

# RAPID

*Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data*

## WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

Volume 2, Issue 50

14 DECEMBER 2012

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



### **Twin Bombings Near Damascus Kill 24**

A crowd gathers around wrecked vehicles after a bomb explosion in a minibus in Damascus.

[Read more on Page 28](#)





1. [Attack, Afghanistan] [IED Kills Four Border Cops Two Workers Of IED Clearing Firm Abducted](#) 4
2. [Attack, Pakistan] [Several Are Killed In Attack On Pakistan Police Post](#) 5
3. [Attack, Pakistan] [TTP Threatens Attacks On 'Secular Parties' As Blast Targets ANP Rally](#) 6
4. [Attack, Afghanistan] [Nadia Sidiqi And Mohammad Musa Rasuli Killed](#) 7
5. [Attack, Pakistan] [Bomb Blast Injures One At Pakistan Rally](#) 8
6. [Attack, Afghanistan] [Taleban Bomb Kills Afghan Top Cop](#) 9
7. [Attack, Pakistan] [Blast In Karachi Kills Two](#) 10
8. [Trend, Afghanistan] [Pentagon Warns Of Higher Bomb Threat In Drawdown](#) 11
9. [Attack, Afghanistan] [Taliban Suicide Bomb Targets Afghan NATO Airbase](#) 12
10. [Trend, Pakistan] [US Presses Pakistan On Bomb Fertilizer](#) 13
11. [Attack, Pakistan] [Blast In Quetta Injures Six](#) 15
12. [Attack, Somalia] [Sensing Further Dissolution, Al-Shabaab Tries To Kill Hizbul Islam Leader](#) 16
13. [Law Enforcement, Mauritania] [Local Terrorist Surrenders To Algerian Authorities](#) 18
14. [Trend, Kenya] [Panic As Bomb Is Discovered In Kwale](#) 19
15. [Attack, Libya] [At Least Four Policemen Are Wounded After Benghazi's Car Bomb](#) 20
16. [Attack, Kenya] [One Wounded In Kenyan Bomb Blast](#) 21
17. [Attack, Somalia] [Three Killed In Mogadishu Car Bomb](#) 22
18. [Security, Yemen] [Security Defuses Explosive Device Inside Capital Security](#) 23
19. [Attack, Syria] [Three Bombs Target Syrian Interior Ministry](#) 24
20. [Trend, Iraq] [Women Increasingly Recruited By Al-Qaeda In Iraq](#) 25
21. [Attack, Yemen] [Gunmen Bomb Yemen's Crude Pipeline After Military Offensive](#) 26
22. [Attack, Syria] [Several Killed In Syria Bomb Attack](#) 27
23. [Attack, Syria] [Twin Bombings Near Damascus Kill 24](#) 28
24. [Attack, Iraq] [Two Killed, 20 Injured As Bomb Attack Targets Iranian Bus In Iraq](#) 29



25. [Attack, Syria] <a href="#">Syrian Rebels Set To Win, Car Bomb Kills 16</a>	30
26. [Trend, Georgia] <a href="#">Georgia Details Nuclear Black Market Probes</a>	32
27. [Attack, Northern Ireland] <a href="#">Bomb Blast Close To East Belfast MP's Office</a>	36
28. [Law Enforcement, Germany] <a href="#">Police Arrest Suspects In Bonn Bomb Case</a>	37
29. [Security, Germany] <a href="#">Islamist Extremist Suspected After Bomb Found At Bonn Rail Station</a>	38
30. [Security, Italy] <a href="#">Employee Confesses To Planting Bomb At Italian Bank</a>	40
31. [Attack, Northern Ireland] <a href="#">Unmarked Police Car Hit By Petrol Bomb In More NI Riots</a>	41
32. [Security, England] <a href="#">Bomb Disposal Experts Sent To Norfolk Home After Fourth Man Arrested In "Suspicious Device" Probe</a>	43
33. [Security, Northern Ireland] <a href="#">Pipe Bomb Discovered At Home Of Press Photographer In Northern Ireland</a>	44
34. [Security, Nepal] <a href="#">IED Found At Furniture Industry In Chitwan</a>	46
35. [Attack, India] <a href="#">IED Explosion Injures BSF Personnel</a>	47
36. [Attack, Bangladesh] <a href="#">Riots, Bombs Reported As Bangladeshi Opposition Coalition Enforces General Strike</a>	48
37. [Security, India] <a href="#">Major Tragedy Averted With Detection Of IED</a>	49
38. [Special Interest, North Korea] <a href="#">North Korea Launches Rocket , Raising Nuclear Arms Stakes</a>	50
39. [Security, Nepal] <a href="#">Bomb Defused In Kavre</a>	53
40. [Trend, Sri Lanka] <a href="#">Petrol Bomb Thrown Inside Jewellery Shop</a>	54
41. [Attack, Thailand] <a href="#">Six Troops Wounded By Bomb In Restive South Of Thailand</a>	55
42. [Attack, China] <a href="#">Revenge Behind Bomb Attack On Liuzhou Official</a>	56
43. [Law Enforcement, United States] <a href="#">Explosive Device Found In Southwest Oklahoma City Yard Leads To Arrest</a>	57
44. [Security, United States] <a href="#">Bomb Squad Disables Explosive Device In Fort Collins' Lee Martinez Park</a>	58
45. [Attack, Colombia] <a href="#">One Killed, Three Injured In Southwest Colombia 'FARC Attack'</a>	59
46. [Trend, Colombia] <a href="#">FARC Xmas Truce A 'Farce'</a>	60
47. [Law Enforcement, Honduras] <a href="#">Honduran Police Seize Arms Cache</a>	61





### AFPAK

## 1. [Attack, Afghanistan] IED Kills Four Border Cops Two Workers Of IED Clearing Firm Abducted

Monday, December 10 2012

<http://paktribune.com/news/IED-kills-4-border-cops-2-workers-of-IED-clearing-firm-abducted-255533.html>

Four Afghan border police personnel were killed and another sustained injuries in an improvised explosive device blast in Charbojak district of Nimroz province yesterday, an official said Sunday.

The Afghan border police personnel were trying to defuse an IED in Khalmok area of Charbojak district yesterday, the Nimroz provincial security in-charge Rehmatullah told the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP).

Meanwhile, the Taliban claimed responsibility for the bombing and their spokesman Qari Muhammad Yousaf Ahmadi told the AIP that 10 Afghan security personnel, including two commanders were killed and several more injured in the blast.

Meanwhile, unidentified people abducted two Afghan workers of a landmine clearing firm in Kohsan district of Herat province yesterday, an official said Sunday .

One of the captives is a doctor while another is a driver, the Herat security in-charge Abdul Hamid Hamidi told the AIP. He said they were workers of an IED clearing company, Helo Traf. The security forces were striving to rescue the captives, he maintained.

No one has claimed responsibility for their kidnapping so far.



## AFPAK

### 2. [Attack, Pakistan] Several Are Killed In Attack On Pakistan Police Post

Monday, December 10 2012

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/11/world/asia/several-are-killed-in-attack-on-pakistan-police-post.html>

Taliban suicide bombers attacked a police station in northwestern Pakistan on Monday, killing at least eight people, including three police officers, officials said.

Two militants detonated their suicide vests during a battle with the police at the station near Bannu, on the edge of the tribal belt, while a third attacker escaped. Bannu's proximity to North Waziristan, the tribal district that is the main hub of Taliban and Qaeda fighters in Pakistan, makes it particularly vulnerable. Monday's attack took place at the Kaki police station, eight miles south of the town.

Pakistani officials have rejected American pressure to open a military operation in North Waziristan, citing the difficulties of operating in the area, which is also the main focus of the Central Intelligence Agency's drone operations. One drone strike late last week killed a senior Qaeda commander from Kuwait who was thought to be close to Ayman al-Zawahri, the Qaeda leader.

The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for Monday's attack, which a spokesman said was revenge for the death of Ibrahim Mehsud, a nephew of the former Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud, who was killed in a shootout with the police in November. The spokesman, Ehsanullah Ehsan, vowed that the group would carry out more attacks in the Bannu district, which is on the western edge of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

Nisar Tanoli, a senior police official, said the militants, who were armed with light and heavy weapons, had tried to storm the police station.

"During the exchange of fire, one of the attackers blew himself up near the police station," Mr. Tanoli said, speaking by telephone. Another attacker detonated his explosives inside a mosque at the rear of the police station. The explosion killed three civilians, Mr. Tanoli said.

Government and security installations have come under attack in Bannu several times in recent years as the militants mount increasingly brazen attacks that underline the fragile authority of the state in the area.

Last April, Pakistani Taliban fighters stormed the district jail in Bannu, freeing at least 400 inmates, including one who had been involved in an assassination attempt against a former president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf.





## AFPK

### 3. [Attack, Pakistan] TTP Threatens Attacks On 'Secular Parties' As Blast Targets ANP Rally

Monday, December 10 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/12/10/blast-outside-venue-of-anp-chiefs-gathering-injures-seven/>

The Pakistani Taliban have threatened to stage further attacks targeting political gatherings of the country's secular Awami National Party (ANP) and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), their spokesman said on Monday, the same day a blast near an ANP gathering in Charsadda injured seven people.

The explosion in a car-park outside the venue of a public gathering scheduled to be addressed by ANP Chief Asfand Yar Wali Khan in Charsadda's Kulladher district. The bomb exploded shortly before the formal launch of the event before the ANP leaders had arrived at the venue.

Medical Superintendent of Charsadda Hospital Dr Mohammad Nawaz confirmed seven people, including two policemen, were injured in the blast. Security sources said that 500 grams of explosive material was used in the making of the bomb, which was detonated remotely.

Speaking to a Dawn.com correspondent from an undisclosed location, Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan claimed responsibility of the blast, threatening further attacks against "the country's secular parties".

The attack on the ANP gathering "is just a beginning. The attacks will intensify on both the secular ANP and MQM's political gatherings," threatened the TTP spokesman, cautioning the general public to stay away from the rallies.

Ehsan said the ANP and MQM would be on their hit-list because of their enmity towards the Taliban.

Ehsan added that the ANP and MQM because of their enmity towards Taliban would be on their hit list and their political gatherings will be targeted.

"We request the public to avoid attending such rallies in their own interest," said the spokesman.

About TTP stance on other political parties, he said, though they are all one, as far as their secular ideology is concerned, Taliban would announce their strategy regarding other parties later.





## AFPAK

### 4. [Attack, Afghanistan] Nadia Sidiqi And Mohammad Musa Rasuli Killed

Monday, December 10 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-20662105>

An official in charge of women's affairs and an Afghan provincial police chief were killed in separate attacks on Monday, officials say.

Nadia Sidiqi, acting head of the women's affairs department for Laghman province, was shot on her way to work.

Gen Mohammad Musa Rasuli, Nimroz's police chief, was on his way home from Herat province when his vehicle struck a roadside bomb, police said.

Last week, Afghanistan's spy chief was wounded in a Taliban suicide bombing.

Asadullah Khalid was attacked in Kabul by a man who posed as a peace envoy, in what correspondents say was a blow to peace efforts.

Nadia Sidiqi was shot and killed by two unidentified gunmen while on her way to work on a motorised rickshaw, the AFP news agency reports.

"We have launched an investigation and we have sealed off the area where the attack took place and we will very soon capture the attackers," Laghman police chief Ahmad Sherzad told AFP.

Ms Sidiqi took over the Laghman women's affairs department from Hanifa Safi who was killed in a bomb attack in July.

Ms Safi, who had been a leading advocate of fair treatment for women, died when a bomb attached to her car exploded as she left her home in Laghman province.

A spokesman for the police chief of Laghman province told the BBC that the acting director did not have bodyguards with her, despite being entitled to them.

Last week, a 25-year-old female health worker was assassinated in Kapisa province, which borders Laghman.

In Nimroz, officials said that Gen Rasuli died of his wounds in hospital. Three other people were also injured in the attack, reports say.

It is unclear who carried out either attack. The Taliban frequently target government and provincial officials.



### AFPAK

#### 5. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Blast Injures One At Pakistan Rally

Monday, December 10 2012

<http://www.rferl.org/content/bomb-blast-pakistan-rally-awami-national-party/24794303.html>

At least one person has been injured by a bomb blast outside the site of a rally of the Awami National Party (ANP) in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

ANP President Asfandiyar Wali Khan was due to address the rally in the town of Charsadda on December 10.

A correspondent for RFE/RL's Radio Mashaal says Wali Khan had not yet arrived when a remote-controlled bomb exploded not far from the area where the rally was to take place.

Police cordoned off the area soon after the blast.

No one has claimed responsibility.

The ANP, Pakistan's largest Pashtun party, leads the government in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and is an ally of President Asif Ali Zardari's Pakistan People's Party





## AFPAC

### 6. [Attack, Afghanistan] Taliban Bomb Kills Afghan Top Cop

Tuesday, December 11 2012

<http://arabnews.com/taliban-bomb-kills-afghan-top-cop>

A Taliban bombing killed an Afghan provincial police chief and gunmen fatally shot an official in charge of women's affairs yesterday — the latest victims of a campaign targeting government officials across Afghanistan. The police chief for Nimroz province was traveling home from neighboring Herat province when his vehicle struck a roadside bomb in the morning hours, said the chief's secretary Obaidullah, who only goes by one name. The police chief, Gen. Mohammad Musa Rasouli, was seriously wounded and was rushed to the hospital, where he died of his wounds, said the secretary. Rasouli was returning to his job in Nimroz after a short break in Herat province, Obaidullah said. Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said the insurgency had been tracking Rasouli and had specifically targeted him.

"We are continuing to target government officials," Ahmadi said.

Also Monday morning, gunmen shot and killed the head of the women's affairs department for the eastern Laghman province, said Sarhadi Zewak, a spokesman for the provincial government.

Najia Sediqi was on her way to the office from her home on the outskirts of the provincial capital when she was attacked, Zewak said. She had taken the job after her predecessor, Anifa Safi, died in a bomb attack in July.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for Sediqi's killing. Police are investigating the incident, Zewak said. A statement from Afghan President Hamid Karzai condemned the killing of Sediqi as a "terrorist attack." The latest attacks come after the attempted assassination of the country's spy chief, Asadullah Khalid, on Thursday. He was seriously injured when a suicide bomber posing as a Taliban peace envoy detonated a hidden bomb.

In the Afghan capital, Kabul, about 200 women marched yesterday, carrying pictures of victims of war crimes for which they said the perpetrators have never been brought to justice. They called on the Afghan government to prosecute those accused of war crimes during more than 30 years of conflict in the country.

In the south, meanwhile, a NATO service member was killed in a bomb attack, the international military alliance said. The death brings to five the number of international service members killed so far this month.

Meanwhile, the Taliban say they will attend a meeting in France to discuss Afghanistan's future but will not talk about peace and reconciliation.

Spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said by telephone yesterday that two of the group's representatives will attend next week's meeting, which is being organized by a French think tank on the outskirts of Paris.

Representatives from the Afghan government's peace council, political parties and the Hezb-e-Islami will also attend.

The meeting is not expected to produce results, but it will represent a rare-face-to-face gathering of Afghanistan's major players.

French Foreign Ministry deputy spokesman Vincent Floreani says an intra-Afghan conference will be held this month and organized by the Foundation for Strategic Research.





### AFPAK

#### 7. [Attack, Pakistan] Blast In Karachi Kills Two

Wednesday, December 12 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/12/12/blast-in-karachis-landhi-area-reports/>

At least two people lost their lives on Wednesday after a bomb exploded near a local restaurant in a busy locality in Karachi, Pakistan's commercial capital, DawnNews reported.

According to initial reports, the loud explosion shook the Muzzafarabad colony area of Landhi, injuring an additional six people.

Eight people were initially said to have been injured. However, it was later reported that two of the wounded died while being shifted to the hospital.

Initial reports also suggested that the bomb was placed near the wall of Ghareeb Nawaz hotel, a local restaurant in the busy neighbourhood.

The injured were shifted to Jinnah Hospital.



## **AFPAK**

### **8. [Trend, Afghanistan] Pentagon Warns Of Higher Bomb Threat In Drawdown**

Thursday, December 13 2012

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US\\_US\\_AFGHANISTAN\\_PAKISTAN?  
SECTION=HOME&SITE=AP&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_US_AFGHANISTAN_PAKISTAN?SECTION=HOME&SITE=AP&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)

A senior Pentagon official says U.S. and coalition forces will be more vulnerable to improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, as the military draws down the number of American troops in Afghanistan next year.

Lt. Gen. Michael Barbero told a Senate panel on Thursday that fewer troops means travel on Afghan roads becomes more predictable and awareness of what's happening in the vicinity drops.

Barbero said IEDs will continue to be the weapon of choice against U.S. and coalition forces.

President Barack Obama and the military are focused on the drawdown of some 66,000 U.S. troops now in Afghanistan, looking ahead to the departure of combat forces by the end of 2014.

Barbero testified on IEDs, which are responsible for more than 60 percent of U.S. combat casualties in Afghanistan.





### AFPAK

## 9. [Attack, Afghanistan] Taliban Suicide Bomb Targets Afghan NATO Airbase

Thursday, December 13 2012

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/world/326029/>

A suicide car bomber attacked a NATO airbase in southern Afghanistan just hours after the US Defence Secretary left Thursday, killing two civilians, wounding 15 and injuring four foreign soldiers, police said.

There was no indication that the attack was connected with defence chief Leon Panetta's visit, a US spokesman said.

"I can confirm that insurgents detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in the vicinity of Kandahar airfield.

"Currently ISAF officials are on the scene collecting facts and assessing the situation and as information becomes available we will release it as appropriate," the spokesman said.

"I have no information at this time that this incident was associated with the visit of the secretary of defense. The attack occurred after the secretary returned to Kabul."

Taliban insurgents claimed responsibility for the attack in an sms message to AFP, but did not link it to Panetta's visit.

Panetta was due to hold a press conference with Afghan President Hamid Karzai later Thursday.

"The suicide bomber detonated his car as an ISAF convoy was entering the Kandahar airfield," Kandahar provincial police chief General Abdul Razeq told AFP.

"As a result of this suicide attack two civilians have been killed, and 15 civilians and four ISAF soldiers have been injured."

A spokesman for NATO's International Security Assistance Force confirmed the attack, without giving details of any ISAF casualties. It is ISAF policy not to disclose the number of its personnel wounded in any attack.

Last week, Taliban suicide attackers struck at a NATO base at Jalalabad airport in eastern Afghanistan, killing five people and wounding several foreign troops in a two-hour battle, officials said.

A total of eight attackers armed with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons were killed, Afghan officials said.

Both assaults came as the summer fighting season should be drawing to a close, indicating that the insurgency remains resilient after surviving the biggest onslaught US-led forces will throw against them.

The last of the extra 33,000 soldiers President Barack Obama deployed in a "surge" nearly three years ago left in September, and the vast majority of the remaining NATO force of more than 100,000 will follow by the end of 2014.

Reporters travelling with Panetta were briefed by senior officers at Kandahar who told them security was steadily improving in the Kandahar region and that the Taliban had been seriously weakened.

The head of US-led forces in the area, Major General Robert Abrams, said the Taliban's capabilities were now "pretty limited".

But he said ISAF had detected "numerous" plots to attack Kandahar airfield that had been disrupted.

The biggest attack on a coalition base this year came in September, when insurgents stormed Camp Bastion in the south, destroying six fighter aircraft in the largest single loss of air assets for the United States since the Vietnam War.



## AFPAK

### 10. [Trend, Pakistan] US Presses Pakistan On Bomb Fertilizer

Friday, December 14 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-79646-US-presses-Pakistan-on-bomb-fertilizer>

US officials called Thursday on Pakistan to crack down on the production of a common fertilizer, saying it was used to make bombs that have claimed the bulk of troop deaths in Afghanistan.

As the long-tense US-Pakistan relationship improves slightly, US officials credited Islamabad with taking the issue more seriously but said that much more needed to be done by authorities and producers of the fertilizer.

Calcium ammonium nitrate is responsible for more than 70 percent of roadside bombs against coalition forces in Afghanistan despite a ban by Kabul on the fertilizer, Lieutenant General Michael Barbero told a Senate hearing.

Barbero, who heads a Defense Department unit that combats the bombs, said the Fatima Group, the Pakistani company that runs the factories, has been "less than cooperative" in discussions with the United States.

Senator Bob Casey, who put up pictures of maimed US soldiers at the hearing, said that Interior Minister Rehman Malik presented plans to prevent the bombs -- known as improvised explosive devices, or IEDs -- during an October visit to the United States.

"While I'm pleased that Pakistan has developed a very detailed and comprehensive set of plans to counter IEDs, let me be clear -- it's time to finally and fully implement these plans," Casey said.

"IED incidents have risen in Afghanistan. The flow of chemicals coming from across the border has not diminished," said Casey, a member of President Barack Obama's Democratic Party from Pennsylvania.

Casey said that Pakistan -- which has been torn for years by violence -- had an interest in halting the fertilizer's misuse. Citing the US embassy, Casey said IEDs had killed 2,395 people inside Pakistan in the past year.

Casey called for restrictions on the sale of ammonium nitrate and a tracking system that charts the course of chemicals to distributors to buyers.

"Members of the fertilizer industry in Pakistan have the opportunity to be good corporate citizens. They should also understand that they are part of a broader global corporate community where reputations matter, just like they do here in Washington," he said.

Barbero said the United States had requested that factories dye the calcium ammonium nitrate, which is milky white and can easily be disguised as detergent, so that border guards can detect it.

Ammonium nitrate is also produced in other nations, but virtually all found in Afghanistan has come from Pakistan, he said.

The fertilizer was also the chief component in the 1995 bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City. In 2007, the US Congress passed a law that required registration of buyers.



Barbero said that US forces have also noticed the growing use by insurgents in Afghanistan of potassium chlorate, which he said was illegally imported into Pakistan to produce matches or for use in the textile industry.

State Department official Jonathan Carpenter said the United States has provided some \$113 million to Pakistan since 2009 for efforts to counter the bombs and anticipated another \$135 million from the most recent funding year.

The United States has long voiced frustration at what officials say remain strong links between elements of Pakistan's intelligence agency and Islamic militants operating in Afghanistan, particularly the Haqqani network.

Pakistan has defended its record, saying it has borne the brunt of the US war. Analysts widely believe that Pakistan's motivation is to preserve influence in Afghanistan in anticipation of the US withdrawal in 2014.







### AFPAK

#### 11. [Attack, Pakistan] Blast In Quetta Injures Six

Friday, December 14 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/12/14/blast-in-quetta-injures-six/>

A bomb exploded on Quetta's Sariab road injuring six persons and damaged several vehicles on Friday, DawnNews reported.

The bomb was planted on a motor cycle and destroyed two rickshaws as a result of the explosion.

The injured were rushed to a nearby hospital where the condition of two wounded was reported as critical.

Security forces cordoned off the area as investigations into the incident went underway.



## AFRICOM

### 12. [Attack, Somalia] Sensing Further Dissolution, Al-Shabaab Tries To Kill Hizbul Islam Leader

Monday, December 10 2012

[http://sabahionline.com/en\\_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2012/12/10/feature-01](http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2012/12/10/feature-01)

Tribal relatives and associates of Hizbul Islam leader Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys say he is hunkered down in Barawe, surrounded by loyalists from his tribe after surviving several assassination attempts.

Iman Nur, a 22-year-old Aweys loyalist, said the leader has survived at least five assassination attempts in the past two weeks, prompting him to seek refuge with his tribe. Nur said elements from within al-Shabaab have been trying to obstruct moderate leaders like Aweys from engaging in dialogue and peace negotiations with the new government.

The latest attempt occurred on November 28th when al-Shabaab militants targeted Aweys' car with a remote-controlled improvised explosive device on the main street of Barawe, 170 kilometres south of Mogadishu.

No one in the car was hurt, but fragments of the bomb damaged the four-wheel drive vehicle, according to Mohamed Osman Aruus, a former al-Shabaab fighter and relative of Aweys.

Hizbul Islam parted ways with al-Shabaab in September, citing ideological differences and political changes in Somalia.

Barawe resident Sagal Khalif Abdi, 49, said the score settling between al-Shabaab loyalists and those who left the al-Qaeda-affiliated group will create more instability and bloodshed.

She said militants linked to al-Shabaab leader Ahmed Abdi Godane, also known as Mukhtar Abu al-Zubair, imposed strict restrictions on the northern and southern entrances of Barawe.

"One of Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys' advisers went to the capital, Mogadishu, to encourage tribal elders to mediate and establish communication between Aweys and Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud," Abdi said.

This took place after a series of altercations and strong disagreements between former allies Aweys and Godane, said Abdi, who is from the same tribe as Aweys.

Undermining al-Shabaab

Somali political analyst Barkhadle Jibril Elmi said Aweys has reinforced his tribe's defences and has taken active measures to defend himself and his family in the event of an attack on his home.

Elmi told Sabahi that al-Shabaab is trying to eliminate Hizbul Islam leaders because of their willingness to negotiate with the government and refusal to embrace the militant group's destructive ideas and terrorist actions.

He said the Somali army and African Union Mission in Somalia troops should take advantage of the militant group's deteriorating situation and march towards Marka and Barawe to protect the people and support peace efforts and the local authorities.

Nasra Osman Jiiti, 41, a retired journalist, said Hizbul Islam's negotiations with the Somali government will diminish al-Shabaab's power.

She said the group is destined to fall eventually because it has murdered innocent people and squandered their resources. The group's militias have directed their guns against anyone who opposes its hard-line approach to squelch opposition, she said.

"We do not know what will happen, but everyone is thinking of the possibility of confrontations like we witnessed in July 2010 between al-Shabaab and Hizbul Islam as they fought over economic resources coming from the marine port and airport of the city of Kismayo, capital of Lower Jubba," she said.

Yasmin Salaad Gagale, an activist with the Somali Civil Society Association, said opening political dialogue with moderates from al-Shabaab will further weaken the group and pave the way for military operations in several parts of central and southern Somalia.

This will help implement security proposals aimed at defeating al-Shabaab and those that oppose peace, she said,



adding that military operations would enable Somali armed forces to track militants and prevent them from escaping and avoiding punishment for their heinous crimes.

"Terrorist criminals and their accomplices who have committed a series of crimes against the Somali people have to be arrested," Gagale told Sabahi. "These are people who have killed, beheaded and cut off the hands, feet and tongues of people without reason. Thousands of people will bear witness to their crimes, including survivors of their suicide attacks and their raids on residential neighbourhoods."

Gagale said the strategy of the national reconciliation programme, whose objective is to re-establish stability and government control throughout the country, is to allow supporters of peace to escape the grip of the extremists.





## AFRICOM

### 13. [Law Enforcement, Mauritania] Local Terrorist Surrenders To Algerian Authorities

Tuesday, December 11 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201212120895.html>

A terrorist claiming to be an emir surrendered to Algerian police in Timimoun, Adrar wilaya, ANI reported on Monday (December 10th). The Mauritanian national handed over his all-terrain vehicle loaded with small arms, including rocket launchers and machine guns.

He informed the police about the presence of a terrorist group in the region, which planned to attack and kidnap civilians during the holiday season. A large ANP operation was launched in the area.



## AFRICOM

### 14. [Trend, Kenya] Panic As Bomb Is Discovered In Kwale

Tuesday, December 11 2012

[http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000072638&story\\_title=Kenya-Panic-as-bomb-is-discovered-in-Kwale](http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000072638&story_title=Kenya-Panic-as-bomb-is-discovered-in-Kwale)

A bomb weighing 16 kilogrammes was on Tuesday found in Ukunda town, Kwale County after a man sold it to scrap metal dealers at a garage.

The seller fled the scene after discovering the piece of metal was a bomb that experts say is a tank shell traced to the First World War.

The explosive was taken away by officers from the bomb squad.

According to the Msambweni OCPD Jack Ekakuro, the bomb was among metal objects that the seller had brought for sale.

The OCPD said the seller fled and has not been traced.

“It is a rusty sixteen kilogram’s bomb an indication that it might have been used in the First World War and it is very dangerous as can only be operated by a tanker. It is good that it did not explode but it is still very dangerous,” said Ekakuro who added that the unnamed seller might not have known what he was carrying.

“The man might have not known what he was carrying but he disappeared and I really want to thank the members of public for alerting us and being security conscious,” said the OCPD.

Speaking to the Standard separately Daniel Kimani who is the scrap metal dealer at the garage said the seller hails from Shimba Hills in Kwale County.

“He came with it (explosive) on Sunday wrapped together with other metals and even when I weighed it I did not suspect anything till we started packing. We identified the metal which was different from the others and became suspicious. By then the man had already fled said Kimani.



## AFRICOM

### 15. [Attack, Libya] At Least Four Policemen Are Wounded After Benghazi's Car Bomb

Wednesday, December 12 2012

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/12/12/254787.html>

Four Libyan policemen were wounded on Wednesday when a bomb exploded in front Al-Fwihet station in the eastern city of Benghazi, reported Al Arabiya.

"The blast coincided with a traffic police vehicle passing in front of Al-Fwihet station," police officer Adel Jibril told AFP.

"Two traffic policemen inside the vehicle were seriously wounded," along with two police officers who were posted outside the station, he added.

Jibril said preliminary investigations suggested the blast was caused by a suitcase full of explosives.

"We still do not know if the bomb was placed in front of the station or in the car," he continued.

Another officer, Ezzedin al-Fazzani, said the car was "completely wrecked" by the explosion, which left a large crater in front of the station and partly damaged the building's facade.

Security forces deployed to the scene to secure the perimeter and scan the area for any other explosives, an AFP journalist at the scene said.

Benghazi, cradle of the 2011 revolt that toppled veteran dictator Moamer Kadhafi, has recently witnessed several explosions and a wave of attacks targeting policemen and military officers.

The new authorities, who are struggling to rebuild the national army and form a professional police, have failed to bring the perpetrators to justice.

On September 11, the U.S. consulate in Benghazi was the target of an attack -- attributed to Islamic extremists -- that killed four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens.







## AFRICOM

### 16. [Attack, Kenya] One Wounded In Kenyan Bomb Blast

Friday, December 14 2012

<http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/1-wounded-in-Kenyan-bomb-blast-20121214>

Insurgents in Kenya's giant Dadaab refugee camp set off a bomb at a centre registering voters for Kenya's March 2013 elections, an AFP reporter and Kenya's Red Cross said Friday.

The blast, in the world's largest refugee camp complex of Dadaab in the remote northeast bordering Somalia, home to over 468 000 Somali refugees, injured one person, Kenya Red Cross officials said.

Kenya has suffered a string of attacks in recent months - including grenade and bomb explosions - but this is the first attack on an election centre.

The attacks are regularly blamed on members or sympathisers of Somalia's al-Qaeda-linked Shabaab fighters, although they have made no claim to the series of blasts, which escalated after Kenyan troops invaded Somalia last year.

Police have since launched a tough crackdown focussing largely on refugees, including mass arrests sweeping up young men of Somali origin suspected of being connected to the attackers.

Earlier this week Kenyan officials ordered all refugees to return to remote refugee camps, including over 33 000 Somali refugees living in the capital Nairobi.

However, more than 2.3 million Kenyans are ethnic Somalis, some six percent of the population. Their traditional homelands make up around a fifth of the country, and many live around the Dadaab region.

Tensions are already high across the country ahead of elections due in March, five years after deadly post-poll killings that shattered Kenya's image as a beacon of regional stability.

The heavy handed police crackdown risks alienating Kenya's ethnic Somali community, adding to existing areas of concern ahead of the elections, including a coastal separatist movement, militant Islamists and tensions between ethnic groups.

Voter registration closes on Tuesday evening.



## AFRICOM

### 17. [Attack, Somalia] Three Killed In Mogadishu Car Bomb

Friday, December 14 2012

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/three-killed-in-mogadishu-car-bomb-police-1.1441388#.UMs5PYaRZ8E>

A car bomb in the Somali capital killed three people and wounded several others in the latest attack in war-ravaged Mogadishu, police said on Friday.

“The car exploded while the driver was moving in it... three people were killed,” said police officer Aden Mohamed, adding it was not clear if the driver had been targeted. “We are still investigating the blast.”

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion, but the al-Qaeda linked Shebab insurgents have conducted a series of guerrilla style attacks in the capital since pulling out of fixed positions there in 2011.

The insurgents have vowed to topple President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, who took office in September after being chosen by the country's new parliament, bringing an end to eight years of transitional rule.

An offensive led by the 17 00-strong African Union force alongside Somali forces has stripped the Shebab of most of the towns they held.

But the Shebab remain a potent threat, still controlling rural areas as well as carrying out guerrilla attacks - including suicide bombings - in areas apparently under government control.

Some of the fighters have reportedly relocated to the Galgala region of the northern Golis mountains in Somalia's semi-autonomous Puntland region.

The Golis mountains, straddling the porous border between the autonomous state of Puntland and self-declared independent Somaliland, are honeycombed with caves and difficult to access.



### CENTCOM

#### 18. [Security, Yemen] Security Defuses Explosive Device Inside Capital Security

Tuesday, December 11 2012

<http://www.yobserver.com/front-page/10022379.html>

A security team defused an explosive device inside the headquarters of Sana'a General Security, a security officer said.

The bomb weighs 12 kilos, the same size used in targeting the defense minister convoy in last June.

"An engineer Corp team managed to defuse the explosive device," said the officer.





## CENTCOM

### 19. [Attack, Syria] Three Bombs Target Syrian Interior Ministry

Wednesday, December 12 2012

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/three-bombs-target-syrian-interior-ministry>

A car bomb and two other explosives went off at the main gate of the Syrian Interior Ministry in Damascus on Wednesday, causing some deaths, state television said.

It did not give figures on casualties. Lebanon's al-Manar television, which supports Hezbollah, said four people were killed and more than 20 wounded in the explosions.

The ministry is in Kafar Souseh, an area of the Syrian capital that borders the central Ummayad Square and is contested between rebels and forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad.

A resident said she heard sirens and shooting after a "huge explosion". The pro-government TV station Al-Ikhbariya aired footage of concrete rubble, blood on the floor and a 2-metre-wide hole in the road.

Rebels have made gains on the outskirts of Damascus recently but relied on hit and run attacks and bombs in the centre of the city, often on state security buildings or areas loyal to Assad, such as Jaramana, where twin bombs killed 34 people in November.

A July 18 bomb attack that killed four of Assad's closest aides, including his feared brother-in-law Assef Shawkat, was followed shortly by an insurgent advance into the city but they were later pushed back.

At least 40,000 people have been killed in Syria's uprising, which started in March 2011 with street protests which were met with gunfire by Assad's security forces, and spiralled into the most enduring and destructive of the Arab uprisings.





## CENTCOM

### 20. [Trend, Iraq] Women Increasingly Recruited By Al-Qaeda In Iraq

Wednesday, December 12 2012

<http://www.thecuttingedgenews.com/index.php?article=77805&pageid=20&pagename=Security>

While considered a religious taboo in Islam to involve women in combat, al-Qaeda in Iraq is using every means possible to recruit women to help the terrorist group make a noticeable resurgence in the nation's Sunni Arab strongholds, according to a report in the India Times on Monday. With the Iraqi forces and the U.S. troops in the past years fiercely fighting al-Qaeda terrorists, they successfully pushed them out of their strongholds. But now, al-Qaeda extremists are coming up with other ways to penetrate the current Iraqi security measures.

Al-Qaeda is working hard to increase the role of women in its terrorist activities. They know that they are using unethical means to recruit women, in addition to their using the widows of their former members and their female relatives, say experts.

Women can be used to convey letters and explosives in addition to their possible role in gathering intelligence about al-Qaeda's targets, according to experts. A woman activist in Baquba said that the female victims of al-Qaeda would fall under psychological and physical pressure as their conservative society would push their families to reject them or even kill them to save the honor of the family.

Female victims have nothing else but to accept being used by al-Qaeda and even to be used as suicide bombers, according to reports. Using women by al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorist group is not a new phenomenon. In 2008 alone, there had been 33 female suicide bombers who carried out attacks against U.S. troops and Iraqi security forces in Diyala province. Prior to the U.S. withdrawal from Iraq, its security forces backed by U.S. troops had dismantled at least three al-Qaeda cells tasked with recruiting women. In fact, one of the cells was actually run by a woman named Um al-Mu'mineen, or the mother of believers in Arabic, who was tracked and captured in Baghdad in mid-2010.



### CENTCOM

#### 21. [Attack, Yemen] Gunmen Bomb Yemen's Crude Pipeline After Military Offensive

Wednesday, December 12 2012

<http://english.sina.com/world/2012/1207/535311.html>

Yemen's oil export pipeline was bombed again on Friday night, a few hours after the government launched a major assault on tribesmen who were accused of repeatedly attacking the country's main crude line, officials said.

The fresh attack was the fifth of its kind against Yemen's main crude pipeline in less than a month. The government failed to repair it due to continuing conflicts in the Marib province, highlighting the persistent insecurity in the country even one year after political upheaval.

The officials said fighter jets and military helicopters were also engaging in the hours-long offensive earlier in the day against hideouts of the suspected armed tribesmen in Wadi Abida area of the northeast oil-producing province of Marib.

The Interior Ministry said that the tribal gunmen also attacked parts of the country's main gas-powered electricity station in Marib in revenge for the military assault, which triggered frequent blackout in the country's major provinces, including the capital Sanaa.

The 272-mile (about 438 km) pipeline carries about 110,000 barrels of oil a day from the oilfields in Marib to the Ras Isa export terminal on the Red Sea.

On Wednesday, Marib's second oil export pipeline that pumps some 8,000 barrels of crude per day to the export terminal on the Gulf of Aden was halted after tribal fighters attacked a section of the line in the southeast province of Shabwa.

The Yemeni transitional government, which depends on oil exports for up to 70 percent of its budget, is struggling to launch a UN-backed reconciliation national dialogue by the end of this month to reunite the divided nation.





## CENTCOM

### 22. [Attack, Syria] Several Killed In Syria Bomb Attack

Thursday, December 13 2012

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2012/12/2012121310920586422.html>

At least 24 people have been killed and more than 30 wounded, including women and children, after a car bomb exploded in Qatana, a town 25km southwest of Damascus, Syrian state media reports.

The SANA news agency reported that seven children were among the dead after Thursday's explosion.

The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an anti-government rights group, earlier reported that a large explosion had occurred outside an army housing complex in the town. It confirmed that the dead were civilians, and said that at least seven children and two women were among those killed.

Fighting was also taking place in various suburbs of Damascus between government troops and rebels seeking the overthrow of President Bashar al-Assad, anti-government activists said.

"The battles are raging in the suburban areas of Daraya, Arbeen, Harasta," said Haytham al-Abdullah, a Syrian activist based in Damascus.

"Jets are using TNT barrel bombs to strike the opposition rebel bases in these areas," he told the DPA news agency. US officials said on Wednesday that al-Assad's government had begun using Scud missiles and barrel bombs against rebels.

An upsurge in attacks by rebels on state institutions in Damascus has prompted authorities to tighten security around vital facilities, say activists.

The measure comes a day after three blasts targeted the interior ministry, killing at least nine people, activists said. Russia says opposition may win

Russia's deputy foreign minister, meanwhile, said on Thursday that the Syrian president's hold on power was loosening, and that the opposition may succeed in its aim of toppling his government.

The remarks by Mikhail Bogdanov to the ITAR-TASS news agency are the first acknowledgement by a Russian official that the Syrian president could lose what has turned into a civil war.

"As for preparing for victory by the opposition, this, of course, cannot be excluded," Bogdanov said. "You need to look the facts in the eyes - the government regime is losing more and more control over a large part of the country's territory."

Russia has strongly opposed any foreign intervention in the Syrian crisis, saying that the conflict is an internal issue. Bogdanov repeated Russia's call for a compromise, saying it would take the opposition a long time to defeat the regime and the country would suffer heavy casualties.

"The fighting will become even more intense, and you will lose tens of thousands and, perhaps, hundreds of thousands of people," he said. "If such a price for the ouster of the president seems acceptable to you, what can we do? We, of course, consider it absolutely unacceptable."





## CENTCOM

### 23. [Attack, Syria] Twin Bombings Near Damascus Kill 24

Thursday, December 13 2012

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/sana-terrorist-bombing-kills-16-near-damascus>

At least 24 civilians, including a large number of children, were killed in two separate car bombings southwest of Damascus on Thursday, state media reported.

Eight people, mostly women and children, were killed by a car bomb in the poor Sunni town of Jdaidet Artuz, state television reported.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said four civilians were killed in the blast.

Less than eight kilometers away, a similar blast rocked the town of Qatana earlier in the day, leaving 16 people dead, seven of them children, state news agency SANA reported.

"This morning, terrorists targeted the residential area of Ras al-Nabaa with a vehicle loaded with explosives, blowing it up in front of the Mikhael Samaan school," the agency said. It blamed the attack on "terrorists," the standard regime for rebels.

Thursday's blasts come as rebels seeking to oust President Bashar al-Assad have been edging closer to the Syrian capital.

On Wednesday, three bombs collapsed walls of the Interior Ministry buildings in Damascus, killing at least five people and wounding Interior Minister Mohammed Ibrahim al-Shaar.

The Turkish Anadolu news agency said the Islamist al-Nusra Front, newly designated a terrorist organization by the United States, issued a statement claiming responsibility for the attack. The Saudi and US backed Syrian opposition bloc, the Syrian National Coalition, urged the US to review the decision during Morocco's Friends of Syria meet Wednesday.

The Syrian National Coalition considers al-Nusra Front to be part of its coalition of militants fighting against the Syrian government.







### CENTCOM

#### 24. [Attack, Iraq] Two Killed, 20 Injured As Bomb Attack Targets Iranian Bus In Iraq

Friday, December 14 2012

<http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/137549/>

Two Iranian pilgrims were killed in a bomb attack on an Iranian bus near the holy Iraqi City of Samarra, Fars news agency reported citing Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization.

The bus was carrying pilgrims from the Northern Iranian province of Mazandaran to Samarra, 110 kilometers north of Baghdad.

Head of the Iranian Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization for Holy Cities Affairs Massoud Akhavan told FNA that the explosion has claimed the lives of at least two Iranian pilgrims and wounded 20 others, two of them being in critical conditions.

He said pilgrims are now receiving treatment in a hospital in the Iraqi city of Kadhimiyah.





## CENTCOM

### 25. [Attack, Syria] Syrian Rebels Set To Win, Car Bomb Kills 16

Friday, December 14 2012

<http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=186852>

Syrian rebels are gaining ground and might win, Russia's deputy foreign minister said on Thursday, in the starkest such admission from a major ally of President Bashar al-Assad. "One must look the facts in the face," Russia's state-run RIA quoted Mikhail Bogdanov as saying. "Unfortunately, the victory of the Syrian opposition cannot be ruled out."

Bogdanov, who is Kremlin's special envoy for Middle East affairs, said the Syrian government was "losing control of more and more territory" and that Moscow was preparing plans to evacuate Russian citizens if necessary. Advancing rebels now hold an almost continuous arc of territory from the east to the southeast of Damascus, despite fierce army bombardments designed to drive them back.

A car bomb killed at least 16 men, women and children in Qatana, a town about 25 km (15 miles) southwest of Damascus where many soldiers live, activists and state media said. The explosion occurred in a residential area for soldiers in Qatana, which is near several army bases, said Rami Abdelrahman, head of the pro-opposition Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

He put the death toll as 17, including seven children and two women. State news agency SANA said 16 people had died. State television blamed the blast on "terrorists" - its term for rebels - and showed footage of soldiers walking by a partly collapsed building, with rubble and twisted metal on the road.

The attack follows three bombs at the Interior Ministry on Wednesday evening, in which state news agency SANA said five people were killed, including Abdullah Kayrouz, a member of parliament from the Syrian Social Nationalist Party. Apart from gaining territory in the outskirts of Damascus in recent weeks, rebels have also made hit-and-run attacks or set off bombs within the capital, often targeting state security buildings or areas seen as loyal to Assad, such as Jaramana, where twin bombs killed 34 people in November.

Insurgents launched an offensive on Damascus after a July 18 bombing that killed four of Assad's closest aides, including his feared brother-in-law Assef Shawkat, but were later pushed back. With his back to the wall, Assad is reported to be turning ever deadlier weapons on his adversaries.

U.S. NATO officials said on Wednesday that the Syrian military had fired Scud-style ballistic missiles, which are powerful but not very accurate, against rebels in recent days. Human Rights Watch said some populated areas had been hit by incendiary bombs, containing flammable materials such as napalm, thermite or white phosphorous, which can set fire to buildings or cause severe burns and respiratory damage.

The British-based Syrian Observatory said war planes were bombing rebel-held eastern suburbs of Damascus on Thursday and artillery was hitting Daraya and Moadamiyeh, southwestern areas near the centre where rebels have been fighting for a foothold. At least 40,000 people have been killed in Syria's uprising, which started in March 2011 with street protests which were met with gunfire by Assad's security forces, and which spiralled into the most enduring and destructive of the Arab revolts.

The United States, European powers and Arab states bestowed their official blessing on Syria's newly-formed op-



position coalition on Wednesday, despite increasing signs of Western unease at the rise of militant Islamists in the rebel ranks. Western nations at “Friends of Syria” talks in Marrakech, Morocco rallied around a new opposition National Coalition formed last month under moderate Islamist cleric Mouaz Alkhatib.

Russia, which along with China has blocked any U.N. Security Council measures against Assad, criticised Washington’s decision to grant the coalition formal recognition, saying it appeared to have abandoned any effort to reach a political solution. Bogdanov’s remarks were the clearest sign yet that Russia is preparing for the possible defeat of Assad’s government. “We are dealing with issues of preparations for an evacuation.





## EUCOM

### 26. [Trend, Georgia] Georgia Details Nuclear Black Market Probes

Sunday, December 9 2012

<http://www.navytimes.com/news/2012/12/ap-georgia-details-nuclear-black-market-probes-120912/>

On the gritty side of this casino resort town near the Turkish border, three men in a hotel suite gathered in secret to talk about a deal for radioactive material.

The Georgian seller offered cesium, a byproduct of nuclear reactors that terrorists can use to arm a dirty bomb with the power to kill. But one of the Turkish men, wearing a suit and casually smoking a cigarette, made clear he was after something even more dangerous: uranium, the material for a nuclear bomb.

The would-be buyers agreed to take a photo of the four cylinders and see if their boss in Turkey was interested. They did not know police were watching through a hidden camera. As they got up to leave, the police rushed in and arrested the men, according to Georgian officials, who were present.

The encounter, which took place in April, reflected a fear shared by U.S. and Georgian officials: Despite years of effort and hundreds of millions of dollars spent in the fight against the illicit sale of nuclear contraband, the black market remains active in the countries around the former Soviet Union. The radioactive materials, mostly left over from the Cold War, include nuclear bomb-grade uranium and plutonium, and dirty-bomb isotopes like cesium and iridium.

The extent of the black market is unknown, but a steady stream of attempted sales of radioactive materials in recent years suggests smugglers have sometimes crossed borders undetected. Since the formation of a special nuclear police unit in 2005 with U.S. help and funding, 15 investigations have been launched in Georgia and dozens of people arrested.

Six of the investigations were disclosed publicly for the first time to The Associated Press by Georgian authorities. Officials with the U.S. government and the International Atomic Energy Agency declined to comment on the individual investigations, but President Obama noted in a speech earlier this year that countries like Georgia and Moldova have seized highly enriched uranium from smugglers. An IAEA official, who spoke anonymously because he was not authorized to comment, said the agency is concerned smuggling is still occurring in Georgia.

Four of the previously undisclosed cases, and a fifth — an arrest in neighboring Turkey announced by officials there — occurred this year. One from last year involved enough cesium-137 to make a deadly dirty bomb, officials said.

Also, Georgian officials see links between two older cases involving highly enriched uranium, which in sufficient quantity can be used to make a nuclear bomb. The AP's interviews with the two imprisoned smugglers in one case suggested that the porous borders and the poverty of the region contributed to the problem.

The arrests in the casino resort of Batumi stand out for two reasons: They suggest there are real buyers — many of the other investigations involved stings with undercover police acting as buyers. And they suggest that buyers are interested in material that can be used to make a nuclear weapon.

“Real buyers are rare in nuclear smuggling cases, and raise real risks,” said nuclear nonproliferation specialist Matthew Bunn, who runs Harvard's Project on Managing the Atom. “They suggest someone is actively seeking to





buy material for a clandestine bomb.”

The request for uranium raises a particularly troubling question.

“There’s no plausible reason for looking for black-market uranium other than for nuclear weapons— or profit, by selling to people who are looking to make nuclear weapons,” Bunn said.

----

Georgia’s proximity to the large stockpiles of Cold War-era nuclear material, its position along trade routes to Asia and Europe, the roughly 225 miles (360 kilometers) of unsecured borders of its two breakaway republics, South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and the poverty of the region may explain why the nation of 4.5 million has become a transit point for nuclear material. Georgian officials say the radioactive material in the five new cases this year all transited through Abkhazia, which borders on Russia and has Russian troops stationed on its territory.

Abkhazia’s foreign ministry said it has no information about the Georgian allegations and would not comment, but in the past it has denied Georgian allegations.

Russia maintains that it has secured its radioactive material — including bomb-grade uranium and plutonium — and that Georgia has exaggerated the risk because of political tension with Moscow. But while the vast majority of the former Soviet Union’s nuclear arsenal and radioactive material has been secured, U.S. officials say that some material in the region remains loose.

“Without a doubt, we are aware and have been over the last several years that not all nuclear material is accounted for,” says Simon Limage, deputy assistant secretary for non-proliferation programs at the U.S. State Department. “It is true that a portion that we are concerned about continues to be outside of regulatory control.”

U.S. efforts to prevent smuggling have prioritized bomb-grade material because of the potential that a nuclear bomb could flatten a U.S. city. But security officials say an attack with a dirty bomb — explosives packed with radioactive material — would be easier for a terrorist to pull off. And terrorist groups, including al-Qaida, have sought the material to do so. A study by the National Defense University found that the economic impact from a dirty bomb attack of a sufficient scale on a city center could exceed that of the September 11, 2011, attacks on New York and Washington.

The U.S. government has been assisting about a dozen countries believed to be vulnerable to nuclear smuggling, including Georgia, to set up teams that combine intelligence with police undercover work. Limage says Georgia’s team is a model for the other countries the U.S. is supporting.

On Jan. 6, police arrested a man in Georgia’s capital, Tbilisi, and seized 36 vials with cesium-135, a radioactive isotope that is hard to use for a weapon. The man said he had obtained the material in Abkhazia. In April, Georgian authorities arrested a group of smugglers from Abkhazia bringing in three glass containers with about 2.2 pounds (1 kilogram) of yellowcake uranium, a lightly processed substance that can be enriched into bomb-grade material.

“At first we thought that this was coincidence,” said Archil Pavlenishvili, chief investigator of Georgia’s anti-smuggling team. “But since all of these cases were connected with Abkhazia, it suggests that the stuff was stolen recently from one particular place. But we have no idea where. “

Days later, more evidence turned up when Turkish media reported the arrest of three Turkish men with a radio-



active substance in the capital, Ankara. Police seized 2.2 pounds (1 kilogram) of cesium-135, the same material seized in January in Tbilisi.

Georgian officials said the suspects were residents of Germany and driving a car with German plates, but that the material had come from Abkhazia. Turkish authorities said the men had entered Turkey from Georgia. Information provided by German authorities led to the arrest in June of five suspects in Georgia with 9 vials of cesium-135 that looked very similar to the vials seized in January.

The Batumi investigation started after the arrest of two men in the city of Kutaisi in February 2011 year with a small quantity of two radioactive materials stolen from an abandoned Soviet helicopter factory, according to Georgian officials. The men said that a businessman, Soslan Oniani, had encouraged them to sell the material.

Police interviewed Oniani and searched his house, but found insufficient evidence to arrest him, according to officials. Still, they kept monitoring him through phone taps and an informant. Georgian officials say Oniani was a braggart, who played on his relationship with his cousin, Taniel Oniani, a well-known organized crime boss convicted in Russia of kidnapping.

Early this year, Soslan Oniani started talking about a new deal. Through surveillance and phone taps, police learned of the meeting in Batumi and monitored it. While no money passed hands, the men discussed an illegal deal, which is sufficient for prosecution in Georgia.

Tests by Georgian authorities later revealed that one lead cylinder held cesium-137, two strontium-90, and the fourth spent material that was hard to identify. All are useful for making a dirty bomb, although the material in the cylinders alone was not enough to cause mass casualties, according to data provided by Georgian nuclear regulatory authorities.

The arrested Turks denied knowing they were negotiating for radioactive substances. They claimed to be musical instrument experts, who had come to Batumi seeking to buy violins.

A skeptical interrogator asked them if they were familiar with the famed instrument maker Stradivarius.

One man said he had never heard of him.

The two Turks and the seller, Oniani, were convicted in September in a Georgian court, according to officials, and sentenced to six years in prison each.

----

The Georgian smuggling cases suggest that the trade in radioactive materials is driven at least in part by poverty and the lingering legacy of Soviet corruption in a hardscrabble region. Georgian officials say that because of U.S. backed counter-smuggling efforts, organized crime groups seem to have concluded that the potential profit from trade in these materials doesn't justify the risk. But individuals sometimes conclude they can make a quick buck from radioactive material.

For instance, in one newly disclosed case last year, authorities arrested two Georgian men with firearms, TNT and a lethal quantity of cesium-137. One was a former Soviet officer in an army logistics unit, who told police that at the end of his service in the early '90s, he had made a second career stealing from the military.



“He openly said: ‘I was a logistics officer and my second duty was to steal everything possible,’” according to Pavlenishvili.

The man kept the cesium for years before he and a relative tried to sell it last year to a Georgian undercover officer. He did not try to sell the weapons or explosives.

Poverty and corruption also appear to have played into three smuggling incidents in 2003, 2006 and 2010 that involved bomb-grade highly enriched uranium.

In 2003, an Armenian man, Garik Dadaian, was arrested when he set off a radiation detector provided by an American program at a checkpoint on the Armenian-Georgian border. Days later, the man was released and returned to Armenia under murky circumstances.

Dadaian’s name resurfaced in 2010 on a bank transfer slip in the pocket of the two smugglers arrested with highly enriched uranium. The men had obtained the material from Dadaian and were offering it as a sample of a larger quantity. Police say forensic analysis suggests the uranium may have come from the same batch seized in 2003.

Russian investigators suspected Dadaian got the nuclear fuel from a manufacturing plant in Novosibirsk, Russia, where several disappearances of material have been documented. Pavlenishvili said Dadaian bribed prosecutors to win his release and take some of the uranium.

The two smugglers in the 2010 case were Sumbat Tonoyan, a dairy farmer who went bankrupt, and Hrant Ohanian, a former physicist at a nuclear research facility in the Armenian capital of Yerevan. The AP interviewed both at a prison about 25 miles (40 kilometers) outside Tbilisi, where they are serving sentences of 13 and 14 years.

In separate interviews, each man blamed the other for the idea of smuggling uranium, and talked of financial hardship. Ohanian said his daughter needed urgent medical care that he couldn’t afford, and Tonoyan said a bank had seized his house after his dairy factory collapsed.

“I didn’t have a job and I couldn’t pay the bank,” he said in Russian through an interpreter.

The men also claimed they believed the material they were selling was to be used for scientific work, not nefarious purposes. Ohanian said a Georgian contact, who was also arrested, told him relations with Moscow were so bad that Georgian scientists could not get the uranium they needed from Russia on the open market.

“I feel guilty because I behaved like an idiot,” he said. “I should have known and I would never do something like this again.”







## EUCOM

### 27. [Attack, Northern Ireland] Bomb Blast Close To East Belfast MP's Office

Monday, December 10 2012

<http://www.itv.com/news/update/2012-12-10/bomb-blast-close-to-east-belfast-mps-office/>

One bomb device exploded in Belfast close to a patrol car parked near the offices of the East Belfast MP Naomi Long, a member of the non-sectarian Alliance Party who has been warned her life is under threat.

Last week Ms Long was told by police to stay away from her home and her office on the Newtownards Road because of fears for her safety. Constituency offices used by the party were also attacked in Carrickfergus, Co Antrim and Bangor, Co Down.

Today's violence follows a council decision to limit the flying of the Union flag to designated days only. Ms Long's Alliance Party has been blamed by the loyalists for supporting the nationalist SDLP and Sinn Fein in pushing through the vote to lower the flag.





## EUCOM

### 28. [Law Enforcement, Germany] Police Arrest Suspects In Bonn Bomb Case

Tuesday, December 11 2012

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/bag-containing-explosive-material-shuts-down-bonn-train-station-a-872176.html>

Police have arrested two Somali-born men in connection with a bag discovered at the central train station of Bonn that was loaded with potential explosives, causing the temporary closure of the train station.

The first suspect was reportedly arrested on Tuesday around 1:30 p.m. in a Bonn Internet cafe. The suspect was identified as Omar D. The regional daily Bonner General-Anzeiger then reported on a second arrest later in the day near a bridge over the Rhine river, though it was not immediately confirmed.

The second suspect was another Somali, Abdirazak B. Both are reportedly well-known to authorities as Islamlist extremists. In September 2008 they were detained on a runway at the Cologne/Bonn airport after they boarded a plane to Amsterdam. Investigators at the time believed a love letter written by Omar D. to a young woman was intended as a final goodbye and that the two men were planning on joining the armed jihad. Both were released shortly after their arrest.

Sources said the two suspects were identified by youths who said they saw them near the scene around the time when the bag was found. Authorities were reportedly looking over cell phone data to determine if the suspects were indeed in the area.

#### Opened with a Robot

Sources told SPIEGEL ONLINE that the bag at the train station contained butane gas and ammonium nitrate, as well as a metal pipe, an alarm clock and batteries. Investigators initially described the bag's contents as "potentially explosive material." Explosives experts were investigating whether the material found in the bag could have actually led to an explosion.

The bag was reported to train station employees around midday on Monday, prompting authorities to shut the train station down. The bag was opened with a robot, uncovering metal containers filled with a kind of powder. The train station's closure led to major disruptions in train travel. Many regional trains were canceled and long-distance trains were rerouted. The station was reopened late Monday evening and train travel was back to normal by Tuesday morning.





## EUCOM

### 29. [Security, Germany] Islamist Extremist Suspected After Bomb Found At Bonn Rail Station

Tuesday, December 11 2012

<http://security.blogs.cnn.com/2012/12/11/islamist-extremist-suspected-after-bomb-found-at-bonn-rail-station/>

German authorities suspect Islamist extremists were responsible for planting an explosive device Monday beside a track at the main railway station in Bonn, a German intelligence official tells CNN.

The explosives were found after a 14-year-old reported the bag to police, according to the official, who said the device was "not sophisticated" in design.

The official said whoever left the bag remains at large. Initially, German police arrested two Bonn residents soon after recovering the explosive components, the official said. The official identified them as Omar D., who's long been on German security services' radar because of his alleged links to Islamist extremists, and Abdifatah W.

Both, however, were released without charge after just a few hours in custody. The official said authorities have not ruled out Omar D. as a suspect but do not have enough evidence to hold him.

On Wednesday German police released a composite sketch of the suspected perpetrator based on a description from the 14-year-old. A German official told CNN the sketch describes a tall, thin, dark-skinned man in his early 30s.

Several German newspapers Tuesday reported that German police had arrested a German citizen of Somali origin, identified as Omar D.

Yassin Musharbash, an investigative reporter at Die Zeit, told CNN that security services had been aware of Omar D. for several years because he is believed to have links to Islamist extremists in the Bonn area.

Omar D. and a Somali associate from Bonn were arrested by German police in 2008 at the Cologne Bonn Airport as they prepared to travel to Uganda, according to a briefing prepared by the London based-International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation. It stated that German authorities suspected the duo planned on waging jihad in Somalia or Pakistan, but they were soon released.

Der Spiegel said the bag left at the Bonn station contained butane gas, ammonium nitrate, a metal pipe, an alarm clock and batteries. Die Zeit's Musharbash told CNN that according to investigators, an initial assessment indicated that the device was rudimentary in design. He said it will probably take several days to judge how dangerous the device was.

He said investigators had yet to find a detonator among the recovered components, calling into question whether the device would ever have worked.

Based on a preliminary investigation, Musharbash said it should not be ruled out that a bomb disposal team that responded Monday unwittingly destroyed the detonator. Investigators are said to be looking into this possibility, but this seemed like only one possible scenario, he said. A German intelligence official told CNN on Wednesday that no detonator had yet been found but that a water cannon used to make the device safe may have destroyed





the detonator.

Musharbash told CNN it was not yet clear if the bombing attempt was merely the work of homegrown "amateurs" or had connections to overseas terrorist groups.

In October 2011, a militant left-wing group claimed responsibility for placing several incendiary devices on railway lines in Berlin. The German intelligence official said that while it could not be completely ruled out that a similar group left the explosives at the Bonn railway station, the nature of the device found in Bonn was significantly different from the devices planted by the left-wing group in Berlin. Whereas the Berlin devices had been built to disrupt train services, the Bonn device, though it may never have been viable, appeared to have been built to "blow people up" as they boarded or exited trains, the official told CNN.

Terrorists inspired by or affiliated with al Qaeda have a track record of targeting rail lines in Europe.

Several weeks after the Madrid bombings in 2004, the cell that carried out the attack attempted to blow up a bridge on the Madrid-Seville high-speed train line. The plot was abandoned after the terrorists realized they had been spotted by nearby workers, who alerted police, a Spanish official told CNN. The official added that hundreds could have been killed given the quantity of explosives left at the scene.

In 2006, two pro-al Qaeda Islamists placed bombs on two commuter trains leaving the Cologne area, but the attack failed when the devices didn't detonate. Authorities later said the devices could have killed up to 70 people if they had been properly constructed.

Intelligence materials recovered from al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, revealed that in 2010, al Qaeda discussed an idea to derail a train in the United States by obstructing tracks, several U.S. officials told CNN.



### EUCOM

#### 30. [Security, Italy] Employee Confesses To Planting Bomb At Italian Bank

Tuesday, December 11 2012

[http://www.ansa.it/web/notizie/rubriche/english/2012/12/11/Employee-confesses-planting-bomb-Italian-bank\\_7937979.html](http://www.ansa.it/web/notizie/rubriche/english/2012/12/11/Employee-confesses-planting-bomb-Italian-bank_7937979.html)

A petrol bomb that was put out at a branch of Italy's biggest bank, Unicredit, was planted there by an employee for unknown reasons, police said Tuesday. Investigators said the woman confessed to putting it there earlier Tuesday, inside the premises of the highest court of appeals, the Cassation Court.

Many in the capital worried of an organized plot when other explosives were found outside at another bank outside Rome. In Genzano, 29 kilometres south of the city, a number of canisters full of petrol with electrical cables attached were found outside a bank along with a painted anarchist symbol and the slogan 'Set fire to the banks'. But police said the alarm was unfounded.



## EUCOM

### 31. [Attack, Northern Ireland] Unmarked Police Car Hit By Petrol Bomb In More NI Riots

Wednesday, December 12 2012

<http://www.policeprofessional.com/news.aspx?id=15604>

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is investigating a case of attempted murder after a policewoman was inside a car that was targeted by a petrol bomb during more riots on the streets of Belfast.

The policewoman escaped unharmed from the incident, which occurred on Newtownards Road, East Belfast, on December 10, and comes as unrest continues in the wake of Belfast City Council's decision the week before not to fly the Union Jack every day from City Hall.

Since trouble flared on December 3, 32 officers have been injured and 38 people have been arrested, with several reported attacks on properties and MP offices around the province being investigated by police.

George Hamilton, assistant chief constable at the PSNI, said: "It is completely unacceptable that officers who were carrying out their professional duty on behalf of the community should be subjected to a potentially murderous attack.

"This was a planned attempt to kill a police officer which also put the lives of the public in danger and it is fortunate there were no injuries as a result of this attack.

"I am urgently appealing to those involved in ongoing protests to listen to their political leaders and step back from protest activity before someone is seriously injured or killed."

Naomi Long, the Alliance Party MP for East Belfast, has received death threats since the city council passed the motion, leading to the police presence outside her constituency office. She said the petrol bomb incident was a deliberate attempt to target the police protecting her and urged the Government to treat it as an issue of national security.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the car was targeted because it was undertaking patrols in the vicinity of my office and I find that absolutely repugnant," she said.

David Ford, Northern Ireland's Justice Minister and leader of the Alliance Party, called for assurances from the UK Government to deal with the problem.

He said: "I think what we need is an assurance that the Government takes the threat which is currently facing democracy in Northern Ireland seriously – that it doesn't think that the only threats come from Republicans, that it's prepared to ensure that the resources are supplied to face down these protests."

With the situation still volatile, Unionist political leaders have called for the protests to end to limit the risk of further violence.

Peter Robinson, the First Minister of Northern Ireland and leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), described the petrol bombing as "a despicable act of terror".





He said: “The masked men responsible do not act in the name of our union flag. They are bringing shame on it.”

Mike Nesbit, leader of the Ulster Unionist party, said: “Peaceful protest is fine but the chances of conducting protests without this kind of repercussion is so high that I have to ask people to give up their right.”

Theresa Villiers, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said the violence was “totally unacceptable” and expressed her concerns in an urgent statement to the House of Commons that significant economic damage was being done to the region.

She said: “There is nothing remotely British about what they are doing. They discredit the cause that they claim to support.”

Ms Villiers also expressed “complete solidarity” with Ms Long over the death threats directed to her.

“The right of elected representatives to go about their daily business without the threat or fear of intimidation is one of the hallmarks of our democracy,” she said. “And the actions of those who carry out such threats are nothing less than an attack on democracy.”



### EUCOM

## 32. [Security, England] Bomb Disposal Experts Sent To Norfolk Home After Fourth Man Arrested In “Suspicious Device” Probe

Thursday, December 13 2012

<http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/crime/>

break-

ing\_news\_bomb\_disposal\_experts\_sent\_to\_norfolk\_home\_after\_fourth\_man\_arrested\_in\_suspicious\_device\_probe\_1\_1741614

Bomb disposal experts have been sent to a Norfolk home as a fourth man remains in custody in connection with a “suspicious device” found under a car.

The man, in his 30s and from the Norwich area, was arrested earlier today on suspicion of offences under the Explosives Act.

A house in Middletons Lane, Hellesdon, is currently being searched in connection with the enquiry into the incident which happened outside a home in Buxton, near Aylsham, at the beginning of September.

Detectives have placed a seal on the property and Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal officers are currently assisting them.

A Norfolk Police spokesman said: “Neighbouring properties can be reassured that they are not in any danger.”

Villagers in Buxton were made to leave their homes for more than eight hours on Sunday, September 2 after a man called police just after 11am to say that there was a device underneath his car.

A 100-metre cordon was then put in place around the vehicle in Coltishall Road and Explosive Ordnance Disposal officers were called to the scene to determine the nature of the device and to make sure there was no danger to people in the village.

Bomb disposal experts eventually removed the device from under the car and it was taken away for experts to analyse its contents.

The cordon was lifted at around 8.30pm the same day and residents returned to their homes.



## EUCOM

### 33. [Security, Northern Ireland] Pipe Bomb Discovered At Home Of Press Photographer In Northern Ireland

Friday, December 14 2012

<http://www.pressgazette.co.uk/pipe-bomb-discovered-home-press-photographer-northern-ireland>

A pipe bomb has been discovered at the family home of a press photographer in Northern Ireland.

Mark Pearce from Mayobridge near Newry in Co Down has worked as a photographer for over 20 years.

His family was woken by police shortly after midnight today at their home in Carraig Crosain. Six homes in their street were evacuated.

Army bomb disposal officers dealt with the viable bomb which had been left outside Mr Pearce's front door. His two children were in the house at the time.

Residents were allowed to return to their homes at about 05.20am.

Police have appealed for information about the attack.

Sinn Fein MLA Caitriona Ruane said those who left a pipe bomb at the home of the photographer represented an affront to democracy.

"In any civilised society a free press is paramount in maintaining democracy and this attack needs to be seen in that context," she said.

"While people may not agree with sections of the media there is no excuse to attack them or their families."

SDLP MP Margaret Ritchie said the perpetrators were intent on causing serious injury.

"Disruption was caused to that family and to local residents who returned to their properties earlier this morning. The thoughts and prayers of the entire community are with the family," she said.

"The message is clear to those who perpetrate these despicable acts - get off our backs and let us live in peace and harmony."

Alliance Party assembly member Trevor Lunn said freedom of the press is paramount in any democratic society.

"There should never be any attempt to silence the press through the use of violence. I would like to extend my support to Mark and his family," he added.

Pearce, 39, has a daughter aged 14 and a son aged 12.

He said his family was concerned about what this evening could bring.

"As photographers, we have this ability to distance ourselves from what happened. To a certain degree it does not





seem real - but this is real. This is my family, this is my children. It is horrible."

He said he had no proof of who may target him, but believed it may have happened because of photographs which he had taken.

The cameraman added he had recently received a death threat.





### PACOM

#### 34. [Security, Nepal] IED Found At Furniture Industry In Chitwan

Saturday, December 8 2012

[http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=46181](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=46181)

An improvised explosive device (IED) was found inside a furniture industry in Chitwan on Saturday.

The IED (pressure cooker bomb) was found inside the Tamu Furniture Industry based in Sharadanagar and later it was disposed of by the Nepal Army bomb disposal team from the Bharatpur Barrack.

Pieces of iron, battery and some explosive devices were used to make the bomb, chief of Chitwan Police, Deepak Kumar Thapa, said. Industry staffs found the bomb and informed the police about it.



## PACOM

### 35. [Attack, India] IED Explosion Injures BSF Personnel

Sunday, December 9 2012

<http://kanglaonline.com/2012/12/ied-explosion-injures-bsf-personnel/>

An Improvised Explosive Device planted inside a white Maruti Van exploded today at around 12:15 pm along the National Highway 2 in between Koubru Leikha and Saparmeina, about 1km from the Saparmeina Police station. The explosion which left two personnel of the 13th BSF posted at Koirengei with minor injuries occurred while a convoy of the BSF was passing through the highway.

Meanwhile, a PIB press release has claimed the arrest of two individuals who activated the IED while trying to escape in an unregistered Maruti Gypsy.

According to police source the IED was planted inside a van which was park near the highway.

A gas cylinder was recovered from the site, police informed.

The upper portion of a vehicle of the BSF was partially damaged in the explosion.

Further according to the police, the BSF convoy was on the way to Assam to participate in an inter-battalion shooting competition.

The injured personnel who sustained minor scratch injuries have been identified as Constable T Anand Raj, 25 from Tamil Nadu and Constable Cook Abdul Razak (22) from West Bengal.

Brig SK Sharma personally visited the blast site and assured any possible help to the Army and State force investigating the incident.

He said that this is the first incident in the area where a vehicle was used to explode an IED.

No such incident will happen again in the future, he assured.

Meanwhile, the PIB has claimed in a press release that troops of Assam Rifles of the Red Shield Division on getting inputs regarding the possible placement of an IED launched three Quick Reaction teams and arrested two persons involved in an IED explosion along National Highway 2 at Koubru Leika.

It has further identified the two as T Suranjoy Singh, 38 and T Somendro Singh, 37 residents of Imphal East. The two have been handed over to the Imphal West police, the release said.

The Kuki Students' Organization Sadar Hills has also condemned the explosion terming it as a barbaric act in a press statement signed by its president Thangminlen Kipgen.

The statement further said that, the incident might be the act of some vested valley based persons to generate misunderstanding and hatred among the tribal people and to disturbed the peaceful environment in the area.

The student body also urged every organization or individual not to repeat such barbaric act among the peaceful loving people in the near future.

The statement signed by the president expressed satisfaction and gratitude particularly to Brig SK Sharma and all the Army and state forces that were involved in normalizing the situation and expressed hope that they will continue working for the welfare of the people.







## PACOM

### 36. [Attack, Bangladesh] Riots, Bombs Reported As Bangladeshi Opposition Coalition Enforces General Strike

Tuesday, December 11 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/riots-bombs-reported-as-bangladeshi-opposition-coalition-enforces-general-strike/2012/12/11/e750ccb0-435f-11e2-8c8f-fbebf7ccab4e\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/riots-bombs-reported-as-bangladeshi-opposition-coalition-enforces-general-strike/2012/12/11/e750ccb0-435f-11e2-8c8f-fbebf7ccab4e_story.html)

Explosions of homemade bombs were reported in Bangladesh's capital Tuesday as opposition activists enforcing a daylong general strike rioted and clashed with police.

Police fired tear gas to disperse crowds of people who were smashing vehicles. It was not immediately clear if anyone was injured in the violence described by witnesses and television reports in parts of Dhaka.

A coalition of 18 opposition parties was enforcing the strike to demand that a caretaker government be formed before the next national elections due in 2014. A key coalition partner also wants its leaders facing charges of crimes against humanity to be freed from jail.

Schools and businesses were closed in Dhaka and other major cities and transportation was largely disrupted across Bangladesh, a parliamentary democracy that has a history of fierce political violence.

The United States on Tuesday urged the two main political parties to hold a dialogue to find a solution to the political impasse.

Robert O. Blake, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asian affairs, said in Dhaka that the U.S. would support any resolution coming from the two major parties.

Independent television reported the detention of at least six opposition activists from the Dhaka University area in the capital.

Police said activists torched at least 21 vehicles in Dhaka late Monday after police arrested a senior leader of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, led by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Jamaat-e-Islami, the country's largest Islamic party and the main partner of Zia's party, has been demanding the release of nine of its leaders facing charges of crimes against humanity dating back to the 1971 independence war against Pakistan. Two other leaders from Zia's party face similar charges and are now jailed.

Zia has criticized the trial, calling it a farce.

In 1971, Bangladesh — at the time the eastern wing of Pakistan — became independent after a nine-month war with the help of India, Pakistan's bitter rival.

Jamaat-e-Islami leaders are accused of aiding the Pakistani army in killing and raping during the war. The party says the charges are politically motivated.

Police said Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, acting secretary general of Zia's party, was arrested Monday on charges of instigating violence and burning a vehicle during a nationwide road blockade on Sunday.

The opposition said it would enforce another general strike Thursday unless Alamgir and others detained during the violence are freed by Wednesday.

Opposition spokesman M.K. Anwar said at least 250 people were detained Tuesday.

Dozens of vehicles were burned and smashed Sunday and at least two people died during the opposition-sponsored blockade.

Last year, the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina scrapped a 15-year-old caretaker government system during elections following a Supreme Court ruling that the constitution allows only popularly elected governments.

Opposition parties fear the election will be rigged if the current party remains in power.

The government has blamed the opposition for the recent violence, saying the protests are aimed at protecting the 1971 suspects. The administration has vowed not to go back to the caretaker government system.

Hasina's Awami League party and Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party are the main contenders for power.



## PACOM

### 37. [Security, India] Major Tragedy Averted With Detection Of IED

Tuesday, December 11 2012

[http://zeenews.india.com/news/jammu-and-kashmir/jandk-major-tragedy-averted-with-detection-of-ied\\_816048.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/jammu-and-kashmir/jandk-major-tragedy-averted-with-detection-of-ied_816048.html)

A major tragedy was averted today as security forces detected and destroyed an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by militants under a culvert in Pulwama district of south Kashmir, police said.

A joint patrolling party of police and army detected a mobile phone-fitted IED under the culvert at Mandoora in Tral area of Pulwama district, 40km from here, this morning, a police spokesman said.

A bomb disposal squad was rushed to the spot and a grenade fitted on the IED was removed before the explosive device was destroyed in an open field, he said.

The road, where the IED was planted by the militants, is used by civilians as well as security forces, the spokesman said, adding, a major tragedy was averted due to timely detection of the explosives.



## PACOM

### 38. [Special Interest, North Korea] North Korea Launches Rocket , Raising Nuclear Arms Stakes

Wednesday, December 12 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/12/us-korea-north-rocket-idUSBRE8BB02K20121212>

North Korea successfully launched a rocket on Wednesday, boosting the credentials of its new leader and stepping up the threat the isolated and impoverished state poses to opponents.

The rocket, which North Korea says put a weather satellite into orbit, has been labeled by the United States, South Korea and Japan as a test of technology that could one day deliver a nuclear warhead capable of hitting targets as far away as the continental United States.

"The satellite has entered the planned orbit," a North Korean television news reader clad in traditional Korean garb announced, after which the station played patriotic songs with the lyrics "Chosun (Korea) does what it says".

The rocket was launched just before 10 a.m. (0100 GMT), according to defense officials in South Korea and Japan, and was more successful than a rocket launched in April that flew for less than two minutes.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) said that it "deployed an object that appeared to achieve orbit", the first time an independent body has verified North Korean claims.

North Korea followed what it said was a similar successful launch in 2009 with a nuclear test that prompted the U.N. Security Council to stiffen sanctions that it originally imposed in 2006 after the North's first nuclear test.

North Korea is banned from developing nuclear and missile-related technology under U.N. resolutions, although Kim Jong-un, the youthful head of state who took power a year ago, is believed to have continued the state's "military first" programs put in place by his late father, Kim Jong-Il.

North Korea hailed the launch as celebrating the prowess of all three members of the Kim family to rule since it was founded in 1948.

"At a time when great yearnings and reverence for Kim Jong-il pervade the whole country, its scientists and technicians brilliantly carried out his behests to launch a scientific and technological satellite in 2012, the year marking the 100th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung," its KCNA news agency said. Kim Il Sung, the current leader's grandfather, was North Korea's first leader.

The United States condemned the launch as "provocative" and a breach of U.N. rules, while Japan's U.N. envoy called for a Security Council meeting. However, diplomats say further tough sanctions are unlikely from the Security Council as China, the North's only major ally, will oppose them.

"The international community must work in a concerted fashion to send North Korea a clear message that its violations of United Nations Security Council resolutions have consequences," the White House said in a statement.

U.S. intelligence has linked North Korea with missile shipments to Iran. Newspapers in Japan and South Korea have reported that Iranian observers were in the North for the launch, something Iran has denied.





Japan's likely next prime minister, Shinzo Abe, who is leading in opinion polls ahead of an election on Sunday and who is known as a hawk on North Korea, called on the United Nations to adopt a resolution "strongly criticizing" Pyongyang.

A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman reiterated that the rocket was a "peaceful project".

"The attempt to see our satellite launch as a long-range missile launch for military purposes comes from hostile perception that tries to designate us a cause for security tension," KCNA cited the spokesman as saying.

"STUMBLING BLOCK"

China had expressed "deep concern" prior to the launch which was announced a day after a top politburo member, representing new Chinese leader Xi Jinping, met Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang.

On Wednesday, its tone was measured, regretting the launch but calling for restraint on any counter-measures, in line with a policy of effectively vetoing tougher sanctions.

"China believes the Security Council's response should be cautious and moderate, protect the overall peaceful and stable situation on the Korean peninsula, and avoid an escalation," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei told journalists.

Bruce Klingner, a Korea expert at the Heritage Foundation, said: "China has been the stumbling block to firmer U.N. action and we'll have to see if the new leadership is any different than its predecessors."

A senior adviser to South Korea's president said last week it was unlikely there would be action from the United Nations and Seoul would expect its allies to tighten sanctions unilaterally.

Kim Jong-un, believed to be 29 years old, took power when his father died on December 17 last year and experts believe the launch was intended to commemorate the first anniversary of his death. The April launch was timed for the centennial of the birth of Kim Il Sung.

Wednesday's success puts the North ahead of the South which has not managed to get a rocket off the ground.

"This is a considerable boost in establishing the rule of Kim Jong-un," said Cho Min, an expert at the Korea Institute of National Unification.

There have been few indications the secretive and impoverished state, where the United Nations estimates a third of people are malnourished, has made any advances in opening up economically over the past year.

North Korea remains reliant on minerals exports to China and remittances from tens of thousands of its workers overseas.

Many of its 22 million people need handouts from defectors, who have escaped to South Korea, for basic medicines.

Given the puny size of its economy - per capita income is less than \$2,000 a year - one of the few ways the North can attract world attention is by emphasizing its military threat.



It wants the United States to resume aid and to recognize it diplomatically, although the April launch scuppered a planned food deal.

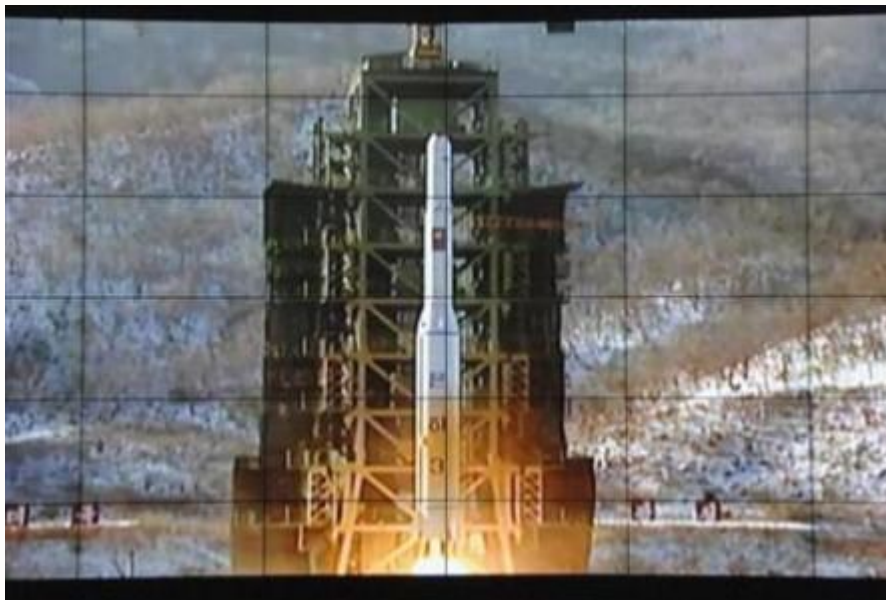
The North is believed to be some years away from developing a functioning nuclear warhead although it may have enough plutonium for about half a dozen nuclear bombs, according to nuclear experts.

It has also been enriching uranium, which would give it a second path to nuclear weapons as it sits on big natural uranium reserves.

"A successful launch puts North Korea closer to the capability to deploy a weaponized missile," said Denny Roy, a senior fellow at the East-West Center in Hawaii.

"But this would still require fitting a weapon to the missile and ensuring a reasonable degree of accuracy. The North Koreans probably do not yet have a nuclear weapon small enough for a missile to carry."

The North says its work is part of a civil nuclear program although it has also boasted of it being a "nuclear weapons power".





### PACOM

#### 39. [Security, Nepal] Bomb Defused In Kavre

Wednesday, December 12 2012

<http://www.nepalnews.com/home/index.php/news/8/24595-bomb-defused-in-kavre.html>

Nepali Army's bomb disposal squad defused an improvised explosive device found in the Kurgar Jungle in Kavre on Wednesday, police said. Locals who had gone to the jungle to collect fodder had reported spotting a suspicious object, which turned out to be a 'pipe' bomb, to the police. An investigation into the incident is on.





## PACOM

### 40. [Trend, Sri Lanka] Petrol Bomb Thrown Inside Jewellery Shop

Wednesday, December 12 2012

<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/16-19403-news-detail-petrol-bomb-thrown-inside-jewellery-shop.html>

A person died consuming cyanide, after he was severely injured in a petrol bomb which he had thrown in to a jewellery store in Kandy, while he was trying to rob the store, sources said.

He had come in through the roof and had tried to steal Rs 8 million worth jewellery from the store.

The police had discovered his body on the pavement. The police are conducting further investigations.



## PACOM

### 41. [Attack, Thailand] Six Troops Wounded By Bomb In Restive South Of Thailand

Friday, December 14 2012

<http://www.nzweek.com/world/six-troops-wounded-by-bomb-in-restive-south-of-thailand-37735/>

Six Thai army soldiers were wounded on Friday morning in a bombing in the southern border province of Narathiwat, Thai News Agency reported.

The army patrol was ambushed when it was moving down a road in Narathiwat's Cho Ai Rong district in an armoured vehicle. The injured men were taken to hospital.

The explosive device, weighing about 50 kilograms, was placed in a gas cylinder.

According to the initial investigation, the army rangers were crossing a bridge when the remote-controlled bomb buried underground was detonated.

The powerful blast created a crater three metres wide and two metres deep.

Police believed the insurgents carried out the attack.

More than 5,000 people have been killed and more than 9,000 hurt in over 11,000 incidents, about 3.5 incidents a day, in Thailand's three southern border provinces — Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat — and four districts of Songkhla since violence erupted in January 2004, according to Deep South Watch, which monitors the regional violence.



## PACOM

### 42. [Attack, China] Revenge Behind Bomb Attack On Liuzhou Official

Friday, December 14 2012

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/1105248/bomb-attack-liuzhou-official-called-revenge-plot>

A bomb attack that killed the Liuzhou city planning bureau chief on Thursday is officially deemed a robbery attempt, but Chinese netizens speculate that it was part of a revenge plot against another corrupt official.

The victim, He Bin, 51, was killed at home in Guangxi province when a home-made bomb went off, People's Daily reported on Thursday. His wife was injured.

There is no evidence that He was corrupt, but that has not stopped the chatter on China's micro-blogging service, Sina Weibo, many of whose users hailed the attack.

"Kill all the officials," one netizen posted. "Believe me, none of them are innocent."

"Good job," joked another netizen. "Why not kill the head of the housing bureau as well?"

The bomb suspect had followed He home around noon on Thursday, bringing a bomb, a knife and a fake gun, said People's Daily. He stabbed the victim with the knife and detonated the bomb when He tried to break away, said the report.

Police arrested the suspect, identified only by his surname as Luo, after the attack.

Luo had owed debts from gambling and had targeted He believing he was wealthy, according to the police.

While many online cheered over He's death, some also urged respect for the victim.

"Don't jump to conclusions too soon," said a weibo user. "We have nothing to prove the official was corrupt."





### NORTHCOM

#### 43. [Law Enforcement, United States] Explosive Device Found In Southwest Oklahoma City Yard Leads To Arrest

Tuesday, December 11 2012

[http://newsok.com/explosive-device-found-in-southwest-oklahoma-city-yard-leads-to-arrest/article/3736723?custom\\_click=rss&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+Newsok%2FNews+%28NewsOK.com+RSS+-+news%29](http://newsok.com/explosive-device-found-in-southwest-oklahoma-city-yard-leads-to-arrest/article/3736723?custom_click=rss&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Newsok%2FNews+%28NewsOK.com+RSS+-+news%29)

An explosive device discovered Tuesday afternoon in the yard of a southwest Oklahoma City home led to the arrest of a man suspected of placing explosives on a vehicle Monday night, police said.

A PVC pipe with a wire coming from it was found about 4:35 p.m. in the front yard of 3717 SW 26 by a mail carrier, Sgt. Tyara Nash said.

The device was defused before 6 p.m., she said.

Kevin Wayne Burke, 38, was arrested Tuesday evening. The complaints on which he was being booked into the Oklahoma County jail were not known Tuesday night because Burke was still being interviewed by officers, Nash said.

The device was similar to two others found Monday night on the gas tank of a vehicle at Magerus Trucking, near SW 29 and Portland Avenue, Nash said. Burke is now suspected of attaching those devices, she said.

Nearby homes were evacuated and neighborhood streets closed Tuesday as bomb technicians worked, Nash said.



### NORTHCOM

#### 44. [Security, United States] Bomb Squad Disables Explosive Device In Fort Collins' Lee Martinez Park

Saturday, December 8 2012

[http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20121208/NEWS01/312080010/Bomb-squad-disables-explosive-device-Fort-Collins-Lee-Martinez-Park?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20121208/NEWS01/312080010/Bomb-squad-disables-explosive-device-Fort-Collins-Lee-Martinez-Park?nclick_check=1)

The Northern Colorado Bomb Squad disabled an explosive device on a pedestrian bridge in Lee Martinez Park on Saturday.

According to Sgt. Jerrod Kinsman of Fort Collins police, they received a call from a person who had seen the device on the bridge in the park. Upon arrival, police found a homemade bomb and cleared the area. About 10:30 a.m., the bomb squad disabled the device without detonating it.

Kinsman said police were told about a similar device found in downtown in the past and are investigating.



## SOUTHCOM

### 45. [Attack, Colombia] One Killed, Three Injured In Southwest Colombia 'FARC Attack'

Monday, December 10 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/27351-1-killed-3-injured-in-southwest-colombia-farc-attack.html>

One person has been killed and three others injured in an alleged FARC attack which defied the unilateral truce of the guerrilla group during the Christmas period, reported local media.

The attack happened in the southwestern Colombian department of Cauca where it was reported that FARC guerrillas blew explosive devices against residential housing.

General Humberto Jorge Jerez, commander of Apollo Task Force, announced afterwards that the attack was "clear evidence" that the guerrillas continue to attack troops and civilians in the south.

He added: "The FARC cannot come and say it was because that was the Army, my troops were not within two kilometres of the place."

Meanwhile, Colonel John Meza, from Mobile Brigade No. 14, stressed that although there are Colombian army's troops in the area there are no reported clashes with FARC.

The unilateral FARC ceasefire was announced November 19 with the recommencement of peace talks between Colombia's government and the FARC in Havana, Cuba. The ceasefire is meant to last until January 20.

It would not be the first time the ceasefire has been broken as the FARC admitted to attacking an energy tower at the end of November because they were unaware of the agreement.





## **SOUTHCOM**

### **46. [Trend, Colombia] FARC Xmas Truce A 'Farce'**

Thursday, December 13 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/27394-farc-xmas-truce-a-farce-colombia-army.html>

A Colombian General on Wednesday called the FARC's Christmas truce a "farce."

"Since the supposed truce was declared [by the FARC on November 20] three soldiers have been killed, including one sergeant, and 13 have been wounded...eight by explosives and the other five by rifle fire," the commander of the National Army, General Sergio Mantilla, on Wednesday told newspaper El Espectador.

The FARC acknowledged accidentally breaking the truce in late November, but they have vehemently denied allegations from Mantilla and other officials regarding attacks in the Cauca department.

The rebels announced a unilateral ceasefire on the first day of peace negotiations with the Colombian government. "Ivan Marquez," the leader of the FARC delegation in Cuba, said "the cessation of all combat operations against Colombian security forces, and acts of sabotage against public or private infrastructure" will last until January 20, 2013.

The Colombian government has repeatedly insisted that it will not halt military operations. In previous peace attempts with Colombia's largest and longest-standing guerrilla force, the government had honored a ceasefire and even agreed to a demilitarized zone. During the administration of Andres Pastrana [1998 to 2002] the FARC took advantage of the DMZ and used it to traffic arms and narcotics.

Peace talks between the Colombian government and FARC resumed last week in Havana, Cuba.



### SOUTHCOM

#### 47. [Law Enforcement, Honduras] Honduran Police Seize Arms Cache

Thursday, December 13 2012

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=656523&CategoryId=23558>

A man was apprehended Thursday as he tried to bring assault rifles, grenade-launchers and other war materiel into the Caribbean province of Colon, Honduran police said.

Jose Andino, 35, was at the wheel of the pickup truck carrying the contraband, police inspector Julian Hernandez told the press.

The arms cache included five U.S.-made M-16 assault rifles, which are standard issue for Honduran soldiers, as well as three grenade-launchers, bullet-proof vests and various types of ammunition.

Police stopped the truck in the Plan de Flores sector of Colon after receiving a tip about a consignment of arms coming into the Caribbean province from the northern city of San Pedro Sula, Hernandez said.

Colon is wracked by conflict between palm-oil barons and landless peasants, while authorities say drug traffickers are also active in the area.

Honduras's 2011 homicide rate of 92 murders per 100,000 people was one of the highest in the world, U.N. experts said in a recent report.

About 18 violent deaths occur in the Central American country daily, according to figures compiled by the National Police and human rights groups.