260.html>

A Joint Task Force (JTF) comprising Police, State Security Service (SSS), Navy, Air-force and Army recorded a major breakthrough Wednesday in Kogi State as a key hideout of terrorists was discovered and dismantled with different kinds of dangerous items recovered.

The state Director of SSS, Mr. Mike Funbara, said the discovery was a "turning point in the security situation in the state," adding that security operatives had been able to get to the root of crime perpetration in the state.

He added that: "It is now clear that there is a terrorist group in the state but we are dismantling all their arsenals."

While briefing journalists on the discovery, Funbara said the command was able to recover 14 locally made hand grenades, eight anti-tank improvised explosive devices (IEDs), one firing cable, three 9 volts power sources, ten AK 47 rifles, two revolver pistols, one bareta pistol, one sub machine gun, one SMG magazine, 545 live ammunition, 55 rounds of 9mm ammunition for pistols, four bondalia bags for carrying magazines, a Nissan Pathfinder with registration number Lagos LF 98 AAA and 57 empty magazines among items recovered from the hideout.

He however urged the Federal Government to redeploy capable hands to the state in order to assist in the protection of lives and property. "The combination of the agencies has hit the bull's eyes. We have the details of their whereabouts and we will continue to go after them. The intelligence we are getting in the state is as clean as a whistle," he assured.

Though details of casualties on both sides and the number of arrest made were not made public due to security reasons, the leader of the operation, Lieutenant Colonel Gabriel Olorunyomi, said the hideout was located in Okenwen, a border town between Kogi and Edo States where items recovered were said to have been dug out from the ground where they were buried.

Olorunyomi noted that the cache of arms recovered during the operation was capable of wrecking significant proportion of havoc on the state except for the timely intervention of the security agents, which he said was made possible by intelligence reports coming from the public.

He therefore urged the people to continue to collaborate with security agencies in the state by giving prompt and reliable information about criminals, in the quest to ensure that criminals are stamped out in the state.

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## **21. [Law Enforcement, Syria] Syrian Forces Stopped Car Bomb Filled With 1,200Kg Of Explosives (Video available - WARNING: Graphic Content)**

Saturday, 12 May 2012

<http://www.todayonline.com/World/EDC120512-0000087/Syrian-forces-stopped-car-bomb-filled-with-1,200kg-of-explosives--Report>

Syrian forces foiled an attempted suicide car bombing with 1,200kg of explosives in the northern city of Aleppo yesterday, state television said, a day after two bombs in the capital Damascus killed at least 55 people.

The would-be bomber was killed in the al Shaar district of Syria's largest city which, like Damascus, has seen increasing street protests against President Bashar al-Assad and rising levels of bloodshed after months of relative calm.

Twin bombings in southern Damascus killed 55 people and wounded more than 300 on Thursday, the deadliest attacks since the uprising against Assad erupted 14 months ago, inspired by revolts against autocratic rulers elsewhere in the Arab world.

The blasts further undermined a tattered ceasefire agreement repeatedly violated by the army and rebels since it was brokered by international mediator Kofi Annan four weeks ago. The deal has been overseen by nearly 150 unarmed United Nation observers in Syria.

Syria said the attacks showed that it faced foreign-backed terrorism - an argument it made from the start of peaceful protests against Assad in March last year - while the opposition blamed authorities for the blasts.

Syria's Ikhbariya television showed UN monitors inspecting a white mini-van in Aleppo yesterday which an army officer told them had contained enough explosive to kill 500 people. The bloodied body of the van driver lay crumpled in the front seat, behind a windscreen riddled with bullet holes.

The officer told the UN observers the driver, who he said was not Syrian, was shot before he could detonate the bombs.

Several hours later, an explosion struck close to the ruling Baath Party headquarters in Aleppo, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. No one was killed by the blast itself but one guard at the headquarters died, apparently in a round of gunfire that followed the explosion, the Observatory said.

There was no claim of responsibility for the Damascus bombings. Syrian authorities blamed foreign-backed terrorists. Opposition activists denied any involvement. Some analysts have speculated that recent bombings could be the work of al Qaeda-linked Islamists with skills honed by years of activity in Iraq.

Protests erupted in several Syrian cities yesterday after weekly Muslim prayers. Opposition activists said security forces fired on demonstrators in Damascus, Homs, Hama and Aleppo.

UNCLASSIFIED

Video footage that activists said was filmed in Aleppo yesterday showed hundreds of demonstrators marching and chanting "peaceful, peaceful", before scattering as the sound of gunfire rang out.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said one person was killed at the Aleppo protests and another nine civilians were killed across the country yesterday.



Video available here: [http://article.wn.com/view/2012/05/11/Syria\\_foils\\_Aleppo\\_suicide\\_attack/](http://article.wn.com/view/2012/05/11/Syria_foils_Aleppo_suicide_attack/)  
WARNING: Graphic Content.

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## **22. [Attack, Iraq] Car Bomb Kills Policeman In Western Iraq**

Sunday, 13 May 2012

<http://news.yahoo.com/car-bomb-kills-policeman-western-iraq-072607497.html>

Iraqi officials say a car bomb has killed a policeman in the western city of Ramadi.

Security officials say the parked car exploded around 7:30 a.m. Sunday near a police patrol in a main street in the center of the city.

An official in the nearby Ramadi hospital said five other policemen were seriously wounded. Two passers-by were also wounded, he said.

All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

Ramadi is the capital of Anbar province and used to be a stronghold of al-Qaida. Recently, local militias have managed to bring a measure of calm to the city and province, part of a general drop in violence seen across the country.

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### 23. [Special Interest, Iran] Drawing Shows Explosives Containment Chamber

Sunday, 13 May 2012

<http://www.digtriad.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=228595>

A drawing based on information from inside an Iranian military site shows an explosives containment chamber of the type needed for nuclear arms-related tests that U.N. inspectors suspect Tehran has conducted there. Iran denies such testing and has neither confirmed nor denied the existence of such a chamber.

The computer-generated drawing was provided to The Associated Press by an official of a country tracking Iran's nuclear program who said it proves the structure exists, despite Tehran's refusal to acknowledge it.

That official said the image is based on information from a person who had seen the chamber at the Parchin military site, adding that going into detail would endanger the life of that informant. The official comes from an IAEA member country that is severely critical of Iran's assertions that its nuclear activities are peaceful and asserts they are a springboard for making atomic arms.

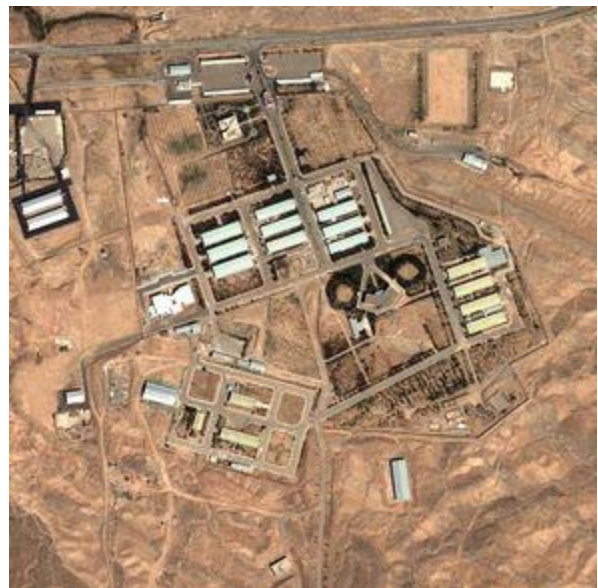
A former senior IAEA official said he believes the drawing is accurate. Olli Heinonen, until last year the U.N. nuclear agency's deputy director general in charge of the Iran file, said it was "very similar" to a photo he recently saw that he believes to be the pressure chamber the IAEA suspects is at Parchin.

He said even the colors of the computer-generated drawing matched that of the photo he had but declined to go into the origins of the photo to protect his source.

Beyond IAEA hopes of progress, that two-day meeting is being closely watched by six powers trying to persuade Iran to make nuclear concessions aimed at reducing fears that it may want to develop atomic arms as a mood-setter for May 23 talks between the six and Tehran in Baghdad.

Warnings by Israel that it may attack Iran's nuclear facilities eased after Iran and the six - the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany - met last month and agreed there was enough common will for the Baghdad round. But with the Jewish state saying it is determined to stop Iran before it develops the capacity to build nuclear weapons, failure at the Iraq talks could turn such threats into reality.

In Tehran on Sunday, Iran's top nuclear negotiator, said it was up to the Western nations coming to the Baghdad talks to "build trust of the Iranian nation," adding, "Any kind of miscalculation by the West will block success of the talks."



The IAEA has been stonewalled by Iran for more than four years in attempts to probe what it says is intelligence from member states strongly suggesting that Iran secretly worked on developing nuclear weapons.

It first mentioned the suspected existence of the chamber in a November report that described "a large explosives containment vessel" for experiments on triggering a nuclear explosion, adding that it had satellite images "consistent with this information."

It did not detail what the images showed. But a senior diplomat familiar with the IAEA's investigation who has also seen the image provided to the AP said they revealed a cylinder similar to the image at Parchin. Subsequent photos showed a roof and walls going up around the cylinder that then hid the chamber from satellite surveillance.

IAEA chief Yukiya Amano said in March that his agency has "credible information that indicates that Iran engaged in activities relevant to the development of nuclear explosive devices" at the site. Diplomats subsequently told the AP that the experiments also appear to have involved a small prototype neutron device used to spark a nuclear explosion - equipment that would be tested only if a country was trying to develop atomic weapons.

Iran has strenuously denied conducting such work - and any intentions to build nuclear weapons - but has been less clear on whether the structure where it allegedly took place exists.

The senior diplomat familiar with the IAEA investigations said the Iranians have refused to comment "one way or the other" on that issue to agency experts. He and others interviewed by the AP demanded anonymity because their information was privileged, and the official providing the drawing and other details on the structure also demanded that he and his country not be identified in return for sharing classified intelligence.

Attempts to get Iranian comment were unsuccessful. A copy of the diagram was attached to an email sent to Ali Asghar Soltanieh, Iran's chief delegate to the IAEA, with a note that the AP would be asking for reaction. Subsequent phone calls over the weekend went to his voice mail.

The technology used for the suspected multipoint explosives trigger experiments is similar to that employed in manufacturing tiny industrialized diamonds, and the IAEA believes former Soviet scientist Vyacheslav Danilenko - an expert in such diamond-making - helped Iran with designing the chamber.

Diplomats say Danilenko has told the agency that he did not work on such a chamber, but his son in law, identified by the diplomats as Vladimir Padalko, told the IAEA that the container was built under Danilenko's direct supervision. Repeated attempts by the AP and other media organizations to contact the two men have been unsuccessful since the IAEA revealed Danilenko's suspected involvement in November.

"What one does inside such a chamber is conduct high explosives testing," said Mark Fitzpatrick, director of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Program of the International Institute for Strategic



Studies. "You are going to make something go boom with maybe 70 kilograms (more than 150 pounds) of high explosives, you need to contain the explosion.

"And particularly if you are using uranium, which is reportedly the case, you want to contain all the uranium dust so there's not any tell-tale, observable signals of that experimentation."

The official who provided the drawing also shared the following information on the chamber:

#### ORIGINS

-Built in the early 2000s by Azar AB Industries Co. in the city of Arak and then transported to Parchin. Both the senior diplomat familiar with the IAEA investigations and Heinonen, the former senior IAEA official, confirmed this. Company officials did not answer calls seeking comment.

#### SIZE

-Volume: 300 cubic meters, or about 10,600 feet. Diameter: 4.6 meters, or 15.09 feet. Length: 18. 8 meters, or 61.68 feet. The senior diplomat confirmed the measurements.

#### EQUIPPED WITH

-A vacuum pump used to remove air from the chamber to minimize pressure that could damage the structure during an explosion; a compressor that shoots water into the chamber after testing to flood and clean it; a septic tank that receives the waste; an elevation system to suspend the explosives in the upper part of the chamber during testing; and a neutron detection system outside the explosion chamber to measure neutron emissions. The senior diplomat said these features would make sense, or such testing, but could not verify they existed, suggesting they may have been added after the Iranians put up the superstructure shielding the chamber from satellite surveillance.

#### TIME FRAME

-The official said the chamber was used for detonation experiments in 2003, 2005 and 2006. Two officials familiar with the investigations said the first date appeared to be valid but they had no information of subsequent experiments. The United States believes Iran stopped working on a concerted nuclear weapons program at various sites after 2003, while the IAEA suspects Tehran is continuing some work but in a much less organized way than before 2003.

#### THE SCIENTISTS

-Seyed Ashgar Hashemi-Tabar, described as "an expert in measuring detonation phenomena" and not previously identified. Acting on information from the same official, the AP previously named other scientists allegedly involved as Fereydoun Abbasi, the current head of Iran's nuclear agency, who escaped an assassination attempt in 2010; Darious Rezainejad, who was killed by a car bomb last year; and Reza Ibrahimi.

Inspecting the site at Parchin, southeast of the capital, Tehran, was a key request made by senior IAEA teams that visited Tehran in January and February. Iran rebuffed those demands and subsequent ones - the most recent within the last two weeks - as well as attempts by the nuclear agency to question Iranian officials and secure other information linked to the allegations of secret weapons work.

At the same time, the IAEA has voiced alarm at unexplained "activity" at the site - a term diplomats familiar with the agency's concerns say stands for attempts to clean up any evidence of the kinds of experiments the agency suspects were carried out.

A second senior diplomat familiar with the investigation recently told the AP that spy satellite images shared with the agency show what seems to be water streaming from the building housing the chamber. He said it also depicts workers removing bags of material from that building and put on vehicles outside.



A third senior diplomat said that the apparent cleanup was continuing in early May, the last time he had seen the images.

Iran has scoffed at suggestions of a cleanup in general and of testing a neutron device in particular, with Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mahmanparast asserting that nuclear contamination cannot be washed away. But experts challenge that assertion.

A cleanup "could involve grinding down the surfaces inside the building, collecting the dust and then washing the area thoroughly," said David Albright, whose Institute for Science and International Security in Washington looks for signs of nuclear proliferation. "This could be followed with new building materials and paint.

"It could also involve removing any dirt around the building thought to contain contaminants," Albright said in a statement emailed to selected recipients. "These types of activities could be effective in defeating environmental sampling."

Fitzpatrick, the other nuclear nonproliferation expert, also said a cleanup could be effective.

"In the past, the IAEA has been able to catch out Iran by going to a building that Iran tried to clean and they still found traces of uranium," he said. "And Iran learned from that and they learned that `boy you have to scrub everything really clean; get down into the drains and grind away any possible residue.'"

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## 24. [Attack, Iraq] Period Of Relative Calm In Iraq Is Brought To End By Fatal Bomb Blasts

Sunday, 13 May 2012

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/14/world/middleeast/fatal-bomb-blasts-end-relative-calm-in-iraq.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/14/world/middleeast/fatal-bomb-blasts-end-relative-calm-in-iraq.html?_r=1)

Bomb blasts aimed largely at security forces in western and central Iraq killed six people and wounded several more on Sunday, a relatively violent day after a few weeks of calm across the country.

Just a few years ago, the day's toll would have been a footnote in the relentless killing roiling Iraq, when it was not uncommon for 100 people to be killed in one day of bombings, assassinations, and fighting between militants and Iraqi and American forces. So far this month, 60 people have died in attacks, according to United Nations statistics, and 320 were killed in April.

In Falluja, once a violent core of anti-American militancy, a car bomb aimed at an Iraqi Army patrol killed two soldiers and wounded three others. In Ramadi, another heavily Sunni Muslim town in western Anbar Province, two police officers were killed by a bomb near a marketplace.

In the Shiite city of Hilla, two civilians were killed when an improvised bomb exploded in a residential neighborhood, according to local security forces.

The United States Embassy in Baghdad also released a statement on Sunday expressing support for a police-training program — one of the largest and costliest endeavors by the United States here after the military withdrawal — in response to a report by The New York Times a day earlier saying that the program had been scaled back and could be scrapped after facing resistance from Iraqi officials.

In the statement, embassy officials said they had no plans to shut down the training program.

In an April report to Congress, the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction said that the program had faced “an array of challenges since its inception.”



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## 25. [Special Interest, Yemen] Ibrahim Al-Asiri: The Body Bomb Menace

Monday, 14 May 2012

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2012/05/13/al-qaeda-s-body-bombs-al-asiri-s-next-threat.html>

A secret report obtained by Newsweek lays out the diabolical plans of al Qaeda's bomb guru: evading airport scanners by surgically implanting explosives in a terrorist's love handles.

After the explosion, as the air cleared in a Saudi villa, the grotesque remains of the suicide bomber littered the room. His mission on that night in August 2009 had been to murder Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, the head of the country's counter-terror operations. The would-be assassin had claimed he was giving himself up. He had said he would try to persuade others to surrender as well—but only if he could meet the prince in person. The Saudis flew the “repentant” terrorist from near the border with Yemen to Riyadh. They searched him. He carried no weapon that anyone could see. And then, as he met with the prince, suddenly, like something out of a horror movie, the man exploded. Saudi television showed the bomber's arm blown through the tiles of the suspended ceiling. A bare foot stood alone on the floor. The torso was sheered away below the waist. Bits of flesh stained the white furniture.

Bin Nayef survived with only minor injuries. But a new age of terror—or attempted terror—had begun: that bomb was the first known prototype of a weapon all but undetectable by conventional security measures. Another version of it, a so-called underpants bomb, came close to exploding four months later on an American airliner bound for Detroit. And last week word leaked that a double agent—one run by bin Nayef—had successfully penetrated the same group of terrorists in Yemen, claiming that he, too, wanted to be a suicide bomber. The double agent had obtained the most recent, most sophisticated version of the device, turning it over to his Saudi handlers and their American friends from the Central Intelligence Agency.

Are we safe yet? Not hardly, says Don Borelli, who was until recently one of the FBI's top agents in counterterrorism and now works with the Soufan Group in New York City. “We got one of these things, but who knows how many more of them are out there?” The man thought to have been the bomb maker is Ibrahim al-Asiri, who sent his own brother to die in the attempt to kill bin Nayef. “How many underlings does he have?” asks Borelli. “How many apprentices are there to whom he's spread this knowledge so they can take up the work if he meets the business end of a drone strike?”

Worse still, intelligence is mounting that new terrorist bombs are under development that are meant to be implanted surgically inside a man or a woman (conjuring fears, not least, that someone who looks great with child could in fact be heavy with explosives). Last spring, U.S. intelligence officials began to pick up worrying information that al-Asiri was working with doctors on just such a project. Some dismissed the plan as far-fetched. But by last June, the CIA concluded that al-Asiri was close to being able to pull it off.

Al-Asiri aims to devise a human bomb to evade airport body scanners. (From left: Phil Nobl; Saudi Interior Ministry / Reuters-Landov (2))

Newsweek has learned that U.S. intelligence officials circulated a secret report that laid out in vivid detail how doctors working for al-Asiri had developed the surgical technique. An American government source familiar with the report described it as 15 to 20 pages, single spaced, and replete with schematics and pictures. "It was almost like something you'd see in Scientific American," the source said. (In military parlance, the bomb is called a "surgically implanted improvised explosive device," or SIIED.) A diagram with arrows and blocks of text explained the surgical process. "The idea was to insert the device in the terrorist's love handle," says the U.S. government source, who declined to be named discussing sensitive intelligence. While it was not clear whether the terror doctors had ever succeeded in implanting explosives in a human being, they had experimented with dogs and other animals.

Fortunately these devices are easier to describe than to detonate. "You would have to have a very unique firing system," says Borelli. "If it's a 'body bomb' you are going to have to have a way to initiate it from the outside—almost a stent, or something like a pacemaker." And it's not least because of the technical challenges that, in fact, both of al-Asiri's suicide-bomb devices known to have been used were failures. In the attack on bin Nayef, the body of the bomber himself absorbed most of the explosive force. The pyrotechnic underwear of Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, who tried to blow up the Northwestern jet to Detroit on Christmas Day 2009, fizzled instead of exploding. But as Borelli points out, "Even the threat of these devices causes a reaction by the security apparatus where we wind up spending millions of dollars." The body scanners now in many U.S. airports were installed to prevent a more deadly repeat of the Abdulmutallab incident. If SIIEDs could be perfected, however, even full-body scanners would not detect them.

"We're certainly concerned," says a senior administration official, adding that al Qaeda terrorists in Yemen are always working on "newer and more innovative ways to conceal bombs, whether it be in cargo planes or surgically implanted IEDs." If scanners couldn't recognize such a device, security would depend on airport screeners spotting an "anomaly," the official said—such as an unusual bulge in a traveler's body—or detection by other means, including bomb-sniffing dogs and swabbing for explosive residues.

It's precisely because of these uncertainties that the Obama administration has worked so hard to take the war to the enemy. Airport security is only the last line of defense. It takes the relentless disruption of al Qaeda operations in the field to prevent the old core group and its various spinoffs from spreading their terror far and wide. That's the purpose of drone attacks in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Yemen. But when it comes to the fight on the ground in the Arabian Peninsula, bin Nayef is the pivotal player.

His father, Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, is, not insignificantly, the minister of interior and the heir apparent to the throne of Saudi Arabia. Behind Prince Mohammed's wire-rimmed glasses, the 52-year-old security chief is said to be scholarly, controlled, methodical, and relentless in pursuing the Kingdom's enemies. He has survived not only the bombing in Riyadh in 2009 but two other plots as well. The fight against al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) is for bin Nayef quite literally a duel to the death.

The key is to get inside the enemy's camp. No one is better than the Americans at electronic surveillance, but human intelligence is vital, and for that, the Saudis are far better placed, as last week's

double-agent saga shows. When bin Nayef and his agents learned that AQAP was actively seeking a volunteer bomber of a particular pedigree, they sensed an opportunity. “The Saudis are very strong in intelligence in Yemen, and they understand that the [AQAP] organization was looking for someone with a Western passport,” says Mustafa Alani, director of the security and defense research program at the Gulf Research Center in Riyadh. So the Saudis,



apparently with British assistance, found a spy who had lived in Britain, had an EU passport, and would be seen as a prize recruit by al-Asiri’s minions. “He is someone recruited by the Saudis and sent to Yemen in the hopes that al Qaeda was going to pick him up and that is what happened,” says Alani. “The Americans were informed, but it was a Saudi operation.” In addition to the bomb, the double agent may also have provided intelligence that was used to direct a later American drone strike against a top al Qaeda leader in Yemen, Fahd al-Quso, who played a major role in the bombing of the USS Cole in 2000.

Other spies have also provided vital leads. One concerned Ahmed Said Saad, a Syrian medical doctor who appeared to be working with al-Asiri on his diabolical experiments. Around the time the document about body bombs was being circulated within the Obama administration, officials were debating whether Saad could be placed on the military’s kill or capture list. Questions remained about the strength of the intelligence and the extent to which Saad could be tied to bomb development. Some officials questioned the propriety of targeting doctors who potentially saved lives. About two months ago, the questions became moot when Saad was killed in a CIA drone attack while traveling with another AQAP operative.

Unfortunately, however, the battlefields in this twilight war are expanding, not narrowing. “At the one-year anniversary of bin Laden’s demise, the tone is that it is all over, and that’s all bullshit,” says a veteran American intelligence official concerned with the ongoing threats. “Sanctuary for al Qaeda-minded elements is probably greater than it has ever been.” AQAP in Yemen controls more territory than ever, and al Qaeda spinoffs have emerged elsewhere—Somalia, Mali, the north of Nigeria, bits of Algeria, and parts of Libya. The bomb maker al-Asiri is still out there, training others. “I don’t want to be the skunk at the picnic,” says the intel official, “but if you are paid to worry about this you are going to focus on it, and when I focus on it, I worry a lot.”

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## 26. [Attack, Iraq] Iraq Bomb Attacks Kill Six

Monday, 14 May 2012

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/international/14-May-2012/iraq-bomb-attacks-kill-six>

A suicide bomber targeting a police checkpoint in Baghdad killed at least 3 people while car bombs hit army and police patrols in two other cities, killing three others, sources said on Sunday. The attacks were the first serious violence since mid-April when a wave of bombings killed 36 people across the country, including an attack involving three car bombs and a suicide bomber in which 15 people died in Baghdad. Police opened fire on Sunday when the suicide bomber refused their orders to stop at a checkpoint in the western Baghdad district of Mansour before he detonated his load, killing three officers, authorities said.

"It was a suicide bomber. The checkpoint guards told him to stop and he didn't, so they shot at him," said Raad Latif Hussein, an officer with a Baghdad police rescue unit.

In Falluja, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad, a car bomb hit a passing Iraqi army patrol, killing two soldiers and wounding six people, while in Ramadi, 100 km (60 miles) west of the capital, another car bomb killed a police officer, and wounded six people, officials said.

Violence and bombings in Iraq have abated significantly since the bloody heights of sectarian war in 2006-2007 when tens of thousands of people were killed in intercommunal fighting that pitted Sunni against Shi'ite Muslims.

Sunni Islamists tied to al Qaeda have been weakened, but they vowed to keep up their insurgency after the withdrawal of the last American troops in December. Militants now often hit local security forces, government offices or Shi'ite targets to try to stir sectarian tensions.

Iraq's delicate government, split among Shi'ite, Sunni and Kurdish blocs, has been mired in a crisis over power-sharing since the last U.S. soldiers withdrew. The impasse has raised concern that the country could relapse into the kind of broad sectarian bloodshed that erupted soon after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that overthrew Sunni dictator Saddam Hussein.

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## 27. [Security, Yemen] Air Raids In Yemen Kill 25 Suspected Militants In Al-Qaeda Southern Stronghold

Tuesday, 15 May 2012

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/05/15/214236.html>

Twin air strikes on a house in the al-Qaeda stronghold of Jaar in south Yemen on Tuesday killed 42 people, including 25 suspected al-Qaeda militants, an Al Arabiya correspondent reported.

The al-Qaeda suspects were killed in the first air strike while eight civilians who had gathered around the residence right after the attack died in a second air raid, witnesses said, according to AFP news agency.

It was not clear whether the raid on Jaar, in southern Abyan province, was carried out by U.S. drones or by the Yemeni air force.

A Yemeni aircraft had on Friday dropped leaflets across Abyan province warning residents to stay clear of areas where al-Qaeda militants are gathered.

Meanwhile, two soldiers were killed in battles between Yemen's army and al-Qaeda militants around Loder, another town in the southern Abyan province, an army official said.

The official said that 13 members of the Popular Resistance Committees, formed by residents of Loder and nearby Mudia to battle jihadists alongside the army, were wounded in the clashes.

Yemeni forces at the weekend launched an all-out offensive to recapture al-Qaeda-held towns and cities across Abyan, including its capital Zinjibar.

Al-Qaeda's branch in Yemen has exploited the decline in central government control that accompanied Arab Spring-inspired protests that eventually forced president Ali Abdullah Saleh to cede power in February.

Tribal sources said Monday that battles in the south had seen 37 militants killed in two days, but AFP could not independently verify the toll.

A military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that 12 soldiers have been killed since the operation was launched on Saturday. But the defense ministry news website 26sep.net put the toll at six dead.

Also on Monday, suspected al-Qaeda militants blew up a gas pipeline supplying Yemen's Balhaf export terminal in the Gulf of Aden, the second such attack in a month, a government official said on Monday.

"A gas pipeline was blown up near Mayfaa" in Shabwa province in southeast Yemen late on Sunday, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Al-Qaeda blew up the pipeline in response to the raids that targeted it" over the past week, the official said.



Witnesses told AFP that flames were seen flaring into the sky from the site of the explosion that took place around midnight, some 30 minutes after soldiers guarding the pipeline clashed with a group of gunmen.

Earlier last week, air strikes by U.S. drones in eastern Yemen killed jihadist network leader Fahd al-Quso, wanted by Washington in connection with the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole in Aden harbour.

Quso's name figured on an FBI list of most wanted terrorists, along with a reward of up to \$5 million for information leading to his arrest.

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## 28. [Attack, Syria] Roadside Bomb Hits UN Vehicle; Activists Say Syrian Forces Fire On Funeral

Tuesday, 15 May 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/north-lebanese-city-calm-after-three-days-of-street-clashes-over-syrias-crisis/2012/05/15/gIQAnglZQU\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/north-lebanese-city-calm-after-three-days-of-street-clashes-over-syrias-crisis/2012/05/15/gIQAnglZQU_story.html)

The U.N.'s observer mission in Syria was caught up in a burst of violence Tuesday captured on video, with a roadside bomb damaging its cars just minutes after witnesses said regime forces gunned down mourners at a funeral procession nearby.

The mission confirmed its vehicles were hit by a bomb shortly after they met with Syrian rebels, and said there were no injuries.

It was not clear how close the observers were to the funeral shootings, but if confirmed, a regime attack on a civilians directly in front of the observer mission could put pressure on them to describe publicly what they are seeing in Syria. They report back to the U.N. but have not publicized their findings.

The attack in the northern town of Khan Sheikhoun is at least the second time that U.N. observers have been caught up in Syria's violence. Last week, a roadside bomb struck a Syrian military truck in the south of the country just seconds after the head of the U.N. observers team drove by in a convoy.

A video of the bomb attack was posted by activists online. "The front of a U.N. car took a direct hit," activist Fadi al-Yassin, who witnessed the incident, told The Associated Press. "Everyone ran in panic but the observers stayed in the car. People tried to talk to them but they wouldn't even open their windows."

Just minutes earlier, Syrian forces fired on a funeral procession, activists said. Al-Yassin and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that as many as 20 people may have been killed and said many others were wounded, some of them in serious condition. It was impossible to independently confirm the toll.

"This is a real massacre and it took place in the presence of U.N. observers," Rami Abdul-Rahman, head of the Observatory, said of the attack on the funeral. He called for an international investigation and for the monitors to state publicly what they saw.

A video posted by activists online appeared to show the exact moment the U.N. vehicle was struck. The video shows two white vehicles clearly marked "U.N" with people milling around it, and two others parked a few meters behind. Slippers apparently left behind by the mourners running away from the shooting earlier are seen strewn about on the ground.

The blast blew off the front of the first vehicle and sent up a plume of smoke as people screamed and frantically ran for cover. The four cars are then seen slowly driving away.

Ahmad Fawzi, a spokesman for Syria's special envoy Kofi Annan, confirmed the observers were caught up in the country's violence as they met with the rebel Free Syrian Army.

“The U.N. Mission in Syria reports that shortly after 2 p.m. local time today, a (U.N.) convoy of four vehicles was struck by an explosion from an improvised explosive device,” Fawzi said in a statement. “Three U.N. vehicles were damaged. No U.N. personnel were injured.”

The Syrian uprising began in March 2011 with mostly peaceful protests calling for change, but a relentless government crackdown led many in the opposition to take up arms. Some soldiers also have switched sides and joined forces with the rebels.

World powers have backed a peace plan that was put forward by Annan, but the bloodshed has not stopped. More than 200 U.N. observers have been deployed in Syria to oversee the truce between the government and armed rebels.

The U.N. estimates the conflict has killed more than 9,000 people.

U.N. spokesman Hassan Seklawi said 211 military observers as well as 66 civilian U.N. staffers working for the observation mission have been deployed in the country, with teams based in major cities such as Aleppo, Hama, Idlib, Deir el-Zour, Daraa and Homs.

The number of military observers is expected to reach the maximum of 300 later this month.

Burhan Ghalioun, the head of Syria’s opposition umbrella group, the Syrian National Council, called for decisive action to enforce Annan’s peace plan, warning it risked failure. He spoke Tuesday in Rome, where the SNC re-elected him to another three-month term during a conference of council members.

An international aid agency meanwhile warned Tuesday that Syrian forces are targeting medical workers and patients who were wounded in the 14-month-old conflict, forcing doctors to scramble to help the injured in makeshift clinics.

Medecins Sans Frontieres, or Doctors Without Borders, which is not authorized to work in Syria, sent teams into the country secretly. They reached the rebellious areas of Homs and Idlib, where they found patients and doctors at risk of attack and arrest.

“Being caught with patients is like being caught with a weapon,” the group quoted an orthopedic surgeon as saying in an Idlib village. There have been previous reports of authorities targeting medical facilities, health workers and their patients in Syria.

The Observatory and the Local Coordination Committees activist group said Tuesday at least three people were killed in an explosion the night before in the Syrian coastal city of Baniyas, home to one of the country’s two oil refineries. The explosion destroyed a building but the nature of the blast was still not clear, the Observatory said.

The state-run news agency, SANA, said the blast happened when terrorists were preparing a bomb killing the three who working arranging it, as well as a 3-year-old boy.

The Observatory and the LCC also reported shooting by government troops in the eastern city of Deir el-Zour near the border with Iraq that left at least three people dead. They added that the rebel-held central town of Rastan was again under intense shelling by government troops.

U.N. military observers on their way to the central city of Hama on Monday reported heavy fighting in Rastan and nearby Talbiseh, and convinced government forces to re-open a highway they had been blocking, according to a statement from the U.N. in New York.

Across the border in Lebanon, Lebanese troops deployed Tuesday in tense areas of the northern city of Tripoli after three days of sectarian clashes killed at least eight people in a spillover of the conflict in Syria. Officials said two of the eight people died of their wounds overnight.

Lebanon and Syria share a complex web of political and sectarian ties and rivalries, which are easily enflamed as Sunni Muslims who support the rebels trying to oust Assad battle members of the tiny Alawite sect, followers of an offshoot of Shiite Islam who are Assad's most loyal supporters.

Meanwhile, the U.N.'s humanitarian affairs chief said that more than 1 million Syrians need assistance, but negotiating the delivery of aid has been "very slow" because the regime wants the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to control it.

"From the U.N.'s perspective, it's important that any aid be delivered impartially," Valerie Amos said in New York. "It needs to go to people in opposition-held areas as well as government-held areas."

She said some community-based organizations fear that collecting a list of names of people who need aid could lead to those people being targeted.

Annan urged Syrian authorities to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid "without further delay," U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said Tuesday.

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## **29. [Law Enforcement, England] Fifty Houses Evacuated And Two Arrested In Explosives Raid**

Friday, 11 May 2012

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/9260161/Fifty-houses-evacuated-and-two-arrested-in-explosives-raid.html>

Fifty houses were evacuated and two men arrested today during a planned police operation over misuse of explosives.

Officers found items "requiring further investigation" in a garage in Buttermere Close, in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

An explosive ordnance disposal team was called to assess the scene and a 100-metre cordon set up around Buttermere Close.

The raid was not counter-terrorism related, it is understood.

A Gloucestershire Police spokesman said: "A 52-year-old man from Cheltenham was arrested under the Explosives Substances Act 1883 in the Hester's Way area of the town.

"A 24-year-old man has also been arrested under the Explosives Substances Act.

"Residents from around 40-50 houses are being evacuated to a local community centre as a precaution."

Gloucestershire Police confirmed the operation was unrelated to a gas explosion last night, which destroyed the home of an elderly woman in Rosehill Street, Cheltenham.

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### **30. [Attack, Italy] Fire Bombs Target Tax Office In Italy**

Saturday, 12 May 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/12/us-italy-unrest-molotov-idUSBRE84B03B20120512>

Two fire bombs were thrown at the offices of Italy's tax enforcement agency Equitalia in the port city of Livorno early on Saturday, police said, the latest in a string of attacks on one of crisis-hit Italy's symbols of austerity.

Firemen were called in after one of the two petrol bombs landed on the doorsteps of the Equitalia building, police told Reuters. Nobody was hurt.

Public anger against Equitalia has been rising after a wave of highly publicized suicides by small businessmen in Italy, where the government of Mario Monti has increased taxes along with the retirement age to fight spiraling public debt.

Last week, a 54-year-old businessman burst into an Equitalia office and held an official hostage at gunpoint for several hours before surrendering to police.

An anarchist group has also targeted Equitalia with letter bombs in recent months, wounding the director general of the agency in December.

The same anarchist group claimed responsibility for shooting the head of a nuclear engineering group in the leg in the port city of Genoa earlier this week, an act reminiscent of Red Brigade-style political violence that raged across Italy in the 1970s.

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### 31. [Attack, Israel] Israeli Tank Fire Hurts Seven In Gaza

Thursday, 17 May 2012

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gBrKdwgZuNP69dRRf8deWPdQXVVQ?docId=CN9.99be604c1b2b27392e949c6c4024b328.161>

An Israeli tank shell fired into the Gaza Strip on Thursday wounded seven Palestinians, leaving two of them in critical condition, Palestinian medical officials told AFP.

The shell hit near the Karni crossing east of Gaza City, according to the medics.

But Israeli security officials said that no tank shells were fired in that area this morning.

An Israeli army spokesman said that "a short while ago, Israeli soldiers identified several terrorists approaching the security fence in the northern Gaza Strip, in an area that is used by terror organisations to lay explosive devices."

"The soldiers fired toward the terrorists (and) the suspects distanced themselves from the fence," he told AFP.

The Israeli military maintains an exclusion zone inside the Gaza Strip along the border and regularly carries out military activities in the area.

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## 32. [Security, Israel] Terrorists Nabbed With Pipe Bombs In Samaria

Tuesday, 15 May 2012

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/155844#.T7ZLEFI7uSo>

Two Arabs from Palestinian Authority enclaves were arrested trying to smuggle four pipe bombs, an improvised gun, and a large amount of ammunition into Israel on Tuesday.

Two Arab men in their 20s aroused the suspicion of Border Police officers at the Tapuach Junction, who detained and searched the pair.

Upon finding the weapons in their bags, Border Police called sappers were called to dispose of the devices. The pair were arrested and handed over to security officials for questioning.

Such arrests have become commonplace as northern Samaria increasingly becomes a hub for the Hamas and Islamic Jihad terror organizations.

January 8: Border Police arrest two men carrying 12 pipe bombs and a combat knife at a checkpoint near Shechem in northern Samaria.

April 11: IDF forces stopped a would-be bomber over Passover at a checkpoint east of Shechem, in northern Samaria. The terrorist was carrying improvised explosive devices, three knives and 50 bullets.

April 21: 2 Palestinian Authority teens carrying bombs and guns were nabbed by Israeli forces. They were apprehended near Tapuach Junction with 5 pipe bombs, a gun, and ammo.

April 24: IDF forces uncovered 4 improvised bombs on two Arabs at a crossing north of Jericho. The bombs were found in the men's bags and detonated safely.

April 28: IDF forces nabbed 2 terrorists with 4 pipe bombs as they were trying to smuggle explosives through a checkpoint in northern Samaria.

May 7: Israeli forces arrested 17-year-old Palestinian for carrying 3 pipe bombs. The teen was detained near Tapuach junction.

Last August the GSS cracked a network of Hamas terror cells in Judea and Samaria, each of which was in various stages of planning for attacks on Israelis.

One of the cells was behind the 23 March 2011 bus bombing in central Jerusalem that killed 1 and wounded 47.

Also, in late January 2012, the GSS and Israel Police foiled a shooting attack planned by an Israeli Arab in collaboration with an Islamic Jihad terror cell from Tulkarem in northern Samaria.

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### **33. [Attack, India] Cop Killed, 20 Injured As Police Convoy Hits IED**

Sunday, 13 May 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-14554-Cop-killed-20-injured-as-police-convoy-hits-IED>

A cop was killed and 20 persons wounded when militants targeted the police vehicles carrying high-profile prisoners with an improvised explosive device (IED) in Gulbahar on the Grand Trunk Road here Saturday.

The prisoners were being shifted to Mardan from Peshawar Central Prison in connection with the hearing of cases in the court.

“A constable, Shah Hussain, was killed and 20 persons injured when the escort vehicle of the prisoners’ van was hit with the explosives as soon as it reached the Gulbahar Chowk,” the in-charge of Gulbahar Police Station, Syed Atiq Shah, told The News.

He said the wounded were rushed to the Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) after the security officials cordoned off the area. Two vehicles and three auto-rickshaws were also damaged in the blast.

The injured also included a woman and six policemen, all from Mardan Police who had come to take the prisoners from the Peshawar Central Prison to a court for hearing. It was the second attack on police vehicles in Peshawar in two days.

The spokesman for the LRH, Jamil Shah, said that 20 persons including six policemen had been brought to the hospital. He said five of them were in a critical condition.

The cops wounded in the blast included Manzoor Ahmad, Syed Kalam, Nauman Khan, Abdul Jabbar and Shah Hassan. The civilians injured in the blast were identified as Tahira, Rahim Gul, Sher Bahadur, Raz Mohammad, Nasrullah, Mohammad Nisar, Mohammad Ishaq, Iftikhar, Mirza Khan, Fazal Haq, Farhad, Daud, Behram and Abdullah.

The explosives were concealed in a box which was kept near the under-construction overhead bridge for which the GT Road has been divided and only a portion is being used for the traffic.

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### 34. [Security, India] Naxal-Planted Explosives Unearthed In Gondia

Monday, 14 May 2012

<http://www.asianage.com/mumbai/naxal-planted-explosives-unearthed-gondia-819>

Four days after the Naxals killed a village sarpanch in the Gondia district, C-60 commandoes along with the local police found 16.5 kilograms of ammonium nitrate stuffed in two steel boxes, in a tunnel below a road. The police said that a major attack has been averted with the seizure of the explosive substance and that the bombs that would have blown up a vehicle the size of a bus.

In March this year, 13 CRPF jawans were killed after the Naxals blew up the bus they were travelling in Gadchiroli.

“We were patrolling the area on foot accompanied by two parties of C-60 commandoes, when on the road near Damditola village we spotted a ditch. We grew suspicious and started digging it. We then saw a black electric wire that led us to two steel boxes that were hidden below the road,” said assistant inspector S.R. Narnavre from Chinchgad police station.

Mr Narnavre said that by that time they had informed the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS). “They found 16.5 kilograms of sulphur based ammonium nitrate explosives stuffed in the two steel boxes. They were attached with two detonators each. They were readymade bombs and all the Naxals had to do is just to detonate it with a battery from a distance,” he added.

According to Mr Narnavre, a Mahakal bus (government bus) also plies on the road ferrying villagers.

“However, we suspect the Naxals were targeting the police. They must have expected big police vehicles to pass through the road after Istari village sarpanch’s killing, as we had intensified our operations in the region. The bombs if detonated were capable of blowing up big vehicles the size of a bus,” he said.

Damditola village is located near the Istari village where Sarpanch Ghanshyam Koretti was murdered last week. Mr Narnavre said that the area was very sensitive and Naxal violence had been reported in the region in the past too.

The explosives have now been sent for forensic analysis, while the police are investigating whether more such bombs have been hidden below the roads by the Naxals.

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### **35. [Law Enforcement, India] Police Seize 20 Kg Of IEDs In Maharashtra**

Monday, 14 May 2012

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article3419207.ece>

The police have recovered a cache of 20 kg of explosives near the armed outpost of Ganutola in Gondia district of Maharashtra. In the special operation by C60 commandos, four detonators and a 25-metre wire were also recovered.

“A unique pattern was found in the recovered improvised explosive devices. There were two boxes — 10 kg each; and three gunny bags of loose stones surrounding it. It looks like they were planning to ambush a police party as they were continuously showing their location close to Gadchiroli for the past few days. If a blast had taken place, the loose stones around the explosives would have been thrown in all directions,” Gondia Superintendent of Police told The Hindu on Monday.

The operation, which started in the early hours of Sunday on the basis of information provided by informers, lasted till evening, police said.

“The IEDs were detected at 8 a.m. and defused with the help of a bomb detection squad by evening,” a police officer said adding,

“The explosives have been sent to the laboratory for testing as their true nature is not yet known.” Interestingly, the explosives were found not far away from the place where the body of the abducted sarpanch of Istari was found five days ago, police said. Ghanashyam Budhari Koreti (35) was kidnapped on the night of May 7.

The police have registered a case under Section 307 of the Indian Penal Code, Sections 16, 18, 20, 23 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Section 4 of Explosives Act.

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### **36. [Attack, Thailand] Rangers Wounded By Pattani Bomb**

Monday, 14 May 2012

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/293233/rangers-wounded-by-pattani-bomb>

Sixteen rangers, 10 of them women, were wounded by a bomb explosion in Muang district of Pattani province early Monday morning.

Pol Col Somporn Meesuk, the Muang district police chief, said the 16 were in a group of about 20 rangers of the 7th Company of the 43rd Rangers Regiment travelling on a pick-up truck and a military truck while returning to their base in tambon Bo Thong of Nong Chick district from providing security for the annual Red Cross fair organised in front of the city hall.

The attack occurred shortly after midnight when the two vehicles stopped at Ban Don Rak intersection on the Pattani - Hat Yai section of Highway 42. A 3kg bomb inside a gas cylinder hung behind the stop sign was detonated by a radio signal militants hiding nearby.

The militants then opened fire at the rangers. After a brief exchange of shots the militant fled into the dark.

Sixteen rangers, 10 women and six men, were wounded by the explosion, but not seriously.

The explosion shattered the windows of the two vehicles, which were also riddled with shrapnel.

Earlier on Saturday night, one policeman, a defence volunteer, and five civilians were hurt when a hand grenade exploded at the checkpoint near the clock tower on Wichit Chaiboonkhet road in the Narathiwat municipality, where police and defence volunteers were on security duty for the annual Red Cross fair.

Pol Col Sathanfa Wamasing, chief of the investigation section of Narathiwat police, said the grenade was believed to have been hurled over a wall from a mosque near the checkpoint.

The explosion caused minor injuries to seven people, who were admitted to Narathiwat Ratchanakarin Hospital.

One suspect, identified as Hadafi Sedommad, was arrested. He was being interrogated.

Deputy Prime Minister Yutthasak Sasiprapa said he had been briefed on the two incidents.

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### **37. [Attack, India] Three Soldiers Injured In IED Blast**

Monday, 14 May 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-7-108146-Three-soldiers-injured-in-IED-blast>

Tension rose in the North Waziristan tribal region when three soldiers' sustained injuries in an explosion caused by an improvised explosive device (IED) that targeted a military convoy on Sunday, official sources said.

The sources said the IED planted by unknown people along the Miranshah-Razmak road went off when a convoy of the security forces was passing through the area.

The soldiers were being transported from Razmak to Bannu. The injured were airlifted in a helicopter and taken to the hospital in the Miranshah army base.

The political administration issued notices to the local tribes living close to the site of the attack under the territorial responsibility section of the Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR).

Meanwhile, tension prevailed in much of North Waziristan where the authorities have already declared curfew forcing the traders to shut down their businesses.

The political administration through a local Pashto language radio asked the people time and again to stay away from the main road during curfew to avoid loss of life.

The local tribesmen said it was the first time that all roads, markets and shops remained closed in the main towns of Miranshah, Mir Ali and Dattakhel.

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### **38. [Security, Sri Lanka] Huge LTTE Arms Dump Unearthed In Sri Lanka**

Monday, 14 May 2012

<http://www.onlanka.com/news/huge-ltte-arms-dump-unearthed-in-sri-lanka.html>

Two years after the decisive battle in which the Tamil Tigers were vanquished, Sri Lankan security forces made their biggest-ever haul recovering 6,250 kg of hidden LTTE explosives.

The arms cache was busted in a joint search operation of Army and police in the former LTTE bastions of Mullaithivu and Kilinochchi districts on Sunday.

The joint operation of the Army and police busted a big hidden arms dump at Iranamadu and Nanthikadal in the Kilinochchi district, where 6,250 kg of C-4 explosives were found, police said.

The sandy Nanthikadal lagoon, was the site where the Tamil Tigers commanded by their supreme leader Velupillai Prabhakaran made their last stand.

Superintendent Ajith Rohana, the police spokesman said, “This is the largest ever quantity of explosives uncovered”.

He said the explosives were contained in 200 bags and hidden in a bunker used by the LTTE during their days of the military campaign.

Rohana said in the adjoining Mullaithivu district another 300 kgs of C—4 were uncovered in the Puthukudiyiruppu area along with other weaponry.

Kilinochchi and Mullaithivu served as the LTTE’s administrative and military capitals respectively during their three-decades old campaign to carve out a separate Tamil homeland.



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### **39. [Security, Sri Lanka] Police Seize Huge Explosives Cache In North**

Tuesday, 15 May 2012

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2012/05/15/sec02.asp>

The Police have found a haul of C4 and other explosives from the general area Pudukudirippu and Iranamadu hidden near an old LTTE bunker. The cache was found during a search operation by the Vavuniya Police following information received.

This is the largest haul of C4 explosives ever found and these goods are believed to have been hidden by the LTTE during the war period.

The items recovered from the Pudukudirippu general area are – 49, 50kg C4 explosive bags and 152, 25kg C4 explosive stored in bags.

The police had also recovered four LTTE jungle pouches, 21 hand grenades, one HE RPG rounds and one T56 barrel from Iranamadu general area and Nandikadal Lagoon.

They have found nine gas masks, 30, 122mm mortar shells, 48 hand grenades, three 5kg pressure bombs, one 20kg pressure bomb, 18 side bombs, 300 C4 explosives, 250, 15.09 high explosives, 15 RDX (plastic explosives), 58 18" long torpedo trips, 14 12" long torpedo trips, 24 10" (Green color) torpedo trips, one 4\*4 torpedo trip, 123 C4 mark 1 anti-personnel mines, 300, 0.50 ammunitions, 200 7.62\*39 ammunitions, 19 anti-tanks mines, 40 anti-personnel mines, two 40mm RPG round, six 60mm mortar rounds and 66 trip flashes from another location in Pudukudirippu.

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#### **40. [Security, India] ULFA Bid To Blow Up Oil Pipeline Foiled**

Tuesday, 15 May 2012

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article3419154.ece>

The police on Monday foiled an attempt by the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) to blow up a oil pipeline and recovered two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Dibrugarh district of Assam.

Superintendent of Police Arabinda Kalita told PTI that the IEDs were strapped to the pipeline at a place near Udalguri village under the Tengakhat police station.

Acting on a tip-off, the police launched a search operation in the morning to trace the explosives. They recovered the IEDs that weighed around five kg each around 5.30 p.m.

The IEDs weighed around five kg each and would have caused major destruction, Mr. Kalita said. "We have sought assistance from the Army to defuse the explosives and a team is on the way from the Dinjan Army camp."

The police were continuing search operations in the area.

Intelligence sources said a group of ULFA militants, led by Raktajeet Hazarika and Jayanta Handique, was active in the area and was most probably involved in the attempt.

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## 41. [Security, India] Maoists Hang Explosives On Train Engine In Jharkhand

Tuesday, 15 May 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Maoists-hang-explosives-on-train-engine-in-Jharkhand/articleshow/13150465.cms>

Passengers on the 58113 Tatanagar-Bilaspur Passenger train had a narrow escape on Monday night after suspected Maoists boarded the compartments, pasted leaflets and warned them against defying a CPI(Maoist)-sponsored bandh on Wednesday. Before disappearing into the darkness, the rebels hung a bag of explosives to the buffers of the locomotive of the train and told the train staff that it was 'just a warning' of what is to come if an attempt is made to defy the bandh. There was no attempt to hijack the train though.

The incident occurred at Jharkhand's Posoita station in the Tatanagar-Rourkela section of South Eastern Railway (SER), nearly 362 km from Howrah, around 9.50 pm on Monday. It sent SER officials in Kolkata into frenzy and special arrangements were made for movement of trains along that route on Wednesday. All Mumbai-bound and several other trains from Howrah pass through that route. In November, 2009, two passengers of the Tatanagar-Bilaspur Passenger train were killed and nearly 50 others injured when Maoists blew up the tracks between the Posoita and Manoharpur stations.

"When the train stopped at Posoita, the rebels entered the coaches and pasted leaflets announcing a bandh. Before they left, they tied a bag to the buffers of the locomotive. We took no risk and asked the passengers to get off. They were accommodated in the 18030 Shalimar-LTT Express which was following the passenger train. The express train was stopped at all stations between Posoita and Rourkela for the benefit of the local passengers. The passenger train was taken to Manoharpur station and stabled. Security personnel reached the station and defused the explosives around 5 am on Tuesday," an SER official said.

According to the police, the bag didn't contain a completed improvised explosive device but explosives used for making such bombs. This is being seen as a clear warning of what the Maoists are still capable of.

"We aren't sure of the extent of the bandh but security measures have been intensified to ensure safe running of trains in the Kharagpur-Tatanagar, Chakradharpur-Rourkela and Kharagpur-Adra sections of SER. Monday night's incident didn't affect train services but we are taking all precautions. While additional security forces will be deployed on trains and at stations, patrol specials will be kept at several locations for quick deployment. Pilot engines and pilot goods trains will be run ahead of mail/express trains. Loco pilots have been directed to maintain a speed limit of 75 km per hour while passing through these three sections at night," the official added.

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## 42. [Security, India] Powerful IED Recovered In Imphal

Tuesday, 15 May 2012

<http://www.indiablooms.com/NewsDetailsPage/2012/newsDetails150512k.php>

A powerful Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was recovered by security forces in Manipur on Monday night, police said on Tuesday.

The IED, weighing 4 kgs, was recovered from the Waka Singthong area near Bauni in Imphal East district.

"Security forces recovered the IED, which was detected by locals. They informed the local police," a police official said.

"Suspected militants planted the bomb targeting security personnel," the official said.

Meanwhile, Kuki State Demand Committee (KSDC) called a 96-hour economic blockade from 6 pm on Tuesday demanding a separate state.

Security has been tightened across the state for the strike.

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### 43. [Security, Philippines] Army Warns Increased Use By Rebels Of IEDs And Landmines In Capiz

Tuesday, 15 May 2012

<http://www.groundreport.com/Politics/Philippines-Army-warns-increased-use-by-rebels-of-/2946156>

The Philippine Military claims in a news release this Wednesday in Manila that the "New People's Army (NPA) rebels continue to violate Republic Act 9851 (RA 9851) and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) after the recovery anew of several Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) being used as landmines." the statement reads.

The Philippine Armed Forces calls this a "Desperate move from the New People's Army in Capiz province as they attempt to harass and target the armed forces Peace and Development Teams from the 61st Infantry Battalion or the 61IB deployed in Barangays Acuña of Tapaz town. The recovery of the landmines and IEDs after conducting pursuit operations is a concern that the rebels in desperation to block military moves may injure non-combatants." the military says warning civilians to be careful in the area.

The Military news release goes on to say that:

RA 9851 is the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes Against Humanity, specifically Chapter III Section 4 c.5. - launching an attack in the knowledge that such attack will cause incidental loss of life or injury to civilians.

CARHRIHL was signed on March 16, 1998 in the Hague, The Netherlands and was approved on April 10, 1998 by the NDFP National Council chairman Maria Orosa and on Aug. 7 that year by then President Joseph Estrada. NDFP represents the New People's Army (NPA) and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

CARHRIHL states that parties should affirm and apply the principles of international humanitarian law in order to protect the civilian population and individual civilians.

Recovered items are: fragments of two exploded landmines, 30 meters black electrical wire, One plastic bottle with ammonium nitrate and cloth soaked with gasoline, and more or less 500 pieces of cut bars measuring about 1 centimeter for landmine.

Also recovered are 131 empty shells of ammunition for M16 rifle, five rounds 5 rounds of live ammo for M16 rifle, 12 empty ammunition shells of for M14 rifle, 13 rounds of live ammunition for M14 rifle, one unexploded M203 Grenade Launcher (GL) ammunition, 2 empty shells of M203 GL ammunition, 2 improvised torches made of coconut husk soaked with gasoline, one 1.5 liter empty bottle and one M16 rifle flash suppressor.

"These materiel are definitely anti-people, continue to violate international humanitarian law and RA 9851. We will do whatever it takes to get these banned weapons to preserve life", said Mgen Jose Z. Mabanta Jr., 3ID Commander.

The Army recently joined the growing number of civil society groups, the clergy and local officials in strongly condemning the continuous use of land mines by NPA. Countless loss of life and injury to civilians have been seen in the past years on the use of landmines.

An Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Team is currently conducting an inventory and classification of recovered items.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines Human Rights Office earlier has said it will file charges against the NPA for violation of RA 9851.



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#### **44. [Attack, India] Four Policemen Injured In Naxal Attack In Sukma District**

Wednesday, 16 May 2012

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/4-policemen-injured-in-naxal-attack-in-sukma-district/9431/>

Four policemen were injured in an attack by Naxals, who first triggered a land mine blast and then opened fire at them in Sukma district in Bastar region during their 'Bharat Bandh' today, police said.

Additional DGP (Anti-Naxal Operation) Ram Nivas said that during the 'Bharat Bandh' call, the Maoists triggered a land mine blast in Sukma district in Bastar region today in which four police personnel were injured.

The incident took place when the police team was carrying out routine patrols.

The Naxals also opened fire at the police later. However, when the police retaliated, they escaped from the scene. The injured policemen were later taken to hospitals, Ram Nivas added.

Police also claimed to have gunned down four Maoists in a separate encounter in Bijapur district.

According to a senior police officer during the encounter in Bijapur district under Bhairamgarh police station, four Maoists were killed.

Ram Nivas said that police had gone to Bhairamgarh area to remove the trees felled by Naxalites. When the police were patrolling in the area on Tuesday night, Naxals opened fire at them. Police also retaliated and the exchange of fire continued through the night, after which, Naxals fled away from the spot.

He added that during the search operation 10 tiffin bombs and some other equipment were recovered from the site. Blood stains and marks of bodies being dragged were also found on the ground, based on which, police say that at least four Naxalites had been killed.

Meanwhile, Maoists also set on fire three vehicles, including two dumpers that were in use for road construction in Rajnandgaon district, police said.

In view of the 'Bharat Bandh' call given by Naxals, police have stepped up security in the state and put their personnel on alert.

According to police, while the transportation in urban areas has not been affected much, in the interior area it was badly hit as the ultras have dug up roads at some places and cut trees.

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## 45. [Attack, Bangladesh] Bomb Blasts And Arrests During Bangladesh Strike

Thursday, 17 May 2012

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/bomb-blasts-and-arrests-during-bangladesh-strike-7762692.html>

Bomb blasts and arrests marked an opposition-called general strike in Bangladesh today in protest of a court order jailing 33 of the alliance's leaders.

No injuries were reported from several crude bombs that exploded in Dhaka. Schools and businesses were shut in the capital, and public life was disrupted in other major cities and towns during the shutdown. The United News of Bangladesh agency said police arrested at least 17 activists in Dhaka.

ATN Bangla television station said more than 100 opposition supporters were arrested in various districts.

A court on yesterday had denied bail to 33 opposition leaders charged with involvement in an arson attack during a strike last month. The defendants include former Cabinet ministers and the acting secretary general of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party led by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. It heads the 18-party opposition alliance.

The opposition says the arson charge is politically motivated and the bail rejection is aimed at suppressing the opposition movement.

Political tensions have sharply escalated since Elias Ali, an organizing secretary in Zia's party, and his driver went missing April 17 from a street in Dhaka. The opposition blames the government and its security agencies for his disappearance, which they deny.

Today, a top business leader urged political parties to avoid confrontation.

A.K. Azad, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries, in a pre-budget discussion in Dhaka asked Finance Minister A.M.A. Muhith to resolve the disputes in consultation with the prime minister.

"We all know confrontational political programs like general strikes largely affect the country's economy. We do not want such programs," he said.

Zia's party, meanwhile, announced in a statement that a two-hour token hunger strike protest by opposition lawmakers will be held on the parliament building premises on Saturday to demand release of the leaders.

Rights groups have counted at least 22 disappearances this year and more than 50 since 2010, mostly of politicians. US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have urged the government to investigate.

The opposition also set a 10 June ultimatum for the government to restore a caretaker government system to oversee the next national elections, due in 2014. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government

scrapped the 15-year-old system last year in what the opposition says was part of a plan to rig the elections.

On Thursday, police cordoned off the headquarters of Zia's and scuffled with those who tried to enter. Witnesses say Khairul Kabir Khokon, education affairs secretary of the party, was arrested.

General strikes are common opposition tactics in Bangladesh, a fragile parliamentary democracy, to embarrass the government.

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#### **46. [Security, India] Powerful IED Recovered In Sibsagar**

Thursday, 17 May 2012

[http://zeenews.india.com/news/assam/powerful-ied-recovered-in-sibsagar\\_775921.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/assam/powerful-ied-recovered-in-sibsagar_775921.html)

A powerful Improvised Explosive Device(IED), planted by suspected anti-talk ULFA militants, has been recovered near a gas pipeline between two tea gardens in Assam's Sibsagar district today.

Patrolling Army personnel of 99 Regiment recovered the powerful bomb, weighing more than three kilograms, from Teokghat area under Sonari police station of Charaideo sub-division, official sources said.

The bomb was placed near a pipeline supplying gas to two gardens - Aideopukhuri and Aideobari - and was suspected to be planted by ULFA militants in retaliation of the encounter with police on May 12 last in which a militant was severely injured.

Security forces pointed out that the ULFA has stepped up its activities in the district and had served extortion notices to several individuals and organisations. The IED was later defused by army's bomb defusal squad, sources added.

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## 47. [Attack, India] Naxals Blow Up Rail Track In West Bengal

Thursday, 17 May 2012

[http://news24online.com/Naxals-blow-up-rail-track-in-West-Bengal\\_News24\\_44287.aspx](http://news24online.com/Naxals-blow-up-rail-track-in-West-Bengal_News24_44287.aspx)

Naxals have blown up the main railway line on Thursday between New Delhi- Howrah route in West Bengal. It has badly disrupted the rail services as track fractured due to explosion. According to sources, several trains were stopped at Koderma Railway station.

According to information, naxals have attacked on railway track during wee hours near Gurap Railway station. This has affected movements of train.

However, repairing work of the Railway track is on. Expecting the services to be restored later in the day. Railway officials have diverted few trains while some of the trains were cancelled. Besides this, routes of many trains have been changed.

The Maoists have called a Bharat Bandh to protest against ongoing operation green hunt. In another incident, four policemen were injured on Wednesday in an attack by Naxals, who first triggered a land mine blast and then opened fire at them in Sukma district in Bastar region during their `Bharat Bandh`.

Home ministry has also issued alert to maoist affected state government to enhance security during the band as they are planning to attack on trains and government officials.

All police stations in the naxal affected districts have been put on high alert.

Additional forces of Special Auxiliary Police, Military Police and central para-military forces have been deployed.

Maoists have called the bandh in protest against the joint police operations being launched against them by the four states.

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## 48. [Security, United States] Glendale Residents Find Flashlights With Explosives Inside

Monday, 14 May 2012

<http://www.azfamily.com/news/Flashlights-with-explosives-inside-found-in-Glendale-151411245.html>

Local and federal authorities are investigating two explosive devices that were found in Glendale in the past 24 hours.

Sgt. Brent Coombs with the Glendale Police Department said both explosive devices were housed in a standard 6-volt yellow handheld flashlight.

In the two separate incidents, a resident found the flashlight, which had been left outside in the open. When the person attempted to push the button to turn the flashlight on, the device detonated.

No one was seriously injured in either event, but explosive ordnance experts said these devices were built to inflict serious injury, according to Coombs.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is in custody of the post-blast evidence on both scenes and will be processing it.

Explosives experts ask that if anyone finds a flashlight, no matter what color or shape, that they don't immediately recognize as their own, call 911 immediately. Do not attempt to touch or manipulate the flashlight in any way.

Anyone with information that could assist in this investigation is asked to call the Glendale Police Department at 623-930-3000.



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## 49. [Security, United States] Sixth Discarded Pipe Bomb Found In Palm Springs

Monday, 14 May 2012

[http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci\\_20619548/6th-discarded-pipe-bomb-found-palm-springs](http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_20619548/6th-discarded-pipe-bomb-found-palm-springs)

Six crude pipe bombs found scattered on desert streets over a five-day period have Palm Springs police and residents on edge as federal authorities join the investigation, a police spokesman said Monday.

The pipe bombs, crudely fashioned out of plastic or steel pipe, were clearly assembled by an amateur rather than a terrorist, Sgt. Mike Kovaleff said.

"They are very unsophisticated. They aren't something al-Qaida would be making," he said, adding the pipe bombs are missing an ignition source.

The Police Department calls in the Riverside County sheriff's bomb squad to handle disposal of explosives in the city known for its golf resorts, swimming pools and aerial tram that soars thousands of feet to a Mount San Jacinto lookout.

"This is odd," Kovaleff said. "Maybe once a year we come across a suspicious device."

The Police Department, FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives have partnered to offer a \$15,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever is responsible.

All the devices were found scattered on north Palm Springs streets within a mile of the first pipe bomb discovery on May 8. The locations were near homes, mobile home parks and in the open desert.

"They aren't strategically placed or anything. There's no method to this," the sergeant said.

Unlike the omnipresent surveillance cameras in downtown Palm Springs, there are no security cameras in the north city area where the pipe bombs were found.

"This is taxing our resources, and they are dangerous," Kovaleff said. "If they are driving through the area and tossing it out of a vehicle, well, that takes just a few seconds. How are you going to catch anybody doing that?"

The first pipe bomb was found by 91-year-old Emelio Melilli. He was on his morning walk when he found a piece of plastic with string on it and he picked it up and took it home. His adult son spotted it in the garage and said he thought it was a pipe bomb.

The son then took the device to the Police Department, which had to be evacuated until the sheriff's bomb squad showed up to disarm what turned out to be a live bomb, the sergeant said.

Melilli was on his walk two days later and spotted a second device.

"He didn't pick it up this time or take it home," Kovaleff said.

Melilli called police and officers found two more devices nearby.

That afternoon, another resident found a fifth pipe bomb in his driveway about a foot from the curb.

The first five pipe bombs were all found within 100 yards of one another.

On Saturday morning, about a mile away, a jogger found the latest explosive device.

"We have been able to disarm them without detonating them," Kovaleff said

Investigators are waiting for laboratory results to determine the type of explosive in the pipe bombs. Police have assigned extra patrols to the area.

"This investigation is going 24 hours a day," the sergeant said.

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## 50. [Special Interest, Colombia] Creosote, The New Strategy Of The FARC

Sunday, 13 May 2012

<http://www.diariodelhuila.com/noticia/27290>

The location and controlled destruction of five mines and a 'cylinder bomb', was the result that had the military operations carried out by the troops of Task Force Algeciras in rural zone of San Vicente, Caquetá.

Military operations have exposed the strategy used by the FARC in this area of the country to prevent the dogs trained for the location of artifacts, detected the smell of explosives, making it even more difficult the discovery of these deadly traps.

The actions were developed in the area of interference by mobile column Teofilo Forero Castro 'illegal armed group who uses planting explosive devices to stop the advance of troops to their rear areas. Military action that clearly violates human rights and international humanitarian law.

The actions against subversion

The first operation of location and destruction occurred in the village of Las Morras. There, thanks to information provided by the Donor Network, the units found two mines impregnated with creosote, a chemical used to neutralize odors.

Meters on the soldiers found three mines with pressure activated system, elements composed of PVC pipe and 250 grams of ANFO each.

Simultaneously, in the village of La Cabana, the soldiers of the military unit, managed to locate a 40-pound cylinder composed of ANFO explosive and shrapnel and remote activation system.

Operations remain in the area, in order to avoid civilian personnel to be mobilized in the region, fall victim of such illegal methods of warfare employed by the narco-terrorist group FARC.



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## 51. [Security, Colombia] Colombian Army Finds Stockpiles Of Combat Supplies

Monday, 14 May 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/24019-colombian-army-finds-5-stashes-of-supplies.html>

The Colombian army discovered stashes of war materials, weapons, explosives, supplies and food believed to belong to rebel forces in five different departments in the country, CM& news reported Sunday.

Most of the supplies were identified as property of Colombia's largest rebel group, the FARC.

According to the report, members of the Task Force Vulcano discovered a stash in El Tarra, Norte de Santander, where they found cartridges, ammunition, clothing, mosquito nets, hammocks and three military uniforms. Security officials said that supplies belonged to the Aruturo Ruiz column of the FARC.

In Riohacha, located in the northern La Guajira department along the Venezuelan border, troops of the Tenth Brigade found a "terrorist nest" which contained 44 cartridges, a rifle, and 21 camouflage uniforms.

A weapons cache containing four grenades and two revolvers with ammunition was found by soldiers of the Ninth Brigade in Gigante, a town in the southwestern Huila department. The army suspects the supplies belonged to the Teofilo Forero Castro column of the FARC.

In the rural area of Mallama, in the department of Nariño, located along the Ecuadorian border, members of Task Force Pegasus found a stockpile of explosives which they say belonged to the Mariscal Antonio Jose de Sucre column of the FARC.

Lastly, 511 pounds of food were found by members of the 34th Mobile Bridage in the village of Morichal, situated in the Arauca department in the eastern part of the country bordering Venezuela.

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## 52. [Attack, Colombia] Bomb Kills Five, Wounds 29 In Colombia's Capital

Tuesday, 15 May 2012

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2012/05/15/bomb-kills-5-wounds-2-in-colombia-capital/>

A bomb targeting former Interior Minister Fernando Londoño killed five people and wounded 29 others Tuesday in Bogota just hours after a car bomb was disarmed and Colombia's free trade agreement with the United States took effect.

The bomb was set off to kill Londoño, who served as interior minister from 2002 to 2004 under former President Alvaro Uribe, President Juan Manuel Santos said.

Londoño was wounded, but he is out of danger, Santos, who served as defense minister in Uribe's Cabinet, said.

"I have just learned that Dr. Londoño was the target of an attack on his armored vehicle. Fortunately, Dr. Londoño is in stable condition, but, unfortunately, his driver and a police officer, who were part of his security team, died," the president said in an address to the nation.

The death toll may rise given the condition of some of the people wounded in the bombing, officials said.

Londoño's vehicle was going through a busy intersection in the northern section of Bogota, near the financial district, when the bomb exploded.

Bogota Mayor Gustavo Petro went to the scene, where chaos reigned for hours as ambulances and other emergency vehicles came and went.

"The politics of hatred and vengeance want to rule in Bogota," Petro said, adding that the bomb did not go off in an empty bus as initially reported.

The blast destroyed the bus and several other vehicles, and it damaged nearby buildings and businesses, an Efe reporter confirmed during a tour of the area.

Central University and Sergio Arboleda University, both located near the scene of the attack, were evacuated immediately, while officials banned motorcyclists from carrying riders.

Classes were suspended at other universities in Bogota due to the protests at some institutions, such as the National University, against the free trade agreement.

"I want to condemn this attack in the most emphatic way possible, we do not understand the reason," Santos said.

The attack occurred a few hours after bomb specialists disarmed a car bomb outside the Metropolitan Police headquarters.

UNCLASSIFIED

Officials said the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, guerrilla group was behind the car-bomb attempt on the police headquarters.

The bombing happened on the day that the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, which was signed six years ago by Uribe and former U.S. President George W. Bush, took effect.

President Santos planned to attend a ceremony in the Caribbean city of Cartagena, marking the occasion by seeing off the first ship to sail for the United States with a cargo of textiles.

The president cancelled all his appearances after the attack.

The bombing "is an attempt to tarnish the (image of the) city on the day the FTA takes effect," Petro said.

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