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AFPAK

1. [Attack, Pakistan] Five Persons Including Two Soldiers Killed In Separate Blasts In FATA

Monday, November 19 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=11/19/2012&id=2#2

At least two Soldiers were killed and seven others were injured in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast on military convoy on the Mir Ali Bypass Road in North Waziristan Agency of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) on November 18, reports The News. Spokesman for Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Ihsanullah Ihsan disowned their involvement in an IED blast. "We have learnt that someone claiming to be Ahmadullah Marwat and spokesman for Jundullah has claimed responsibility for the attack on army vehicle in Mir Ali. Jundullah is part of our organisation. But we have nothing to do with this attack as no one from our organisation was involved in this incident," the TTP spokesman said. A caller who introduced himself as Ahmadullah Marwat claimed responsibility for the attack.

Separately, three persons, identified as Jehanzeb, Shenay and Saifur Rehman were killed in a roadside bomb blast in Shinkamar area of Bara tehsil (revenue unit) of Khyber Agency.



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2. [Attack, Pakistan] Deadly Bomb Blast Hits Pakistan

Monday, November 19 2012

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2012/11/201211193375646744.html>

At least two people have been killed and over 20 others injured when a powerful bomb exploded outside a Shia mosque in Pakistan's largest city, police and hospital sources said.

According to reports on Sunday evening, the bomb was planted at the security barrier in the Gulshan-e-Iqbal area of Karachi.

Some reports suggested it was a remote control bomb which was fitted to a motorcycle.

Iqbal Mahmood, Additional Inspector General of Police for the Sindh province, confirmed the deaths of two people.

Fatehyab Jaffri, who was injured in the explosion, said he was sitting with others when a van stopped.

'People rushed for shelter'

"In front of the Suzuki van there was a motorcycle. As the Suzuki van stopped in front of a milk shop, the blast occurred. And people rushed for shelter," he said.

Karachi is in the grip of violence where ethnic, political and sectarian killings are common place.

Around 1,800 people have been killed in Karachi so far this year.

Officials said there were intelligence reports of "militant activities" in the city.

The attack came as Shias were celebrating the holy month of Muharram.

Pakistan has a long history of sectarian violence by extremist Sunni and Shia Muslims in Karachi, and other parts of the country.





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3. [Attack, Pakistan] Former JI Chief Qazi Hussain Escapes Suicide Attack In Mohmand

Monday, November 19 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/11/19/qazi-hussain-escapes-bomb-attack-in-mohmand-tribal-region/>

The former chief of the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI), Pakistan's largest religio-political party, narrowly escaped a bomb attack on Monday as a female suicide bomber detonated her explosives near his convoy in northwest Mohmand tribal agency.

Shamsur Rehman Khan says Qazi Husain Ahmad, the former JI chief, escaped unhurt from the attack.

Khan, who is a government administrator in Mohmand, says the bomber was wearing a burqa and had explosives strapped to her body.

The suicide bomber detonated her explosives after a vehicle with the former JI chief had passed, a government official said.

Another local official, Jamshed Khan, confirmed the incident and said "pieces of female clothes and hair found from the site make us believe that the attacker was a woman".

Four people, including the bodyguard of the former JI chief, were injured in the attack, officials said. A vehicle was also damaged although Ahmad's vehicle was not damaged or hit by the force of the blast.

Qazi Hussain was heading to Mian Mandi Ganghad, the main bazaar in Mohmand, to address a congregation of the party.

Mohmand is one of seven districts in Pakistan's restive semi-autonomous tribal belt, where Pakistani Taliban and al Qaeda-linked militants are said to have carved out strongholds.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Pakistani Taliban chief Hakimullah Mehsud reportedly criticized the Jamaat-i-Islami and singled out Ahmad in particular in a recent audio message, accusing him of supporting Pakistan's US-allied rulers.



AFPAK

4. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Hits Police Van In Northern Pakistan, Three Wounded

Tuesday, November 20 2012

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2275672&Language=en>

A senior local police officer's van hit a bomb blast on Tuesday in a northern Pakistani district, wounding three policemen but the officer survived.

The District Police Officer (DPO)'s police mobile van hit a road-side bomb while on routine patrol in Charrsadah district, police sources told KUNA.

Sources said that the blast wounded three policemen but the DPO remained unhurt. They said he received two minor wounds.



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5. [Trend, Pakistan] Rehman Labels Mobile 'A Bomb On Foot'

Tuesday, November 20 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-76366-Rehman-labels-mobile-a-bomb-on-foot>

Interior Minister Rehman Malik on Tuesday declared a mobile phone 'a bomb on foot', saying the combination of mobiles and motor cycles form a perfect tool for terror in Quetta.

Briefing the Senate on the prevailing law and order situation in the country, Rehman Malik said it was due to a ban on cell phone service and motor cycles in Quetta that not a single act of terrorism could be carried out in the provincial capital.

He said the Sindh High Court (SHC) had also endorsed his viewpoint.

The Interior Malik reiterated the need for reviewing the Anti-Terrorism Bill to pave the way for an effective legislation to deal with the menace of terrorism.

Commenting on the performance of law enforcement agencies, he said 15,262 accused including proclaimed offenders were arrested in the country this year.

In Karachi, he said, 2339 police actions were carried out in Karachi this year in which 100 outlaws were rounded up, 6 rings busted and 145 decoits killed.



AFPAK

6. [Attack, Afghanistan] Two Killed In Suicide Bomb Attack Near Kabul NATO Base

Wednesday, November 21 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/21/us-afghanistan-blast-idUSBRE8AK06M20121121>

A suicide bomber killed two Afghan guards outside a NATO-run compound in the main diplomatic area of the Afghan capital, Kabul, on Wednesday, Interior Ministry officials said, an attack that was quickly claimed by the Taliban.

"The bomber killed himself in front of the compound. Two people were killed and two more were wounded, all Afghan guards," said Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danesh.

A second man wearing an explosives-laden vest also approached the front of the compound but was shot dead by Afghan security forces, a statement from the Kabul police chief said. It said five civilians were also wounded.

The bomber struck near the sprawling base known as Camp Eggers, the headquarters of the NATO training mission and home to some 2,500 trainers from the multinational coalition.

Dozens of police swarmed to the area, where shattered glass from cars lay on the ground, and cordoned it off.

The Taliban took responsibility for the attack, which happened at 8.20 a.m. (0350 GMT) local time, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told Reuters by telephone from an undisclosed location.

Violence is intensifying across Afghanistan ahead of the planned withdrawal of most foreign troops by the end of 2014, sparking concerns over how the 350,000-strong Afghan security forces will be able to manage.

At least a dozen embassies, including the U.S. and British missions, and the headquarters of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) are all near the area of the attack.





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7. [Attack, Pakistan] Quetta Roadside Bomb Kills Soldiers And A Civilian

Wednesday, November 21 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-20425510>

A roadside bomb attack on a Pakistani military vehicle has killed at least three soldiers and a civilian in the city of Quetta, officials say.

They say that the remote-controlled bomb exploded near a security vehicle escorting schoolchildren.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack.

Quetta is the capital of the south-western province of Balochistan, where a separatist insurgency is being waged by ethnic Baloch militants.

They are demanding more autonomy and a greater share of natural resources.

Pakistan's military is also engaged in a long-running battle against militants in the tribal areas near the Afghan border, including the Taliban and armed groups who support them.

Scores of people have been killed in the province as a result of these two conflicts and because of sectarian violence mostly carried out by hardline Sunni Muslims on members of the minority Shia community.

"The target [of Wednesday's bomb] was an army vehicle which was escorting a school bus carrying children of local army officers from different schools," Quetta city police chief Hamid Shakeel told AFP news agency.

He said the soldiers and a woman were killed when the bomb was detonated by remote control.

"Twenty-one people were wounded in the blast, including three soldiers. Eighteen are civilians. Six or seven of them are in a serious condition," Mr Shakeel said.

"It was a remote-controlled bomb. The device was planted on a motorbike. It exploded soon after the army vehicle came there."





AFPAK

8. [Attack, Pakistan] Pakistan Attacks Kill 35 As Leaders Meet For Summit

Thursday, November 22 2012

<http://tolonews.com/en/afghanistan/8441-pakistan-attacks-kill-35-as-leaders-meet-for-summit>

A suicide attack on a Shiite Muslim procession in Pakistan overnight killed 23 people in the deadliest assault in the country for five months as Muslim leaders gathered for a rare summit in Islamabad.

Police in the garrison city of Rawalpindi near the capital said the bomber blew himself up when he was stopped for a security check as Shiite faithful commemorated the holy month of Muharram, a magnet for sectarian attacks.

Police used lamps and torches to work through the night, as rescuers ferried casualties to hospital, where critically wounded patients died during the night.

As well as the 23 people killed, police rescue spokesman Deeba Shehnaz told AFP that another 62 people were wounded, including eight children.

Attacks on Wednesday overall killed 35 people. The Rawalpindi attack was the deadliest bombing in Pakistan since 29 people were killed in the northwestern tribal district of Khyber on June 16.

It was also the worst attack targeting Shiites since February 17 when a suicide bomber on a motorcycle killed 31 people in a largely Shiite area of Parachinar in the northwestern Kurram district.

The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, another explosion that killed two people near a Shiite mosque in Karachi, and attacks targeting security forces in the northwest.

Spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan told AFP that Shiites were targeted because they are "engaged in defiling the Prophet". The Taliban have been fighting an insurgency against security forces since 2007.

Rawalpindi is adjacent to Islamabad, where thousands of extra police and paramilitary forces have been mobilised for the Developing 8 (D8) summit starting at midday on Thursday (0700 GMT).

Egypt, Iran and Turkey are among the countries joining the summit of mainly Muslim nations which is meant to promote trade and investment. But Israel's latest offensive in Gaza is set to loom large, even if a truce is now in effect.

The ceasefire was agreed in a deal between Israel and Palestinian group Hamas that was announced in Egypt on the eighth day of violence in and around Gaza that has killed at least 160 people.

Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi -- who was thanked by the United States for helping to broker the Israel-Hamas deal -- had been slated to join the Islamabad talks but state TV in Egypt said he would now stay home to monitor the truce.

As well as the hosts Pakistan, the D8 also comprises Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia and Nigeria -- the only member which is not majority-Muslim. Its population is roughly divided between Muslims and Christians.



Pakistan wants the summit to strengthen its international standing and help "remove misconceptions (about the country) created in a section of international media", a government statement said in the build-up to the gathering.

In addition to the security deployment, construction work has been suspended around the diplomatic enclave to provide "God willing, foolproof security", Islamabad police chief Bani Amin told AFP.

But a long day of militant violence on Wednesday was an unwelcome reminder that Pakistan remains in the grip of unrest largely orchestrated by homegrown Taliban extremists bitterly opposed to the country's US-allied government.

In the southwestern city of Quetta, bombers hit an army vehicle escorting children home from school, killing four soldiers and a woman, police said.

More than 20 people were wounded when the bomb, planted on a motorcycle, was detonated by remote control, said city police chief Hamid Shakeel.

Two people were killed in Pakistan's largest city Karachi when a bomb-laden motorcycle collided with a rickshaw near a Shiite mosque, city police chief Iqbal Hussain told AFP.

In northwest Pakistan, four police died when gunmen ambushed a patrol in Bannu district, police official Nisar Ahmed Tanoli said. A roadside bomb elsewhere killed another police official.

Because of such violence in the years since the September 11 attacks of 2001, Pakistan has rarely had a chance to host international gatherings, and the government had hoped to use the D8 summit to present a different image.



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9. [Attack, Afghanistan] At Least 60 Injured In Afghan Suicide Bomb Blast

Friday, November 23 2012

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-202_162-57553549/at-least-60-injured-in-afghan-suicide-bomb-blast/

A Taliban suicide bomber detonated a truck full of explosives Friday in eastern Afghanistan, killing two civilians and wounding more than 60 people, including Afghan and NATO troops, officials said.

Several government offices and a prison were damaged or destroyed in the early morning explosion in Maidan Shahr, the capital of Wardak province, said provincial spokesman Shahidullah Shahid.

Most people were injured when their homes roofs collapsed, reports CBS News' Fazul Rahim.

The blast occurred in an area that is home to the provincial governor's office, police headquarters, a prison and a coordination center used by international and Afghan security forces.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the bombing, saying in a statement to media that it was in response to the recent execution of four Taliban detainees at the Afghan government's main detention center in Kabul.

The men were convicted and sentenced to death in Afghan courts for a variety of crimes, including murder, rape, kidnapping, robbery and cruelty against children. The Taliban condemned the hangings, saying the detainees were prisoners of war who were unjustly jailed.

Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqi said Afghan security troops and prisoners were among the wounded in the Wardak blast. Three prisoners tried to escape from the damaged prison, but were apprehended, he said.

"Unfortunately, it was a very bad explosion and many of our countrymen were injured," he told reporters at a news conference in Kabul. "There was a lot of damage to infrastructure. The buildings that were around the blast were destroyed."

Sediqi said the Afghan government was sending a delegation, including the head of Afghan prisons, to Wardak to investigate the attack.

U.S. Army Maj. Adam Wojack, a spokesman for the international military coalition, said a half-dozen NATO soldiers received minor injuries in the explosion.

The Taliban said the attack involved two suicide bombers and claimed it killed tens of Afghan and international troops. The Taliban often exaggerate the number of casualties caused in their attacks.

Afghan and international forces have been working to root out insurgents in Wardak province to keep them from moving north into the Afghan capital. The international forces are scheduled to turn over security responsibility to local troops by the end of 2014.

Separately, Sediqi said that police in Kabul had arrested two men with four explosive vests. He said the two, described as experts in making suicide vests, were planning to conduct an attack in Kabul on Saturday, which is the

holy day of Ashoura in Afghanistan.

Last year on Ashoura, a suicide bomber on foot struck worshippers at a Shiite shrine in Kabul, killing at least 80 people. It was the country's first major sectarian attack since the fall of the Taliban regime.

Ashoura, which is observed in the Muslim world either on Saturday or Sunday, commemorates the 7th century death of Imam Hussein, the Prophet Muhammad's grandson.





AFPAK

10. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Hits Shiite Religious Procession In Pakistan, Killing Seven, Wounding 30

Saturday, November 24 2012

<http://www.canada.com/life/Pakistan+plans+suspend+cellphone+service+many+cities+prevent+attacks/7600156/story.html>

A roadside bomb killed at least seven people, including three children, and wounded 30 others at a Shiite Muslim procession in northwestern Pakistan on Saturday, police said, as minority Shiites prepared to observe the holy day of Ashoura.

The group of about 100 Shiites were passing through the city of Dera Ismail Khan on their way to join a larger crowd marking the day when the bomb went off, said police official Rashid Khan, who reported the casualty toll.

No one claimed responsibility, but the suspicion fell on Pakistani Taliban, who often carry out such attacks.

On Sunday, Shiites in Pakistan will celebrate Ashoura, which commemorates the 7th century death of Imam Hussein, the Prophet Muhammad's grandson. The Sunni-Shiite schism over Muhammad's rightful heir dates back to that time.

President Asif Ali Zardari condemned the bombing, which took place near the South Waziristan tribal region.

"Such nefarious acts cannot deter the people and the government in their fight against the scourge of militancy," he said in a statement.

Sunni extremists frequently attack Shiites, who they consider heretics, and the Ashoura ceremonies are a prime targets, bringing out crowds of Shiites to march in processions mourning Hussein.

On Wednesday night, a Taliban suicide bomber struck a Shiite Muslim procession in Rawalpindi, a garrison city near Islamabad, killing 17 people. Initially police said 23 people were killed in this attack, but later authorities put the death toll from bombing to 17. They provided no explanation for discrepancy in death toll.

Also Wednesday, the Taliban set off two bombs within minutes outside a Shiite mosque in the southern city of Karachi, killing one person and wounding 15 others. Pakistani Taliban have claimed responsibility for the attacks in Rawalpindi and Karachi.

Qamar Abbas Zaidi, the spokesman for main Shiite political party, Tehrik-e-Nifaz-e-Fiqh Jafariya, vowed this week to go ahead with Ashoura processions across the country despite threats of attacks.

Pakistani authorities have deployed thousands of additional police across the country to beef up security for such processions, and authorities have suspended mobile phone service in all the major cities for two days to prevent such bombings. Officials say Taliban frequently use cellular phones as remote detonators for bomb attacks.



AFRICOM

11. [Attack, Kenya] Bomb Rips Through Nairobi Minibus, Killing Six

Sunday, November 18 2012

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/11/18/uk-kenya-blast-idUKBRE8AH09O20121118>

A bomb tore through a minibus in Nairobi's Somali-dominated Eastleigh neighbourhood on Sunday, killing six people in an attack highlighting the security risks Kenya faces because of its intervention in Somalia to fight al Qaeda-linked militants.

Kenya has suffered a string of deadly attacks in its capital Nairobi, the port city of Mombasa as well as the eastern garrison town of Garissa over the past year.

The attacks have been blamed on Somali militants and their sympathisers in retaliation for Kenya's deployment of troops in neighbouring Somalia last year to drive out al Shabaab rebels whom Nairobi has blamed for attacks on Kenyan territory.

"I saw bodies ripped apart," said a Reuters photographer at the scene of the blast. He saw a crowd lifting five dead bodies wrapped in sacks onto the back of a police vehicle.

The force of the explosion left only the charred skeleton of the minibus, commonly known as matatu in Kenya, the orange seats ripped apart. The windows of a nearby cafe were shattered and two other cars were damaged.

Nairobi regional police commander Moses Ombati said the explosion was caused by a bomb and that there was a possibility it had been inside the matatu when it exploded.

Earlier he said a grenade had been hurled into the matatu.

"It was a bomb that caused the explosion. Five people died on the spot and another died while undergoing treatment at a hospital," he told Reuters.

The Kenya Red Cross said on its Twitter account that seven people had been killed and 24 people had been taken to hospital.

"I just heard a blast. I thought I'd hit something. The van was suddenly thrown upwards," the matatu's driver, Bernard Kibe, told reporters at the scene. He said the matatu had been filled to capacity, with about 25 people onboard.

LAX SECURITY

The attacks in Kenya have intensified since Kenyan troops, alongside African Union forces, launched an offensive seven weeks ago against al Shabaab's last major urban stronghold, the Somali port of Kismayu, forcing the rebels to flee.

"There's a laxity on the side of the government. This is the fourth attack in three weeks," said bystander Maurice Ouma, as a police siren wailed by.

"The government has to take responsibility for providing security for its citizens," he said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack but tensions





rose in Eastleigh, a Nairobi district often referred to as "Little Mogadishu".

Witnesses reported Kenyan nationals throwing stones at Somalis in Eastleigh, apparently blaming them for the attack, a sentiment shared by Ouma.

"It's unfortunate that now people we're hosting are actually turning against us," he said. Police fired in the air to disperse the crowd.

In September Kenyan police said they seized more than 150 detonators in Nairobi.

In July, masked assailants launched simultaneous gun and grenade attacks on two churches in Garissa, killing at least 17 people.

Armed cattle raiders killed at least 32 Kenyan police officers in a military-style ambush last weekend. The attack exposed how ill-equipped Kenya's police force is as it faces challenges on several fronts, including a presidential election next March.





AFRICOM

12. [Security, Somalia] Puntland Says Arrests Al Shabaab Members, Seizes Explosives

Monday, November 19 2012

http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/11/19/worldupdates/2012-11-18T164613Z_1_BRE8AH0D6_RTROPTT_0_UK-SOMALIA-PUNTLAND&sec=Worldupdates

Somalia's northern region of Puntland, which up to now has been spared violence fuelled by Islamist fighters, said on Sunday its security forces had arrested two suspected members of the al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab militant group.

Puntland's president has said the militants, squeezed out of their urban strongholds further south, were moving north towards his semi-autonomous region, a relatively peaceful area.

The government said in a statement security forces on Saturday arrested a man known as Abu Hafsa, whom they said was al Shabaab's head of assassinations. A second man, Abdirizak Hussein Tahlil, identified as an al Shabaab logistics officer, was also arrested.

The statement said Puntland forces had also seized suicide jackets, hand grenades, explosive powder, as well as wires, fuses and remote controls during the raid in Galkayo.

Al Shabaab denied the arrests.

"None of our men has been arrested and we don't know people by these names. They also claimed they seized our weapons. All this is propaganda to get funds from Westerners," Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, al Shabaab's spokesman for military operations, told Reuters on Sunday.

The government in an email attached pictures of the explosives it said it had seized, as well as pictures of who it said were the al Shabaab members.

Under pressure from African Union peacekeeping troops and Somali government forces, al Shabaab has lost many of its major urban strongholds in south-central Somalia since it launched a rebellion against the Western-backed government in 2007.

Al Shabaab withdrew from the capital Mogadishu in August last year and lost their last major bastion of Kismayu seven weeks ago. Officials say many fighters have taken up positions in the mountains west of Bossaso in Puntland.

But in an audio statement posted on al Shabaab-linked websites, Sheikh Ali Mohamud Rage, al Shabaab's spokesman, claimed the militant group still controlled most of southern and central Somalia. "Even babies know that we don't need to go to Puntland's hills," he said.

Puntland authorities have captured two shipments of explosives from Yemen in the past few months in incidents that have raised concern about the possible cooperation between Yemen-based al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and al Shabaab, which formally merged with al Qaeda earlier this year.

Puntland spans the relatively calm north of Somalia and has largely escaped the worst of Somalia's upheaval of the



last 20 years. It has been showcased by foreign powers advocating a loose federal political system in Somalia as a solution to its troubles.

The area is also rich in energy resources and is being sized up by oil explorers. However, Puntland's authorities have said there is increasing insecurity, which it blames on al Shabaab.



AFRICOM

13. [Trend, South Sudan] South Sudan Accuses Sudan Of Bombing Its Territory

Wednesday, November 21 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/21/us-southsudan-sudan-idUSBRE8AK0KZ20121121>

South Sudan said on Wednesday that Sudanese warplanes had bombed its territory, killing one civilian and wounding four others, a fresh setback to plans to resume cross-border oil flows.

Sudan and South Sudan agreed in September to end hostilities and restart vital southern oil exports through Sudan after coming close to war in April, the worst violence since the south became independent in July 2011.

But relations have soured again in the past few days after both sides failed to agree on how to move their forces back from the unmarked joint border, something both had said must happen before oil exports resume.

South Sudan's army said Sudanese warplanes had bombed its side of the border, the first such accusation since the September deal.

"Sudan bombed our people in Northern Bahr al Ghazal. The bombing happened yesterday at 2 p.m.," army spokesman Philip Aguer said. "We were caught by surprise."

There was no immediate comment from Sudan, which has previously denied bombing the South although Reuters has witnessed several air strikes.

Sudan says rebels fighting the Khartoum government operate from south of the border, something analysts find credible despite denials from Juba.

Any delay to a resumption of the oil trade would be a serious blow to both countries.

Sudan benefits from South Sudan's oil exports because Juba has to pay a fee for using northern pipelines and a Red Sea port. Juba halted production in January because of disputes over pipeline fees with Sudan.

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir said on Tuesday the resumption of oil production had been delayed after Sudan had made further demands.

Concerns about delays to reopening the oil pipeline pushed the Sudanese pound to a historic low at the start of the week, highlighting the need to restart oil flows, a vital source of state revenues and dollars for both countries.

Analysts say while both governments need the oil they also want to be seen as tough on the other side to shore up domestic support.



AFRICOM

14. [Security, Morocco] Morocco Says Breaks Al Qaeda Cell Sending Youth To Mali

Saturday, November 24 2012

<http://updatednews.ca/2012/11/24/morocco-says-breaks-al-qaeda-cell-sending-youth-to-mali/>

Morocco said on Saturday it had broken up a militant cell that was training youths to send them to fight in Mali, which has become the focus of international concern over the spread of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

The interior ministry said in a statement on state news agency MAP it broke up a cell operating in the cities of Nador, Casablanca, Guercif, Laayoune and Kalaat Sraghna.

Around 20 people had been sent to fight with AQIM and al Qaeda ally the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa, and others had been sent to Libya, it said.

Morocco, a Western ally, often says it has broken militant cells accused of plotting inside and outside the country.

European leaders are growing increasingly anxious that Mali could turn into a platform for militant attacks, including in Europe.

Meanwhile, a rights activist said riot police had broken up a prison protest this week by ultraconservative Islamist Salafis, who share a similar ideology to al Qaeda.

The protests followed Salafi prison riots over conditions last year in the same jail of Sale, just outside Rabat.

Salafis have become active in Morocco in recent years as their influence spread in other Arab countries. Islamists, including Salafis, have risen to prominence in Egypt and Tunisia following last year's "Arab Spring" uprisings.

Anas Haloui of the Joint Committee for Defending Islamist Prisoners said Salafis began protesting on Wednesday but police tried to break up their protest the next day by force.

"One prisoner was tortured by ordinary prisoners and guards, so a demonstration was organised to push the administration to allow all the Salafi prisoners to be in the same building together," Haloui said.

"Since the police intervention, the cells are closed and there's no information on what happened to the injured people."

Prison officials were not available for comment.

The authorities released some Salafi leaders from prison this year in an apparent effort to win them on side in the monarchy's efforts to outwit opposition.

Some 120 Salafi detainees are still in Sale prison after the riots in May last year. Salafis were then distributed in different prisons around the country. Around 600 Salafis in total are thought to be held in Moroccan jails.

Under pressure after the uprisings, which provoked protests in Morocco, King Mohammed approved a new consti-



tution conceding more powers to the elected government and allowed the head of an Islamist party to take charge after elections last year.

While Salafis have remained largely outside the political system, analysts say they spread considerable influence among poor sectors of a country where unemployment, inflation, and unequal wealth distribution are major threats to stability.



AFRICOM

15. [Attack, Nigeria] Suicide Bombs Kill 11 At Military Church In Nigeria

Sunday, November 25 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/25/us-nigeria-bomb-idUSBRE8AO05320121125>

Two suicide bombs killed at least 11 people on Sunday at a church in a barracks in northern Nigeria, where the Islamist sect Boko Haram is waging a campaign of violence, the military said.

Army spokesman Bola Koleoso said a bus drove into the side of the St. Andrew Military Protestant Church at the Jaji barracks in Kaduna state and exploded at around 1105 GMT, five minutes after a service had started.

Explosives inside a Toyota Camry were detonated outside the church ten minutes later, he said. The military said at least 30 were injured.

A military source who witnessed the attack said the second bomb was the most deadly, killing people who went to help the injured from the first blast. Witnesses said the barracks was cordoned off and ambulances carried the wounded to hospital.

There was no claim of responsibility but Islamist sect Boko Haram has frequently attacked the security forces and Christian churches in its fight to create an Islamic state in Nigeria, where the 160 million population is evenly split between Christians and Muslims.

A suicide bomber killed eight people and injured more than 100 last month at a church in another part of Kaduna state, which has a mixed Muslim and Christian population and often suffers from sectarian tensions.

CHURCH ATTACKS

A bomb attack in a church in Kaduna state in June triggered a week of tit-for-tat violence that killed at least 90 people.

Gunmen killed six people in a village in northern Kaduna state earlier this month. The area was at the heart of post-election violence in April last year that left hundreds dead and thousands displaced.

Boko Haram's purported spokesman Abu Qaqa, who used to confirm the sect's attacks in phone calls to journalists, was killed by the military in September, the army said. Since then there has been little public communication by the group.

Nigeria's army on Saturday offered 290 million naira (\$1.8 million) for information leading to the capture of 19 leading members of Boko Haram, including 50 million naira for the sect's self-proclaimed leader Abubakar Shekau.

At least 2,800 people have died in fighting since Boko Haram's insurrection began in 2009, according to Human Rights Watch. Most in the northeast of the country, where the sect usually attacks politicians and security forces.

Former Prime Minister Tony Blair visited Nigeria with the Archbishop of Canterbury-designate Justin Welby last week to launch a program by Blair's foundation to reconcile religious differences in Africa's most populous nation.



The foundation said it was at consultancy stage and gave no details on how much would be spent or who would benefit.



CENTCOM

16. [Law Enforcement, Bahrain] Bahrain Says Arrests Cell Behind Fake Bomb Attacks

Tuesday, November 20 2012

http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/11/21/worldupdates/2012-11-20T173126Z_1_BRE8AJ14Q_RTROPTT_0_UK-BAHRAIN-ARRESTS&sec=Worldupdates

Bahrain said on Tuesday it has arrested a cell suspected of planting mock bombs across the capital Manama, including on the main highways.

The Sunni Muslim-dominated, U.S.-allied Bahrain government has been struggling since early last year to suppress pro-democracy unrest led mainly by the Gulf Arab kingdom's majority Shi'ite Muslims.

The Information Affairs Authority said the cell members were suspected of placing "fake bombs in several crowded areas throughout Bahrain".

"This included placing the objects on vital roads, which caused traffic delays and spread fear among the public," it said in a statement in English.

It said police found a fake bomb when they searched the home of one of the suspects on Tuesday. It said the suspects were referred to the public prosecutor, but did not say how many and gave no further details.

The arrests come against a backdrop of several bomb attacks in the country following the uprising that is trying to force the ruling family to carry out political reforms.

Five bombs exploded in the heart of Manama on November 5, killing two Asian street cleaners, and prompting activists and the government, which is trying to put down the uprising, to trade blame for the attacks.

Bahrain said the following day it had arrested four suspects and accused the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah of being behind the bombs.

The state news agency BNA quoted Information Minister Samira Ibrahim bin Rajab as saying the bombings were carried out by terrorist groups trained outside Bahrain and based in countries including Lebanon.

Some opposition activists have suggested the attacks, which came a few days after the government banned opposition gatherings with the stated goal of ensuring public safety, could have been the work of forces trying to justify the clampdown.

The government has repeatedly accused Shi'ite Iran of fomenting the turmoil, a charge the Islamic Republic denies. Hezbollah denies involvement in the Bahrain protests, but has criticised the government's handling of them.

Bahraini police say they have been the target of numerous attacks with homemade bombs since April, including one that killed a policeman last month.



CENTCOM

17. [Trend, Syria] Over 40,000 Killed, Since Start Of Syria Strife; Bomb Kills Four In Camp

Friday, November 23 2012

http://www.sundayszaman.com/sunday/newsDetail_getNewsById.action?newsId=299075

More than 40,000 people have been killed in 20 months of conflict between Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces and those fighting for his overthrow, a violence monitoring group said on Friday.

Rami Abdelrahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said about half the fatalities were civilians and the other half split about evenly between opposition and government soldiers.

"The figure is likely much higher as the opposition and the government lie about how many of their forces have died to make it look like they are winning," Abdelrahman told Reuters.

The British-based Observatory, which supports the opposition, has been collating the names of the dead since government security forces started shooting pro-democracy protesters in March 2011.

Army defectors and ordinary Syrians took up arms against Assad and a civil war has since taken hold.

Abdelrahman said he only counts deceased people whose deaths are confirmed by friends or relatives.

"There are 10,000 to 15,000 people who were arrested months ago so we can't use that number as we don't know if they are dead or alive," he said.

Bomb in Palestinian camp kills 4

Meanwhile, a bomb blast in a Palestinian refugee camp in Damascus killed four people and seriously wounded a member of a faction that has backed Assad in the country's bitter civil war, activists said on Friday.

The explosion late on Thursday in the Yarmouk camp targeted the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Four people died and a PFLP-GC activist was seriously wounded when the bomb planted under his car went off, the group said. It blamed the opposition Free Syrian Army for the attack.

Yarmouk has been pulled into Syria's fighting before, most recently earlier this month when clashes in and around the camp killed and wounded dozens.

The refugee camp is also close to two southern neighborhoods of the capital - Tadamon and Hajar Aswad - that have seen weeks-long clashes between the opposition and government troops.

Regime forces shelled the two neighborhoods on Friday and also raided the central Damascus neighborhood of Bab Sreijeh, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Activists said several people were arrested.

In other violence around the country, extremists militants, including members of the al-Qaeda inspired Jabhat al-



Nusra group, battled Friday with pro-government Kurdish gunmen in the northern town of Ras al-Ayan, near the border with Turkey. The extremist militants entered the town earlier this month and have since clashed almost daily with the Kurdish gunmen.

The extremist militants and the Kurdish factions have also added to the complexity of Syria's conflict.

When government forces withdrew from Kurdish areas in northeastern Syria in July, they were quickly replaced by Kurdish fighters from the Kurdish Democratic Union Party, or PYD. The Kurds would battle the opposition forces when they attacked predominantly Kurdish areas in Syria. The Kurdish group is affiliated with the PKK terrorists. For its part, Ankara has sheltered and backed Syria's opposition.

As for the extremist militants, they are fighting on the side of the opposition and have played a bigger role in the Syrian conflict in recent months, with many openly saying they want to set up an Islamic state. The opposition is split, with some groups strongly opposed to extremism.

Syria's conflict erupted in March 2011 with an uprising against Assad's regime, inspired by other Arab Spring revolts, but quickly morphed into a civil war that has since killed more than 40,000 people, according to activists. Palestinians get involved

When the unrest began, the country's half-million Palestinians struggled to stay on the sidelines. But in recent months, many have started supporting the uprising although they insisted the opposition to the regime should be peaceful. Earlier this month, the FLP-GC clashed with anti-government Palestinian gunmen in Yarmouk.

The Observatory reported that the body of Syrian novelist Mohammed Rashid Roweily was found late Thursday in the eastern city of Deir el-Zour, nearly two months after he was kidnapped. State-TV said Roweily was "liquidated by terrorists."

Ruwiely, 65, was once the representative of Arab Writers' Union in Deir el-Zour and had written several novels. The Observatory said his decomposed body was found along with four other bodies, including that of a retired army officer. All were kidnapped around the same time.

Syrian authorities deny there is an uprising in the country and say the opposition forces are "terrorists" backed by foreign powers that seek to destroy the country.

Journalist Bassil Toufic Youssef, who worked for state TV, was shot dead outside his house in the capital on Thursday, said the state SANA news agency.

In other developments, Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani was in Damascus where he held talks on Friday with Assad and other officials before flying on to neighboring Lebanon.

Iran is Assad's strongest ally in the region, and anti-government activists accuse Tehran of sending both weapons and fighters to Syria.

Qatar, which has backed Syria's opposition in the conflict, invited the newly formed opposition coalition to appoint its ambassador to the Gulf state, the Qatari news agency reported.

The broad coalition -- called the National Coalition of the Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces -- was formed Nov. 11 in Qatar under pressure from the United States for a stronger, more united opposition body to serve as a counterweight to the more extremist forces fighting Assad's regime.



EUCOM

18. [Security, Poland] Poland Arrests Man Planning Bomb Attack On Government

Tuesday, November 20 2012

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-20/poland-arrests-man-planning-bomb-attack-on-government.html>

Polish police arrested an academic suspected of plotting a bomb attack against President Bronislaw Komorowski, lawmakers and other officials, a prosecutor said in Warsaw today.

The 45-year-old “expert in explosives” from the Agricultural University in Krakow, Poland, was trying to organize a group to carry out the attack during a parliamentary session, Mariusz Krason of the Appellate Prosecutor’s Office in Krakow said at a news conference. The man, whose name wasn’t made public, was arrested on Nov. 9 after a search found explosives, detonators, weapons and ammunition, he said.

“He believed the economic and political situation in Poland is going in the wrong direction and the change requires taking radical steps,” Krason said. “He described himself as being nationalistic, xenophobic and anti-Semitic.”

With the euro region mired in its second recession in four years amid the debt crisis, Polish economic growth has slowed to its weakest pace in almost three years. As the jobless rate remains stuck above 12 percent, public disaffection has grown and Prime Minister Donald Tusk’s government has fallen behind the opposition Law and Justice party in some opinion polls.

Bomb Plan

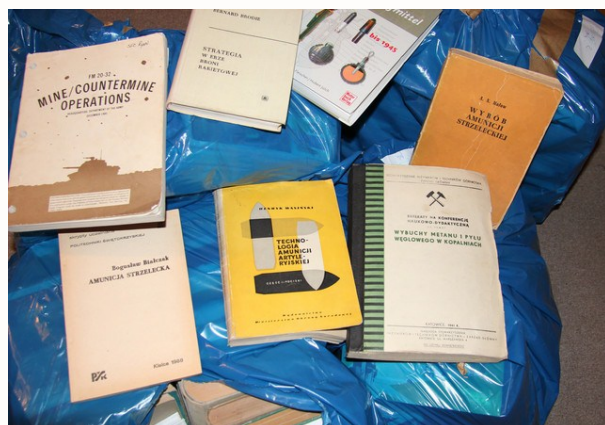
The suspect, who isn’t a member of any political party, planned to detonate four tons of explosives from a car parked near the parliament building, Krason said. Poland’s Internal Security Agency also detained two other people in connection to the planned attacks.

The man didn’t admit to planning any attacks and said he was “acting on suggestions from other people,” according to Krason. He faces as many as five years in prison, he said.

The foiled attacks follow the killing of an opposition Law and Justice party employee in Lodz in 2010. Six policemen were injured and 132 people were arrested in Warsaw on Nov. 11 after demonstrators clashed with police during marches to commemorate the country’s Independence Day.

The attempted attacks come after Anders Behring Breivik last year bombed the Norwegian premier’s office, killing eight, and took 69 lives in a shooting spree at the Utoeya island youth camp. In August, he was sentenced to 21 years in jail, with an option for extensions, after all five judges found him mentally fit for prison.

“The danger was real,” Artur Wrona, head of the Appellate Prosecutors Office in Krakow, said at the news conference. “In Norway, they also didn’t suspect that they had a Breivik in their midst, but we all know how it ended.”





EUCOM

19. [Trend, Israel] Israeli Air Forces Bomb Central Stadium In Gaza

Tuesday, November 20 2012

<http://rt.com/sport/palestine-stadium-gaza-israel-137/>

The Israeli military has destroyed the central stadium in Gaza as part of Operation Pillar of Cloud, claiming the sports facility was used by the Palestinians as a rocket launch site.

-According to RIA-Novosti, four craters have appeared on the football pitch of the Palestine Stadium.

The explosive blasts and shrapnel have also done severe damage to the stands and service areas.

Guards say the arena was bombed several times by the Israeli planes, with the latest attack coming on Monday morning.

The Palestine Stadium, which was built during Yasser Arafat's rule in the mid-1900s, had a capacity of 10.000.

It was used to stage Palestinian national team's games, training of Olympians as well as concerts by Arab artists.

The arena was bombed in 2006 which football's governing body FIFA helped rebuild.





EUCOM

20. [Special Interest, Belgium] Europe Restricts Bomb Precursors

Tuesday, November 20 2012

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Special/2012/11/20/Europe-restricts-bomb-precursors/UPI-35591353432664/

The European Parliament voted Tuesday in favor of rules that would restrict access to chemicals that could be used to make explosives.

The majority of the members of the European Parliament voted in favor of a measure that would require consumers to obtain a license for so-called high-risk chemicals.

Convicted Norwegian terrorist Anders Breivik used a bomb made from fertilizer and fuel oil to attack the government district in Oslo last year. At least 209 people were injured in an attack that left eight people dead.

Dutch lawmaker Jan Mulder said bloc-wide rules were needed in order to ensure access to potential precursors was restricted.

"We need to ensure that the differing national rules do not allow the sale of certain substances," he said in a statement. "After all, the common fight against terrorism needs rules common to all member states."

No license will be needed for common cleaning agents or fertilizers though sellers are required to register their sales.

The measure needs backing by the European Council before it goes into effect. Member states would then have 18 months to put the restrictions into force.



EUCOM

21. [Trend, Israel] Imported Or Homemade, Gaza's Rocket Arsenals Bedevil Israel

Wednesday, November 21 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/19/us-palestinians-israel-gaza-arsenal-idUSBRE8AI0UG20121119>

Israel's assault on Gaza's rocket arsenals is aimed at countering what it sees as a growing strategic threat posed by Iranian-supplied missiles smuggled in through Egypt.

Though by the far the superior military power, Israel had been unable to stop the Palestinian rockets needling its southern towns over the past decade.

Since the latest flare-up of hostilities, rockets fired from Gaza have killed three Israelis, on top of a death toll of about 30 people since 2001.

The missiles, while a threat to the Israelis who live within range, are not precision-guided and sirens usually give people just enough warning to take cover before they hit. Others have been knocked down by Israel's Iron Dome interceptor system.

But among the Israelis' concerns is this: If they go to war against their arch-enemy Iran's nuclear program, the Islamist Hamas-governed Gaza Strip could serve as a launch pad for the reprisals promised by Tehran.

By Monday, Israel said it had carried out 1,350 air strikes against Gaza arms caches and other sites. But the rocket fire persisted, hitting mostly within a 25-km (15 mile) radius.

"The Palestinian capabilities, we can assume, have been damaged, but they remain intact as a cycle of fire has been maintained," said Uzi Rubin, an Israeli missile expert.

That may reflect the priorities of Israel's targeting.

As with its 2006 offensive against Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon, Israel's opening broadside in Gaza last Wednesday was against what it described as underground stores and silos of the longest-range guerrilla rockets hidden there.

The most powerful of these were Iranian-designed Fajr-5s, with 75 km (46 miles) ranges and 175 kg (385 lb) warheads capable of reaching Tel Aviv or Jerusalem.

At 6 meters (18 feet) in length, the Fajr-5s are hard to transport and conceal. The Israelis say Iran has been manufacturing them for Hamas, which brings them in through Sudan and the Egyptian Sinai, under whose desert frontier with Gaza there is a network of smuggling tunnels.

STRIPPED DOWN ROCKETS

Israeli security sources said around 20 of the Fajr-5s had been destroyed on the ground. Hamas has fired rockets at Tel Aviv four times since, though Israeli sources said some of those were less powerful variants on the Fajr, stripped of their weighty explosives for extra range and greater psychological effect.



One such example might have been the rocket Hamas fired on Friday at Jerusalem, which it called a homemade "Qassam M-75".

The Gaza arsenal is pyramid-like, with the Fajr-5s at the apex and shorter-ranged rockets stockpiled in greater numbers.

Before their current offensive, the Israelis spoke of Gaza having a total of 10,000 rockets and mortar bombs. Most of those rockets were homemade, with 15-km (10 miles) ranges and dubbed Qassams by Hamas though other factions use different names.

Gaza also had a quantity - in the lower thousands, according to Israel - of imported, Soviet-style Grad or Katyusha rockets with ranges of between 20 km and 40 km (12 miles and 25 miles).

Palestinians have fired more than 1,100 rockets and mortars since Wednesday, an Israeli military spokeswoman said. She did not say how many more had been bombed on the ground.

Many of the Gaza rockets are in buried launch tubes that have allowed them to be fired at Israel by remote control, sparing Palestinian guerrillas exposure to counter-strikes.

How Hamas members weather the assault will prove key to further fighting. Though the faction's overall military commander, Ahmed al-Jaabari, died in an Israeli missile strike that triggered this round of violence, Hamas has local squads in Gaza's towns and camps that can, to a degree, operate independently.

More than half of the 90 Palestinians killed in the clashes have been civilians, Gaza hospitals said. Israel has said a significant number of the dead were fighters, but has published the names of just three senior figures other than Jaabari.

Should Israel escalate to an invasion, its troops and tanks would have to contend with guerrillas in Hamas bunkers and trenches that still function, Israel Radio said on Monday.

Reuters correspondents in and around Gaza also report a relative absence of Israeli combat helicopters that could provide ground forces with close support - reflecting, possibly, Israel's fear of shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles that have been smuggled into Gaza from Libya since last year's civil war.



EUCOM

22. [Attack, Russia] Bomb Kills Three, Wounds Five In Russia's North Caucasus

Wednesday, November 21 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/21/us-russia-caucasus-bomb-idUSBRE8AK0MT20121121>

An improvised bomb killed two policemen and one civilian in Russia's volatile North Caucasus on Wednesday and wounded five others, police said.

The bomb went off in Dagestan, an internal mostly Muslim republic, which has been beset by violence blamed on insurgents seeking to create an Islamic state in the North Caucasus, more than a decade after Russian troops ousted a separatist government in neighboring Chechnya.

The deadly explosion took place when police entered an empty former bank building in the town of Shamilkala to inspect an area near the site of an earlier bomb blast that had caused no casualties, the regional Interior Ministry said.

Insurgents in the Caucasus, on Russia's southern border, have frequently killed policemen by luring them to a site with an initial blast and then setting off a second explosion.

President Vladimir Putin last month told security forces to ensure there are no attacks on any of the major events that Russia is to host in the coming years, including the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, near the North Caucasus.



EUCOM

23. [Attack, Israel] Tel Aviv Bus Bomb Injures 27 During Israel Gaza Strip Mediation

Wednesday, November 21 2012

http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/national_world&id=8893760

A bomb exploded aboard an Israeli bus near the nation's military headquarters in Tel Aviv on Wednesday, wounding 27 people, delivering a major blow to diplomatic efforts to forge a truce to end a week of fighting between Israel and Gaza's militant Hamas rulers. Thousands of Palestinians fled their homes in Gaza fearing Israeli airstrikes. Hours after the bus blast, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is shuttling across the region in truce talks, arrived in Cairo and met with Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi, who is mediating between Israel and Hamas to end the fighting that has killed more than 140 Palestinians and five Israelis.

The blast, which left the bus charred and its windows blown out, was the first bombing in Tel Aviv since 2006. It appeared aimed at sparking Israeli fears of a return to the violence of the Palestinian uprising last decade, which killed more than 1,000 Israelis in bombings and shooting attacks and left more than 5,000 Palestinians dead as well. Hamas has carried dozens of suicide bombings that have killed hundreds of Israelis.

While Hamas did not take responsibility for the attack, it praised the bombing.

"We consider it a natural response to the occupation crimes and the ongoing massacres against civilians in the Gaza Strip," Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum told The Associated Press.

Bassem Ezbidi, a West Bank political analyst, said it was unlikely Hamas itself was behind the attack, since it would not want to risk losing any of the international support it gained in recent days.

"If Hamas wants to target civilians it would do so by firing rockets, but not by buses because such attacks left a negative record in the minds of people. Hamas doesn't need this now," he said.

On the other hand, Hamas may be interested in signaling to Israel that a renewed bombing campaign is possible, particularly as thousands of Israeli ground troops massed on the Gaza border awaiting a possible invasion should cease-fire talks fail.

A tiny militant group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, claimed responsibility for the bus bombing but offered no evidence to back up the claim. The Damascus-based group has few followers in the West Bank and Palestinian groups often claim attacks they haven't carried out.

The Tel Aviv bombing came after a night of more than 30 Israeli airstrikes over Gaza that hit government ministries, smuggling tunnels, a banker's empty villa and a Hamas-linked media office.

Some 10,000 Palestinians sought shelter in 12 U.N.-run schools, after Israel dropped leaflets urging residents to vacate their homes in some areas of Gaza to avoid being hit by airstrikes, said Adnan Abu Hassna, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency spokesman.

The influx of displaced people came a day after the head of UNRWA, Filippo Grandi, warned that the agency urgently needed \$12 million to continue distributing food to the neediest Gazans. The agency runs schools, shelters and food programs for hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees and their descendants in Gaza.

The bus attack took place around noon on one of the coastal city's busiest arteries, near the Tel Aviv museum, the district courthouse and across from an entrance to Israel's national defense headquarters.

The blast was from a device placed inside the bus by a man who then got off, said Yitzhak Aharonovich, Israel's minister of internal security,

He said the explosion took place while the bus was moving. Blood splattered the sidewalk at the site of the explosion, with glass scattered around.

"I was sitting in the middle of the bus. We were about to pull into a station and suddenly there was a huge explosion," said Yehuda Samarano, 59, from his hospital bed where he was being treated for shrapnel wounds to his chest and leg. "I flew from my seat. Everything became white and my ears are still ringing now."



Police set up roadblocks across the city trying to apprehend the attacker.

"We strongly believe that this was a terror attack," said police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld. He said three of the 10 wounded were moderately to seriously hurt.

In Gaza, the bombing was praised from mosque loudspeakers, while Hamas' television station interviewed people praising the attack as a return of militants' trademark tactics.

Clinton said the U.S. "strongly condemns" the bombing, which she called a "terrorist attack."

Israel and Hamas had seemed on the brink of a truce deal Tuesday following a swirl of diplomatic activity also involving U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon and Egypt's Morsi. But sticking points could not be resolved as talks - and violence - stretched into the night.

Clinton shuttled among the sides, meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem Tuesday night, then Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank the next morning before heading to Cairo. After talks with Clinton, the Egyptian president met with Ban.

In overnight Gaza violence, at least four airstrikes within seconds of each other pulverized a complex of government ministries the size of a city block, rattling nearby buildings and shattering surrounding windows. Another strike leveled the empty, two-story home of a well-known banker in downtown Gaza City.

"This is an injustice carried out by the Israelis," said the house's caretaker, Mohammed Samara. "There were no resistance fighters here. We want to live in peace. Our children want to live in peace. We want to live like people in the rest of the world."

The Israeli military said its targets included the Ministry of Internal Security, which it says served as one of Hamas' main command and control centers, a military hideout used as a senior operatives' meeting place and a communications center.

Huge clouds of black smoke rose above the Gaza City skyline on Wednesday as airstrikes pounded a Gaza City sports stadium, from which rockets have been fired at Israel in the past, and a high-rise office building housing Hamas-affiliated media offices, but also Agence France-Presse.

AFP reporters said they evacuated their fourth-floor office Tuesday, after an initial strike targeted sixth-floor offices linked to Hamas and other smaller factions.

A four-year-old boy was killed in the second attack on the high-rise Wednesday, according to Gaza health official Ashraf al-Kidra. The boy, Abdel-Rahman Naim, was in his family apartment in the building when he was struck by shrapnel and died on the way to Gaza's Shifa Hospital, al-Kidra said.

The attacks brought to 144 the number of Palestinians killed since Israel launched its offensive on Nov. 14. Among the dead were 60 civilians, according to al-Kidra.

Five Israelis have also been killed by Palestinian rocket fire, which continued unabated early Wednesday with dozens of rockets.

Israel launched the offensive Nov. 14 following months of rocket salvos from Gaza. It has battered the territory with more than 1,500 airstrikes. The militants hit back with more than 1,400 rocket attacks. The Israeli death toll has been relatively low because of a U.S.-funded rocket defense system that has shot down hundreds of Gaza projectiles.





Washington blames Hamas rocket fire for the outbreak of violence and has backed Israel's right to defend itself, but has cautioned that an Israeli ground invasion could send casualties soaring.

The U.S. considers Hamas, which has killed hundreds of Israelis in suicide and other attacks, to be a terror group and does not meet with its officials.

Israeli media quoted Defense Minister Ehud Barak as telling a closed meeting that Israel wanted a truce to start with a 24-hour test period of no rocket fire to see if Hamas could enforce a truce among its forces and other Gaza militant groups.

Palestinian officials briefed on the negotiations said Hamas wanted assurances of a comprehensive deal that included new arrangements for prying open Gaza's heavily restricted borders - and were resisting Israeli proposals for a phased agreement. Israel and Egypt slammed shut the border after the militant group seized the territory from Abbas in June 2007, hoping to disrupt Hamas rule.

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



EUCOM

24. [Security, Ireland] Bomb Found At City Apartments

Wednesday, November 21 2012

<http://www.herald.ie/news/bomb-found-at-city-apartments-3301597.html>

The army bomb disposal team carried out a controlled explosion on a viable pipe bomb which was discovered outside a south Dublin apartment block last night.

The viable improvised device was found in a bag at a doorway of the Hazelgrove Court apartment complex shortly after 8pm.

A number of apartments had to be evacuated while the army carried out an assessment of the bomb.

EUCOM

25. [Security, Ireland] Viable Pipe Bomb Found In Belfast Garden

Friday, November 23 2012

<http://www.independent.ie/breaking-news/national-news/viable-pipe-bomb-found-in-belfast-garden-3304312.html>

A viable pipe bomb has been found in the garden of a house in Belfast, police have said.

A number of families in the Northwick Drive area had to be evacuated while army bomb disposal teams made the device safe.

A spokesman for the PSNI said the security alert had ended and the device had been taken away for further examination.





PACOM

26. [Security, India] Civilian Injured In A Landmine Blast Near LoC In Jammu And Kashmir

Monday, November 19 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=11/19/2012&id=9#9

A porter identified as Shakeel Ahmed, working for the Army in Cheetah forward post in Poonch District along Line of Control (LoC) lost one leg when he stepped on a landmine on November 17, reports Kashmir Times. Official sources said that the landmine could have strayed out of the mine field, "which is not unusual in mountainous terrain". Ahmed has been shifted to a hospital in Poonch District where he is undergoing treatment.

Meanwhile, the Security Forces (SFs), acting on a tip-off, raided a house and seized huge cache of ammunition and explosives from a house in Chak Cholan area in Shopian District on November 18, Net Indian reported. The Ministry of Defense's spokesperson in Srinagar said that the operation to raid the house of Abdul Qayoom Thokar, resident of Chak Cholan, was jointly conducted by the Army's Victor Force, Rashtriya Rifles (RR), Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). During sustained interrogation, the individual broke down and led the SFs to the hideout from where 302 rounds of PIKA machine gun and 40 kg of high quality explosives were recovered, he added further.



PACOM

27. [Law Enforcement, Thailand] Train Bomb Suspect Arrested

Tuesday, November 20 2012

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/322246/>

Security officers Tuesday arrested a man they say is connected with the Sunday bomb attack on a Yala-Sungai Kolok train which left three dead and 36 others wounded.

A unit of Narathiwat Task Force 30 arrested the suspect, a Narathiwat native, while he was riding a motorcycle on a local road in Ban Salow in tambon Rueso, the scene of the Sunday bombing. Officers took him for questioning at an unidentified military base in the province, which is under emergency law.

No other details of his arrest were revealed by authorities. The man's name was withheld.

Spokesmen said the man was suspected of helping attackers by acting as a lookout while accomplices carried out the actual planting of the bomb on the railway track as it neared Salo Bukit Yure station.

Authorities said the man was already wanted, along with his brother on a criminal charge "related to insurgent activities".

Officials said the man was held under emergency rule, but would be released immediately if found not involved with the bombing incident.

Security forces said men suspected of being behind the attack were henchmen of Rawpae-ing U-seng, a 43-year-old who is suspected of being a leader of the Runda Kumpulan Kecil (RKK) terrorist group in the Rueso area.

Senior officers of Internal Security Operations Command (Isoc) and State Railway of Thailand (SRT) met Tuesday to discuss how to provide better security measures on train services which will return to normal Wednesday in the three southern provinces.

SRT deputy chief Tanongsak Pongprasert said after the meeting that security officers will step up patrols in vulnerable spots such as hilly areas along the train tracks, and near railway bridges, especially between Yala's Raman district and Narathiwat's Rangae where attacks have been most frequent.

Military helicopters will conduct aerial patrols more often, and soldiers will increase patrols of the track and on board trains.



PACOM

28. [Security, India] Explosives Seized From Chhattisgarh Maoist Hideout

Tuesday, November 20 2012

<http://www.sify.com/news/explosives-seized-from-chhattisgarh-maoist-hideout-news-national-mlutkijbabb.html>

Chhattisgarh Police Tuesday engaged Maoists in a gunfight and seized a large quantity of ammunition and explosive materials used for making bombs, from a forested hideout in Gariaband district of the state.

Deputy Inspector General of Dhamtari range B.P.S. Pausarya told news persons that on getting the information of presence of Maoists in Gariaband, a joint team of district force and the Central Reserve Police Force was sent on a search operation.

The team confronted Maoists holding a meeting in the forest of Maragaon village, some 125 km from here.

"Seeing the security personnel near them, the rebels started intense firing which continued for half an hour. Security personnel also returned the fire," Pausarya added.

He said that after an hour-long gun battle the insurgents fled into dense forest taking advantage of rugged terrain. They crossed over into Odisha.

In the post-operation search, police found large quantities of ammunition, explosive materials, wires, fuses, uniforms, items of daily use and Maoist literature from the spot.



PACOM

29. [Attack, India] Bomb Attack Injures Army Personnel

Friday, November 23 2012

<http://www.ifp.co.in/nws-10861-bomb-attack-injures-army-personnel/>

A bomb attack carried out on Army personnel by the Manipur People's Army, the armed wing of the United National Liberation Front resulted in injuring Army personnel of the 18th Sikh Regiment and a sniffer dog.

The attack was carried out on the eve of the 48th Foundation Day of the UNLF at a roadside area located in between Laingamkhul and Salang Sabal Leikai which is situated about 3 km west from Patsoi police station and along the National Highway 37. The area comes under Imphal West district.

The attack occurred about 6.45 am today. The personnel of the 18th Sikh Regiment are presently attached to Patsoi Police Station. Sources said that the bomb exploded when some personnel was conducting a routine road opening party along the mentioned Highway stretch. Further, another explosion is said to have occurred at least 30 feet away from the first explosion site.

The bomb is said to be an Improvised Explosive Device and remotely triggered. The blast injured a Junior Commissioned Officer and a rifleman identified as Th Hepuni Mao of the 165 TA, rifleman number 13004298-M. A sniffer dog is also wounded in the attack. Sources said that the rifleman has been grievously injured.

In the aftermath, additional forces rushed in to the area and started questioning up nearby locals and farmers. Some individuals were also taken away for further questioning. Sources said.

The blast area was cordoned off for some time and the public was not allowed to pass the area including mediapersons. MLA of Konthoujam, K Sharat also came to the blast site and condemned the blast. He stated that attacks have been repeatedly occurring within his constituency in a short span of time. He appealed the concerned to refrain from similar activities in the larger public interest.

Claim

The proscribed UNLF has claimed that today's blast at Konthoujam around 6:30am was carried out by a demolition team of MPA/UNLF and aimed against a foot patrol of Assam Rifles, according to a release of the outfit.

It has further claimed that the outfit will carry on further attacks on the security forces.



NORTHCOM

30. [Security, United States] Replica Claymore Landmine Discovered At Tulsa (TUL)

Friday, November 16 2012

<http://blog.tsa.gov/>

Inert Ordnance and Grenades Etc. – We continue to find inert hand grenades and other weaponry on weekly basis. Please keep in mind that if an item looks like a realistic bomb, grenade, mine, etc., it is prohibited - real or not. When these items are found at a checkpoint or in checked baggage, they can cause significant delays. I know they are cool novelty items, but it is best not to take them on a plane. Read [here](#) and [here](#) on why inert items cause problems.

A replica Claymore mine was detected in a checked bag at Tulsa (TUL). It was determined to be inert and had the word “dummy” scrawled upon it.

Two inert detonators were detected in carry-on bags at San Diego (SAN) and Denver (DEN).

An HG-1 training grenade in an instructor’s checked bag caused the checked baggage area at Bradley (BDL) to be closed for 20 minutes.

3 inert grenades were discovered this week. Two in checked baggage at Seattle (SEA) & Anchorage (ANC), and the other in a carry-on bag at Oklahoma City (OKC).





NORTHCOM

31. [Law Enforcement, United States] This Adman Was Arrested At An Airport For Having A Bomb-Like Watch

Monday, November 19 2012

<http://www.businessinsider.com/geoff-mcgann-arrested-in-airport-for-his-watch-2012-11>

Advertising creative Geoffrey McGann's weekend travel disaster teaches us to rethink our airport accessorizing choices.

McGann — who spent 15 years at W+K, worked at 72andSunny, and is currently the ECD at So-Cal based Generator Content — was arrested at Oakland airport Friday and held on \$150,000 bond for having a watch that Alameda County Sgt. J.D. Nelson said had "all the components [to make an] improvised explosives device," according to the L.A. Times.

McGann said that the watch, which had a toggle switch, fuses, and protruding wires, was art.

Although no explosives were found, McGann was still taken to Santa Rita Jail and was charged with possession of materials to produce an explosive device. Nelson was unimpressed with the creative's explanation, citing that the TSA is always concerned that suspicious persons could be testing out a dry run for a future attack.

"He does do art kind of stuff, but what reasonable person would bring a watch like that into an airport and think that's OK?" Nelson said. "You may have a toy gun as art, but would you bring it to the airport?"

Other fashion choices also got McGann in trouble:

- 1) Nelson noted that McGann was wearing a military style shirt with a built-in tourniquet in the sleeves.
- 2) He had shoes that were two sizes too big with a homemade empty cavity on the bottom. To the TSA, this looked similar to the way the shoe bomber stashed his explosives. McGann said he wore the shoes to look taller.

McGann said he was in San Francisco for a business day-trip from Los Angeles. Thus, he hadn't checked a bag and only had a carry-on, sans clothing. That's also a suspicious marker for the TSA.





NORTHCOM

32. [Security, United States] Charleroi High School Student Accused Of Bringing Pipe Bomb On School Property

Tuesday, November 20 2012

<http://www.wpxi.com/news/news/local/bomb-squad-investigating-2-pipe-bombs-found-speers/nTBbt/>

Charleroi police said they arrested an 18-year-old Tuesday accused of making pipe bombs and bringing at least one of the bombs to Charleroi High School.

The chief of Charleroi police told Channel 11's Courtney Brennan that Ryan Frogner is charged with making the bombs. Brennan reported that Frogner is a National Honors Student and senior at Charleroi High School.

Investigators said there was a bomb scare at the high school on Monday, but no bombs were found.

After further investigation, the 18-year-old admitted to making the bombs and putting one in his car, investigators said. Police said the car was driven onto school property with one of the bombs on Friday.

Frogner allegedly made the bombs in his room at his home on River Avenue in Speers. Brennan reported that one person lived in an apartment above his room.

The Allegheny County Bomb Squad was called to the home on Tuesday.



NORTHCOM

33. [Security, United States] Bomb Squad Detonates WWII Ordnance Near St. Joe

Tuesday, November 20 2012

<http://www.news-gazette.com/news/courts-police-and-fire/2012-11-20/bomb-squad-detonates-wwii-ordnance-near-st-joe.html>

Jim Clingan said he thought he was about to open a power saw at his auction house Monday night.

Instead, he and two of his colleagues took a step back in time and a step back, a really big step back.

"Inside was like a mortar thing with fins on it that had Japanese writing on it. In addition to that, there were two or three hand grenades and a belt of old large bullets like you would wear around your waist. All of it was very, very rusty. Obviously, it came from World War II," said the veteran auctioneer and estate liquidator.

The wooden box was about 1 1/2 feet square and had a handle on it. It had come from the shed of a recently deceased Longview man who had many tools, Clingan said.

"I have been around finding old live ammunition before. The only grenades I've ever run across had already been discharged. In this situation there were one too many danger signs there, so we didn't even stand around the thing. It's like being in a room with an elephant with diarrhea. You gotta' give them plenty of room. That's what we did with that box," said Clingan.

Clingan said he called the sheriff's office who sent a deputy. It was decided to have the trained professionals of the local bomb squad get the items out of the auction house first thing Tuesday morning.

Four members of the squad, made up of Champaign and University of Illinois police officers, got the items out of Clingan's business and into a farm field he owns across the road from his shed on County Road 2200 E, north of Interstate 74.

"It was very anticlimactic," said Clingan of Tuesday morning's activity. "When they discharged it, it was a poof, about three cherry bombs' worth."

Sheriff's Lt. Greg Mills said one of the bomb squad technicians reported to him that at least one of the grenades was live. The ordnance was rendered harmless and the squad on its way by 10:30 a.m.

UI Police Lt. Steve Trame, supervisor of the bomb squad, said such finds are not uncommon.

"They were bringing them back as souvenirs. We've had a countless number where they had the explosives taken out by soldiers in World War II. But you don't know, so you always have to go with the assumption that it's live. Plus, it's 60 years old. It's more unstable. Things get rusty, things get corroded, things get old. You can't make any assumptions," he said.

Clingan said he's never seen a mortar, or whatever the item was, in his 48 years in the estate sale business. And even though he recognized the ammunition belt as holding bullets, he said "we didn't take it out to see how it would fit."



Clingan applauded the bomb squad members for the precautions they took.

"Thank goodness we have those kind of people in the community," he said.





NORTHCOM

34. [Security, United States] Exclusive: First Images Of SoCal Terror Suspects Being Arrested

Wednesday, November 21 2012

<http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-local-terror-plot,0,7848666,full.story>

More details are emerging about the four local men charged with plotting to join Al Qaeda and the Taliban in order to kill Americans overseas.

KTLA has obtained exclusive photos, provided by a viewer, of three of the four suspects being arrested by FBI agents outside a Chino apartment building.

And home video acquired by KTLA shows one of the suspects, 21-year-old Arifeen Gojali, of Riverside, enjoying a day at Huntington Beach earlier this year with his infant daughter.

The central figure in the alleged plot is Sohiel Kabir, 34, a native Afghan and naturalized U.S. citizen who has lived in Pomona and served in the U.S. Air Force from 2000 to 2001.

He converted Santana and Deleon to Islam in 2010, according to the criminal complaint, and then left for Afghanistan to make arrangements for the three of them to join the Taliban or Al Qaeda.

Santana is a Mexican national who was in the process of getting his U.S. citizenship. Deleon is a legal permanent resident from the Philippines.

In September 2012, Deleon and Santana recruited defendant Gojali, a U.S. citizen, to join them and travel overseas to commit "violent jihad," as alleged in the complaint.

The three men had purchased tickets on Thursday, and planned to fly from Mexico City to Istanbul.

They were arrested during a traffic stop on Friday, two days before their scheduled departure. Kabir was apprehended on Sunday in Kabul.

Federal officials expended "extraordinary resources" to track and stop the defendants, said David Bowdich, special agent in charge of counter-terrorism in Los Angeles, at a news conference Tuesday.

Undercover FBI operatives began chatting with Santana online in February, and a confidential informant had infiltrated the group by March.

The charges appear to be based largely on the work of the informant, who has been on the FBI payroll for more than four years and received \$250,000 and "immigration benefits" for his work.

According to the affidavit included in the criminal complaint, he was once convicted of trafficking pseudoephedrine, a chemical precursor to methamphetamine.

Over the course of the past several months, Deleon, Santana and Gojali made numerous plans to join Kabir, according to the 77-page complaint.



Kabir first got to Afghanistan in July 2012 and informed Santana and Deleon that they would join the "students" (the Taliban) and then step up to join the "professors" (Al Qaeda), according to the affidavit.

He said the "brothers would take care of everything." But by Aug. 31, he was telling them the situation with Al Qaeda was a "little complicated."

In September, he told them his main priority was now in Yemen, and they asked why they should fly to Afghanistan if that was so.

On Sept. 30, Kabir said there were more complications because the three were coming from the United States.

Back in California, the men kept practicing and planning, trying to get their various immigration problems fixed, according to authorities.

"Not only were they playing paintball, they were going to shooting ranges," Bowdich said. "They saw this as jihad."

They also scrubbed their Facebook sites of jihadist material to avoid detection, including changing their pages to reflect their real names instead of Islamic "vanity" names.

All the while, the FBI was compiling evidence against them.

The confidential source won the trust of Santana and Deleon and spent time with them, recording many of their conversations.

The defendants described potential targets for violent attacks, including overseas American military personnel and bases, the complaint says.

Deleon told the confidential source he would quit school and withdraw his tuition money to help pay for the trip to Afghanistan, the criminal complaint says.

Santana told the confidential source said he would like to drive a truck bomb, if he could do it with a big truck.

"Just drive it into like the baddest military base," he said, according to the document. "If I'm gonna do, I'm gonna do that. I'm gonna take out a whole base."

His comments, as conveyed in the FBI affidavit, suggest he had no qualms about killing people: "The more I think about it the more it excites me," he said.

While driving home after shooting an M-4 rifle at the range one day, the confidential informant asked the group how Kabir got them to convert.

"Santana said that, growing up, he was easily influenced by people," according to the affidavit.

"Santana said that he would hear Kabir talk and then 'accepted Islam without knowing anything about it besides it being the truth.'"

Deleon's conversion to Islam was similarly easy, according to the affidavit.



When the informant asked him at one point how he felt about the possibility of killing someone, Deleon said, "I'll snipe the guy off. I'm so ready"

Their conversations with the confidential source also revealed details of their "travel logistics, including flights, passports and visas," according to the criminal complaint.

The men also apparently devised cover stories for their travel, the complaint says.

Deleon and Santana said they would go to Dubai to work in the cologne import-export business. They also arranged to receive a wedding invitation from Pakistan as another cover.

Santana, Gojali and Deleon had their initial appearance before a federal magistrate Monday afternoon in U.S. District Court in Riverside.

Santana and Deleon were remanded to federal custody and Gojali's detention hearing was continued to Monday, Nov. 26th.

If convicted, the men each face up to 15 years in federal prison.



NORTHCOM

35. [Security, United States] Bomb Squad Removes Blasting Caps Found In Becket

Friday, November 23 2012

http://www.berkshireeagle.com/ci_22054309

A Becket man got a bit of a surprise when he came across what looked like explosives among his father's belongings on Friday.

The man, who was not named by authorities, reportedly contacted local officials who then called the state.

According to Lorie Anderson, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Fire Services, state police assigned to the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services were dispatched to Becket.

It was not specified whether the bomb squad reported to a home or a work site, but the devices were identified as commercial blasting caps. The type and quantity of caps were not identified.

Anderson said the devices were not illegally held and the man's father had worked in the blasting industry. She said the blasting caps were safely removed by police for secure disposal.



SOUTHCOM

36. [Attack, Colombia] ELN Bomb' Kills One, Injures Three In Northern Colombia

Saturday, November 17 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/27049-eln-bomb-kills-1-injures-3-in-northern-colombia.html>

A bomb allegedly planted by guerrillas of Colombia's second largest rebel group ELN killed one and injures three in the north of the country Saturday.

The bomb attack took place in the municipality of El Tarra, a hotbed of rebel and drug trafficking activity miles from the Venezuelan border.

According to reports, several explosives were detonated in a rural area of the municipality when a group of civilians, accompanied by a soldier, passed.

The injured were taken to the nearby city of Cucuta for treatment.

El Tarra lies in the Catatumbo region where, apart from the ELN, the FARC and several drug trafficking organizations are active because of its crucial location near Venezuela.



SOUTHCOM

37. [Attack, Colombia] Explosions Rock Central Colombia City; Five Injured

Sunday, November 18 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/27054-explosions-rock-central-colombia-city-5-injured.html>

Two bombs rocked the central Colombian city of Ibague Sunday. The terrorist attacks left five people injured and significant material damage.

The first explosion took place at 10AM inside a supermarket in the capital of the Tolima department, 80 miles west of Bogota. The explosion injured at least two policemen and two civilians, one of whom an 9-year-old girl.

The second bomb exploded hours later inside a city bus that was about to enter the terminal. While the bus was destroyed by the explosive, the driver was able to leave his vehicle unharmed.

Local police have offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the perpetrators of the attacks.



SOUTHCOM

38. [Attack, Colombia] FARC Attacks Injure Soldiers In Western Colombia

Monday, November 19 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/27057-farc-attacks-injure-soldiers-in-western-colombia.html>

Two soldiers were seriously injured in one of two reported FARC attacks in the west of Colombia Sunday.

Local media reported that guerrillas in Condoto, a municipality in the Choco department, attacked a counternarcotics police post leaving two policemen critically injured.

The station also functions as a municipal airport and the injured soldiers were successfully evacuated to local hospitals. Several helicopters then took off in search of the rebels.

Meanwhile in the Valle del Cauca, the department just south of Choco, soldiers sent to the municipality of Florida were obstructed by land mines ostensibly laid by FARC.

According to General Humberto Jorge Jerez, one of the explosives was detonated by remote control while another was disarmed by the military's anti-explosives experts.

The attacks occurred one day before the beginning of formal peace talks between the Colombian government and FARC. The "first round" of talks refers to the secret and informal negotiations between the two sides that dates back to February.

FARC lobbied for a cease fire during peace talks, but the government rejected the offer as they did not want to allow the guerrillas any time or space to regroup.

