



*Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data*

## Weekly News Update

Volume 2, Issue 12

23 March 2012

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



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1. Troops Seize Taliban Weapons/Explosives Cache

Tuesday, 20 March 2012

<http://www.strikehold.net/2012/03/20/british-and-afghan-troops-launch-dawn-raid-in-helmand/>

A dawn raid by British and Afghan troops in Helmand province has struck a blow at the insurgency in Afghanistan. The elite Brigade Reconnaissance Force (BRF) joined forces with the Warthog Group to strike at an insurgent headquarters in the north of Task Force Helmand's area of operations. A number of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), some ordnance, and several weapons were recovered in the operation.

Local insurgents had been targeting British and American troop bases to the north of the bustling city of Gereshk and laying IEDs on the vital road between Gereshk, Sangin and the Helmand power plant at the Kajaki Dam.

Intelligence suggested that the insurgents believed they were safe because their headquarters were on the far side of a large canal.

But the BRF, comprising soldiers from the Queen's Dragoon Guards and 1st Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment, swept in on their position in a two-pronged assault with the Warthog Group.

The 90-strong BRF caught the insurgents off guard in a helicopter-borne dawn assault on suspect compounds on the far side of the canal, as the Warthog armoured vehicles, which can carry troops into the heart of battle, stormed in to stamp out an insurgent attempt to rally to attack the BRF from the near side of the canal.

A third group of insurgents attempted to reach a position on the high ground to target the British troops, but Warrior armoured vehicles from the Armoured Infantry Platoon, manned by troops from 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (3 YORKS), thundered in to provide overwatch for the BRF assault and the Taliban scouts fled.

While soldiers secured the perimeter the BRF and Royal Engineer Search Teams discovered a Taliban weapons cache, including a Dragunov sniper rifle – a 'prestige' weapon to insurgents.

The troops also found an AK-47 assault rifle, 29 grenades, some rocket-propelled grenade rounds, mortars, ammunition, and a haul of IED-making equipment, including 11 low-metal-content pressure plates designed to be difficult to detect in the ground.

Troops from the Afghan National Army that partner the BRF on all operations spoke to local civilians to gather information on the insurgency.

The most dangerous time in the operation came during the extraction, as the BRF troops had to be recovered back over the canal – over a 21-metre-wide gap.

Soldiers from the Pioneer Platoon of 3rd Battalion The Mercian Regiment quickly deployed an infantry assault bridge but the Taliban spotted the bridge being deployed and tried to move into position to attack exposed troops. However, they were again forced back by the 3 YORKS Warrior platoon and a mix of US Cobra gunships and UK Apache helicopters.

Major Chris Wildman, Officer Commanding the Warthog Squadron, said:

“This was the first time Task Force Helmand had done an operation of this type on this scale before.

“Having the Warrior Platoon and the Pioneer Platoon under command was a new concept and worked exceptionally well. The Pioneer Platoon got the bridge set in record time and the 3 YORKS boys were outstanding in keeping the Taliban away from the bridge.”

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2. Afghanistan Suicide Bomb Kills Two Children

Thursday, 22 March 2012

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/22/afghanistan-suicide-bomb- n\\_1372360.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/22/afghanistan-suicide-bomb- n_1372360.html)

Afghan police say a suicide car bomber has blown himself up at a security checkpoint outside a police station, killing two children nearby.

Kandahar provincial police chief Gen. Abdul Razaq says the attacker detonated his explosives Thursday afternoon at the checkpoint for a police station in Kandahar, the main city in southern Afghanistan. He says two police officers and another six civilians were wounded.

Razaq says another assailant tried to enter the police station at the same time. He was shot dead by police.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP's earlier story is below.

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) - Afghan police says a suicide car bomber has blown himself up at a security checkpoint outside a police station, killing two children nearby.

Kandahar provincial police chief Gen. Abdul Razaq says the attacker detonated his explosives Thursday afternoon at the checkpoint for a police station in Kandahar, the main city in southern Afghanistan. He says two police and another six civilians were wounded.

Razaq says another assailant tried to enter the police station at the same time. He was shot dead by police.

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3. Afghan Officials: Eight Civilians Killed In Blast

Wednesday, 14 March 2012

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/story/2012-03-14/afghanistan-bomb-civilians-dead/53522406/1>

Afghan authorities say a roadside bomb killed eight civilians in southern Afghanistan when it struck their vehicle.

The governor's office in Helmand province says the Wednesday afternoon explosion in Marjah district was massive and that the bodies are difficult to identify.

The U.N. says last year was the deadliest on record for civilians in the Afghan war, with 3,021 killed as insurgents ratcheted up violence with suicide attacks and roadside bombs.

The U.N. says Taliban-affiliated militants were responsible for more than three-quarters of the civilian deaths in 2011.

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#### 4. Senior Pakistani Police Official Killed In Peshawar

Thursday, 15 March 2012

<http://www.khaama.com/senior-pakistani-police-official-killed-in-peshawar-849>

A senior Pakistani security official on Thursday said, a suicide bomber targeted an anti-Taliban police chief in Peshawar city.

The official further added, the incident took place after a suicide bomber detonated his explosives near the vehicle of Kalam Khan while he was on his way to attend work.

At least 6 kilograms of explosives were used by the suicide bomber, the officials said.

Bomb disposal squad chief Hukum Khan said, "The bomber came on foot and detonated explosives strapped to his body near Khan's jeep."

At least 3 others including two police officials and a driver of Kalam Khan were injured during the incident and were taken to the hospital for treatment.

Khan headed an operation against militants which was underway at the bordering area between Khyber Agency and Peshawar.

Mian Iftikhar Hussain, a senior government official said, "He was instrumental in stopping militants from entering Peshawar city."

No group including the Taliban militants in Pakistan have so far claimed responsibility behind the incident.

Police blame the attack on Hakimullah Mehsud, the leader of Tehreek-i-Taliban (TTP) extremist group.

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5. IED Attack On Police Vehicle In Matani Area, No Casualties

Saturday, 17 March 2012

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/351337/ied-attack-on-police-van-in-mattani-area-no-casualties/>

A remote-controlled bomb attack on a police van on Saturday in the Mattani area damaged the vehicle but the policemen remained unhurt.

The attack came at the time when gatherings were being held in police stations across the area in memory of senior police official Kalam Khan who was killed in a suicide attack on Thursday.

The bomb, which was placed at the side of the road, was a remote-controlled IED (Improvised Explosive Device), Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Tahir Ayub said.

“The bomb was of around 4kg that was used to target the police. However, our men remained unhurt,” he added.

The incident occurred in the Darwazgai locality of Kohat road and falls in the jurisdiction of Mattani Police Station, where police officials throughout the area usually gather to pay tribute to Khan.

Khan was heading the police force in the troubled rural areas of Peshawar and was killed in a suicide attack when he was on a routine check near the Pishtakhara chowk.

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6. Terror Bid Foiled: 500 Kg. Of Explosives Seized In Quetta

Tuesday, 20 March 2012

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/352438/terror-bid-foiled-500kg-of-explosives-seized-in-quetta/>

Security forces claimed to have foiled a terror bid in Quetta for execution on March 23 by seizing a huge quantity of explosive materials and arms. According to official sources, acting upon a tip-off, security forces beefed up security at the entry point of Quetta city.

At Buleli check post they intercepted several vehicles and found 500 kilograms of explosive material, seven detonators and six landmines from one of them. "We had information about smuggling of explosive materials from Afghanistan to Quetta," an official said. However, no arrest was made as driver and cleaner fled before security personnel searched the vehicle.

The terrorists intended to use these explosive materials for a subversive act during the functions being held on March 23 in Quetta.

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7. Explosives, Suicide Jackets Recovered In Bajaur

Friday, 16 March 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-7-97872-Explosives-suicide-jackets-recovered-in-Bajaur-search>

The security forces recovered explosives and suicide jackets during search operation conducted in various areas of Bajaur Agency's Mamond tehsil, official said on Thursday.

Talking to reporters, Commandant, Bajaur Scouts, Colonel Muhammad Shakeel Janjua said the security forces launched search operation in Banda, Lara Banda and other areas in Mamond tehsil and recovered arms, explosives and suicide jackets.

He said Kalashnikov rifles, mortar shells, hand grenades, 14.5 MM guns, militant literature, relief items for internally displaced persons, explosive material and thousands of rounds were recovered during the search operation.

He appreciated the local tribesmen for their cooperation in clearing the area of militants. He said the soldiers had been deployed on the mountain peaks along the Afghan border to stop infiltration of militants, adding that security was put on high alert in the border areas.

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8. Al Qaeda Claims Responsibility for Iraq Attacks

Wednesday, 21 March 2012

<http://www.dawn.com/2012/03/21/al-qaeda-claims-responsibility-for-iraq-attacks.html>

Al Qaeda's front group in Iraq has claimed responsibility for the latest wave of bloody attacks that killed 52 people in eight cities nationwide.

A statement posted Wednesday on a militant website says the Islamic State of Iraq wanted to prove how weak the Iraqi government's security plans are ahead of next week's Arab League meeting in Baghdad.

At least 52 people were killed and more than 200 were wounded in Tuesday's shootings and bombings, which took place over six hours.

Al Qaeda says its "Sunni lions" targeted the plan of the "fool government preparing" for the summit.

The Arab leaders' meeting is the first in Iraq in a generation. Iraq's government hopes it will be a chance to prove the country is moving toward normalcy after years of war.

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9. Six Iranian Pilgrims Killed In Karbala Bombings

Tuesday, 20 March 2012

<http://www.payvand.com/news/12/mar/1188.html>

Six Iranian pilgrims were killed and five others wounded in bomb blasts that hit the shrine city of Karbala in Iraq on Tuesday. In Karbala two car bombs exploded in a crowded shopping and restaurant area.

Bombings and shootings across Iraq on Tuesday killed 46 people, striking at police and pilgrims.

The identities of all Iranian victims except one dead person have been released.

Every day hundreds of Iranian citizens visit holy shrines in Iraq under the supervision of the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization.

However, some citizens visit Iraq individually without heeding warnings by the organization.

Mahdi Shamsavari, the deputy director of the organization, said those killed or injured in Karbala on Tuesday had visited Iraq outside officially registered tour agencies.

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10. Iraq Bombs Kill Scores Before Arab League Summit

Tuesday, 20 March 2012

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/mar/20/iraq-bombs-kill-dozens>

At least 26 explosions have hit cities and towns across Iraq, killing at least 49 people and wounding more than 200, despite a security clampdown before the Arab League summit in Baghdad next week.

The day was Iraq's bloodiest in nearly a month, with the breadth of co-ordinated bombs in more than a dozen cities showing an apparent determination by insurgents to prove that the government cannot keep the country safe.

Iraq is due to host the Arab League meeting for the first time in 20 years, and the government is anxious to show it can maintain security after the withdrawal of US troops in December.

"The goal of today's attacks was to present a negative image of the security situation in Iraq," a government spokesman, Ali al-Dabbagh, told Reuters.

"Security efforts will be escalated to counteract terrorist groups' attacks and to fill loopholes used by them to infiltrate security, whether in Baghdad or other provinces."

The deadliest incident occurred in the southern Shia Muslim holy city of Kerbala, where twin explosions killed 13 people and wounded 48 during the morning rush hour, according to Jamal Mahdi, a Kerbala health department spokesman.

"The second explosion caused the biggest destruction. I saw body parts – fingers, hands – thrown on the road," a 23-year-old shop owner, Murtadha Ali Kadhim, told Reuters.

"The security forces are stupid because they always gather at the site of an explosion, and then a second explosion occurs. They become a target."

Blasts also struck in the capital, in Baiji, Baquba, Daquq, Dibis, Dhuluiya, Kirkuk, Mosul, Samarra and Tuz Khurmato to the north, in Falluja and Ramadi to the west, and in Hilla, Latifiya, Mahmudiya and Mussayab to the south. Police defused bombs in Baquba, Falluja and Mosul.

Most of the blasts targeted police checkpoints and patrols.

"This latest spate of attacks is very likely to have been co-ordinated by a large and well-organised group. It is likely an attempt to show the authorities that their security measures are insignificant," said John Drake, a senior risk consultant at AKE Group, which studies security in Iraq for corporate clients.

Army and police forces are frequently targeted in Iraq, where bombings and shootings still occur on a daily basis. Sunni Muslim insurgent groups say that despite the withdrawal of US forces, they will continue to bear arms and battle the Shia-led government.

Although violence has declined since the height of sectarian fighting in 2006 and 2007, Iraqis are concerned about their government's ability to impose security nine years after the US-led invasion overthrew Saddam Hussein.

Tuesday's attacks were the biggest since 23 February, when dozens of explosions across the country killed at least 60 people.

The Arab League summit, on between 27 and 29 March, will be the first held in Baghdad since Saddam's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Security has been stepped up across the city's checkpoints, where thorough searches have backed up traffic for hours in recent days.

In the northern city of Kirkuk, two car bombs exploded near a police headquarters, killing nine people and wounding 42, police and health sources said. In Baghdad, a car bomb near the provincial council building killed four and wounded 11.

Police in the north-eastern city of Baquba said they had found and defused nine bombs, including one in a booby-trapped car that was parked on the road with a decapitated body in the driver's seat and the man's head in his lap.

By late afternoon, the toll from all the bombings compiled by Reuters from police and hospital sources stood at 49 killed and 235 wounded.

On Monday evening, bombers struck five times in the northern province of Diyala, killing at least three people and wounding more than 30, police said.

The government says it will be deploying up to 100,000 additional troops and police in Baghdad to impose extra security measures during the summit. The event is an important set piece for the government of the prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki.

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## 11. Iraq Church Targeted In Bomb Blasts

Thursday, 22 March 2012

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/iraq.church.targeted.in.bomb.blasts/29522.htm>

The Syrian Orthodox Church of St Matthew in Baghdad was one of the targets in a string of bombings Tuesday, as Iraqi extremists carried out a series of attacks in several cities and towns across the country that killed at least 52 people in total.

Over 30 bombs were detonated and wounded an estimated 250 people. The attacks are believed to have been a challenge from extremists to security forces on the ninth anniversary of US invasion of the country on 20 March.

The deadliest incident occurred in the southern city of Kerbala, a city Shi'ite Muslims consider sacred, where two car bombs killed 13 people and wounded 48 during the morning rush hour, according to media reports.

Other targeted areas included Baiji, Baquba, Daquq, Dibis, Dhuluiya, Kirkuk, Mosul, Samarra, Tuz Khurmato, Khalis and Dujail to the north of Baghdad, Falluja and Ramadi to the west, and Hilla, Latifiya, Mahmudiya and Mussayab to the south. Police reportedly defused bombs in Baquba, Falluja and Mosul. Experts called the day of the blasts Iraq's bloodiest in nearly a month.

The bombing of St Matthew church in Baghdad reportedly killed two guards and wounded five other people. Officials have yet to confirm whether the building was specifically targeted by terrorists because it is a Christian place of worship.

The attacks were successful despite a massive security clampdown ahead of next week's Arab League summit in Baghdad, local sources said.

"The goal of today's attacks was to present a negative image of the security situation in Iraq," government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh told Reuters.

"Security efforts will be escalated to counteract terrorist groups' attacks and to fill loopholes used by them to infiltrate security, whether in Baghdad or other provinces," he added.

Army and police forces are frequently targeted in Iraq, where bombings and shootings still occur almost daily, according to media reports. The United States formally ended the war in Iraq last December and the Iraq army took on responsibility for the safety of civilians.

The bombing of the church raises painful memories for the local Christian community of the attack on Our Lady of Salvation in October 2010. Armed militants, some wearing suicide vests, stormed the Catholic church during Sunday Mass and took around 80 worshippers hostage. Hours later, Iraqi special forces raided the church, at which point the explosives went off. The attack killed 58 people, mostly congregants, and left 75 wounded.

As sectarian violence erupted in Iraq after the US-led invasion - especially between Shi'ites and Sunni Muslims - local religious minorities, including Christians, found themselves not only caught in the crossfire, but also specifically targeted.



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Violent intimidation and other forms of persecution have reportedly led hundreds of thousands of Assyrian Christians to flee the country.

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## 12. Syrian Rebels Take On Army Tanks With Homemade Bombs

Wednesday, 21 March 2012

<http://www.france24.com/en/20120321-syrian-rebels-take-army-tanks-with-home-made-bombs>

The electric fuse connects to the battery, Abu Suleiman shouts "Allahu Akbar!" and the gas canister explodes, tearing up the road just a few kilometres (miles) from a Syrian army position.

For the rebel chief, whose men control a mountainous region of northern Syria, preventing the army from using this route near the Turkish border is a matter of life or death.

"I have cut off three roads into the village that they still control, so they now only have one and we can attack it," says the bearded 35-year-old, from Hama, whose father was killed in a 1982 massacre of Muslim Brotherhood rebels.

To supply his men with weapons, Abu Suleiman buys Kalashnikov assault rifles from mostly Lebanese arms traffickers, but for the explosives needed to blow up the roads and strike army tanks, his group turned to the Internet.

"I found what materials were needed to build a home-made bomb on the web, I copied the information onto a memory stick and brought it here," explained one of his men.

Abdullah is builder by profession, but was an army bomb expert during his military service. He is in charge of the workshop that produces the rebels' home-made bombs -- a bare room built from breeze-blocks near a rebel safe house.

Inside, aluminium nitrate, fertilizer and diesel fuel are mixed together and heated to create an explosive paste, and the detonators are then made from small tubes filled with the paste and wired up to an electric fuse.

"It's not very difficult, and with heavy equipment we have already managed to stop the tanks," said Abdullah, who opened his laboratory last July, four months after the anti-regime protests and bloody crackdown first began.

"Stopped, not destroyed. We damage the tracks so they can't advance. To destroy the tanks we would need something more powerful, which we don't have. But we are stopping them, and they are starting to get scared."

Tools and materials lie on the ground -- drill, pliers, batteries, metal, welding machine. Car alarms are used to make remote control detonators.

In the corridor, three gas canisters filled with explosives are wired up and ready to use. Five cartons of aluminium nitrate lie in a pick-up truck outside.

Abdullah also makes bombs from 20-centimetre (eight-inch) metal pipes, welded at both ends and covered with pieces of metal for shrapnel.

"It is dangerous, it's true ... You have to be careful."

In a nearby house, he points to the walls that were shaken and the ceiling blackened in an accidental explosion.

"Just 200 grammes. It blew up while we were making the mix ... Luckily it was on a plate, and we were only lightly hurt. If it had been in a tube we would have been killed."

The rebels use the same explosive mix to build hand grenades -- a piece of metal tube closed at both ends with a wick sticking out.

On the road where the rebels detonated the gas cylinder wedged inside a drainage duct, Abu Suleiman rushes to inspect the damage. On the right, the road is blown away, but on the left it is merely damaged.

"Quick! Bring me another!" he orders his men.

Another bomb is inserted in the tunnel, a car approaches within sight of the armed men, does a U-turn and disappears, the men run for cover and another loud blast rings out.

This time the crater is huge and the road is impassable.

In a small village below, a.armed residents emerge on their doorsteps.

Abu Suleiman makes the victory sign and shouts: "Up yours, Hafez al-Assad!" father of the current president, who was in power at the time of the Hama massacre, an event that for so many defined the brutality of the Assad dynasty.

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13. Religious Group Claims Syria Bombs 'To Avenge Sunnis'

Wednesday, 21 March 2012

<http://www.dawn.com/2012/03/21/religious-group-claims-syria-bombs-to-avenge-sunnis.html>

A religious group claimed responsibility for last weekend's suicide car bombings in central Damascus to avenge the Syrian regime's "massacre of Sunnis," in a statement posted online on Wednesday.

Al-Nusra Front to Protect the Levant, in the statement on their websites, said its militants carried out "a series of military operations... especially the air force security" buildings of the "criminal regime" in Damascus.

The attacks were "in response to the continued shelling by the regime of residential districts of Homs, Idlib, Hama and Daraa," it said, listing major centres of opposition across Syria.

"We will later respond to the crimes carried out by the regime" in the central city of Homs, it warned, demanding that the regime, led by Alawites, an offshoot of Shiite Islam, "stop its massacres of Sunnis."

AFP could not verify the authenticity of the statement.

The Al-Nusra Front to Protect the Levant first emerged at the end of February to claim suicide bombings in Damascus and Aleppo, Syria's second largest city.

The group said the attacks were "to avenge the people of Homs" besieged by regime forces.

A video posted on jihadist forums showed footage of the destruction caused by the January 6 car attack in Damascus that killed 26 people, and by a twin suicide car bombing in Aleppo on February 10 that killed 28 people.

A double suicide car bombing targeting security installations in Damascus on Saturday killed 27 people, the interior ministry said, a day before a similar attack killed two more in Aleppo, Syria's commercial hub.

Syria blamed the bombings on "armed terrorist gangs" which it holds responsible for the year-old bloodshed in the country that monitors say has cost more than 9,100 lives in a brutal crackdown on dissent.

It has also pointed to an al Qaeda role in the violence, while opposition activists have accused the Damascus regime of stage-managing attacks such as the car bombings to cause inter-sectarian strife.

According to the US-based monitors SITE Intelligence Group, the terror network came out on January 23 with a message calling for armed struggle against the regime.

Last month, US spy chief James Clapper said al Qaeda's branch in Iraq had probably carried out the January and February suicide bombings in Syria, having infiltrated rebel forces fighting President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

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The bomb attacks “had all the earmarks of an al Qaeda-like attack,” Clapper said at the time. “And so we believe al Qaeda in Iraq is extending its reach into Syria.”

Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri has also expressed support for Syrian rebels.

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14. Syria Car Bomb Kills Two, Injures 30 In Aleppo

Monday, 19 March 2012

<http://articles.latimes.com/2012/mar/19/world/la-fg-syria-aleppo-violence-20120319>

A car bomb explosion killed at least two people and injured 30 in the northern city of Aleppo, Syrian authorities said Sunday, raising fears of a new wave of deadly attacks as the rebellion against President Bashar Assad enters its second year.

The explosion in Aleppo, the nation's business hub, came a day after two car bombs detonated in the capital, Damascus, officials said, reportedly killing 27 people and injuring almost 100.

Both Damascus and Aleppo are considered strongholds of support for Assad and, apart from car bomb attacks, have been largely spared the fighting seen in other areas.

The government blamed all three blasts on "terrorists," its habitual characterization of forces seeking to oust Assad.

Opposition figures have denied any involvement and said the latest car bombings, like an earlier wave of such attacks, were government-orchestrated acts meant to discredit the uprising.

U.S. intelligence officials have said that Islamic militants, possibly associated with Al Qaeda, may have been responsible for the earlier car bomb attacks in Damascus and Aleppo.

Some news accounts indicated that police in Aleppo had been alerted before Sunday's explosion, allowing time to evacuate residents and minimize casualties. The booby-trapped car exploded while authorities were moving it, the official Syrian Arab News Agency reported.

The news agency reported that "huge crowds" participated in a march and Requiem Mass denouncing the attacks and honoring those killed in Saturday's car bombings. One of Saturday's explosions occurred in the Qasaa neighborhood, home to many Christians.

Sunday's bombing in Aleppo occurred in the city's Sulemaniyeh neighborhood, also home to many Christians. The official news agency said the bomb went off near the "Latin Church." It was unclear whether Sunday services were going on at the time.

News agencies have reported that all three weekend bombs were detonated near security posts, the presumed targets.

Christians, like other Syrian minorities, have generally been viewed as supportive of Assad, a member of the Alawite minority, an offshoot of Shiite Islam. Many minorities fear an Islamist takeover should armed rebels, mostly from the nation's Sunni Muslim majority, manage to overthrow Assad.

Some observers say that Syria's uprising is taking on an increasingly sectarian identity, pitting the Sunni Muslims against Assad's Alawite sect, who are prominent in security services. But there have been no confirmed reports of Christians being targeted in a systematic way, as occurred in Iraq, where churches were bombed.

Also, "an armed terrorist group" reportedly shot 13 civilians to death in the village of Hasiba in Homs province. A railway bridge connecting Damascus with the southern city of Dara was blown up, the state news agency said.

The Local Coordination Committees, an opposition network, reported that at least 25 people were killed by security forces nationwide, including nine in Idlib province in the northwest and four each in Homs and suburban Damascus. Authorities cracked down on protests marking the anniversary of the uprising that began last March, opposition activists said.

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15. Syria Car Bombs Hit Damascus, Killing At Least 27

Saturday, 17 March 2012

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/17/syria-car-bombs-damascus\\_n\\_1355312.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/17/syria-car-bombs-damascus_n_1355312.html)

Two suicide bombers detonated cars packed with explosives in near-simultaneous attacks on heavily guarded intelligence and security buildings in the Syrian capital Damascus Saturday, killing at least 27 people.

There have been a string of large-scale bombings against the regime in its stronghold of Damascus that suggest a dangerous, wild-card element in the year-old anti-government revolt. The regime blamed the opposition, which denied having a role or the capabilities to carry out such a sophisticated attack. And after other similar attacks, U.S. officials suggested al-Qaida militants may be joining the fray.

The early morning explosions struck the heavily fortified air force intelligence building and the criminal security department, several miles apart in Damascus, at approximately the same time, the Interior Ministry said. Much of the facade of the intelligence building appeared to have been ripped away.

State-run news agency SANA said a third blast went off near a military bus at the Palestinian refugee camp Yarmouk in Damascus, killing the two suicide bombers.

"All our windows and doors are blown out," said Majed Seibiyah, 29, who lives in the area of one of the blasts. "I was sleeping when I heard a sound like an earthquake. I didn't grasp what was happening until I heard screaming in the street."

The first explosion around 7 a.m. targeted the air force intelligence building in the residential district of al-Qassaa, a predominantly Christian area. It caused destruction in a 100-meter (yard) radius, shattering windows, blowing doors off their hinges and throwing chairs and other furniture off balconies.

State TV aired gruesome images of the scene, with mangled and charred corpses, bloodstained streets and twisted steel.

It carried interviews with the wounded in hospital.

"Is this the assistance promised by Qatar and Saudi Arabia?" asked one of the injured.

The two Gulf powerhouses have been fiercely critical of the Syrian government's crackdown on dissent and have been discussing military aid to the rebels. The U.N. says well over 8,000 have died since the uprising began a year ago, inspired by Arab Spring revolts across the Middle East and North Africa.

A string of previous blasts that struck the capital, also suicide bombings, have killed dozens of people since December.

The government has blamed the explosions on the "terrorists" that it claims are behind the uprising. The opposition has denied any role, saying they believe forces loyal to the government are behind the bombings in a plot to tarnish the uprising.

But top U.S. intelligence officials also have pointed to al-Qaida in Iraq as the likely culprit behind the previous bombings, raising the possibility its fighters are infiltrating across the border to take advantage of the turmoil.

Al-Qaida's leader called for President Bashar Assad's ouster in February.

A previously unknown Islamist group calling itself Al-Nusra Front to Protect the Levant claimed responsibility for the previous attacks in a video posted online, saying it carried them out "to avenge the people of Homs." Homs is an opposition stronghold in central Syria that has been hard-hit in the government crackdown.

Al-Qaida's involvement could further fuel the sectarian tensions that the uprising has already stoked. Al-Qaida's supporters are largely Sunni Muslim extremists.

Syria's military and political leadership is stacked heavily with members of the minority Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam to which Assad and the ruling elite belong. The Alawite leaders of Syria are closely allied with Shiite Iran.

Sunnis are the majority in the country of 22 million and make up the backbone of the opposition.

A suspected al-Qaida presence creates new obstacles for the U.S., its Western allies and Arab states trying to figure out a way to help push Assad from power. If al-Qaida does interfere, it may also rally Syrian religious minorities, fearful of Sunni radicalism, to get behind the regime.

The blasts also raised questions about how suicide car bombers were able to penetrate high-security areas in Damascus. Since the first suicide bombings struck the capital in December, the government has taken exceptional measures around state security and other government institutions and ministries, putting up thick concrete blast walls and checkpoints and guards checking drivers' IDs.

Bassma Kodmani, a Paris-based member of the opposition Syrian National Council, said she doubted the armed groups trying to bring Assad down by force, such as the rebel Free Syrian Army, have the capacity to carry out such attacks on security institutions in the capital.

"I don't think any of the opposition forces or the Free Syrian Army has the capacity to do such an operation to target these buildings because they are fortresses," she said by telephone. "They are very well guarded. There is no way anyone can penetrate them without having strong support and complicity from inside the security apparatus."

The rebel Free Syrian Army, the most powerful armed opposition force, has appealed for the international community to send weapons to help it fight the regime, but so far, no countries are heeding the call. The U.S. and others have not advocated arming the rebels, in part out of fear it would create an even more bloody and prolonged battle.

Though the Syrian uprising began as mostly peaceful protests, it has becoming increasingly militarized, pushing the country to the brink of civil war.

An Interior Ministry statement tied the latest explosions to "the recent escalation by regional and international parties, and their open calls for sending weapons to Syria."

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The morning attacks caused panic on the streets. Shooting broke out soon after the blasts and sent residents and others who had gathered in the area fleeing, an Associated Press reporter at the scene said.

The last major suicide bombing was on Feb. 10, when twin blasts struck security compounds in the government stronghold of Aleppo in northern Syria, killing 28 people. Damascus has seen three suicide previous bombings since December, hitting intelligence and security buildings.

The government uses the attack to reinforce its claim that this is not a popular uprising, blaming foreign extremists and gangs trying to destroy the country.

In recent weeks, Syrian forces have waged a series of heavy offensives against the main strongholds of the opposition – Homs in the center, Idlib in the north and Daraa in the south.

The Local Coordination Committees, a key activist group, said 22 people were killed across the country Saturday, including eight in the northwestern city of Raqqa where clashes were reported between the military and army defectors, and five in Idlib.

Diplomatic efforts to solve the crisis have so far brought no result. But U.N. envoy Kofi Annan told the Security Council in a briefing Friday that he would return to Damascus even though his recent visit and talks with Assad saw no progress in attempts to cobble together negotiations.

Both Assad and much of the opposition spurned Annan's appeal for talks.

Syria told Annan in a letter obtained by the AP Saturday that it is "keen to end violence" but insists that armed opposition groups must give up their weapons first.

The Syrian response falls far short of U.S. and European demands that regime forces stop fighting first – and even Russia's insistence that both sides stop fighting simultaneously. But it does leave open the door for talks, and Annan is sending a team to Damascus on Sunday to continue efforts on implementing his proposal.

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16. Two Terrorists Killed In Homs, Three Explosive Devices Dismantled In Deir Ezzor  
Friday, 16 March 2012  
<http://www.sana.sy/eng/337/2012/03/16/406529.htm>

3 explosive devices were dismantled in Deir Ezzor, SANA correspondent said, adding that the devices were planted near al-Orfi Mosque in the city.

3 Law-enforcement Members Injured by Explosive Device in Hama

3 law-enforcement members were injured when an explosive device that a terrorist group planted went off in Janoub al-Mal'ab neighborhood in Hama.

SANA correspondent reported that the device went off as a law-enforcement patrol was passing nearby.

Also, the body of Ghada Subhi al-Saqqa, a resident of Bab Qibli neighborhood, was found in a street in al-Farai neighborhood.

The source added that the death was caused by suffocation due to stuffing her mouth and nostrils with cotton.

Authorities Uncover Workshop for Manufacturing Explosives in al-Zawiye Mountain, Idlib

The authorities raided a cave near Balioun village in al-Zawiye mountain, uncovering a workshop for manufacturing explosive devices containing firearms and medical supplies.

An informed source told SANA's correspondent said that the cave contained a workshop for manufacturing explosive and materials used to this end such as putty explosives, detonators, wires and dynamite sticks, along with 16 explosive devices of various yields.

The source said that the cave also contained firearms, ammunition and medical supplies.

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17. Thirty Kg. Bomb Found Near Fatah Official's Home In Ain Al-Hilweh

Wednesday, 21 March 2012

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Politics/2012/Mar-21/167437-explosives-mortars-found-near-fatah-official-home-in-ain-al-hilweh.ashx#axzz1pmXch3E9>

A bomb estimated to contain 30 kilograms of TNT and set to blow up by remote control, was found Wednesday near the home of a Fatah official in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain al-Hilweh.

Head of the Fatah-dominated Palestinian Armed Struggle in Lebanon Brig. Gen. Mahmoud Issa, better known as Lino, told The Daily Star that bomb was discovered at 6:30 a.m. near his home in the camp on the outskirts of the southern city of Sidon.

Col. Qotaiba, commander of the Palestinian Armed Struggle in Sidon's Ain al-Hilweh and Mieh Mieh refugee camps, said three mortar shells were found inside the bomb that was concealed in a paint bucket.

Qotaiba, who also is an explosives expert, said he safely defused the explosive device.

He said the bomb, which was set to explode at 2:00 p.m., was attached to two cellphone detonators.

"The planned explosion was aimed at causing heavy damage given the timing which coincides with the end of the school day," Qotaiba told The Daily Star.

He pointed to the presence of several schools in addition to a daycare facility and a motherhood center in the vicinity of Lino's house where the bomb had been planted.

This is not the first attempt on the Fatah official's life. Amer Fustog, Lino's bodyguard, was shot and killed in Ain al-Hilweh's vegetable market in Dec. 2011.

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## 18. Terror Attacks In Africa Increased During 2011

Tuesday, 20 March 2012

[http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=24471:terror-attacks-in-africa-increased-during-2011&catid=3:Civil%20Security&Itemid=113](http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=24471:terror-attacks-in-africa-increased-during-2011&catid=3:Civil%20Security&Itemid=113)

The number of bomb attacks in Nigeria, Kenya and Somalia rose dramatically last year while terror groups used more sophisticated devices to inflict greater damage on the African continent.

The number of improvised explosive device (IED) incidents in Nigeria increased nearly four times last year, while Kenya witnessed an 86% increase.

A total of 877 terrorist incidents were reported in Africa last year, according to the Centre of Excellence Defence Against Terrorism (COE-DAT). These 877 attacks claimed 2 771 lives, caused 2 787 injuries and included 650 abductions.

The number of terrorist incidents in Africa accounted for 7% of the total number of incidents in the world in 2011. Somalia was the most hard-hit country in Africa with 373 incidents and 1 130 people killed, accounting for 43% of all incidents in Africa. Also, Somalia suffered the most casualties in Africa last year.

After Somalia, Nigeria was the scene of 159 attacks killing 716, followed by Algeria (105 attacks; 159 dead), Kenya (34 attacks and 28 dead), Sudan (63 attacks and 451 dead) and the Ivory coast (27 attacks and 89 dead). Other top ten nations include Egypt, Mauritania, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi, according to COE-DAT data.

In Africa, the most common method of attack was clashes (284 incidences resulting in 1 388 killed), followed by IED attacks (190 cases resulting in 340 dead) and armed attacks.

In Africa, Somalia, Nigeria, Algeria, Kenya, Sudan, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Mauritania, the DRC, Burundi, Tunisia, Libya, Niger, Senegal, Mali, Ethiopia, Central African Republic (CAR), Morocco, Guinea, Cameroon, Rwanda, Benin, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Zambia and Zimbabwe suffered from terrorist attacks in 2011.

The most significant attack in Africa was a suicide bombing in Yobe State in Nigeria on November 4, which claimed 100 lives. The incident happened when six bombs went off in different part of Damaturu.

Militants last year began using deadlier shaped charge devices for the first time in both Somalia and Nigeria, John Myrick, a US military bomb expert told The Associated Press. Advanced bomb-makers use shaped charges so that they can penetrate armour.

While Somalia saw only a small increase in attacks, the newer technology lead to greater casualties and deeper impact on Africa Union forces, Myrick said. He added that bombs in Somalia "are definitely more sophisticated and they're definitely more effective against AMISOM armoured vehicles, which represents an advance in the capabilities of the insurgents".

The Pentagon's Joint IED Defeat Organization said that militants from Iraq and Afghanistan are sharing their experience with associates in Africa, especially after Somalia's al Shabaab joined with al Qaeda.

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Worldwide, COE-DAT reports 12 122 terrorist incidents in 96 different countries in 2011, versus 10 337 in the preceding year. These incidents claimed 17 6431 lives, caused 25 700 injuries and included 2 059 abductions. The incidents increased roughly 17% in the world compared to the previous year. Incidents in Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan consist of 58% of all total incidents in the world.

Iraq suffered the most attacks in 2011, with 2 694 (3 065 killed), followed by Pakistan (2 309 attacks; 3 413 killed), Afghanistan (2 009 attacks; 2 977 killed) and India (1 166 attacks; 650 killed). Other top ten nations include Mexico, Somalia, Columbia, Thailand, Russia and Yemen.

COE-DAT said that improvised explosive device attacks, armed attacks and clashes consisted of 72% of the total attacks in the world in 2011. According to attack types, IED attack was the most prevalent methodology in the world during 2011.

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19. Puntland Law Enforcement Officers Capture Explosives And Weapons

Wednesday, 21 March 2012

<http://www.raxanreeb.com/2012/03/somalia-puntland-security-forces-seize-explosive-devices-and-light-weapons-photos/>

The security officials of Somalia's autonomous state of Puntland have displayed explosive devices, hand grenades and pistols seized from a house in the port town of Bosasso, RBC Radio reports.

The seized illegal weapons were displayed to the journalists on Wednesday in a joint press conference by the Bari regional police commissioner, Osman Ahmed Afdolow and deputy security minister of Puntland Abdijamal Mohamed Isse.

The officials said that the weapons containing two pistols, 100 ammunition, two hand grenades and Improvised Explosive Devices IEDs were caught during security operation in Bosasso on March 10th.

"As you see today here, the police succeeded the seizure of pistols, ammunition, hand grenades and IEDs. The operation was conducted in March 10th but we were investigating the matter deeply." Afdolow told the reporters.

Improvised Explosive Devices IEDs were caught during security operation in Bosasso on March 10th.

He said the police detained several people in connection with the illegal weapon.

"Our police could not have done the seizure of the illegal weapons unless we get the support and leading information from the local community." deputy security minister of Puntland Abdijamal Mohamed Isse stated.

It was unclear where the illegal weapons passed from but Puntland security officials blame it was used to destabilize the region by Al Shabab rebels.

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20. Police Defuse Two Bombs In Adamawa

Friday, 16 March 2012

<http://dailytimes.com.ng/article/police-defuse-two-bombs-adamawa>

The Police in Adamawa on Friday defused two heavy Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) planted on a road side in Mubi, Adamawa state.

The bombs were placed in "Ghana must go" bags which were planted on a sidewalk at Kabang junction on Ahmadu Bello Way, Mubi. Kabang junction was the scene of Monday night's attack on a military patrol vehicle, where a police inspector, a soldier and three other persons were killed.

A special anti-bomb squad of the police was deployed to the area and succeeded in defusing the bombs at about 2 this afternoon.

Adamawa police spokesman, Mr Nemuel Yoila, an ASP, confirmed the incident. Yoila said the police had deactivated the bombs and that no casualties were recorded during the incident.

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21. Car Bomb Rocks Somali Capital, Al Shabaab Says Responsible

Wednesday, 21 March 2012

<http://www.euronews.com/newswires/1448578-car-bomb-rocks-somali-capital-al-shabaab-says-responsible/>

A car bomb exploded in the heart of the Somali capital on Wednesday, wounding two people, and the rebel al Shabaab group said its members had carried out the attack.

Hours later, four civilians were killed and seven wounded when a grenade was thrown into a government tax office in the southern city of Baidoa, witnesses said.

The Mogadishu blast, which triggered bursts of gunfire in the city, was the latest in a wave of bomb attacks in the country where the embattled U.N.-backed government is struggling to secure the city against al Qaeda-linked Islamist rebels.

"We were behind the car bomb explosion. We targeted security forces," Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, a spokesman for al Shabaab military operations, told Reuters of the blast in the busy administrative district, near the bustling Kilometre 4 junction.

Police said four suspects had been detained and that they were investigating a second suspicious vehicle in the city.

There has been a surge in suicide bombings and remotely detonated blasts in Mogadishu since al Shabaab pulled most of its fighters out of the coastal city in August, vowing to turn increasingly to al Qaeda-inspired tactics.

Al Shabaab carried out a truck bombing in October which killed more than 70 people, its deadliest attack since the rebellion began in 2007. A spate of smaller attacks followed.

The militants have been weakened in past months, on the back foot against African Union soldiers in Mogadishu and losing territory to Kenyan and Ethiopian forces in southern and central Somalia. There are also signs of growing internal divisions within the rebel ranks.

Piracy has also flourished in the chaos of the last two decades. On Wednesday, pirates freed British hostage Judith Tebbutt more than six months after seizing her and shooting dead her husband, saying they had received a ransom.

In Mogadishu, witnesses told Reuters the explosives-packed car had been parked on Maka al Mukarram road between K4 and the presidential palace, arousing the suspicions of security forces who blocked off traffic.

"We got a man with the remote control seconds after he detonated the car. We also arrested three other suspects," police spokesman Abdullahi Barise said.

A Reuters photographer who saw the wrecked car said one of the wounded, who was taking photos of the vehicle when it blew up, was bleeding heavily and crying out in pain as onlookers helped him. One family fled their house just metres away moments before the bomb exploded.

Several hours later, police said they had cordoned off the K4 intersection to investigate another vehicle abandoned in an area used by waiting taxis.

“We didn’t recognise the car. All taxi drivers fled the parking. It is a suspected car bomb,” witness Jama Hussein said. Security forces were holding people back.

In the southern city of Baidoa, which Ethiopian and Somali troops seized from al Shabaab last month, witnesses said at least four civilians were killed and seven wounded when a grenade was hurled at a recently reopened government tax office.

“The tax office is in the market. Traders have been paying cash to al Shabaab for the last three years. Now the government started collecting tax after it ousted them,” Baidoa shopkeeper Hassan Abdiqader told Reuters.

Losing control of Baidoa was considered a major tactical blow to al Shabaab, which is battling Kenyan troops to hold on to territory in southern Somalia and fighting African Union troops around the capital.

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22. Delhi, Bangkok Blasts Linked

Friday, 16 March 2012

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/03/16/india-israel-blast-idINDEE82F0A220120316?feedType=RSS&feedName=globalCoverage2>

The police have established a link between a bomb that wounded an Israeli diplomat's wife in New Delhi and a fumbled bomb plot in Thailand, the city's police chief said on Friday, adding that arrest warrants had been issued for three Iranians.

New Delhi police said one of the three suspects had been in touch with Sedaghatzadeh Masoud, an Iranian man arrested in Malaysia last month in connection with blasts in Bangkok.

"Houshang Afshar Irani, who had come twice to Delhi, was in touch with Sedaghatzadeh Masoud, thus establishing his links with the terror module that executed the terror acts in Bangkok," police chief Brijesh Gupta told reporters.

Gupta said the three men were not Iranian officials.

Though somewhat clumsy, last month's attacks raised concern that a "shadow war" may be developing between Israel and Iran over Iran's nuclear programme. At least four Iranian nuclear scientists have been killed in recent years in attacks believed to have been carried out by or for Israel's intelligence services.

The attack in New Delhi has been awkward for the Indian government, which has close defence ties with Israel but is also a major buyer of Iranian crude oil. India has tried to work around U.S. and European sanctions aimed at damaging Iran's atomic development, which the West fears is aimed at building nuclear weapons.

In New Delhi, a bomber travelling by motorcycle attached an explosive to the car of the Israeli diplomat's wife as she drove to pick her children up from school on February 13, hours after an attack was foiled in Tbilisi, Georgia.

The next day in Bangkok, an Iranian lost his legs when a bomb he was carrying exploded in shortly after an apparently accidental explosion forced him and two other men to flee a house they had been renting.

The wounded man and a second Iranian, arrested at Bangkok's main airport, are in custody. A third Iranian believed linked to the plot, Masoud, was detained in Malaysia.

Israel accuses Iran of engineering the attacks. Iran rejects that.

India's foreign ministry said it was seeking an Interpol order for the three men believed to be behind the new Delhi attack, but added that "no conclusions could be drawn at this stage".

"We have informed the Iranian ambassador of these developments so as to seek the cooperation of the Iranian authorities in bringing those involved in this dastardly attack to justice," spokesman Syed Akbaruddin said in a statement.

Thai investigators say the same magnets were used to make the bombs in India and Thailand.

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Last week, Indian police arrested a journalist called Mohammed Kazmi who did freelance work for an Iranian news agency in connection with the embassy attack.

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23. ULFA Bomb Expert Held In Lakhimpur

Saturday, 17 March 2012

<http://www.assamtimes.org/hot-news/6246.html>

Security forces apprehended an ULFA bomb expert and seized a powerful IED in two different places in Assam on the ULFA Army Day' on Friday.

Identified as Tapan Phukan alias Bhabani Khaklary, the ULFA bomb was arrested from Solmari village in Lakhimpur district. He was trained in Myanmar.

On the other hand, security forces seized a powerful IED, weighing more than one and a half kg during a joint operation by the police and army in Teestapara area in Dhubri district.

Meanwhile, security was tightened throughout the state following a directive by the union home ministry on ULFA's 'Army Day' on Friday.

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24. Five Kg. Bomb Found In Latehar

Monday, 19 March 2012

[http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120320/jsp/jharkhand/story\\_15271235.jsp#.T2tP-tmwWst](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120320/jsp/jharkhand/story_15271235.jsp#.T2tP-tmwWst)

Security personnel today recovered an improvised explosive device (IED) hidden in a milk can near Hutar village on Barwadih-Morbai road, about 85km from the district headquarters in Barwadih police station area of Latehar.

The recovery was made around 1pm by two companies of CRPF and one company of district armed police.

“The IED was hidden under the road and was aimed at killing security personnel engaged in the area domination process, which is an important exercise to build confidence among law abiding citizens and demoralise anti-social elements. The explosive was enough to blow up an anti-land mine vehicle,” a police officer said.

Latehar superintendent of police G. Kranti Kumar confirmed the recovery and said the IED weighed 5kg. “It was defused within minutes and with that an attempt by Maoists to target security personnel was averted,” he said.

The road from where the recovery took place is about 3km from Barhanian valley, where five villagers mistaken for Maoists were shot dead by the CRPF on April 15, 2009. The incident had taken place a few minutes after Maoists triggered a land mine blast, killing two CRPF personnel on the spot.

An FIR was registered at Barwadih police station.

Latehar, about 100km from the state capital, is one of the worst Maoist-hit areas.

On December 3 last year, nine people, including eight policemen and a minor, were killed when Naxalites attacked the entourage of Independent MP Inder Singh Namdhari.

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25. Cache Of Arms, Explosives Seized

Monday, 19 March 2012

<http://www.e-pao.net/GP.asp?src=5..200312.mar12>

A combined team of 10 Assam Rifles and 10 Dogra Regiment under Red Shield Division recovered a cache of arms and ammunition after the troops apprehended a KRA cadre from Khunkhu village today. The cadre, identified as self styled Pvt Hemin s/o Lalngam of Kangpokpi was apprehended with a 7.62 mm pistol and one live round from the village.

Later, on searching a nearby field, three AK 56 Rifles with magazines, ammunition and other warlike stores were recovered, said a press release issued by PIB (DW). In another incident, troops of 38 Assam Rifles of Red Shied Division seized explosive material from a girl at Parbung village of Churachandpur district.

The girl was travelling from Mizoram to Churachandpur, said the PIB (DW) press release. She has been identified as Lalthongboi (18) of Dumdei village. Five detonators (No 27), one meter of cordex, three PEK slabs, and a safety fuse of approximately 8.5 metre were recovered from her possession.

She has been handed over to Churachandpur police station.

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26. Landmine Victim Cops Did Not Use Bomb Disposal Suit

Tuesday, 20 March 2012

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-03-20/bhubaneswar/31215403\\_1\\_bomb-disposal-landmine-alampada](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-03-20/bhubaneswar/31215403_1_bomb-disposal-landmine-alampada)

The two policemen killed while defusing a landmine in Koraput district did not use bomb disposal suits, a standard operation procedure (SOP) for securitymen engaged in anti-Maoist operations. The securitymen were defusing a landmine near Alampada within Machkund police limits on Sunday morning. "The bomb disposal suit is designed to withstand the pressure released from a bomb and any projectile from the bomb," a source said.

Dismissing allegations that the mishap took place due to the negligence of the bomb disposal squad, police said, "It is not the first time that the team was defusing a bomb. "They had defused landmines, pressure mines and tiffin bombs. Sunday's incident was unfortunate," a police source said

The police source said the bomb disposal suit is used for Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and not while defusing Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) which is simple to make, easily hidden and very destructive. And the Sunday's blast was an IED. "The bomb disposal suit can withstand the pressure of explosion of around 10 to 15 kg of explosives and on Sunday the intensity of explosion was over 100 kg. The bomb resistance suit would have been of no use even if used," said a senior police officer of the district engaged in anti-Maoist operations.

A police officer said it is not possible to follow all guidelines mentioned in the SOP while operating in the field. We have to take few decisions depending on the circumstances and available resources. Last month, four BSF officers, including a commandant, were killed in a landmine blast triggered by the Maoists in Malkangiri district. The officers were travelling in a vehicle.

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27. Bomb Defused In Narathiwat

Tuesday, 20 March 2012

<http://www.tannetwork.tv/tan/ViewData.aspx?DataID=1053695>

Authorities have successfully defused an explosive device found in Ra-ngae District of Narathiwat Province after having received a tip-off from locals.

A bomb squad along with police and army officials have traveled to an orchard located in Ra-ngae District of Narathiwat Province to inspect an explosive device.

The bomb was buried 50 centimeters under the ground. The police revealed the bomb was a five kilogram explosive encased in a plastic pipe.

After the bomb was successfully defused, the investigation team is now attempting to lift the fingerprints and DNA samples off from the pipe in order to identify the bomb maker.

Authorities were told by the local residents that the device was planted by two unidentified men.

The southern security center is working closely with the local population in an attempt to quell the insurgent activities in the deep South. The authorities claim the number of successful bombing attempts has dropped significantly.

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28. Philippine Soldier Killed, Three Wounded As Troops Overrun Abu Sayyaf Bomb-Making Camp  
Thursday, 15 March 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/philippine-soldier-killed-3-wounded-as-troops-overrun-abu-sayyaf-bomb-making-camp/2012/03/15/gIQAI44PFS\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/philippine-soldier-killed-3-wounded-as-troops-overrun-abu-sayyaf-bomb-making-camp/2012/03/15/gIQAI44PFS_story.html)

The Philippine military says one soldier was killed and three wounded following an army attack on a militant bomb-making camp in a southern island province.

Basilan province army commander Col. Ricardo Visaya says the elite Scout Rangers assaulted the camp of the al-Qaida linked Abu Sayyaf group Thursday but that two terrorist leaders were able to escape.

The wanted militants, Khair Mundos and Puriji Indama, were among about 40 rebels who trained in bomb-making.

The U.S. has offered a \$500,000 reward for Mundos, a suspected militant financier. Indama is accused of beheading hostages.

Visaya said Friday the rebels carried away four of their comrades who were killed or wounded.

He says troops recovered explosives but no complete bombs.

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29. Authorities Recover Two IEDs In Davao Oriental

Friday, 23 March 2012

<http://www.zambotimes.com/archives/45367-Authorities-recover-5-high-powered-firearms,-2-IEDs,-accessories-in-Davao-Oriental.html>

Authorities accounted a total of five high-powered firearms, two improvised explosives with accessories from a buried arms cache Wednesday in Purok Catumbal, Barangay Maragatas, Lupon, Davao Oriental following a tip from a rebel surrenderor.

A certain alias Badong disclosed the location of the war materiel after he surrendered to Mayor Domingo Lim of Lupon, Davao Oriental, where he learned that two of his superiors already surrendered to the authorities.

He said he voluntarily sought the assistance of the peace and development team (PDT) assigned in his barangay and pointed the location of the firearms, buried a few meters away from his house.

A composite team of the 28th IB and Lupon Police Station recovered one AR18 Rifle, three Garand Rifles, one caliber .45 pistol, one homemade shotgun, two improvised explosive devices, several ammunitions for different firearms and bomb components to produce IEDs.

Badong said Henry Quima alias Dungkor, leader of the front committee 18 of the New People's Army (NPA), ordered him to hide the firearms in November 2011.

He said in one consultation-dialogue conducted by the peace and development team, he learned that Dungkor surrendered to Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio of Davao City while his other superior officer identified as alias Toper surrendered earlier to the soldiers.

"I decided to surrender and reveal the arms cache to the PDT of 28th IB in my barangay," Badong said. Lt. Col. Leopoldo Imbang, commanding officer of the 28th IB, said Badong's surrender indicates that Oplan Bayanihan is working effectively on the communities.

"We conduct series of inter-agency information drive in the area and it is complimented with the sincerity of the leadership of the Davao Oriental Provincial Government in addressing the insurgency through their local social integration program. This probably convinced rebel to return to the mainstream society," he said.

Imbang said alias Badong is now placed under the local social integration program of Davao Oriental.

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30. Bomb Explodes In Semarang, Java

Thursday, 15 March 2012

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2012/03/15/bomb-explodes-semarang-orphanage.html>

A homemade pipe-bomb exploded at the Baitusyakur Orphanage and Islamic boarding school compound in Banyumanik, Semarang, on Thursday, injuring three construction workers.

Central Java Police spokesman Sr. Comr. Djihartono said the bomb had detonated at around 11 a.m., tribunnews.com reported.

A local resident had seen the 20-centimeter pipe in the gutter near a trash dump. After seeing cables inside the pipe, he handed it to Dwi, a construction worker.

Dwi and his colleagues then played with the cables a few minutes before it exploded, injuring Dwi, Santo and Ngatmin.

“A team from the Central Java’s Automatic Fingerprints Identification System [Inafis] is currently investigating the scene,” Djihartono said.

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31. Police Seize 100 Sticks Of Pentolite In Operating

Monday, 19 March 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fandes.info.ec%2Fjudicial%2F864.html>

**[Approximate Translation]**

During a roadblock operating elements of the National Police seized about one hundred sticks of dynamite or pentolite in an interprovincial bus bound for the north.

The dynamite was hidden in the middle of 11 buckets of strawberry. Command of Imbabura province, during a routine check in the area of mask, arrested three women carrying the explosives. Along with the military pentolite found 50 pieces of waterproof fabric, the type camouflage.

The police carried out investigations to determine the origin and destination of the dynamite. The interprovincial transport unit headed north Andean country in the province of Carchi.

After the seizure, the citizens were put under the orders of the respective authority. After the arraignment hearing, Judge Criminal Guarantees first remand order issued against Mary T., and claiming to be the owner of the fruit, while the other two citizens were released.

Research continues to identify other links with the explosive seized.

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32. Two FARC Members Die As A Result Of Military Operations In Arauca

Tuesday, 13 March 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.meridiano70.net%2F%3Fid%3D253>

**[Approximate Translation]**

As a result of offensive operations and territorial control area, troops of the Eighteenth Brigade, assigned to Chiron Task Force of the Eighth Division of the Army, able to avoid the criminal actions of the FARC and the ELN in the department Arauca.

On March 13 at 05:45 pm, three subjects who were driving a motorcycle on the road axis of the municipality of Arauquita, exactly in the Y Bridge corocora between Lipa and Puente La Pastora, intercepted two vehicles belonging Cocontrastame the company, subcontractor of OXY.

The first of these vehicles, was hit several times with handgun as he walked off the field, the second was arrested by the individuals who by threats forced the driver to drop and proceeded to burn the vehicle. Given this fact, the immediate reaction of the troops, military units of the Special Energy and Roadway Battalion No. 16, maintain contact with terrorists armed members of the mobile column of the FARC Reinel Mendez, knocking out two of them.

In a second fact, Pizarro Mechanized Group Revéz Fortul Township finds and destroys an improvised explosive device controllably high power was in the area of Palmarito, in the village of the same name, which had been placed by the Commission Omaira Montoya ELN.

This device was a plastic wastebasket with about 20 kilos of explosive weight to be activated through control cable, which when destroyed a controlled left a hole one meter deep.

On the other hand, the Flower of My Plain neighborhood, the municipality of Arauca, the day before he split a 17-year-old known by the alias "tinamou" that was part of the network of support for terrorism and was escorted Alias terrorist "throat".

The child that was delivered to the Colombian Family Welfare Institute, had 14 months within the company Rafael Villamizar ELN and being hosted by the Artillery Battalion No 18 General "José María Mantilla" not wanting argued serving as a hit.

As far this year seven members have demobilized armed groups outside the law, and has been separated two minors, who have been victims of forced recruitment.

The commander of the Eighteenth Brigade Colonel Lord Cesar Oswaldo Morales Ramirez rejects the fact that children are used by terrorist organizations, while confirming the commitment of troops to maintain security of the Department and its inhabitants, thanks to the civilian population by the trust they place in the Army by providing timely information through secure lines 146 and 147 on suspicious acts.

Similarly, the command of the Brigade 18 All members of armed groups outside the law to demobilize and receive the benefits provided by the national program by the Colombian Agency for Reintegration.

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33. Army and Police Destroy FARC Compound In Cauca

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.occidente.co%2Fejercito-y-policia-destruyen-complejo-de-las-farc%2F>

(link includes video)

**[Approximate Translation]**

And special tactical units of the Army and National Police executed late on a strong operation against the terrorist organization FARC in the department of Cauca, jurisdiction of the village of Medellin in the municipality of Morales, where it destroyed a complex of explosives belonging to the mobile column Jacobo Arenas and sixth front.

The members of the army and police landed in the morning in the village of Medellin, where they held for several minutes intense fighting with the terrorists of the FARC who tried to prevent soldiers and police arrived at the farm house that served as a craft workshop explosives .

Without risking civilian lives, a hundred men of the security forces broke the first filter guarding the clandestine guerrilla complex. The soldiers of special units and joint tactical units and judicial National Police entered the building where they found a powerful military arsenal with handcrafted features. Seized elements were:

Armament

- 60 mm grenades craft 207
- 60 mm mortars, 101
- AK 47 01
- Multiple launcher grenade 40 mm 01
- Cambuches quartermaster material 10
- Grenades 105 artisanal manufacturing
- Platforms 2 m tubes 150
- Manufacture of tubes 250 tatucos

Workshop Material

- Power plant 01
- Polishing 05
- Industrial drill 01
- Saws 04
- Oxygen pipettes 40 lbs 14
- Welding Equipment 01
- 04 hydraulic presses
- Emery 04
- Rolls of wire shrapnel 30
- Metal crusher 02
- Short irons 05

Inputs

- Packages urea 07
- Packages r-January 05
- Shrapnel 500 kgs
- Barragán Powder 500 ml 15

Communications equipment

- SKY antenna 01
- Radio communications icom 2m 01
- USB 02
- Stationery (various documents) 10

The items seized and destroyed by the security forces have a significant operational value considering that this array would be used to assault people, banks and try to kill soldiers, policemen and civilians.

This structure is subversive interference area municipalities Jambaló Caloto, Toribio, Santander de Quilichao, Suarez, Piendamó and Morales in the department of Cauca.

It is the structure responsible for conducting the largest number of terrorist attacks against towns located in the north of Cauca and against the security forces, for intelligence work is known that the guerrilla column receives direct orders from the FARC secretariat and is responsible permanently supplying the front sixth and generally west to the command set which results in a significant destructive power in this region.

Because of this, have significantly increased joint operations of the security forces to establish the location of illegal explosives workshops, which are produced unconventional weapons highly destructive and are used for the purpose to cause destruction and death, some of these weapons have been seized and destroyed in time, as we did last week when several grenades seized 210 mm used for the attack of fortified buildings.

Unconventional weapons that were made there were used in terrorist actions, such as occurred on January 20, 2012 against the base of the National Police of Santa Ana Municipality of Tambo (Cauca) by the guerrilla column.

Similarly, the February 19, 2012 when they released tatusos indiscriminately against the population of the village of El Palo, municipality of Caloto (Cauca), resulting assassinated Mayor Dixon Guilliano Castrillon Gomez, commander of the combat battalion number 91. Similarly, on 27 February this year, this column launched indiscriminately Caldonó tatusos the municipality (Cauca).

Not only was affected forces, civilians also a victim of the use of these unconventional explosive devices, leaving civilians injured and damaged homes.

In developing these joint operations has been exerting a process of prosecution against people who produce and distribute the explosives, those who flagrantly violate international humanitarian law.

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34. Police Find Stash Of FARC Missiles In Suarez, Cauca

Wednesday, 14 March 2012

[http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.proclama.tutierra.net%2Findex.php%3Foption%3Dcom\\_content%26view%3Dsection%26layout%3Dblog%26id%3D23%26Itemid%3D60](http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.proclama.tutierra.net%2Findex.php%3Foption%3Dcom_content%26view%3Dsection%26layout%3Dblog%26id%3D23%26Itemid%3D60)

**[Approximate Translation]**

Judicial officers and men of the Police Mobile Squad of National Police, in the last hours dismantled a weapons collection center unconventional high destructive power of the FARC.

The action of the security forces was executed near the village of El Amparo, the municipality of Suarez Cauca, where they discovered a cache with eleven powerful homemade missiles, war material used for the destruction of fortified buildings of institutions military, police and banks, for their special features have great destructive power: one meter high and 35 cm thick, allow terrorists crowd in which large amounts of explosives and shrapnel.

Human sources who work constantly with the security forces claim that the community is tired of the presence of terrorist groups so they decided to provide location data.

The missiles will be destroyed by a controlled explosion-proof technicians of the National Police.

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35. FARC Explosives Neutralized

Thursday, 15 March 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.quintadivision.mil.co%2F%3Fidcategoria%3D323391>

**[Approximate Translation]**

n carrying out military operations, troops of the Mobile Brigade No. 21 Task Force Sumapaz, attached to the Thirteenth Brigade, located in the Tolima department of war material belonging to the gang 25 of the FARC.

The material was found hiding in a rural area of the Municipality of Dolores. The cove containing 82 homemade grenades, 60 mm which were subsequently destroyed by expert staff, according to intelligence information, they would be used to carry out terrorist actions against civilians and military units in the sector.

The action allows once again neutralize the claims of the FARC in the jurisdiction, thanks to the work conducted by the Army and timely information provided by civilians.

The Command of the Thirteenth Brigade calls upon the community to continue supporting the troops in the line of duty and so thus ensure the maintenance of safety conditions.

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36. Bomb Explodes Near Indonesia's Paris Embassy

Wednesday, 21 March 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/21/us-france-indonesia-bomb-idUSBRE82K0A420120321>

A bomb exploded outside the Indonesian embassy in Paris on Wednesday, breaking windows but causing no casualties, Chief Political and Security Minister Djoko Suyanto said.

The package was discovered by an embassy employee who removed it from the building in Rue Cortambert, in Paris's elegant 16th district, according to a French police source.

The device, which involved a gas cylinder, exploded shortly afterwards, damaging windows and cars but injuring no one, the source told Reuters in Paris.

"Indonesia's embassy in Paris has reported an explosion in one intersection near the embassy at 5.20 local (Paris) time .... It is not certain what the target of the bomb was," Suyanto said.

"The Indonesian ambassador is in the location but couldn't go near. Windows at the embassy are broken. There are no Indonesian casualties among citizens or staff working at the embassy," he told reporters.

Indonesia's Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said he was deeply concerned about the explosion.

"We are yet to ascertain whether the explosion was actually directed against the Indonesian embassy or whether it was by coincidence that it was located ... by the embassy," he told reporters.

"We are quite a resilient lot, Indonesians, and I don't think it takes a little explosion to deter us from going on with the business of our activities. But we will be very vigilant obviously," he said.

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37. 'Nevruz Bomb' Discovered In Istanbul

Wednesday, 21 March 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com.tr%2Fimgres%3Fq%3Dnevruz%2Bbomba%26start%3D96%26um%3D1%26hl%3Dtr%26biw%3D1247%26bih%3D835%26tbs%3Dqdr%3Aw%26tbm%3Dsch%26tbnid%3DUh8wbtpvx81-0M%3A%26imgrefurl%3Dhttp%3A%2F%2Fwww.enerjigundem.com%2Fdiger%2Fiste-civili-nevruz-bombasi-105522.html%26docid%3Dq4vFV0VcZ8pNSM%26imgurl%3Dhttp%3A%2F%2Fwww.enerjigundem.com%2Fassets%2Fimg%2Fhaberler%2Fiste-civili-nevruz-bombasi-105522.jpg%26w%3D325%26h%3D217%26ei%3DxHdT67zIca00QGvr6X-Bg%26zoom%3D1>

**[Approximate Translation]**

Newroz celebrations are done in Van Fire Square yesterday morning near the detector dogs A-4 to a weight of 850 grams, has found time bomb, the bomb is defused. To increase the impact of a disaster if a large number of metal nail bomb placed yaşanacaktı

Nowruz in Istanbul and Diyarbakir on Sunday, starting eventful, eventful progress in other provinces. Newroz celebrations are done in Van Fire Square near the bomb found yesterday morning.

Detector dog finds a weight of 850 grams A-4 time bombs defused. 1 kilo 850 grams of plastic containers placed in a transparent examination of A-4 plastic explosives to the influence of material placed around the track were a large number of metal nails.

When setting the digital clock and the bomb exploded with a detonator kaydedildi be experienced as a disaster.

In the meantime, the group of 30 people wanting to go to the police intervened nevruz. Police using tear gas to disperse stone throwing working group responded

Following intervention by riot police on demonstrators in Van, 20 'Everything for the motherland' as he walked the 200 meters. Meanwhile, police in Van, a show made for the first time, the 3G system, said that all security units alive. Images taken by cameras in police, security units izleyebildi live.

- Viransehir town of Sanliurfa, the police handed out toys to children on the sides and top. However, 200 people gathered to celebrate Nowruz unauthorized group attacked police with stones. The police intervened with tear gas and water cannons began to strain the county etmesiyle. 4 police officers were injured

- District of Hakkari Yüksekova groups of 100-150, fires burning, slogans while the police tried to disperse the demonstrators, using tear gas and water cannons. Demonstrators responded by throwing stones. Governor of Saint Özeren Uzeyir Yüksekova, a long-barreled guns had opened fire on security forces, with the next police officer wounded in a panzer driver said. Özeren, "special operations teams to respond to the attacker fled on the wounded among the neighborhood," he said.

- On the way to Volga town of Cizre Nur district in one of the side streets of riot policemen standing on the corner of a long-barreled guns opened fire. A citizen trying to cross the road with two riot police were injured. Police detained a number of towns within the BDP building.

Idil district of Sirnak also lived in a tense day. Starting in the morning celebration of Nowruz done the police took extensive security measures around the area. Young girls and children threw stones at police vehicles in the. After a period of approximately five thousand people came to celebrate the area. The police intervened bulunmayip arrivals, were around the area. After separation of the police was held in celebration of Nowruz.

Revoked by the Ministry of the Interior MERSIN BDP-supported groups wishing to celebrate Nowruz, the police refused to let the output events. BDP 300 people gathered in front of the Mediterranean District Office and the police threw firecrackers and Roman candle. Panzer-backed police, water cannons and tear gas bombs into throwing intervened. On the one hand-made bomb was thrown from a street but the police dropped a bomb exploded in an empty field. Demonstrators pelted stones remaining and held between the civilian police, a gun fired in the air. The intervention of other teams' police officer, was removed from the group. The Secret of the BDP Istanbul Deputy Leader Sureyya and the Mediterranean town of Mersin deputy mayor Ertugrul Kurkcu BDP'li Fazil Turks, began a sit come Tirmil Area. Sirri Sureyya Onder, people wanted to celebrate their feast, you said: "All of them say, all yıldırmalarla, dungeon atmalarla 'we digest these people will say. İşliyorlardı this lie, this lie that the people themselves knocked out of place with a million people. We passed Botas Gas did not eat. "

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38. Irish Army Experts Defuse Two Homemade Bombs In Dublin

Wednesday, 14 March 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/irish-army-experts-defuse-2-homemade-bombs-in-dublin-feud-between-drug-dealing-gangs-blamed/2012/03/14/gIQAB2NPBS\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/irish-army-experts-defuse-2-homemade-bombs-in-dublin-feud-between-drug-dealing-gangs-blamed/2012/03/14/gIQAB2NPBS_story.html)

The Irish Defence Forces says its bomb squad has safely defused two homemade bombs left at Dublin homes.

Police blamed drug dealers for planting the bombs at two homes in the Dublin districts of Crumlin and Walkinstown.

The bombs coincide with heightened bloodshed among feuding criminal gangs in Ireland. Four people have been shot to death this month alone.

One gang's senior lieutenant, responsible for collecting payments, was killed in his suburban home March 6 along with a Lithuanian man. The next day, the remains of two Dublin heroin addicts were found in a burned-out car on the Irish border. Both men had been shot through the head.

An army bomb-disposal expert suffered minor wounds Monday when a bomb left under a car in Cork exploded before he could defuse it.

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39. Homemade Explosive Device Sparked Fire Outside Fort Worth Office

Tuesday, 20 March 2012

<http://www.star-telegram.com/2012/03/20/3823799/state-sen-wendy-davis-office-firebombed.html>

A "homemade explosive device" was used to spark a small fire outside the Fort Worth office of state Sen. Wendy Davis, the senator said in a late-night news conference Tuesday.

Davis, D-Fort Worth, was not in the office at the time of the fire, and no one was injured. A maintenance worker chased a suspect from the building at 2123 W. Seventh St. but was unable to catch him, authorities said.

Capt. Tom Crow of the Fort Worth Fire Department said firefighters responded to an automatic alarm from the building at 4:03 p.m. Tuesday. He said that the fire was relatively small and that it did not reach inside the office.

Crow said he did not have a description of the suspect and could not confirm reports that the attacker tossed a Molotov cocktail.

Members of the bomb squad were called to the scene, he said, but investigators "have not made a determination as to the cause and nature of the fire."

Anthony Spangler, Davis' communications director, said a staff member heard a large thud at the door and opened it to find flames about waist high. That staff member grabbed a fire extinguisher and put out the small fire, which charred the door, Spangler said.

Another staff member "jumped over the flames that were blocking the doorway" to escape the office, Spangler said.

"We have no idea" what motivated the attack, Spangler said.

"We have an office that's open to the public all the time, and so we're always potentially vulnerable to things like this. We're thankful that no one was injured. We hope that the investigation is concluded quickly and that they identify the suspect."

Security has been stepped up at the lawmaker's office, according to reports.

"Her safety was secured immediately," Spangler said, "and we're confident that the incident was isolated to the Senate office."

The Fort Worth Fire Department has begun an arson investigation, assisted by Fort Worth police and troopers from the Texas Department of Public Safety, fire officials said.

Spangler said the DPS involvement is routine when a Senate office is involved.

Spangler declined to comment about whether there were surveillance cameras at the office, citing security concerns.

UNCLASSIFIED

Davis emerged last month from a bruising redistricting fight with Texas Republicans with the makeup of her District 10 intact. She still faces a tough re-election battle with state Rep. Mark Shelton of Fort Worth.

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UNCLASSIFIED



40. Explosive Device Found, Defused On NY Bike Path

Tuesday, 20 March 2012

<http://online.wsj.com/article/AP2ca92f87cab045d3922314e112a302a9.html>

Police say a jogger came across a potentially explosive device in the middle of a New York bike path.

A Westchester County police spokesman says the small, crudely made device was spotted at about noon Tuesday on the North County Trailway in Mount Pleasant.

He says the bomb squad closed adjacent roads, x-rayed the device and detected explosive material. Squad members then soaked it with a water cannon to defuse it.

The spokesman says it's not yet known how much damage the device could have done.

He says an investigation is under way to find out who placed the device and why.

He says the jogger who called it in did not see anyone else.

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41. Car Bomb Explodes Outside Newspaper Offices In Northern Mexico

Tuesday, 20 March 2012

<http://worldnews.msnbc.msn.com/news/2012/03/20/10769925-car-bomb-explodes-outside-newspaper-offices-in-northern-mexico>

A car bomb exploded outside the offices of a newspaper in the capital of Mexico's northern state of Tamaulipas on Monday night, according to the state government, the latest in a spate of violent incidents to rock the country.

Earlier on Monday, six men were shot dead in Monterrey, in the neighboring state of Nuevo Leon. Four were suspected drug gang members and two innocent bystanders, Reuters reported, quoting local media.

On Sunday, 12 police were killed in a mountain highway ambush hours after the severed heads of 10 people were dumped in a small town in a key illegal-drug-growing region in the southern state of Guerrero. Armed assailants opened fire on a police convoy, killing the dozen officers and wounding 11 more, said Arturo Martinez, spokesman for the state government, according to Reuters.

The ambush took place on a rural highway near the town of Teloloapan, located between the beach resort of Acapulco and Mexico City. Earlier Sunday, the severed heads of 10 people were lined along a street outside a slaughterhouse in the center of Teloloapan.

The La Familia cartel and its offshoot, Los Caballeros Templarios (The Knights Templar), are among the gangs fighting for territory in the region. The heads had been left with a message threatening the La Familia gang, local media reported.

More than 50,000 people, including more than 2,500 police and soldiers, have died in drug-related violence since President Felipe Calderon launched an army-led crackdown on the cartels after taking office five years ago.

The car bomb in Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, exploded at around 8:15 p.m. (9:15 p.m. ET) outside the offices of Expreso newspaper, according to a statement by state government (Link to statement in Spanish). Nobody was hurt in the explosion, which hit during the busiest time of day in the newsroom, but it did damage at least five cars and caused a fire, according to Blog del Narco, a site that documents the rising drug violence. (Link to website in Spanish)

According to Blog del Narco the newspaper posted a notice on its site shortly after the bombing but msnbc.com was unable to access the posting.

It would not be the first time that journalists were apparently targeted in Mexico, one of the most dangerous countries in which to be a reporter or photographer. Many news organizations are wary of reporting on drug-related violence as a consequence.

Blog del Narco has become one of the few sources of information about the ongoing violence. Comments on posts indicated that it is followed by those involved in the drug trade.

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