



Weekly News Update

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



Raid of a suspected Boko Haram bomb making factory by the security forces
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1. [Attack, Pakistan] Uncanny Similarity: Two Schools, Clinic Bombed In Identical Fashion

Monday, 23 April 2012

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/368603/uncanny-similarity-two-schools-clinic-bombed-in-identical-fashion/>

In what seemed like uncannily similar bomb attacks, two government-run schools and a private medical clinic were targeted in different areas near Dera Ismail Khan and Peshawar.

In all three attacks twin bombs were employed to blow up parts of the buildings. Interestingly, police in all the three incidents claimed that one of the bombs exploded while the second was defused. Fortunately, because of the timing of the attacks, which either took place late Saturday night or early Sunday morning – no fatalities came to the fore.

Three rooms, a veranda and the walls of a public middle school were destroyed in Dera town, about 8km from Dera Ismail Khan in the early hours of Sunday morning, police said.

According to the officials, 18kg of explosives, packed in two tin cans, were placed near the school building. One went off while the other was defused by the police. An FIR has been registered against unknown persons and investigation opened.

A senior teacher of the school, Mazhar Hussain said the primary section of the building was intact but the middle school section was destroyed. Hussain and other teachers were trying to uncover school supplies and records amid the debris. They said no threat had been received.

A total of 107 students are enrolled at the school – 60 in the middle section and 47 in the primary section.

Elsewhere, in the Terai Bala village within the Mathra Police Station jurisdiction, another public primary school was targeted.

Police said two improvised explosive devices were planted inside the building of the boys' primary school. Here too, one bomb exploded while the other, the police claimed, was rendered inoperable. One room and the boundary wall of one side were destroyed.

"Two bombs, each of about 12kg, were planted and only one of them exploded while the other was rendered safe by the bomb disposal squad," SHO of the locality, Granullah said.

Locals said the same school had been destroyed earlier also in 2008 and the building had recently been re-constructed.

In the past five years, many public and private schools have been targeted in the limits of the same police station.

Meanwhile, a private medical clinic was blown up in the Sulaiman Khel area within the jurisdiction of the Badaber Police Station on the outskirts of Peshawar late Saturday night. Police said the clinic is owned by a local doctor named Misal Khan.

The blast completely destroyed the small building and also inflicted damage to adjacent houses.

“One bomb exploded while the other was defused,” said local SHO Abidur Rehman, adding that it was the first incident of a clinic being targeted in his jurisdiction.

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2. [Security, Afghanistan] Bomb Attack In Kabul Averted

Sunday, 22 April 2012

<http://gulfnews.com/news/world/afghanistan/bomb-attack-in-kabul-averted-1.1011743>

Afghan security forces have arrested five militants with 10,000 kilograms of explosives that they smuggled in from Pakistan to carry out a massive attack in Kabul, as well as another three suspects allegedly planning to assassinate the vice-president, an official said yesterday.

The reports of new planned attacks in the Afghan capital came a week after militants said to be part of the Pakistan-based Haqqani group launched coordinated assaults in the heart of Kabul and in three other cities.

US officials say they have stepped up pressure on Islamabad to crack down on the Haqqanis, who specialises in high-profile strikes against well-protected targets.

Three of the five men arrested with the explosives were members of the Pakistani Taliban, while the other two belonged to the Afghan Taliban, National Director for Security spokesman Shafiqullah Taheri told reporters. He said the men's orders came from militant leaders with ties to Pakistani intelligence. He did not say when the arrests took place, nor what their intended target was.

Taheri said the seized explosives were packed in 400 bags and hidden under potatoes loaded in a truck with Pakistani licence plates.

The men confessed that they "had planned to carry out a terrorist attack in a key point in Kabul city", Taheri said.

He provided a DVD showing images of the truck and the recorded confessions of the men, but did not provide other proof to back up the claims.

He said that the three Pakistani members of the group picked up the explosives just outside the Pakistani city of Peshawar, and were under the orders of two local Taliban leaders named Noor Afzal and Mohammad Omar, who Taheri said had ties with the country's Inter-Services Intelligence agency, or ISI.

Taheri also said that security forces had foiled an assassination attempt by the Haqqani network against Afghan Vice-President Mohammad Karim Khalili.

He said three Afghan men arrested on April 15, the day the Kabul attacks began, planned to kill Khalili at his home. They were equipped with suicide vests and small arms.

According to Taheri, the order to kill Khalili was issued in Miram Shah by Haqqani network commander Badr Al Deen Haqqani, the son of the group's founder, Jalal Al Deen Haqqani. Last May, the US designated Badr Al Deen a terrorist.

Afghan officials often blame Pakistan and the ISI for supporting militant groups — including the Haqqani network — in the country's lawless areas along the Afghan border. The Pakistani government has vehemently denied any such claims.

Last Sunday's coordinated assaults included near-simultaneous attacks in the three parts of the capital and three other eastern cities. Eight policemen and three civilians were killed in 18 hours of fighting, along with 36 militants, according to Afghan officials.

On Thursday the US Ambassador to Afghanistan Ryan Crocker said that there was "no question" that the Haqqani network was behind that attack.

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3. [Security, Afghanistan] Kabul Seizes 10 Tons Of Explosives, Links Haul To Pakistan

Saturday, 21 April 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/04/22/kabul-seizes-10-tons-of-explosives-links-haul-to-pakistan/>

Afghan security forces detained five militants with massive quantities of explosive materials and linked them to Pakistan-based groups, an intelligence official said on Saturday.

“It could have caused large-scale bloodshed,” National Directorate of Security (NDS) spokesman Shafiqullah Tahiri told a news conference.

“Three Pakistani terrorists and two of their Afghan collaborators who placed the explosives under bags of potatoes in a truck were caught.”

The 10 tons of potassium, used to make bombs, were stuffed into 400 bags and hidden under potatoes in the back of a Pakistan-registered truck on Kabul’s outskirts, Tahiri said.

“The detained men have told investigators that they planned multiple attacks in crowded areas of Kabul city using the explosives.”

The material was loaded at a storage facility in upmarket Hayatabad, situated on the ring road near Peshawar, and trucked across the border, the NDS alleged.

The US ambassador to Afghanistan, Ryan Crocker, said there was “no question” that the Haqqani network, which Washington claims is based in North Waziristan region, mounted last weekend’s 18-hour rocket and gunfire militant operation in Kabul.

Crocker called on Pakistan to crack down on the Haqqanis and said the response to that demand would influence future ties between the strategic allies.

Relations have been heavily strained by a series of events, including the unilateral US special forces’ raid that killed Osama bin Laden on Pakistani soil last May.

Allegations denied

Pakistan has denied accusations that its military spy agency sees the Haqqanis as a counterweight to the growing influence of India in Afghanistan.

Tahiri said the five men confessed to receiving training from Noor Afzal and Mohammad Omar, who he identified as key commanders of the Pakistani Taliban and Pakistan intelligence.

Video footage released by the NDS to media showed the detained men, including the alleged Pakistanis, talking about where they came from while sitting against a blank white wall.

A Pakistani intelligence official declined to comment on the accusations, while Afghan officials were not immediately available to give additional information.

While the Pakistani Taliban cooperate with the Afghan Taliban, they are sworn enemies of the Islamabad government and have mounted suicide bombings against Pakistani intelligence officials and security forces.

It's still not clear whether the confessions will create a new crisis in relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Relations went into a freeze last year after Kabul accused Pakistani agents of playing a role in the September assassination of the head of the country's High Peace Council.

Afghanistan has been accusing Pakistan of backing militant groups to further its interests.



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4. [Security, Afghanistan] ANSF Find Weapons Caches, Apprehend Insurgent

Monday, 23 April 2012

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/87169/ansf-find-weapons-caches-apprehend-insurgent#.T5a8ytmRM14>

Afghan National Security Forces discovered two insurgent weapons caches and apprehended a known insurgent during patrols in Khas Uruzgan district, April 18-19.

During a patrol April 18, the Dahane Sangu Afghan Local Police commander informed coalition Special Operations Forces about an intelligence report indicating the presence of a weapons cache on a hillside overlooking a known Taliban commander's compound in Sorkbini village. ALP and coalition SOF arrived on scene and recovered hand grenades, rocket-propelled grenade rounds and launcher, more than 400 rounds of small-arms ammunition, rifle magazines, tactical vests, a machine gun, a pistol, a radio and improvised explosive device components.

The next day, ALP and Afghan Uniformed Police discovered a cache of bolt-action rifles and captured a wanted Taliban facilitator while on patrol in Bum village. The man ran from a compound, but after a short pursuit, ANSF captured and escorted him to an Afghan security compound. The ALP commander leading the patrol questioned the detainee before AUP transferred him to their district police headquarters for processing into the Afghan judicial system.

"We're steadily seeing ANSF fuse intelligence and make huge gains on their security patrols," said a coalition SOF member. "The teamwork between Khas Uruzgan's security forces is a shining example of just how far these forces have come."

Since being established through a decree by Afghan President Karzai in 2010, the ALP, administered by the Ministry of the Interior, has seen tremendous success in security and protecting Afghan villagers. The overall results enable Afghans to take responsibility for their own safety from insurgent attacks and build trust with the local populace.

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5. [Security, Afghanistan] Bomb-Making Equipment Seized

Monday, 23 April 2012

<http://www.army.mod.uk/news/24009.aspx>

The 12 Brigade Reconnaissance Force (BRF) has seized a substantial amount of explosives and other bomb-making equipment in Afghanistan.

Afghan soldiers supported by the BRF discovered the weapons cache in the Hyderabad area of Helmand. Items seized included 250kg of explosives, as well as a large number of pressure plates and other bomb making components.



Following intelligence reports that a mosque was being used as an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) factory, Afghan soldiers supported by 12 BRF deployed by Chinook helicopter to cordon and search the area.

The insurgents, who had turned the local mosque into an IED factory, were caught off-guard leaving their freshly made tea and flip-flops in their bid to escape. The majority of the cache was found inside the mosque with the explosives already in containers ready to be used.

Military working dog deployed with the unit found multiple devices around the factory already in place and ready to be armed. The skill of the pilots in landing so close to the objective and the speed of the Afghan troops when on the ground prevented the insurgents from arming themselves.

Maj Dalby-Welsh, Light Dragoons (Officer Commanding 12 BRF) said: "This represents a real blow for the insurgency; this is a quarter of a tonne of explosives which cannot be used against the Afghans or ISAF troops.

"We were confident that we would find something but we didn't expect to find a cache of this size."

The explosives and detonators were destroyed on site, whilst a large amount of evidence was recovered and taken back to Camp Bastion for further analysis.

The BRF is made up of 13 units from across 12 Brigade. The main body is formed from the Norfolk-based Light Dragoons, with troops from: The Welsh Guards; 3 Yorks; 3 Rifles; 1 Royal Welsh; 1 Royal Anglian; 26 Engr Regiment; The Grenadier Guards; Royal Artillery; Royal Signals; RMP; Medics; Intelligence Corp; and REME.

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6. [Security, Afghanistan] ISAF Joint Command Morning Operational Update

Tuesday, 24 April 2012

<http://www.sofmag.com/isaf-joint-command-morning-operational-update-216>

An Afghan and coalition security force detained two insurgent leaders during an operation in Pul-e 'Alam district, Logar province, today.

One of the leaders was from the Haqqani network and the other was a leader in the Taliban network.

The Haqqani leader directed roadside bombings and other attacks against Afghan and coalition security forces throughout Pul-e 'Alam and Baraki Barak districts. He also provided weapons, ammunition, and explosives to insurgents in the area.

The Taliban leader coordinated attacks against Afghan and coalition troops in Baraki Barak district as well. The security force detained two additional insurgents as a result of this operation.

In other International Security Assistance Force news throughout Afghanistan:

South

In Dand district, Kandahar province, an Afghan and coalition security force conducted an operation to detain a Taliban facilitator today. The facilitator distributes weapons to insurgents in Kandahar district for attacks against Afghan and coalition security forces. The security force detained multiple suspected insurgents as a result of this operation.

An Afghan and coalition security force conducted an operation to detain a Taliban leader in Sangin district, Helmand province, today. The leader plans and supervises roadside bombings and other attacks against Afghan and coalition security forces throughout the district. The security force detained multiple suspected insurgents as a result of this operation.

East

In Zurmat district, Paktiya province, an Afghan and coalition security force detained a Taliban leader during an operation today. The leader organized suicide bombings and other attacks against Afghan and coalition security forces throughout the district. He also served as a Taliban judge. While implementing Taliban law, he ordered beheadings and other punishments for Afghan civilians living in the area. The security force detained several additional insurgents as a result of this operation.

An Afghan and coalition security force detained a Taliban facilitator and explosives expert during an operation in Baraki Barak district, Logar province, today. The facilitator coordinated roadside bombings against Afghan and coalition security forces throughout the district.

In Shinwar district, Nangarhar province, a Provincial Response Company advised by coalition forces detained a Taliban leader and improvised explosive device expert during an operation, yesterday. The leader was responsible for transporting and emplacing IEDs throughout the province, as well as attacks

against ANSF and coalition forces. Several additional insurgents were also detained during the operation.

Finally, a Provincial Response Company, along with additional Afghan security forces and coalition advisors, conducted an operation to disrupt insurgent weapons trafficking and secure transportation routes in Achin district, Nangarhar province, yesterday. During the operation the combined forces discovered a weapons cache consisting of five recoilless rifles, eight rocket-propelled grenades, a quantity of small-arms ammunition and several IED components. All of the materials were destroyed on site.

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7. [Attack, Pakistan] Pakistan Bomb: 'Two Killed' At Lahore Railway Station

Tuesday, 24 April 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-17831295>

At least two people have been killed in a bomb blast in the Pakistani city of Lahore, police say.

Rescuers say another 25 were wounded and taken to hospital after the blast at the main railway station in the east of the city.

TV pictures showed a waiting room at the station which bore the brunt of the blast, its floor strewn with broken glass and upended furniture.

Lahore has seen many bombings in the past, but this is the first for months.

It is not clear who carried out the attack, which police say was an act of terrorism.

They say ball bearings have been recovered from the site of the blast, which suggest it could have been a timed device. The bomb went off five minutes after the arrival of an express train in the station.

Pakistan has suffered a wave of militant violence that has killed thousands in recent years, as well as deadly sectarian conflict, mostly between majority Sunni and minority Shia Muslims.

Bomb disposal officials told the Express Tribune newspaper that about 5kg (11lb) of explosive material had been used in the bomb, which was planted in a bag at the waiting room.

The newspaper said the station had now been evacuated.

Critical condition

"We're trying to investigate how the bag managed to get through despite so many scanners," senior police official Aslam Tareen told the Reuters news agency.

Police say the dead include a policeman and a porter, but there are some reports a third porter has also been killed.

Health officials say five of the wounded are in a critical condition in hospital.

A photographer for the AFP newspaper at the scene said that the bomb went off near the lounge for the luxury Business Express train to Karachi, a service launched two months ago providing first-class travel between Pakistan's two largest cities.

The last major attack in Lahore was in January 2011, when at least 11 people were killed in a suicide bomb attack on a Shia procession.

The previous year - in September 2010 - 31 people were killed in an attack on another Shia procession in the city.

In July of that year two suicide bombers attacked the Data Darbar Sufi shrine in Lahore, killing at least 42 people. Two months before that, gunmen launched simultaneous raids on two mosques of the minority Ahmadi Islamic sect in the city, killing more than 90 people.



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8. [Attack, Afghanistan] NATO Soldier Killed In IED Attack In Afghanistan

Wednesday, 25 April 2012

http://www.rttnews.com/1867491/nato-soldier-killed-in-ied-attack-in-afghanistan.aspx?type=gn&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=sitemap

A NATO soldier was killed in an IED (improvised explosive device) attack in Afghanistan on Wednesday, The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) announced.

In an online statement, ISAF said another service member died as a result of a non-battle related injury in the country's east on Tuesday.

ISAF did not disclose the identities or nationalities of the deceased personnel in accordance with the coalition's policy of entrusting identification to the respective countries.

Currently, there are over 130,000 foreign troops from more than 42 countries under the joint command of the NATO and the United States in Afghanistan to contain a resurgent Taliban in the South Asian country.

The U.S. and other allied nations involved in the Afghan mission are currently making serious efforts to get the Afghan security forces ready and capable of handling the country's security before the international coalition troops pull out by the end of 2014.

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9. [Attack, Afghanistan] Two Fort Bragg Paratroopers Killed In Afghanistan On Sunday

Wednesday, 25 April 2012

<http://www.fayobserver.com/articles/2012/04/24/1173416?sac=fo.military>

Two Fort Bragg paratroopers died Sunday in Afghanistan from wounds they suffered after a homemade bomb hit their truck, the Pentagon announced Tuesday.

First Lt. Jonathan P. Walsh, 28, of Cobb, Ga., and Pfc. Michael J. Metcalf, 22, of Boynton Beach, Fla., died in Paktia province.

They were assigned to the 2nd Battalion of the 504th Infantry of the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division.

Walsh, an infantry platoon leader, died on the scene, division officials said. Metcalf, an infantryman in Walsh's platoon, died from his injuries after being evacuated by helicopter to a hospital, said 2nd Lt. William Whelan, a spokesman for the unit.

Walsh, was from Kennesaw, Ga., graduated from Kennesaw State University and worked in the financial services industry before joining the Army in March 2010. He was assigned to the division in August 2011.

Walsh is survived by his wife, Debra, and son, Austin, of Raeford, and his parents, Paul and Carolyn Walsh of Kennesaw, Ga.

Metcalf is survived by his parents, Ceejay and Kimberly Metcalf of Boynton Beach.

Kimberly Metcalf said her son had been in the Army for a year and in Afghanistan for a month.

They were on their way to rescue another truck that had been hit by a mine, she said.

"It was a roadside bombing," she said in a telephone interview. "I begged him not to get in a truck. That's what's killing everyone."

Kimberly Metcalf said her son was used to driving trucks; the others were intimidated, and he volunteered.

"He was a fun-loving kid," she said. He liked playing ice hockey and skim boarding, "a thin board you run and throw down and jump on it where water meets sand," she said.

"All the kids loved him," she said. "He was a joker, a great all-American boy. He liked everybody, every age."

Metcalf attended high school in Wisconsin, where he played baseball, football and ice hockey and wrestled, she said. He was about 5-foot-10 and weighed about 165, she said.

Attempts to contact Walsh's family were unsuccessful.

A memorial service is scheduled to be held later this week at Forward Operating Base Arian where the paratroopers served, division officials said.



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10. [Security, Pakistan] Bomb Defused At Railway Station In Attock

Wednesday, 25 April 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/04/25/bomb-defused-at-railway-station-in-attock/>

A guard found the bomb in a briefcase in the early hours of the morning on the train from Karachi to Peshawar, the main town in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, near the Afghan border.

“The bomb fitted with detonator and batteries was packed with old clothes in a briefcase lying unattended in one of the coaches of the Awam Express,” police officer Mazhar Abbas told AFP.

The train guard found the briefcase after a wedding party got down from the train at Attock station, he said.

“The guard checked from the wedding party members and remaining passengers in the coach but nobody claimed its ownership.”

A bomb disposal squad was then summoned who defused the device, he said.

Mohammed Sajjad, a police investigation official, told AFP the bomb carried 13 kilograms of explosives as well as ball bearings and some nuts and bolts.

“Luckily a major tragedy has been averted,” he added.

At least two two people were killed on Tuesday when a bomb exploded near the waiting lounge of a luxury train at the main railway station in Lahore.

Pakistan suffers frequent attacks blamed on taliban and al Qaeda-linked militants, who are most active in the lawless tribal belt in the northwest of the country on the border with Afghanistan.

Earlier on Tuesday, an explosive device concealed in a bag went off at the City Railway Station in Lahore, killing two people and injuring 63 others.

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11. [Security, Afghanistan] Afghan Security Forces Attack Coalition Troops, Officials Say

Friday, 27 April 2012

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/28/world/asia/afghan-security-forces-attack-coalition-troops-officials-say.html>

Afghan security forces apparently opened fire on NATO troops in southern Afghanistan earlier this week, American and Afghan officials revealed late Thursday and on Friday.

In one episode, a coalition soldier was killed when a man in an Afghan National Army uniform turned his weapon on NATO troops in southern Afghanistan, the American military said in a statement released Thursday night. Coalition forces killed the attacker, the statement said.

A spokesman for the international coalition declined to comment on reports that the attacker was an Afghan special forces soldier.

In the second episode, a skirmish broke out between Afghan National Police and NATO soldiers in Zahri District near Kandahar City on Wednesday, Zalmai Ayoubi, the spokesman for the governor of Kandahar Province, said on Friday. In the ensuing firefight, two police officers were killed and two NATO soldiers were wounded, he said.

In an unrelated episode, three coalition service members were killed by a roadside bomb Thursday in eastern Afghanistan, the American military said late Thursday.

In keeping with policy pending notification of next of kin, the military spokesmen did not release the nationalities of the victims in any of the episodes.

The shootings were the latest in a series of so-called green-on-blue incidents in Afghanistan this year after public anger erupted over inadvertent Koran burnings at an American base in late February.

If reports implicating an Afghan special forces soldier prove true, it would be especially worrying for the NATO coalition. Highly trained and closely mentored by American advisers, the special forces are due to take over from the Americans sensitive duties like night raids.

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12. [Security, Nigeria] Victorious Weekend For Military, Police, As They Bomb Boko Haram Hideout

Monday, 23 April 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201204230797.html>

It was a weekend of total victory for the security forces in the country, as they recorded immense successes in combating different types of crime in the country.

From Kogi State where a bomb-manufacturing hideout was smashed in a bomb-raid, through Kano city where some four robbery suspects were routed and killed. down to Abeokuta where a bank robbery was averted, it was indeed victory all the way for the armed forces

The Nigeria Air Force Saturday, launched a severe bombardment and raid of a hill-top cave used by the Boko Haram terrorists to store and manufacture Improvised Electronic Devices (IEDs).

The cave was discovered in a forest in Usomi central senatorial district, Kogi State. Though no arrest was made after the air raid, the combined team of State Security Service (SSS), police and army personnel that combed the cave recovered items used for manufacturing explosives.

The Commander of the Police Anti-Bomb Squad, Kogi State Command, Mr. Cletus Nzeji, named items recovered from the scene of the incident as: unprimed hand grenade, gas cylinders used for manufacturing massive explosives, 43 bomb canisters fabricated with water pipes, a double barrel gun, 1.5 KVA electricity generator, iron grinder, wires, ammonia, gun powder, time bomb devices, remote starters for motorbikes used for distance detonation of bombs, batteries, iron cutters, clamp, welding materials, gloves, super glue, tools, bottles, syringe and needles, anti-personnel devices and other primary explosives.

According to him, "The success is due to the collaboration of the SSS, army and the police and a sustained long-term surveillance operation, with cross-checked intelligent report."

He expressed the joy that "the air raids - with bombardments by Air Force bombers smoked the criminals out" and gave assurances that security agents in the state were resolved not to relent in giving perpetrators of crimes a tough time.

"We'll go for them. In fighting crime, we must keep the criminals on the move. We will diminish their capability. You will observe that because they cannot rob banks again, due to our proactive actions, there are pockets of robberies along the highways and we can assure that with sustained attack on them, Kogi will be inhabitable for them," he noted.

According to him, the bombed site, located on the top of a 10-kilometre mountain which took security operatives about three hours to climb "is where they manufacture bombs and dispatch to where they are to be used".

While describing the perpetrators as "devilish and desperate people", the security boss observed that the bomb makers were getting sophisticated,

On Monday, March 26, 2012 the SSS had discovered a factory used for manufacturing IEDs at Kabba, headquarters of Kogi-west senatorial district.

Barely six days after, another IED-manufacturing outlet was discovered by the joint patrol team of army and SSS at Idoma area, Okene.

Then on Saturday, April 9, 2012, another bomb factory was found at Ogaminana, the headquarters of Adavi Local Government Area of the state..

The Commander, Army Records, Lokoja, Brigadier General Alphonsus Chukwu, said that one of the arrested terrorists led security operatives to the location.

He revealed that the source hinted that the Boko Haram sect had planned to launch an attack on Kogi State during the last Easter celebrations.

In Kano, the Joint patrol team of Policemen and armed robbers hunter Alhaji Ali Kwara yesterday killed four members of an armed robbery gang and recovered two hundred and sixty three (263) live ammunition.

Police spokesman in Kano state, Musa Magaji Majiya told THISDAY that the armed robbers were ambushed after they were trailed along Ajingi to Wudil road, adding that four AK -47 riffle, Multipurpose machine gun ammunition (MMG) were recovered from them.

Majiya said on getting wind of the robbery, a police patrol team reportedly moved to the spot and confronted the robbers.

The eyewitness told THISDAY that the police opened fire on the armed robbers, leading to an exchange of gunfire. And when the "battle" ended, four of the suspects laid lifeless on the ground, with hot blood oozing out of their bodies.

THISDAY gathered that the armed robbers often attacked people at Gadar Janna, the same spot where late Abubakar Rimi was attacked two years ago.

The assailants are said to have been terrorising the busy road of Kano to Bauchi road in the state in recent times.

Meanwhile, a soldier whose identity is being withheld by the military was gunned down on Saturday at Sharada industrial estate in the outskirts of Kano where the gunmen killed a civilian on Friday.

Spokesman of the joint military task force (JTF) Lieutenant Ikedichi Iweha said the deceased was not on military assignment when he was attacked and killed.

But an exultant Police Public Relations Officer in Ogun State, Mr. Muyiwa Adejobi announced that the men and of the Ogun state police command were able to foil a robbery attack on the Kuto branch of Guaranty Trust Bank, in Abeokuta, the state capital.

In a statement by Adejobi, the Kuto branch of GT Bank in the state capital came under attack by men of the underworld who stormed the bank as early as 5:00 a.m.

Adejobi said the robbers, who engaged men of the State Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in a gun duel had laid siege at the branch of the bank with various operating equipment such as hammers, methane gas, chisel etc., which they had hoped to use in gaining access to the banking hall.

He said the state's special security outfit, the Quick Response Squad provided a timely back-up for the SARS team which forced the robbers to flee the scene with varying degrees of bullet wounds, abandoning their operating tools.

He however, stressed that the state Commissioner of Police, Ikemefuna Okoye has ordered immediate investigation into the incident, appealing to medical practitioners in the state to assist the public by exposing whoever approaches them for treatment of bullet wounds.

And impressed by the co-operation between the state government with the Police authorities in combating crime in the state, the Acting Inspector-General of Police, Muhammed Dikko Abubakar, has described Ogun State government as a role model worthy of emulation in the area of crime fighting in Nigeria.

Abubakar stated this in Abeokuta after receiving six Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs), 125 security vans fitted with communication gadgets and other equipment purchased by the state government for the use of security agencies in the State, said Governor Ibikunle Amosun has made history by the donation of the security equipment.

According to the Abubakar, " this is the first time in the history of this state and Nigeria that this kind of donation would take place. I have done police job in every length of this country, I have served the six political zones of this country, so I can say there is no state in this country that has donated what you have donated in a single form".

He stated that the donation of the security equipment has demonstrated the commitment, willingness and capacity of the government to safeguard lives and property.

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13. [Security, Nigeria] Explosives Kill Five Boko Haram Members In Maiduguri

Monday, 23 April 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201204231264.html>

The Joint Military Task Force (JTF) in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital has said that no fewer than 5 people suspected to be members of Boko Haram have been killed while preparing Improvised Explosive Devices (IED's) which exploded yesterday in Biu Local Government Area of the state.

Biu is one of the five council areas which are under the state of emergency declared by President Jonathan since January this year.

Field operations officer of the Joint Task Force (JTF) in Borno State Colonel Victor Ebhaleme confirmed the incident in a telephone interview from Maiduguri.

He said: "We got information that some Boko Haram terrorists were planning to invade Maiduguri from Biu town, 187 kilometers away with a view to causing crises.

This prompted the JTF,331 Battalion in Biu town and the Department of State Security Services(SSS) to mobilize our men to Biu town where we found pieces of human parts numbering about five destroyed by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)," Colonel Ebhaleme said on phone.

Ebhaleme also revealed that "three GPMG,5 AK47 9 magazines, 73 rounds of ammunition and some improvised explosive device making materials were recovered from the Boko Haram suspects. Besides, we were able to arrest two of the suspects while trying to flee the bomb making factory."



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14. [Attack, Somalia] Somali Islamists Strike At Departing Ethiopians, Three Killed

Thursday, 19 April 2012

<http://shabelle.net/2012/04/19/somali-islamists-strike-at-departing-ethiopians-3-killed/>

Heavily armed militants from the Al Shabaab insurgents have on Thursday ambushed an Ethiopian convoy alongside Ahlu Sunna fighters, a government-allied Sunni Islamist group control central Somalia, reports said.

Locals said At least three Ethiopian soldiers were confirmed to have been killed in landmine blast that ripped through an army convoy traveling on a road between Wabho and Daac, two small villages in Somalia's Galgadud region of central Somalia.

A Senior Ahlu Sunna Waljama'a (ASWJ) Official, confirmed the attack by Al shabab, but denied any casualties on their soldiers and the Ethiopians. He added that The Ethiopian forces and his fighters fought back with heavy artillery fire.

On the other hand, Sheik Abdiasis Abu Musab, the spokesman of Al shabab militants for the military operations told a rebel-run Radio station based in Elasha Biyaha, south of Mogadishu that they have inflicted heavy loss upon the Ethiopian troops during their ambush attack.



Shabelle Media Network

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15. [Attack, Ghana] Improvised Explosive Device Kills One, Injures Four

Wednesday, 25 April 2012

<http://www.modernghana.com/news/391195/1/improvised-explosive-device-kills-one-injures-four.html>

A 10-year-old boy died and four others sustained severe injuries, when a 40-year-old fisherman, Kobina Amakye, threw an improvised explosive device at them for disturbing his siesta.

The body of the deceased, Kweku Mensah, has been deposited at the Central Regional Hospital while another child, aged six, is in a very critical condition.

One of the children escaped unhurt.

The children, aged six to 14 were said to be playing behind Amakye's house at Moree, near Cape Coast Sunday.

Amakye, a father of four, was said to have told the police that he was angered by the noise the children were making when he was trying to catch some sleep.

He said he threw the explosive at them just to scare them away and that he took the action without the intention to cause harm.

He looked indifferent while in cuffs at the police station with blisters on his hand, which he (Amakye) said was the result of the injury he sustained while he was throwing the explosive at the children.

The Kotokuraba District Police Commander, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Mr Emmanuel Tetteh, told newsmen that the police had information that about 2p.m. on Sunday, Amakye was relaxing in his room at Moree while the six children were playing behind the house.

He said Amakye was said to have told the children to leave the place because they were disturbing him, but they stayed on to play.

Amakye then got a rubber container, filled it with premix fuel and tore pieces of cement papers into the fuel and lit it.

He then threw the container into the group of children behind his room.

He bolted after the incident.

Mr Tetteh said the police mounted a search for Amakye the whole night and arrested him at his hideout behind the Cape Coast Castle.

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16. [Security, Nigeria] JTF Busts Another Boko Haram Bomb Factory, Kills Three

Wednesday, 25 April 2012

<http://world.myjoyonline.com/pages/news/201204/85527.php>

Nigeria's Joint Military Task Force (JTF) in the wee hours of yesterday invaded a suspected Boko Haram bomb factory at Haye, a suburb of Hotoron Arewa Nassarawa Local Government Area of Kano State, arrested a number of persons and carted away bomb-making materials.

Elsewhere in Maiduguri, Borno State, the sect suffered another misfortune as three of its suspected members were killed by the JTF.

Conducting reporters round the house, spokesman of the JTF, Lieutenant Ikedichi Iweha said two women and a couple of children found in the house were rescued by the task force and taken away.

"The main person that we are looking for was not arrested because he was not in the house but we have rescued women and children from the house before the operation carried out by the operatives," Iweha said.

According to him, "Pressure is consistently being mounted on them by the security, and people should not be afraid as security agencies are trying to ensure that Kano is safe and we are always appealing to people to report any suspicious person or movement in their community."

He said items recovered at the house included improvised explosive devices (IEDs), assorted containers, prime drum, liquid substances, charcoal and a film leaflet of Osama bin Laden with the inscription: 'Osama bin Laden dead at last'.

"Two women and a couple of children that we have rescued have been taken away for investigation, and the house will be brought down using military armoured carrier," he added.

The spokesman of the JTF expressed appreciation to the general public, adding that "people should not be afraid to alert the security agencies with information about suspicious people or their movements because we want to make sure that Kano is safe."

It was observed that two armoured personal carriers (APC) and other military vehicles were used to cordon off the house, while the residents were seen saluting the military for their wonderful job in the area.

Meanwhile, the JTF in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital, yesterday killed three suspected Boko Haram members in a stolen vehicle.

THISDAY gathered that the suspected members of the sect were killed at the Molai military post, located at the outskirts of Maiduguri while attempting to flee in a stolen vehicle.

A military source revealed that the victims were planning to launch attacks on Biu town in the stolen vehicle.

Spokesman of JTF in the state, Lt-Col. Sagir Musa, in a press statement said: "Following a distress call, the Joint Task Force Operation Restore Order 1 at 12 noon on Monday, encountered Boko Haram terrorists that snatched a vehicle and were moving towards Biu. In the process, there were exchanges of gun fire at the military posts where three suspected terrorists were killed."

He added that the stolen vehicle in which the suspects were fleeing, was also recovered and returned to the owner in Maiduguri.

He said the JTF was on top of the security situation in the state, urging residents and other members of the general public to continue to cooperate with the security task force and other security agents by providing information on the sect members' hideouts and their modus operandi.

Also confirming the incident, the Field Operations Officer of the JTF in Borno State, Col. Victor Ebhaleme, said: "Three suspected Boko Haram terrorists who went to rob some residents of their valuables were killed in a shootout while trying to flee the scene."

Ebhaleme, who spoke on phone, also said: "With the way we are cracking down on the Boko Haram terrorists, we strongly believe that their end is in sight. Some of them have now resorted to armed robbery and other forms of criminality, but we will surely fish them out."

In a related development, one Stephen Pam, a staff member of Borno State House of Assembly was killed by suspected Boko Haram members.

Pam, according to sources, was killed at his residence in Galadima, within Maiduguri metropolis.

In another attack by the sect, two brothers were killed at Kofa Mela part of the town, which is opposite the Maiduguri New Prison.

The sect was said to have also killed a welder at the notorious Abbaganaram part of the city yesterday.

The killing at Galadima, Kofa Mela and Abbaganaram areas which are on the same axis of the town caused heavy traffic along that axis as vehicles were made to undergo serious checks on the popular Ibrahim Imam Way.

In a related development, unknown gunmen on Monday night killed and set three persons ablaze in Barkin Ladi Local Government area of Plateau State. This is the second of such attacks in one week.

THISDAY gathered that just last week, a councillor in the local government was also attacked and killed by unknown persons.

This time, it was learnt that the Director of Finance and Supply of Jos East Local Government and two others who were in the same car heading towards Gashish village in the local government were attacked.

The local government, which is under emergency rule along with three others in the state, have been under frequent attacks by gunmen suspected to be Fulani herdsmen for quite some time.

Sources close to the scene of the attack disclosed that the three occupants were attacked with guns and other dangerous weapons at about 8:30pm.

When contacted, the spokesman of the Special Task Force, Captain Markus Mdahyelya, who confirmed the incident, said: "Three unidentified people were ambushed and killed on Monday in the border area between Barkin-Ladi and Bokkos Local Government Areas of the state."



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17. [Attack, Nigeria] Six Killed In Central Nigeria Village, Bomb Attack

Tuesday, 24 April 2012

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/04/24/6-killed-in-central-nigeria-village-bomb-attack714131/>

Six people were killed Tuesday in separate attacks on a central Nigeria village and a bar where patrons gathered to watch a Champions League soccer match, officials said, the latest violence to strike a region on the dividing line of Nigeria's two dominant faiths.

The violence centered around Jos, a city on the dividing line between Nigeria's largely Christian south and Muslim north where attacks have killed hundreds in recent years.

Assailants killed five people on an attack Tuesday on the village of Gwa-Rim, Plateau state spokesman Pam Ayuba said. That comes after violence in the last week saw at least 13 people killed in the area, Ayuba said.

Tuesday night, a bomb exploded at a bar in a Christian neighborhood in the city where locals gathered to watch Chelsea play Barcelona in the Champions League, officials said. One person died in the blast, while nine others were wounded, Ayuba said.

Police and military units surrounded the blast site, a neighborhood where other similar attacks have been carried out in recent months.

Jos is the epicenter of religious violence along Nigeria's "middle belt," where dozens of ethnic groups live. Violence in Jos, though fractured across religious lines, often has more to do with local politics, economics and rights to grazing lands.

The government of Plateau state, where Jos is the capital, is controlled by Christian politicians. Muslims are not legally recognized as citizens. That has locked many out of jobs in a region where the tourism industry and tin mining have collapsed in the last decades.

Riots in Jos killed more than 1,000 people. Muslim-Christian battles around the city killed up to 700 people in 2004 and more than 300 residents died during a similar uprising in 2008. Human Rights Watch says at least 1,000 people were killed in Jos in 2010.

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18. [Attack, Nigeria] Two Bombs Hit Nigeria's This Day Newspaper Offices

Thursday, 26 April 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/26/us-nigeria-bomb-idUSBRE83P0NR20120426>

Two bomb blasts targeted the offices of Nigerian newspaper This Day on Thursday, in the capital Abuja and the northern city of Kaduna, killing at least three people, officials and witnesses said.

This Day is based in southern Nigeria and is broadly supportive of President Goodluck Jonathan's government, the main target for Islamist insurgent group Boko Haram. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombings.

"Someone, a suicide bomber, ran into the building with the bomb about an hour ago," Nigerian Red Cross spokesman Nwakpa Nwakpa told Reuters at the scene of the Abuja blast.

"We have collected three bodies but before we got here people had already been moved," he added.

A Reuters witness saw the aftermath of the second blast in Kaduna. Police Mohammed Abubakar confirmed on the scene that it was a bomb and said at least one person had been killed.

A Reuters witness saw sirens wailing as police and fire fighters rushed to the scene and grey smoke billowed from the building, whose windows were all smashed.

Soldiers and police cordoned off the area, while emergency workers evacuated wounded on stretchers to waiting ambulances.

"The suicide bomber came in a jeep and rammed a vehicle into the gate," said Olusogen Adeniyi, chairman of the This Day editorial board. "Two of our security men died, and the obviously suicide bomber died too."

Boko Haram has been fighting a low level insurgency against Jonathan's administration for more than two years and has become the main security menace in Africa's top oil producer.

It has killed hundreds in bomb and gun attacks this year, mostly in northern towns and cities.

In August last year, the Islamists carried out a suicide car bombing at the United Nations building in Abuja that killed 25 people and prompted a ramp-up in security measures in the capital of the continent's most populous nation.

This Day's publisher, Nduka Obaigbena, is a prominent celebrity figure in Nigeria and puts on music, art and fashion events in cities in around the world.

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19. [Security, Nigeria] Police Uncovers Explosives Worth N9M As Blast Causes Panic In Kano

Thursday, 26 April 2012

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2012/04/police-uncovers-explosives-worth-n9m-as-blast-causes-panic-in-kano/>

A bomb blast outside a military base on Wednesday in the city of Kano caused panic but no injuries, while police earlier in the day discovered a large cache of explosive materials.

The homemade bomb planted in an open sewer across from Bukavu military barracks caused people to flee and businesses to shut, a military spokesman said.

Kano has been on edge since coordinated bombings and shootings in January claimed by Islamist group Boko Haram which killed 185 people, the group's deadliest attack yet.

"There was a huge explosion from a high-calibre IED (improvised explosive device) planted by unknown persons in an open drainage across the road from the barracks which caused a stampede," Lieutenant Iweha Ikedichi said.

"There were no casualties from the explosion which damaged a section of the drainage and shattered some glass of a one-storey building overlooking the drainage."

Earlier in the day, Kano state police chief Ibrahim Idris told reporters that policemen discovered three 50-kilogramme sacks of TNT and PENT explosives abandoned in the streets on the outskirts of the city.

He said the explosives were valued at nine million naira (\$56,250).

Idris speculated that the owners must have left them out of fear of being arrested at a security checkpoint.

Separately on Wednesday in the northeastern city of Maiduguri, where Boko Haram has been based, suspected members of the group shot a retired civil servant at his home, a military statement said.

Soldiers cordoned off and searched the area, resulting in one of the assailants being killed, it said. A search for the others was continuing.

The statement did not specify if the civil servant died from the gunshot wounds or how many attackers were involved.

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20. [Attack, Algeria] Bomb Kills Worker, Injures Two Others

Thursday, 26 April 2012

http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/algeria/2012/04/26/Terrorism-Algeria-bomb-kills-worker-injures-2-others_6776971.html

For the second time in only a few hours, an attack targeting Algerian soldiers has instead hit civilians and taken the life of one person. Yesterday the ones to pay the price for the latest slip-up by terrorists was a group of workers employed to clear weeds from the edges of the national highway 12, who were hit by the full blast of a remotely detonated bomb hidden under a layer of earth. It occurred in the section of the RN12 connecting Si Mustapha to Issers, 20 kilometres from Bourmerdes, a province which over the past few months has seen a frightening escalation in actions by armed Islamic groups who chose it for their operations. The attack had targeted a convoy of gendarme vehicles escorting Army soldiers. Witnesses quoted by Le Temps d'Algerie said that the explosion created a crater a metre deep in the road, and that branches and stones had been catapulted onto the highway.

Three workers were immediately taken to the Bordj-Menaïel hospital, where one died shortly after arrival. Two months ago, in another attack carried out in the same area, four civilians were killed by a bomb meant to go off as a military convoy was passing.

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21. [Attack, Syria] At Least 21 Dead In Syria Bomb Blast

Friday, 20 April 2012

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-world/at-least-21-dead-in-syria-bomb-blast-20120421-1xd6p.html>

At least 21 people, including 10 soldiers, have been killed in Syria on Friday, according to opposition and state media reports, as massive anti-regime protests calling for the ouster of President Bashar al-Assad took place in several parts of the country.

At least 10 security personnel were killed in a bombing in the area of Quneitra near the Syrian border with Israel, reported state television, blaming the attack on what it called "a terrorist group."

Opposition activists said military forces on Friday carried out shelling attacks on the districts of Al Khalidiyeh and Al Kussair in the dissident central province of Homs.

"At least 11 people were killed in the shelling on Homs," Omar Homsy, a Syrian activist from the area, told dpa.

The bombardment casts fresh doubts on the fate of a United Nations-brokered ceasefire that went into effect on April 12.

Ahmad Fawzi, the spokesman for UN-Arab League envoy Kofi Annan, said the truce was in a fragile state.

"The situation on the ground is not good. It's a very fragile ceasefire," Fawzi told reporters in Geneva on Friday.

Syria and the UN signed a protocol agreement on Thursday outlining the ground rules for a mission of UN observers to monitor the ceasefire, which is a core element of a peace plan proposed by Annan to end 13 months of bloodshed.

An amateur video posted online by Syrian activists showed the chief of the UN observer team, Colonel Ahmed Himiche of Morocco, talking to civilians in one street in the volatile province of Daraa in southern Syria.

Residents were seen pleading for the presence of more UN observers to help stop the violence.

A crying woman was also shown telling the Moroccan colonel that she was seeking information on her two missing sons, whom she said had been detained by security forces.

In Paris, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said on Friday the world should brace for a possible failure of Annan's plan.

He suggested the observers use helicopters and their number should reach 500.

Juppe also said the UN observers should be in a position to monitor the Syrians' right to demonstrate.

Annan's plan calls for: the withdrawal of military forces and military hardware from population centres; access to be provided for humanitarian services and journalists; and the release of detainees.

It also commits the Syrian authorities to respecting freedom of association and the right to "demonstrate peacefully."

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22. [Attack, Lebanon] Bomb In South Lebanon Restaurant Injures Five

Monday, 23 April 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/23/us-lebanon-bomb-idUSBRE83MOCL20120423>

Five people were injured and a building was damaged when a bomb exploded in a restaurant in the south Lebanon coastal town of Tyre early on Monday, a Lebanese security source said.

There has been a spate of bombings in majority-Muslim Tyre in the last few months of clubs, shops and restaurants that sell alcohol, whose consumption is forbidden by Islam, and several restaurants have stopped serving alcohol as a result.



The latest bomb detonated shortly after midnight in the Nocean, a restaurant serving alcohol, on the third storey of a commercial complex in the east of the city, shattering the windows of nearby cars.

"Five employees were injured, but only lightly," the source said, adding that four of them were discharged from hospital on Monday morning.

Lebanese security forces cordoned off the area, where large chunks of concrete had fallen onto the streets.

"I was on my way to the restaurant in my car, talking on the phone. I heard an explosion and then something fell on the car," Nocean owner Zahi Zaydan told Reuters.



Two bombs detonated in a nightclub and a liquor shop in Tyre in November, and a restaurant selling alcohol was targeted in December. The majority of Tyre residents are Shi'ite Muslims but members of Lebanon's Christian and Sunni Muslim communities also live in the city.

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23. [Attack, Iraq] AED Explosion Targets Officer In Salah-Il-Din

Monday, 23 April 2012

http://www.alliraqnews.com/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8390:aed-explosion-targets-officer-in-salah-il-din-&catid=36:security&Itemid=37

An Adhesive Explosive Device exploded in al-Qadissiya neighborhood of central Tikrit city of central Salah-il-Din province on Monday.

Security source reported to AIN "The AED was attached to the vehicle of a traffic police officer," noting that "The explosion resulted in killing the officer as well as his friend who accompanied him inside the vehicle and injuring two persons who were nearby the explosion area."

"The police forces transferred the bodies of the victims to the morgue and the injured persons to the hospital for treatment," the source concluded.



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24. [Security, Lebanon] Lebanon's Most Wanted Sunni Terrorist Blows Himself Up In Syria

Monday, 23 April 2012

<http://www.yalibnan.com/2012/04/23/lebanons-most-wanted-sunni-terrorist-blows-himself-up-in-syria/>

When one of Lebanon's most wanted terrorists kills himself while planting a bomb it is cause for at least some sort of grim celebration. But when the chief bomb-maker of the country's most notorious terror group self detonates while helping rebels fight in Syria, it is cause for concern.

TIME has learned that Abdel Ghani Jawhar, one of the leaders of the Sunni fundamentalist terror group Fatah al-Islam, died in the Syrian city of Qsair on Friday night. The founding cleric of Fatah al Islam, Sheikh Osama al Shihabi, confirmed Jawhar's death to TIME with a quote from the Koran: "'We are for God and to him we return.' We as Mujahideen are used to being killed and if God wants to give those killed dignity he gives them martyrdom. This is the path of righteousness."

This is not the first time that Jawhar is thought to have been killed; several previous death announcements have been retracted over the years. News of his death has been relayed by multiple—and unrelated—sources in both Syria and Lebanon. According to a fellow fighter, who goes by the nom de guerre Abu Ali, Jawhar had been preparing an explosive device to be used against the Syrian army, which had been attempting to enter the rebel-dominated town not far from Homs. As Abu Ali narrated the tale over Skype, the sound of bombs and explosions could be heard in the background. Jawhar's bomb went off prematurely, says Abu Ali. "He was killed directly. We wanted to send his body back to Lebanon but we couldn't because it was torn into pieces." Instead Jawhar's fellow fighters were forced to bury what was left of him in a neighboring garden because it was impossible to reach the graveyard during heavy fighting.

According to Abu Ali and another fellow fighter, Jawhar arrived in Qsair two weeks ago with a group of 30 Lebanese fighters. While many were members of Fatah al-Islam, they were not traveling under the terror group's banner. Instead they called themselves mujahideen, holy warriors seeking to help fellow Muslims under attack by the Syrian regime. Jawhar, an explosives expert and a charismatic commander, sought to train fellow fighters how make bombs. In the short time he had been in Qsair, says Abu Ali, he was able to set up dozens of improvised explosive devices destined for members of the Syrian security forces. "His aim was to make a tour in all the districts of Syria to teach the fighters on how to fight a guerrilla war."

For his efforts, Abu Ali calls Jawhar a hero and a martyr. For Syrian rebels seeking international assistance in their battle to force Syrian President Bashar Assad out of office, it's a public relations headache. The Free Syrian Army, as well as other Syrian resistance groups, has long sought to downplay regime accusations that the rebels are aligned with Islamic fundamentalists and pro-al-Qaeda groups. While Fatah al-Islam has denied any association with al-Qaeda, there are links between the group and individual members. The implication that an al-Qaeda affiliated group is helping Syrian rebels build bombs and foment a guerrilla war could radically alter perceptions in the West, bringing to a halt

discussions of arming the rebels and establishing a no-fly zone. “The death of Jawhar on Syrian soil emphasizes the fears of the international community that if they gave weapons to the Syrian rebels they will end up in the hands of radical groups,” says Lebanese University professor and Fatah al-Islam expert Talal Atrissi. “The Syrian opposition will be embarrassed from the fact that such a man is fighting alongside the rebels.”

The account of Jawhar’s border crossing has been confirmed by Lebanese intelligence authorities who say that they had been alerted to his movements but were unable to stop him. “He escaped as always,” sighs a senior intelligence official who says that Jawhar had been nicknamed “mercury” for his uncanny ability to evade arrest—at least 34 times, by the official’s estimate. Lebanese security sources say they too have received information about Jawhar’s death, though they were unable to establish any details. “If his death is confirmed then we lost a big catch, he was a real treasure trove of information,” says the official.

Jawhar is accused of masterminding multiple bomb attacks against U.N. security forces in Lebanon as well as Lebanese security installations that have killed scores and injured hundreds. According to the official, he is a person of interest in some 200 unsolved cases of murder, assassinations, attempted assassinations and explosive attacks. He is also thought to have killed a Christian shopkeeper in the northern city of Tripoli because he sold alcohol. “This is a major loss for Lebanese security, for the information he is believed to have about the terror groups operating in the region,” says Atrissi. And while Jawhar’s death would be a major blow for the group, which had already been decimated by a slew of high profile arrests and the deaths of several leaders in succession, “it doesn’t mean that the region will become a safer place,” says Atrissi. “Each member of such groups is a potential Abdel Ghani Jawhar.”

A 30-year-old biochemist from northern Lebanon, Jawhar came of age during the country’s brutal civil war. First he joined the Muslim Brotherhood, but left over doctrinal disputes—he felt that the group was not strict enough in its interpretation of Sharia, or Islamic law. He then joined, and left, the extremely conservative Salafis for the same reasons, and finally became a member of Fatah al-Islam in 2008. He was promoted to leader after his predecessor was killed in a 2010 shootout with Lebanese security forces. According to the Lebanese intelligence official, he was a master recruiter, and even managed to induct Lebanese soldiers to his cause. His terror efforts spanned Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, where he is thought to be responsible for several of the devastating explosions that killed international troops. “He was a network by himself,” says the official. “He had relations all over the region; he was a ruthless killer.”

Jawhar is also implicated in the murders of a Lebanese general, a major in Intelligence and a Member of Parliament. He nearly succeeded in killing the head of the Lebanese army as well as the head of Internal Security. His death in Syria, says the official, may be seen as a welcome comeuppance in some quarters, “but for us, it’s devastating. It’s an issue of personal revenge between Jawhar and the Intelligence service.” It also raises concerns over the insurgency struggling across the border in Syria.

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25. [Attack, Syria] Syria Car Bomb Wounds Three Amid Ceasefire

Tuesday, 24 April 2012

http://www.yourmiddleeast.com/news/syria-car-bomb-wounds-three-amid-ceasefire_6307

A car bomb on Tuesday rocked central Damascus, a day after nearly 60 were killed across Syria despite a hard-won ceasefire and the upcoming deployment of 300 UN peace monitors.

Three people were wounded when the blast went off in the Marjeh district of the capital, Syrian state television reported, blaming "terrorists", the government term for rebels.

"An armed terrorist group detonated the car bomb near the Yelbugha complex in Marjeh, wounding three people and causing damage to nearby buildings," it said.

State news agency SANA said the bomb was placed under the car of an unsuspecting man, who was among those hurt.

The blast came as the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said violence across the country killed 54 civilians and five soldiers on Monday, despite the tenuous ceasefire.



Thirty-one of the civilians died in a government assault on the Arbaeen neighbourhood in the central city of Hama and 13 others, including women and children, died in a mine blast in the village of Jarjanaz, in northwestern Idlib province.

Video footage posted online by activists showed a street in Arbaeen with large pools of blood and women weeping. Two young girls were shown in one video crying and holding up the picture of a man.

"This is my father," cries one girl.

The violence occurred despite the April 12 ceasefire, and the presence of an advance team of UN monitors to implement the truce.

The Observatory said clashes also took place Tuesday in two suburbs of Damascus and gunfire was reported the town of Bosra al-Sham, in southern Daraa province.

The persistent bloodshed 12 days into the ceasefire has sparked growing criticism from opposition activists of the fledgling UN mission, which now numbers just 11 observers out of a planned initial deployment of 30.

Neeraj Singh, a spokesman for the advance team, said the observers would be visiting different unspecified locations on Tuesday.

The monitors have toured several protest hubs since their arrival in the country earlier this month, including the battered city of Homs, where two of them set up base at the weekend.

During their visits, they have been greeted by thousands of protesters demanding the ouster of President Bashar al-Assad's regime and the arming of the rebel Free Syrian Army.

Despite scepticism over the UN mission, UN chief Ban Ki-moon on Monday gave the go-ahead for the deployment of 300 ceasefire monitors from next week.

Ban insisted that the Assad government ensure the protection of the unarmed observers and allow them to travel freely throughout the country.

Russia, a staunch ally of the Damascus regime, warned both sides to the conflict against disrupting the work of the UN observers which it said was crucial to providing an unbiased picture on the ground.

"The more observers there are, the more information we get that is based on objective facts and that is free from speculation," Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

Critics have said the UN mission was simply allowing the regime to buy time as it presses its crackdown against what began as a popular revolt but has turned into an insurgency.

Washington has also expressed reservations, warning it may not back the mission's renewal after 90 days.

On Monday, US President Barack Obama ordered new sanctions on Syria and Iran and the "digital guns for hire" who help them oppress their people with surveillance software and monitoring technology.

Obama announced additions to the pile of US sanctions already faced by the two governments as part of a wider effort to crack down on human rights abuses, atrocities and genocide.

The measures will hit the two governments but also companies that help create systems that track or monitor their people for killing, torture or other abuses and prevent individuals involved from entering the United States.



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26. [Attack, Iraq] Soldier Killed, Five Injured In Attacks In Iraq

Tuesday, 24 April 2012

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2012-04/24/c_131548825.htm

An Iraqi soldier was killed and five people were injured in separate bomb attacks in northern and western Iraq on Tuesday, the police said.

In Iraq's northern province of Nineveh, a booby-trapped car detonated near an Iraqi army vehicle in al-Hadbaa district in northern of the provincial capital city of Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad, killing one soldier and wounding an officer and a soldier aboard, a provincial police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Iraqi security forces sealed off the scene while police launched an investigation into the incident, the source said.

In Iraq's western province of Anbar, a roadside bomb went off near a civilian car in al-Tamim district western of the provincial capital city of Ramadi, some 110 km west of Baghdad, wounding three people aboard, a local police source anonymously told Xinhua.

Insurgent attacks continue in the once volatile Sunni Arab area in west of Baghdad that stretches through Anbar province to Iraq's western borders with Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Violence and sporadic high profile attacks are still common in the Iraqi cities despite the dramatic decrease of violence over the past few years.

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27. [Attack, Syria] Syria Blames “Terrorist” Bomb Factory For Hama Blast

Thursday, 26 April 2012

<http://www.euronews.com/newswires/1496044-syria-blames-terrorist-bomb-factory-for-hama-blast/>

Syria blamed “terrorist” bomb-makers on Thursday for an explosion that ripped through a building and killed 16 people in the restive city of Hama, where hostility to President Bashar al-Assad runs deep.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based anti-Assad organisation tracking the 13-month-old conflict in which at least 9,000 people have died, gave the same death toll but said the cause of Wednesday afternoon’s blast was not clear.

The Local Coordination Committees, a grassroots opposition group, had said earlier that an army rocket had inflicted the carnage and put the death toll at more than 50.

Whatever its origins, the explosion deals another blow to a two-week-old U.N.-backed truce that has failed to halt violence, although somewhat reducing its intensity from previous levels.

United Nations monitors are trickling into Syria to check the ceasefire engineered by U.N.-Arab League envoy Kofi Annan.

Two of them are based permanently in Hama, where many thousands of people were killed when Assad’s late father Hafez al-Assad crushed an armed Islamist uprising 30 years ago.

State television showed four corpses from what it said was the Hama explosion, as well as footage of severely wounded children being treated on make-shift hospital beds.

The Syrian government bars most independent media from the country, making it hard to verify events on the ground.

Syrian activists have been dismayed at the pace of the U.N. observer deployment – a senior U.N. official said this week it would take a month to put the first 100 monitors on the ground.

Only 15 are in place so far out of an envisaged full-strength team of 300 to be led by Norwegian General Robert Mood.

The killing of a Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteer on Tuesday underscores the dangers the monitors may face.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said three other aid workers were wounded when the clearly marked ambulance in which they were travelling came under fire near Damascus. SANA, the state news agency, blamed an “armed terrorist group”.

Syria says it has completed withdrawing tanks and troops from populated areas in line with Annan’s peace plan, but the former U.N. chief said on Tuesday Damascus had failed to meet all its commitments and the situation remained “unacceptable”.

France, leading Western calls for tougher action against Assad, says it plans to push next month for a “Chapter 7” Security Council resolution if Assad’s forces did not pull back.

Chapter 7 of the U.N. charter allows the Council to authorise actions which can include the use of military force.

But Western powers have disavowed any intention to intervene militarily in Syria, as they did last year in Libya.

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28. [Attack, Bahrain] Explosion Wounds Four Bahrain Policemen

Wednesday, 25 April 2012

<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/Explosion-wounds-4-Bahrain-policemen-3505744.php#photo-2857544>

Bahraini authorities say an explosion has wounded four policemen during clashes in one of the anti-government strongholds in the Gulf kingdom.

The Interior Ministry says two of the injured policemen are in critical condition after the blast, which occurred late on Tuesday in the mostly Shiite village of Diraz, west of the capital Manama.

Wednesday's statement described it as a "terrorist act" but gave no details about the explosion.

The level of violence has increased in recent weeks in Bahrain, where the Shiite majority began an uprising last year seeking to break the near monopoly on power held by the ruling Sunni dynasty. At least 50 people have been killed in unrest since February 2011.

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29. [Attack, Syria] Syria Says Suicide Bomber Kills Nine In Damascus

Friday, 27 April 2012

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iLBrH3OgwO_FEzkenGVGfwy_sZQQ?docId=b334a8f65f504aaf8f3b5fbf0dcbaf96

A suicide bomber blew himself up across the street from a mosque in the Syrian capital Friday, killing at least nine people and wounding nearly 30, state TV said. Thousands of Syrians protested elsewhere to denounce persistent violence by President Bashar Assad's regime.

The blast was the latest blow to a peace plan brokered by special envoy Kofi Annan that called for a cease-fire to go into effect two weeks ago. The truce has been roundly ignored on the ground, and the U.N. has only 15 monitors in Syria who are trying to salvage it.

Syrian cities have been hit by a wave of blasts in recent months that the regime often blames on "terrorists" trying to destabilize the country. Opposition activists usually deny that, blaming government forces for carrying out the attacks as a way to tarnish the uprising that began in March 2011.

The violence, including continued government shelling of opposition strongholds, comes despite a diplomatic push to end the year-old crisis. An uprising against Assad that began in March 2011 with largely peaceful protests has morphed into an armed insurgency.

The blast in the capital's Midan neighborhood went off across the street from a mosque.

Syrian TV aired footage of white smoke billowing from under a bridge as people streamed out of a mosque. The streets were stained with blood.

State TV reported that nine people were killed and 30 wounded. Health Minister Nader al-Halqi confirmed at least eight dead and said they included seven policemen.

Midan has been the site of frequent anti-government protests in the past. In January, an explosion in the same neighborhood killed at least 26 people and wounded 63.

The anti-government protests, which usually take place on Fridays across the country, typically begin following noon prayers as worshippers stream out of mosques.

It's not clear who is behind the string of recent suicide attacks and bombings. The government blames the opposition, which it says is made up of "terrorist" groups acting out a foreign conspiracy. But some opposition leaders accused the regime carrying out the attacks as a way to tarnish the uprising.

On Friday, activists reported that thousands of people protested in the northern city of Aleppo, the central region of Hama and the northern province of Idlib.

An amateur video posted online Thursday showed people carrying the body of a boy said to have been shot dead by Syrian troops in the southern city of Daraa — apparently an attempt to display the body to U.N. monitors nearby.

At one point some people jump on a U.N. vehicle while others bang on it with their hands. Others cordon the vehicles to protect the observers.

More observers are expected in Syrian the coming days. The U.N. has approved increasing the mission to 300 observers.

The U.N. monitoring team's spokesman said international monitors have moved into another hot spot in Syria to try to stop the violence with two observers stationed in the southern city of Daraa, the birthplace of the uprising.



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30. [Trend, Russia] One Dead, Six Injured 'Playing' With Explosives In Russia

Monday, 23 April 2012

<http://rianovosti.com/russia/20120423/172993267.html>

Careless handling of ammunition and self-made explosive devices left one person dead and at least six others injured in separate accidents across Russia over the weekend, criminal police said on Monday.

“Last weekend, some Russians decided to get rid of garbage as well as ‘unattended’ explosive devices,” police said in a statement. “As a result, the cleaning ended in one death and serious injuries to six people in several Russian regions.”

A 57-year-old man in the Amur Region died on Saturday attempting to dismantle an 80-mm artillery round in his backyard. His wife was hospitalized.

A 64-year-old man in Tatarstan was seriously injured on Saturday in an explosion while attempting to make an improvised explosive device.

On the same day, careless handling of a flash bang grenade led to an explosion that injured and burned a man in the Vologda Region.

On Sunday, two men in the Nizhny Novgorod Region were hospitalized after sustaining serious injuries in an explosion of a 76-mm artillery round buried underground. The men were cleaning the territory around a grocery store.

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31. [Security, Ireland] Seven Years Jail For Rocket Launchers

Friday, 20 April 2012

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/irishsun/irishsunnews/4268057/Seven-yrs-jail-for-rocket-launchers.html>

A trusted lieutenant for a vicious crime gang has been caged for transporting cocaine, a machine gun and rocket launchers.

Jason Smyth, 29, was caught with £69,500 worth of cocaine and an AK47, an M8 grenade launcher and a Russian-made BAZOOKA.

The hood, originally from Crumlin, Dublin, brought the lethal weapons in a hold-all in his car to a lock-up unit in Straffan, Co Kildare, before cops swooped on him and another man named only as 'Mr H'.

The Circuit Criminal Court heard both rocket launchers were armed.

Smyth, now of Longford town, pleaded guilty to possessing the coke and weapons. Det Gda Peter Ronan told the court the raid also led to the discovery of £630,000 worth of cocaine at the lock-up but Smyth was not charged over this.

He said Smyth admitted 'Mr H' told him to transport the hold-all containing the weapons to Straffan but said he didn't know that was what was in the bag.

Smyth told them 'Mr H' was paying him £700 to deliver the £69,500 of coke to another pick-up point.

Det Gda Ronan agreed that, although a "trusted lieutenant" was not at the upper scale of the drugs operation. The final three years of a 10-year term were suspended.

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32. [Security, Israel] IDF Forces Uncovered Four Improvised Explosive Devices In The Bags Of Two Palestinians

Tuesday, 24 April 2012

<http://www.idfblog.com/2012/04/24/idf-forces-uncovered-improvised-explosive-devices-bags-palestinians/>

Earlier today IDF forces uncovered four improvised explosive devices in the bags of two Palestinians at Beka'ot Crossing, north of Jericho. The devices were safely detonated by a team of sappers.

In the same area earlier this month, IDF forces uncovered seven explosive devices, three knives and 50 bullets on a Palestinian man who later admitted intent to commit a terror attack.



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33. [Special Interest, Russia] Russian Invisible Laser Bomb Detector Makes Molecular Scan At 50 Meters

Wednesday, 25 April 2012

<http://rt.com/news/russia-laser-bomb-detector-947/>

Not even the tiniest of particles will be able to escape the new super-sensitive explosive detecting device created by Russian scientists. Its laser sensor can pick up on a single molecule in a million from up to 50 meters away.

-The device was developed over a period of five years by the Siberian branch of the country's Academy of Sciences. It will undergo full testing this summer and is expected to be put to use by Russian intelligence later this year.

The main challenge for scientists was to create a laser that would only interact with specific particles present in the air, thus allowing it to wheedle out traces of explosives. In addition, the device is not affected by changes in heat and humidity in the surrounding atmosphere.

When the laser scans objects and recognizes particles of incendiary material, its creators maintain it is even able to detect traces of explosives left by fingerprints.

A mounted camera on the device transmits images of the source of the explosive material, so that the user can control the laser's movements from a different room.

The contraption's inventors are currently working on an extension of this function that will create a three-dimensional image of the target.

It is totally safe to use, emitting less radiation than a cellphone.

"In our opinion it is the most effective device in the world for the remote detection of all known explosive substances like hexogen, octagon and trinitrotoluene. It can also pick up home-made explosive materials often used by terrorists," said Alexander Vorozhtsov, deputy director of the Institute of Chemical and Energy Technology to Russia's Channel One.

The laser is invisible to the naked eye, making it possible to "scan a potential terrorist without alerting him or giving him time to activate an explosive," said Vladimir Yakubov, Chair of Research Radiophysics at Tomsk State University.

The new invention has a myriad of applications, and scientists are currently working on a second, more portable version for possible use in airports, stations and even in the underground.

In its current form, the machine consists of several parts and materials must be brought to a lab to be analyzed.

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34. [Attack, Ukraine] Blasts Rock Ukraine City

Friday, 27 April 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304811304577369731440380936.html?mod=google_news_wsj

Four blasts shook the center of the east Ukrainian city of Dnipropetrovsk on Friday, injuring at least 27 and raising concerns about security weeks before Ukraine will co-host the European soccer championship.

Police said bombs placed in trash cans had exploded within minutes of each other around midday at a tram stop, a cinema, a park and on a central street in the city of one million, located 400 kilometers southeast of Kiev.

Officials declared the blasts acts of terrorism, one of the worst since the country gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Authorities gave no explanation of a possible motive or suspects. Ukraine has no known terrorist threats, and political opposition, while raucous, is nonviolent.



Political tensions in Ukraine have risen in recent months following the jailing of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko last fall for abuse of office.

President Viktor Yanukovich called the blasts "a challenge for the whole country." The Interior Minister was dispatched to Dnipropetrovsk.

Television pictures from the site of the first explosion showed several injured people being treated by medics and members of the public among shattered glass from the tram stop. Local news websites reported that panicked residents were leaving the center of the city amid rumors of more explosions.

Ukraine is preparing to co-host the Euro 2012 soccer championship from June 8 to July 1, when tens of thousands of fans will visit the four host cities of Kiev, Lviv, Donetsk and Kharkiv. Oleksandr Birsan, the security chief for the tournament, said law enforcement was taking "all necessary measures" to ensure the safety of fans.

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35. [Security, United Kingdom] Tottenham Court Road Closed After Bomb Threat Reports

Friday, 27 April 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-17869815>

Police were called just before noon after computer equipment and office furniture was thrown from the fifth floor of an office building.

Witnesses claimed a man had a bomb. Others said he had gas canisters.

An internal email sent within Camden Council seen by the BBC described the incident as "a hostage situation".

"Hostages have been ordered to throw computers from the window by the suspect," it said.

Scotland Yard said a 300m (1,000ft) cordon had been put in place and a negotiator was on scene.

The force advised people to keep clear of the area and said: "It is unclear if there are other people in the building."

Tottenham Court Road has been evacuated and Goodge Street Tube station has been closed as a precaution.

Eight bus routes have been diverted.

Mounted police

The Metropolitan Police said the 49-year-old man had a grievance against the company.

The office building houses news website The Huffington Post UK.

Joaqam Ramus, who works at nearby Cafe Fresco, said before being evacuated: "There was talk of a bomb and somebody having a hostage in a building.

"All Tottenham Court Road is closed and so are we - the police told us to shut.

"We don't know what it is but it seems someone has a hostage."

Vivien Fluskin, who works for an architectural company in the Heal's building a few buildings down, said: "We were the last building to be evacuated and they told us to move really quickly.

"We could see riot police and mounted police.

"There are about 100 people from my building who have been moved. We've been told we probably won't be able to go back again today.

"Colleagues of mine saw a man throwing computer equipment from a building."

Tamsin Kelly, who works at the location, said two men ran into the building and said the man had a flamethrower and canisters of gas.

She added that the two men said they had been let go as they were parents and were told to leave the building.

Leon Farrell, 25, a product manager who works for AOL in Capper Street, just off Tottenham Court Road, said: "Someone ran in to our office white as a sheet and said there was someone who had taken a few people hostage but let them go as they had kids."

Publicist David Cox, who works in an adjacent building, said: "There was a guy chucking stuff out of the window - there seemed to be computers and some furniture and then papers.

"We have been getting moved further and further back by the police and the cordon is now 300-400 metres away."

He added: "The police came in to our reception and told us we had to evacuate the building immediately."



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36. [Security, Thailand] Narathiwat Bomb Attack Foiled

Monday, 23 April 2012

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/290093/bomb-attack-deterred-in-narathiwat>

Security forces narrowly escaped death from a powerful home-made bomb buried underground in front of a village defence unit in Narathiwat's Rueso district.

Hamadma Damaree, 40, a defence volunteer for Tua Lor village in tambon Riang, was waiting for a colleague to replace him on shift. He sat at a marble table in front of his unit late in the evening Monday when he noticed that the soil underneath the table appeared to have been freshly dug up and replaced.

He examined the spot and found what appeared to be a sheet of metal buried underneath the ground and alerted police, Pol Sub Lt Wanchai Rakboonmuang, duty officer of Rueso Police Station said.

Bomb disposal squad members used a mobile phone jammer to cut phone signals in the area and spent about 10 minutes defusing the bomb after a detector indicated an active explosive device may have been buried under the table.

The device was made of explosives stuffed in a 20kg fire extinguisher and set to be detonated by a phone signal, Pol Sub Lt Wanchai said.

The area where the bomb was hidden is a popular gathering spot for police officers and defence volunteers after they finish work.

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37. [Attack, Burma] Bomb Hits Checkpoint; One Official Dead

Friday, 20 April 2012

<http://www.dvb.no/news/bomb-hits-checkpoint-one-official-dead/21621>

An immigration official was killed after a bomb exploded this morning at 105 Mile Trade Zone Checkpoint in Northern Shan state's border town Muse.

Locals said the bomb exploded at the vehicle checkpoint around 5am, which killed a 39-year-old immigration official.

Police in Muse refused to comment on the situation.

The explosion comes amid reports that fighting has erupted today between Kachin Independence Army troops and the Burmese military in Laiza, Kachin state, which is about 100 kilometers from the checkpoint. No groups have claimed responsibility for the attack.

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38. [Law Enforcement, India] TNT Trigger In Bombing Of Israeli Diplomat'S Car

Monday, 23 April 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/TNT-trigger-in-bombing-of-Israeli-diplomat-car/articleshow/12829585.cms>

More than two months after the attack on an Israeli diplomat in the capital, the Central Forensic Science Laboratory has identified trinitrotoluene (TNT) as the explosive material used in the strike.

The 31-page forensic report was handed over to Delhi Police at a time when a team is getting ready to leave for Tehran to probe the role of three Iranians - Houshang Afshar Irani, Mohammad Reza Abolghasemi and Seyed Ali Mahdian Sadr - allegedly involved in the February 13 bombing of diplomat Tal Yehoshua Koren's car. The letters rogatory, being sent to Iran, Thailand and Malaysia, are already under process.

Sources say TNT has not been used widely by terrorists in India earlier. "It is a material which is usually used by military and armed forces. There are few blasts in India where traces of TNT have been found. Terror groups in India mostly use RDX, PETN, ammonium nitrate or potassium chlorate," said a senior officer.

CFSL deputed its senior scientists for identifying the explosive material used in the terror incident, the first time when a foreign diplomat was targeted in India. "It is established from samples picked from the scene of crime that TNT was used as the explosive material," the report said. It also talks about pieces having magnetic nature that could have been used by main bomber Irani for sticking the bomb on the car.

Yehoshua was seriously injured in the attack and was treated at a Delhi hospital for a few days before being flown back to Israel. The Indian driver of the car and two others were also injured.

The investigators, who are in touch with intelligence agencies of other countries, feel that the attack was carried out by Tevhid-Selam-Quds, an organization that is being handled out of Iran. "Its operatives are trained and equipped with weapons, ammunition and explosives, especially in handling of TNT and C4," said a source. The group has a history of carrying out terrorist attacks on Israel in other countries like those in Turkey, including the murder of Israeli security officer Ehud Sadan.

Delhi Police has already arrested Indian journalist Syed Mohammed Ahmed Kazmi, who was working part-time for an Iranian news agency and Persian newspapers, for allegedly being a part of the car blast conspiracy in Delhi. He was sent to judicial custody for 14 more days on Saturday.

The National Bomb Data Centre, which comes under the elite NSG, was kept away from collection of samples at the blast site by Delhi Police despite being the central nodal agency for monitoring, recording and analysing all bombing incidents in the country.

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39. [Law Enforcement, India] Hizbul Commander Behind South Kashmir Car Blast Arrested

Saturday, 21 April 2012

http://twocircles.net/2012apr21/hizbul_commander_behind_south_kashmir_car_blast_arrested.html

A divisional commander of separatist guerrilla group, Hizbul Mujahideen (HM), who had masterminded the car bomb explosion in south Kashmir last month has been arrested, police said Saturday.

"Around 8 p.m. yesterday (Friday), a naka (search) party intercepted a car on the main road at Ladermad in Pulwama district.

While the driver of the car alighted from the vehicle, another person in the car tried to escape. The naka party made a courageous effort and nabbed him on the road. He was identified as Latif Ahmed Dar alias Massod Saini, a divisional commander of HM," Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, S.M. Sahai told a media conference in Pulwama district.

Sahai said the guerrilla was active since January 2008 and is involved in many cases of militancy especially in the recent improvised explosive device (IED) blast which took place at Bijbehara in south Kashmir's Anantnag district March 22.

"The arrested militant commander is also involved in the killing of one released militant namely Showkat Ahmed Rather as well as delivering threats to elected panches/sarpanches (village council members/headmen) of the area," he said.

"During questioning, Saini confessed about plans of IED blasts also. On his instance, more than 100 kg of RDX and detonators were recovered at village Gulzarpora Awantipora (Pulwama)," Sahai said, terming the arrest of the militant a major breakthrough in the anti-militancy operations of the local police.

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40. [Attack, India] Maoists Attack Chhattisgarh MLA's Convoy, Three Killed

Friday, 20 April 2012

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-04-20/india/31373635_1_maoists-attack-maoist-operation-convoy

In a deadly attack on the convoy of a legislator of Chhattisgarh's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Maoist rebels on Friday triggered a powerful landmine blast in the troubled Bastar region killing three people, police said.

The Maoists blew up one of the eight vehicles of the convoy in a forested area Pegrapalli in Bijapur district, some 500 km south from here. Two senior district unit leaders of the BJP and the driver of their vehicle were killed on the spot.

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41. [Attack, Thailand] Eight Injured In Narathiwat Bomb Attack

Wednesday, 25 April 2012

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/security/290297/eight-injured-in-narathiwat-bomb-attack>

Eight people, including a three-year-old boy and four soldiers, were injured in a roadside bombing yesterday in Tak Bai district of Narathiwat.

The bomb went off about noon on the Tak Bai-Taba road in tambon Jehhe as four soldiers in a jeep passed by the hidden device. The explosion also hurt four civilians riding on two motorcycles behind the military vehicle.

The injured soldiers from Narathiwat Special Task Force Unit 36 were identified as MSgt 3rd Class Uthen Kaewichean, MSgt 2nd Class Thanin Saksri, Pvt Amnuay Sriwandee and Pvt Charan Puvo.

The civilians were Mohama Yuso, a village headman, Warunee Ma, Meela Maair and Ms Warunee's nephew, three-year-old Muhamad Daneeya Paosa.

MSgt Uthen and the boy suffered serious injuries and were sent to Naradhiwasrajanagarindra Hospital, while the others went to Tak Bai Hospital.

According to a forensic report, the 7kg of explosives placed in a metal box were in a black plastic bag in a handcart on the roadside near a Muslim cemetery. It was triggered by a remote radio signal.

In Sungai Padi district, Sainung Ada, a 50-year-old village headman was killed in tambon Sakor before dawn yesterday.

He was shot in the head and body with AK-47 and M16 assault rifles by a number of attackers near his home about 5am.

Meanwhile, the cabinet yesterday approved in principle a budget of 2 billion baht as compensation for victims of southern violence.

The Southern Border Provinces Administration Centre was authorised to set criteria for the compensation, Justice Minister Pracha Promnok said.

Pol Gen Pracha said 500 million baht of the budget will be allocated for compensating members of the public affected by the violence, 200 million baht would be allocated for state officials, one billion baht for those affected by the state security operations, and 300 million baht for those detained or prosecuted in insurgency-related cases.

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42. [Security, India] IED Defused In Assam

Thursday, 26 April 2012

http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/wire-news/ied-defusedassam_697270.html

A powerful Improvised Explosive Device (IED), planted by the banned anti-talk faction of the ULFA, was defused by the Army in upper Assam's Tinsukia district today. Police said the militants planted the bomb in front of the house of Ramesh Prasad, an owner of a small tea garden, at Kakojan village under Silabari police station. On receiving the information from the tea garden authorities the Army and police swung into action and recovered the IED. The explosive was subsequently defused by the special bomb defusal squad of the army. The army and the police has launched a manhunt to trace the militants who escaped after the incident.

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43. [Attack, United States] Explosive Hits Tahoe Pot Dispensary On Eve Of 4/20

Saturday, 21 April 2012

<http://www.ktvn.com/story/17647671/explosive-hits-tahoe-pot-dispensary-on-eve-of-420>

Police are investigating after an improvised explosive device was thrown through the window of a South Lake Tahoe marijuana dispensary on the eve of a marijuana holiday.

The Douglas County Bomb Squad responded to reports about 10 p.m. Thursday of an IED in the Patient to Patient Collective, one of the town's three dispensaries.

They found the device had been thrown through one of the business' back windows and caused a small fire.

The Tahoe Daily Tribune reports nobody was hurt. The dispensary was closed, but two employees were working inside at the time of the incident.

April 20 is an unofficial holiday celebrated by some marijuana users. The number 420 has been associated with marijuana use for decades, though its origins are murky.

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44. [Attack, United States] Man Charged With Throwing Firebomb At Federal Building Downtown

Tuesday, 24 April 2012

<http://www.kmov.com/home/Man-charged-with-throwing-explosive-device-at-federal-building-in-downtown-St-Louis-148752875.html>

A southwestern Illinois man has been charged after he allegedly threw an explosive device at a federal building in downtown St. Louis on Monday.

Prosecutors said 33-year-old Jeremiah McGee of Fairview Heights, Ill., was charged with attempted destruction of U.S. property by fire or explosion. He was expected to make his first court appearance later Tuesday afternoon.

According to the affidavit, McGee drove up to the government building in the 1200 block of Spruce Street around 1 a.m. Monday and parked his car near the security guard shack.

Officials said a guard on duty saw McGee go towards the building, then return to his vehicle and retrieve something similar to a Molotov cocktail.

Investigators say a guard saw the man light the device and throw it at the building, causing a fireball that scorched the wall and sidewalk. St. Louis Police Officers later recovered a broken glass bottle at the scene.



No injuries were reported.

The building houses several government agencies, including Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Coast Guard and the Army Corps of Engineers.

If convicted, McGee faces up to 20 years in prison and fines up to \$250,000.

It's not clear if McGee has an attorney. A message was left Tuesday at a home telephone listing for McGee.

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45. [Security, United States] Deputies Investigate Explosive Device Taken To Hospital

Tuesday, 24 April 2012

<http://www.wistv.com/story/17451170/deputies-investigate-possible-bomb-taken-to-hospital>

After Union County deputies were called to a hospital about an explosive device in a patient's bag, they say they found seven other pipe bombs in the man's home. Sheriff David Taylor said nurses at Wallace Thomson Hospital called security about a patient they thought might be self-medicating and might be combative if confronted.

When the hospital security officer checked the patient's bag, he found an explosive device, so he called the Union County Sheriff's Office. Deputies said the patient had a glass bottle with sealant on top and gun powder inside. They said there was also a fuse that looked like it had been removed.

Deputies then went to the man's house on Stepp Road. They said they searched the home and found seven pipe bombs. Officials on scene removed the bombs. Some of them were detonated at the Union County firing range. Bomb sniffing dogs were being used for a sweep of the hospital on Friday morning.

"We feel like everything is secure. The searching of hospital is precautionary," Taylor said.

He said the suspect, 51-year-old Jeffery Glenn Rash, is under guard at the hospital. He said that Rash has been a patient since Wednesday.

Taylor said Rash kept asking for his cell phone during interrogation, but was not allowed to have it. Taylor also said there was no indication that the bombs could be controlled via a cell phone.

Rash, who is on oxygen, is charged with possession of explosives/incendiary devices, deputies said.

"They were quite explosive. The guys were surprised at the amount of explosives put in these bombs," Taylor said.

Tim Merritt, the hospital's chief executive officer, told News4 that hospital security officers are Union County Deputies. It's a partnership put in place by the county supervisor.

"It can happen anywhere, anytime. We have drills. Who knows what could've happened had the training not been in place, Merritt said. "Efforts are underway to make sure this doesn't happen again."

There were no evacuations at the hospital.



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46. [Attack, Mexico] Car Bomb Explosion In Tamaulipas, Mexico

Wednesday, 25 April 2012

<http://www.elsiglodedurango.com.mx/noticia/369101.confirman-estallido-de-coche-bomba-en-tamauli.html>

The attorney general of Tamaulipas and the Public Security Secretariat (SSP) confirmed that a local Chevrolet 3500 pickup truck exploded outside the Public Safety Building in Nuevo Laredo.

Report. The PGJE and local SSP said the outbreak of the truck left a wounded, who are already receiving medical attention but did not detail his health.

In a statement, the agencies reported that the attack took place at 8:00 pm in the Manuel Avila Camacho Avenue and Avenue of the Heroes, in the municipality of Tamaulipas.

They also said that the outbreak of the truck left a wounded, who are already receiving medical care, but did not detail his health.

The explosion of the truck bomb caused damage to another vehicle, at the offices of local transit and in the windows of the Public Ministry of the PGJE.

After the explosion there was also a clash between soldiers and gunmen who attacked the soldiers as they approached the site of the blast.

Witnesses said that after firing grenades were also released, listening at least two more booms, and then came the shootout between soldiers and gunmen.

He stressed that these facts constitute a violation of the Arms Act and Explosives, became aware the Attorney General's Office (PGR) and the Ministry of National Defense (SEDENA).

He added that within hours of the PGR personnel proceed to the analysis of explosives used.

Similarly, stressed that the Ministry of Public Security of the state to support the Mexican Army restored normalcy in that sector of the population.

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47. [Attack, Colombia] Eight Injured In Detonation Of Explosive Devices In Colombia

Monday, 23 April 2012

<http://english.cntv.cn/20120423/107143.shtml>

At least eight people have been injured after the detonation of two explosive devices in the city of Ibague, in Colombia's central department of Tolima, Colombian National Police said on Sunday.

Fernando Murillo, Ibague's Police Commander said to the local radio station RCN, that "in less than 24 hours, two explosive devices have been activated, especially against public transportation vehicles."

The first detonation happened on Saturday at 22:45 p.m. local time (03:45 GMT) at the local bus station.

Apparently, a package with the explosive device was abandoned inside a bus which returned to the station after an inter- municipality trip.

"Seven people were injured, four of them had been discharged and three more remain" in a local hospital where they were moved by rescue organizations after the explosion, said Murillo.

The second detonation happened at around 06:00 a.m. local time (11:00 GMT) in downtown Ibague on Sunday, once again inside a bus.

There were no passengers inside the bus, which was about to begin the working day. Only "the driver is stunned after the explosion," said Murillo, adding that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) Front 21, with presence in Colombia's central region, should be responsible for these attacks.

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48. [Security, Colombia] Hidden Depots Of The Farc Were Dismantled By The National Army In Different Regions Of The Country

Thursday, 19 April 2012

<http://www.cgfm.mil.co/CGFMPortal/faces/index.jsp?id=13828>

As a result of the offensive and the permanent operations deployed by the Army throughout the national territory, in the last hours, three hidden depots with military material and explosives pertaining to the FARC were dismantled, in the departments of Caquetá, Cesar and Tolima.

The first finding took place in the path Las Palmeras, municipality of San Vicente del Caguán, department of Caquetá, where soldiers of the Infantry Battalion No.36 "Cazadores" of the Brigade 12, found a hidden depot pertaining to the mobile group "Teófilo Forero Castro" of the FARC. During the search carried out by the military personnel, 2,364 cartridges caliber 5.56mm, were found.

In the same way, in countryside of the municipality of Valledupar, in the department of Cesar, troops of the Military Gaula Group, found a clandestine depot pertaining to the front 41 of the FARC, where the terrorists had hidden six mortars and seven kilograms of black gunpowder.

Finally, in the path El Tabor, municipality of Rioblanco, in the department of Tolima, soldiers of the Mobile Brigade No.26, found a hidden depot of the group "Miller Salcedo" of the FARC, where five hand grenades, a rifle, two guns, 10 magazines, four electric fuzes and two kilos of pentolite were found.

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49. [Law Enforcement, Colombia] Army Captures 26 Members Of FARC And Criminal Gangs

Sunday, 22 April 2012

<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/articulo-340455-ejercito-capturo-26-miembros-de-farc-y-bandas-criminales>

Military operations conducted by the Army against the Farc, criminal gangs and common criminals led to the capture of 26 members of organizations outside the law. They confiscated war materials, vehicles, systems, communications and hallucinogens.

The military offensive allowed the military to capture persons who commit crimes like murder, trafficking and possession of weapons and ammunition, manufacture, trafficking and possession of drugs, rebellion, extortion, conspiracy and drug trafficking.

These people were apprehended in the departments of Magdalena, Cesar, Valle, Cauca, Tolima, Meta, Caquetá, Antioquia and Bogota.

In the development of the catches were also confiscated 623 cartridges of different caliber, a 40mm grenade, 13 handguns, two motorcycles, computers, cell phones and hallucinogens.

The captured, along with the confiscated material were made available to the competent authorities.

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50. [Security, Colombia] Huge 'FARC' And 'Rastrojos' Weapons Caches Seized

Monday, 23 April 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/23618-huge-farc-and-rastrojos-weapons-caches-seized.html>

Authorities seized a "powerful" weapons depot allegedly destined for a deal between the FARC and "Rastrojos" illegal armed groups, according to Colombia's Police director Oscar Naranjo.

"This is one of the most serious blows in recent months against the trafficking of arms to terrorist groups and criminal gangs," said Naranjo.

The haul was seized from a van in Colombia's third-largest city Cali and included 160 rifles, 6 mortar bases, four grenade launchers, four machine guns, 25 handguns, and 6,650 rounds of ammunition.

The weaponry was allegedly part of a transaction between the FARC and the "Comba" section of the Rastrojos drug trafficking organization, in which the weapons would be exchanged for large drugs shipments, reported newspaper El Espectador.

Members of Interpol and Colombia's police also seized 50 mortar shells allegedly leftover from the same FARC structures that were hit last month, when 36 insurgents were killed. The heavy weaponry was reportedly found in a motor repair shop in Villavicencio, central Meta Department.

Four alleged FARC were also arrested in the Meta raid. Ana Graciela Arias Escobar, alias "La Boyaca," a reported key figure in the rebel group's operations in the region, was among the arrested. The others were identified by their aliases "Ephrem," "Gentil Duarte", "El Loco Ivan."



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51. [Attack, Colombia] FARC Attack In Southwest Colombia

Wednesday, 25 April 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/23667-farc-attacks-in-northern-colombia.html>

The FARC's 6th front attacked a military base located in southwest Colombia, reported local media Wednesday.

Residents of El Palo, a town in the Cauca department, were surprised by a series of explosions after a number of homemade bombs called "tatucos" were detonated at the base.

No major injuries were reported after the initial attack or the subsequent clash between security forces and the guerrillas.

The region is a drug trafficking hotspot with heavy illegal armed group activity, an official told Radio Caracol.



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52. [Security, Colombia] Homemade Bombs Belonging To "Los Rastrojos" Seized

Wednesday, 25 April 2012

<http://www.caracol.com.co/nota.aspx?id=1459818>

Twelve hundred homemade bombs, property, said del Valle police, of the Criminal gang "Los Rastrojos" were seized in rural area of Bolivar, north of the department.

According to Colonel Julian Gonzalez, commander of police in the Valley, the bombs made up of PVC tubes with a syringe to operate under pressure, would be used by Los Rastrojos to protect laboratories for processing coca, which have different regions of the department.

There was no captures during the action of the authorities.

In the scene, said the official, seven cans were found with ANFO and 30 meters of electrical cable designed to prepare more explosive devices.

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