



*Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data*

## Weekly News Update

Volume 2, Issue 18

04 May 2012

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



Afghans push a damaged car away from the scene of a militant attack Wednesday in Kabul.

(Photo by Ahmad Jamshid, AP)

[See [Taliban Announces Start Of Annual Afghan Offensive](#)]

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## 1. [Attack, Afghanistan] Deadly Raid On Afghan Official's Compound

Saturday, 28 April 2012

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2012/04/20124287532270995.html>

Four people have been killed after fighters reportedly hid small guns in their shoes and slipped into a provincial governor's compound in southern Afghanistan.

Qari Yousef Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesperson, claimed responsibility for Saturday's attack in Kandahar, which left the two attackers, a body guard and a civilian dead.

Tooryalai Wesa, the Kandahar governor, said the attackers made it through a pair of security checks without their weapons being detected.

A guard at the last check, at the reception room for the governor's office, noticed something suspicious and stopped them.

The attackers then pulled out the guns, shot the guards and took their weapons, Wesa said.

The gun battle with security forces lasted about 30 minutes, Parwiz Najib, a spokesperson for Wesa, said. One other guard was wounded in the attack.

Najib had initially said the two attackers were wearing suicide vests.

Wesa later said the men had explosives but not suicide vests.

Explosives rigged

He said he was in his office meeting with constituents when he heard shooting out in the reception room.

"There was an explosion," Wesa said, but he did not know whether the blast was caused by grenades or something else.

He and his guests escaped out a back door to the press office and waited out the rest of the attack.

Wesa said the assailants came under the pretext of asking for him to intercede on behalf of relatives that had been detained, which is a common request.

"The insurgents are not stupid. They had hidden very small guns in their shoes and at two checkpoints they didn't catch them," Wesa said.

Police also discovered two cars parked outside the compound that had been rigged with explosives, apparently ready to be set off if there was a surge of people out into the street, Wesa said.

The police defused those bombs, he said.

Elsewhere in the country, a roadside bomb killed 10 members of the security forces in the eastern Wardak province, according to officials.

The government officials said the men, belonging to the Afghan Local Police, a government-sponsored force that works alongside the Afghan army and the national police, were travelling in a pickup truck in Chak district.



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## **2. [Attack, Afghanistan] Bomb In Eastern Afghanistan Kills Two Children**

Monday, 30 April 2012

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/04/30/bomb-in-eastern-afghanistan-kills-2-children/>

A buried bomb killed two children in eastern Afghanistan who triggered the explosive when they were playing outside near their village, officials said Monday.

Both of the children killed in the Sunday blast in Paktika province's Surobi district were about 12 years old, the governor's office said in a statement. Another child was seriously wounded, the statement said, without providing further details.

Last year was the deadliest on record for civilians in the Afghan war, with 3,021 killed, according to U.N. figures. Taliban-affiliated militants were responsible for the vast majority of those deaths.

Military casualties also continue to mount. On Monday, a NATO service member was killed in an insurgent attack in the south, the military alliance said in a statement.

The coalition did not provide further details. NATO forces usually wait for member nations to provide specifics on casualties.

The latest death makes 41 international service members killed in April and 132 so far this year — the majority of them American.

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### **3. [Attack, Afghanistan] Attacks Ramp Up In Afghanistan As One U.S. Soldier Shot, Three U.S. Troops Killed In Bomb Blast**

Friday, 27 April 2012

<http://www.freep.com/article/20120427/NEWS07/204270441/Attacks-ramp-up-in-Afghanistan-as-1-U-S-soldier-shot-3-U-S-troops-killed-in-bomb-blast>

An Afghan soldier fatally shot an American service member and a local interpreter in southern Afghanistan, officials said Thursday, the latest in a string of attacks against U.S. and other foreign forces by their Afghan partners.

In the east, meanwhile, three U.S. service members were killed in a bomb attack, according to NATO and a U.S. official. The official confirmed the nationalities on condition of anonymity because the information had not yet been publicly released.

In the attack in southern Kandahar province, an Afghan soldier opened fire with a machine gun from atop a building, killing a U.S. soldier and an Afghan interpreter and wounding three other coalition service members before he was gunned down, a senior U.S. defense official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release details.

The U.S. military officially confirmed that a man wearing an Afghan army uniform turned his gun on coalition service members late Wednesday, killing one. The incident was under investigation, the military said.

Since the beginning of the year, there have been at least 16 such attacks against American and other international troops.

The U.S.-led coalition is trying to mentor and strengthen Afghan security forces so they can lead the fight against the Taliban, and foreign troops can go home by the end of 2014. However, trust has been repeatedly undermined by the deaths of coalition troops at the hands of their Afghan partners.

In one of the highest-profile attacks, a man working as a driver at the Afghan Interior Ministry shot dead two U.S. military advisers at close range in March. That incident alone led the U.S. military to temporarily pull all its advisers out of Afghan ministries.

U.S.-Afghan ties also have been under strain in recent months following Quran burnings at a U.S. base and a killing spree in the south in which an American soldier is charged.

Relations appeared to be shifting back on track, with Washington and Kabul agreeing to a long-awaited deal earlier this week on a strategic pact to govern the U.S. presence in Afghanistan until 2024.

The U.S. military chooses its language carefully in describing insider shootings because of the possibility that assailants may be insurgents disguised in Afghan army uniforms and not actual members of the Afghan security forces. Such uniforms are available in markets.

Also Thursday, three Afghan women were killed in the cross fire of a battle in the east. A mortar fired during the fighting in Wardak province hit a house, killing the women inside, said Shahidullah Shahid, a spokesman for the provincial governor.

The advent of warmer weather, when snow melts in the mountain passes, traditionally brings an increase in fighting, which often leaves civilians vulnerable, as well.

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#### 4. [Security, Pakistan] Several Killed In Karachi Police Operation

Sunday, 29 April 2012

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2012/04/201242962013569752.html>

Security officials in Karachi say that at least six people have been killed and 16 others injured as police continue an operation against criminal elements in the Lyari area of the Pakistani port city.

The chief of a police station was killed and three other police officials injured when unidentified gunmen hurled hand grenades and opened fire on them, police said.

Chaudhry Aslam Khan, the senior superintendent of police who is supervising the operation, said that his colleagues had been attacked by people wielding hand grenades and a rocket launcher.

The police had made several arrests, he said.



Footage broadcast by local media showed police officers firing at unseen attackers.

Local media reported that several civilians were among those who had been killed in the violence overnight on Saturday into Sunday.

The Dawn newspaper identified the police station chief who was killed as being Fawwad Khan, and reported that five civilians had been shot dead near Cheel Chowk and Gabol Park, both in Lyari.

Law enforcement agencies began an operation against criminal elements in the area on Friday, but have met with strong resistance.

Six people were killed when the operation began and shops and other businesses in the area have been forced to close.

The operation is being carried out by the Karachi police's Crime Investigation Department in conjunction with the Frontier Constabulary and an elite unit of the police.

Lyari is a longtime political stronghold of the ruling Pakistan People's Party, which has consistently won national and provincial assembly seats from the constituency.

The latest violence, however, has caused some local leaders of the political party, and its associate the People's Amn [Peace] Committee, to threaten to defect from the party.

A city of more than 18 million, Karachi has a long history of violence, with political, ethnic, sectarian and criminal disputes often causing the city to erupt into a maelstrom of battles between locally influential gangs in various neighbourhoods.

According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HCRP), more than 300 people have been killed this year alone in politically-related violence.

Last year, the HRCR reported that more than 1,400 people in total had been killed in the city.

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## 5. [Attack, Pakistan] IED Blast Damages Rail Tracks

Sunday, 29 April 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-46735-Quetta:-IED-blast-damages-rail-tracks->

Unidentified armed men damaged the railway track in Saryab area of Quetta late Sunday night using explosives, Geo News reported.

Police said that unknown perpetrators used an improvised explosive device (IED) to blow apart a two-foot long part of rails passing through Faizabad area of Saryab district.

The law enforcement personnel rushed to the site and cordoned off the entire area to trace out the suspects.

The Pakistan Railways technical teams also reached the site to execute the repairing work.

The police have registered a case against unidentified suspects launching an investigation into the incident.

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## **6. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Kills Policeman In Peshawar**

Monday, 30 April 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/04/30/bomb-kills-policeman-in-peshawar-police/>

A bomb planted in a manhole killed one policeman and wounded another in the restive city of Peshawar on Monday, police said.

A hidden remote controlled improvised explosive device (IED) went off as the two policemen were patrolling the city's Khazana suburb on foot, senior police official Shafiullah Khan told AFP.

"One policeman was martyred while another was wounded," he said.

Peshawar has a population of 2.5 million people and has long been on the frontline of violence blamed on an insurgency led by Taliban militants opposed to Islamabad's alliance with the United States.

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## 7. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Blast Kills Two, Injures 11 In Quetta

Tuesday, 1 May 2012

<http://www.geo.tv/GeoDetail.aspx?ID=46935>

A bomb explosion attacked a vehicle of security forces on Sariab Road near Irrigation Colony here Tuesday, killing at least two persons and injuring fifteen others, Geo news reported.

According to SP Sariab, the bomb was planted on the roadside near irrigation colony. Four rickshaws and a vehicle of security forces caught fire while glasses of nearby buildings also smashed as a result of blast.

Police said that the explosion was supposed to be an attack on security forces vehicle.

Rescue teams have reached the site of the incident and injured people are being rushed to Civil hospitals.

According to the unconfirmed information, several security personnel were also hurt as a result of bomb blast and were taken to CMH.



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## 8. [Security, Afghanistan] Afghan Army Clears Area Of IEDs

Monday, 30 April 2012

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceNews/MilitaryOperations/AfghanArmyClearsAreaOfIeds.htm>

The Afghan National Army's first major operation this spring has resulted in the clearance of improvised explosive devices from a 25-square-kilometre area and the recovery of three weapons caches. Operation SHAFUQ (which means 'dawn' in Pashtu) is a large-scale Afghan National Army (ANA) operation to clear the Bowri Dashte area of Nad 'Ali. The operation was conceived, planned and executed by the ANA, with on-the-ground advice provided by British soldiers.

More than 600 warriors from the ANA and 170 International Security Assistance Force advisors, including British soldiers from the Brigade Advisory Group, have been involved in the operation. The ISAF advisors include soldiers from 3rd Battalion The Rifles and 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment.

The mission began with the clearance of an area known as the 'Shark's Fin'. Afghan Explosive Hazard Reduction Teams took the lead in defeating improvised explosive devices found with guidance and mentoring from UK specialists. One of the Afghan soldiers involved was bomb disposal expert Sergeant Gulbuddin.

Corporal Neal Griffiths, from the Airborne Troop of 49 Squadron, 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), is in the team responsible for training ANA bomb disposal operators. He said:

"Sergeant Gulbuddin is fearless, eager to learn, and the natural leader in the group. I'd definitely have him in the Airborne Troop!"

Over the course of the operation, more than 25 square kilometres were cleared and three weapons caches recovered, including over 10 kilograms of high explosives. The soldiers involved walked 10 kilometres a day on average, carrying some 59kg. Operation SHAFUQ is the Afghan Army's first major mission of this spring and lays the foundations for suppressing insurgent attempts at mounting an offensive over the summer.

Brigadier Doug Chalmers, Commander Task Force Helmand, said:

"The insurgency believed that they could operate throughout this area with impunity. The success of this operation clearly demonstrates that they cannot. Despite insurgent promises to defeat the Afghan National Security Forces, there was hardly a fight, a difference between word and deed noticed by those who live in the district.

"Brigadier Sherin Shah, the men of 3/215 Brigade and the police worked closely to ensure the safety of the local people as they drove the insurgents from the area. Their approach and level of care is in stark contrast to the insurgent, who had relied on intimidation to dominate the local population."

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## 9. [Attack, Pakistan] Gun Battle, Explosions Continue In Lyari

Tuesday, 1 May 2012

<http://www.geo.tv/GeoDetail.aspx?ID=46884>

Exchange of heavy firing between police and criminals took place while an explosion was also heard in Afsghan Gali area of Lyari, where police crackdown against the gangster continued for fifth consecutive day on Tuesday, Geo news reported.

Police launched shelling in Cheel Chowk area of Lyari to disperse demonstrators, protesting against the operation.

According to SSP CID police, police got control of 75 percent of Lyari. He said that 8 to 10 associates of gangsters have been killed.

Earlier on Tuesday, a police official was killed and 14 other people injured in rocket and hand grenade attacks by miscreants in Lyari.

An attempt by the law enforcement agencies to enter Saifee Lane and Gul Mohammad failed by the miscreants, however police claimed success. On the entrance, the miscreants fired a rocket as a result a policeman was killed at Cheel Chowk.

Meanwhile, the accused attacked armored vehicles with hand grenades near Kalri police station while three explosions were heard in Gul Muhammad Lane. Exchange of fire still continues in the area.

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## 10. [Special Interest, Afghanistan] Taliban Announces Start Of Annual Afghan Offensive

Wednesday, 2 May 2012

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/afghanistan/story/2012-05-01/afghanistan-explosion-shooting/54675086/1?csp=34news>

The Taliban warned it will officially start its annual "spring offensive" in Afghanistan on Thursday.

Wednesday's announcement comes hours after an attack following a surprise visit by President Obama.

Hours after Obama and President Hamid Karzai signed the strategic partnership agreement that will serve as the framework for future relations between the two nations, the Taliban issued a strong response.

Taliban attackers targeted a heavily fortified, private compound in eastern Afghanistan that is mostly occupied by internationals with a car bomb at 6:15 a.m. Gunfire followed the bombing. Police officials say the incident was under control by 9 a.m., leaving seven people dead and 17 injured.

"With this attack we want to send a message to Obama that the Afghans will welcome you with attacks. He needs to take out forces from Afghanistan. Not kill the innocent Afghans and destroy the Afghans' country. You don't need to sign agreements; you need to focus on how to get out of this country," said Zabiullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the Taliban.

The incident underscores the challenges that remain as American and Afghan officials prepare to negotiate the specific terms of a bilateral security agreement now that the strategic partnership agreement has been signed.

Still for most Afghans, the signing of the agreement comes as a welcome development that secures much needed international support for Afghanistan past the 2014 deadline for Afghans to take over security of their country. There remains some concern, however, as a full copy of the agreement was not made public until after its signing, elevating concerns about the specifics that have yet to be agreed upon.

"The agreement gives independence and sovereignty to Afghanistan, not completely, but it gives some sovereignty," said Mahmoud Khan, a member of parliament from Kandahar.

The strategic agreement secures relations with between the two nations until 2024, with Afghanistan as a "major non-NATO ally." Prior to the signing, the U.S. and Afghanistan reached two separate agreements, one giving Afghan security forces authority over controversial night raids and the other outlining the handover of American-run prisons to Afghan authorities. The two issues had previously stalled negotiations of the agreement.

The document guarantees America's commitment to Afghanistan after 2014, without detailing many of the specifics. Issues such as how long U.S. forces and their bases can remain in Afghanistan after 2014



and what the nature of their presence here will be determined in a separate bilateral security agreement.

The U.S. also committed to providing ongoing financial support for the Afghan security forces and development efforts in Afghanistan without mentioning the exact amount the U.S. will contribute.

With the agreement now signed, the focus will shift to the upcoming NATO summit on Afghanistan that will take place in Chicago on May 20 where many of these issues will be discussed.

There is some concern among Afghans that the unspecified commitments could be problematic. Now that Karzai has signed the agreement, Muhammad Hassan Haqyar, an independent political analyst in Kabul, said he worries that Afghanistan lost much of its bargaining strength because it can no longer threaten to hold out on signing the partnership agreement as leverage.

"The important issue is the fate of Afghanistan which needs to be discussed seriously. But now the Afghan government lost the chance to argue powerful," Haqyar said. "Before the Afghans could bargain and ask for something, but now they can only request things. Now they cannot make conditions."

The agreement also calls for ongoing talks with the insurgency, provided any such agreements require those who oppose the Afghan government to accept the constitution as a necessary condition.

"At the Chicago conference, it has the potential to be a milestone event if they give a green light to the Taliban to join the peace process and offer them some power in the government," said Mangal Sherzad, a law and political science professor at Nangarhar University in Jalalabad. "This is a very important conference. Right now, the top priority is peace and stopping the fighting in Afghanistan."



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## 11. [Attack, Afghanistan] Suicide Bombers Kill Seven After Obama Leaves Afghan Capital

Wednesday, 2 May 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/02/us-afghanistan-kabul-blast-idUSBRE84102520120502>

Suicide bombers attacked a compound housing Westerners in Kabul on Wednesday hours after U.S. President Barack Obama signed a security pact during a short visit to a city that remains vulnerable to a resilient insurgency.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack which involved a car bomb and insurgents disguised as women on the eastern outskirts of the capital, killing seven people, a Gurkha guard and six passers-by, and wounding 17.

The Taliban said it was in response to Obama's visit and to the strategic partnership deal he signed with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, a pact that sets out a long-term U.S. role after most foreign combat troops leave by the end of 2014.

The insurgency also claimed their spring offensive, which began two weeks ago with attacks in Kabul, would be renewed on Thursday, despite a security clamp-down in the capital.

Obama's visit came a year after U.S. special forces troops killed al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, the architect of the September 11, 2001, attacks, in a raid in neighboring Pakistan.

In a televised address to the American people from a base north of Kabul, he said the war in Afghanistan was winding down.

"As we emerge from a decade of conflict abroad and economic crisis at home, it's time to renew America," Obama said, speaking against a backdrop of armored vehicles and a U.S. flag.

"This time of war began in Afghanistan, and this is where it will end.

Nearly 3,000 U.S. and NATO soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan since the Taliban rulers were ousted in 2001.

The Taliban, overthrown by U.S.-backed Afghan forces for harboring bin Laden and other militants, were quick to take credit for Wednesday's attack at Green Village, one of several compounds for Westerners on a main road out of the capital.

"This attack was to make clear our reaction to Obama's trip to Afghanistan. The message was that instead of signing a strategic partnership deal with Afghanistan, he should think about taking his troops out from Afghanistan and leave it to Afghans to rebuild their country," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told Reuters by telephone from an undisclosed location.

But America's Kabul ambassador, Ryan Crocker, said involvement of the Haqqani network - which Washington believes is based in Pakistan's North Waziristan region and which it blames for high-profile attacks in Kabul in April - could not be ruled out.

On the anniversary of bin Laden's killing, Crocker said he did not believe there would be a sole turning point in the war.

"Al Qaeda is still there. We do feel we are prevailing in this with our Afghan partners," he said. "We cannot be in a position of taking on ourselves bringing perfection to Afghanistan. That has to be left to Afghans."

But Crocker said there would be no repeat of the 1990s when a withdrawal of Western backers in the wake of the Soviet withdrawal unleashed a vicious civil war out of which the Taliban and al Qaeda support bases arose.

#### BLOOD STAINS

Hundreds of police and intelligence agency troops surrounded the area around Green Village after the attack. Ruined cars were seen in front of the compound gates but officials said no attackers made it inside the heavily-guarded complex.

"I was going to the office when the car in front of me blew up. I got on my bicycle and fled," 40-year-old Farid Ahmad Mohammad told Reuters near the scene of the explosion.

A worker at the compound, Jamrod, said at a hospital where the wounded had been taken that he had been showing his identity card at the compound's main gate when the vehicle exploded.

"I heard a bang and then I slammed into the wall," Jamrod, still clad in blood-stained jeans, told Reuters.

Wednesday's attack was the latest in a recent surge of violence after the Taliban announced they had begun their usual "spring offensive", and since they suspended tentative steps towards peace talks with the United States.

Such incidents raise troubling questions about the readiness of Afghan forces to take over when militants remain able to stage high-profile attacks, even when already tight security had been beefed up even further for Obama's visit.

Insurgents staged coordinated attacks in Kabul last month, paralyzing the city's centre and diplomatic area for 18 hours.

The Taliban also claimed responsibility for those attacks, but U.S. and Afghan officials blamed the militant, al Qaeda-linked Haqqani network.

#### ELECTION YEAR

Obama's visit was clearly an election-year event.

He spoke to U.S. troops during a stay in Afghanistan of roughly six hours and emphasized bin Laden's demise, an event his re-election campaign has touted as one of his most important achievements in office.

"Not only were we able to drive al Qaeda out of Afghanistan, but slowly and systematically we have been able to decimate the ranks of al Qaeda, and a year ago we were able to finally bring Osama bin Laden to justice," Obama said to cheers.

But even as he asserted in his speech that there was a "clear path" to fulfilling the U.S. mission in Afghanistan and made his strongest claim yet that the defeat of al Qaeda was "within reach", he warned of further hardship ahead.

"I recognize that many Americans are tired of war ... But we must finish the job we started in Afghanistan and end this war responsibly," he said at Bagram airbase, where only months ago thousands of Afghans rioted after U.S. troops accidentally burned copies of the Koran, the Muslim holy book.

That incident, and the killing of 17 Afghan civilians by a rogue U.S. soldier weeks later, plunged already tense relations to their lowest point in years.

While speaking in broad terms of "difficult days ahead", Obama did not address some of the thorniest challenges.

These include corruption in Karzai's government, the unsteadiness of Afghan forces in the face of a resilient Taliban insurgency, and Washington's strained ties with Pakistan, where U.S. officials see selective cooperation in cracking down on militants fuelling cross-border violence.

Earlier, Obama met Karzai at his walled garden palace in Kabul, where they signed the Strategic Partnership Agreement. "By signing this document, we close the last 10 years and open a new season of equal relations," Karzai said after the meeting.

The agreement does not specify whether a reduced number of U.S. troops, possibly special forces, and advisers will remain after NATO's 2014 withdrawal deadline. That will be dealt with in a separate status-of-forces agreement still being worked out.

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## **12. [Attack, Afghanistan] Car Bomb Kills Seven In Kandahar**

Wednesday, 2 May 2012

[http://www.rferl.org/content/afghanistan\\_car\\_bomb\\_police\\_/24473952.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/afghanistan_car_bomb_police_/24473952.html)

A car bomb has killed at least seven people and injured nine other people in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar.

The attack was in the parking area of Kandahar's city police headquarters.

The Interior Ministry said the dead included three police officers and four civilians.

Four police cars were destroyed and several buildings were damaged, along with several nearby market stalls.

Meanwhile, a U.S. soldier has shot and killed an Afghan guard at a base in the country's north.

Afghan officials say the shooting was the result of a misunderstanding.

They say the two had argued at the gate of the base in Sari Pul Province and the U.S. soldier fired when he feared the Afghan guard was getting ready to do the same.

The U.S. military said it was aware of the altercation and is investigating.

The shooting comes amid a wave of killings of foreign troops in Afghanistan by Afghan soldiers or by gunmen wearing the uniform of the Afghan National Army.

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### **13. [Attack, Afghanistan] Pakistani Driving Truck Bomb Arrested**

Thursday, 3 May 2012

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-501712\\_162-57426791/afghanistan-pakistani-driving-truck-bomb-arrested/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-501712_162-57426791/afghanistan-pakistani-driving-truck-bomb-arrested/)

Afghanistan's intelligence agency says it has prevented a large terrorist attack in the capital, arresting a Pakistani national driving a truck packed with explosives in Kabul.

The agency says in a statement that the man was arrested Thursday on a major road in the east of the city. It says the man was going to use the truck bomb in a suicide attack.

The agency does not say what the suspected target was. It says it will release more details as they became available.

The arrest comes a day after a suicide attack on the same road killed seven people. In that attack one militant detonated his car bomb outside a compound where foreigners live, while two other attackers fought their way inside before being killed.

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## **14. [Attack, Pakistan] Bombs Targeting Anti-Taliban Leaders Kill Five In NW Pakistan**

Thursday, 3 May 2012

<http://blogs.voanews.com/breaking-news/2012/05/03/bombs-targeting-anti-taliban-leaders-kill-5-in-nw-pakistan/>

Officials in northwestern Pakistan say two bomb blast targeting anti-Taliban tribal leaders have killed at least five people.

The attacks happened minutes apart Thursday in Chamarkand, a town in the country's tribal region near the Afghan border.

Officials said the second blast came after security forces responded to the first explosion.

No group immediately claimed responsibility, but the Pakistani Taliban has carried out similar attacks.

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## 15. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Targeting Security Forces Kills 20 In Market Near Afghan Border

Friday, 4 May 2012

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/04/pakistan-violence\\_n\\_1476517.html?ncid=edlinkusaolp00000003](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/04/pakistan-violence_n_1476517.html?ncid=edlinkusaolp00000003)

A Taliban suicide bombing in a Pakistani market close to the Afghan border killed 20 people Friday, officials said, a day after the U.S. released letters seized from Osama bin Laden's compound that criticized Pakistani militants for killing too many civilians.

Five of the dead in the blast in the Bajur tribal area were local members of the security forces, including one who had received an award for bravery in fighting Islamist militants, government administrator Abdul Haseeb said. The others were passers-by. Over 40 people were wounded, mostly civilians.

The suicide bomber, who was believed to be 15 to 16 years old, detonated his explosives as he approached a security checkpoint near the market in the town of Khar, said Haseeb. The attack took place as locals were headed to work or taking their children to school. The dead included a woman and several schoolchildren.

The explosion damaged over a dozen shops, and rescue officials searched through the debris for anyone trapped inside. The ground outside the market was covered in blood and littered with the shoes of those hit by the attack.

Pakistani Taliban spokesman Ahsanullah Ahsan claimed responsibility for the bombing in a telephone call to The Associated Press.

"This is revenge for killing our people," said Ahsan.

Pakistan's branch of the Taliban, which is battling for control of the region, has killed and wounded thousands of people since 2009, many of them civilians in markets or mosques.

On Thursday, the U.S. released 17 letters seized from the compound of al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden by American commandos after they had killed him one year ago. Many of them addressed bombings in which civilians were killed.

Two senior al-Qaida leaders wrote a letter to Pakistani Taliban chief Hakimullah Mehsud in December 2010 criticizing the group for carrying out attacks in markets, mosques and other places that kill innocent Muslims. It accused the group of making "clear legal and religious mistakes which might result in a negative deviation from the set path of the jihadists' movement in Pakistan."

The group's actions also "are contrary to the objectives of jihad and to the efforts exerted by us," said the letter, which was written by Abu Yahya al-Libi and a militant leader identified as Atiyatullah.

One of bin Laden's spokesmen, the American Adam Gadahn, wrote a letter to an unknown recipient in January 2011 in which he listed a series of attacks on mosques and other sites in Pakistan that killed



hundreds of civilians. The Pakistani Taliban either claimed responsibility for the attacks or were suspected of carrying them out.

Gadahn said these kinds of attacks "distort the picture of the pious and loyal mujahideen."

"Now many regular people are looking at the mujahideen as a group that does not hesitate to take people's money by falsehood, blowing up mosques, spilling the blood of dozens of people in the way to kill one or two who were labeled as enemies," said Gadahn.

One of the incidents highlighted by Gadahn was a 2010 suicide bombing of a mosque in the northwest town of Darra Adam Khel targeting anti-Taliban tribal elders that killed nearly 70 people. He expressed skepticism at attempts by the Pakistani Taliban to blame the attack on the private U.S. security firm formerly known as Blackwater.

The Pakistani Taliban rarely claim responsibility for attacks that kill many civilians, often blaming them on the U.S. or Pakistani governments.

Gadahn advised the Pakistani Taliban to carry out more targeted attacks that would limit civilian casualties.

"If that targeted person really deserves to be killed, why not employ another method rather than random attacks, which are not tolerated by any conscience or religion?" said Gadahn. "Have you not remembered that you are fighting in the Muslim towns and not in the infidel's fortresses?"

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## 16. [Attack, Nigeria] Bomb Hits Police Convoy In Eastern Nigeria, Kills 11

Monday, 30 April 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/30/us-nigeria-explosion-idUSBRE83TOBV20120430>

A bomb blast struck a police chief's convoy in eastern Nigeria on Monday, killing 11 people, a witness and an official said, a day after attacks in other areas killed at least 19.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing in the town of Jalingo but Islamist sect Boko Haram, which wants to carve an Islamic state out of Nigeria, has been blamed for many such previous attacks.

A string of bombings and shootings in the last five days has dampened hopes that arrests and killings of Boko Haram members by the military in recent weeks had stemmed its ability to carry out large-scale attacks in Africa's largest oil producer.

Jalingo is the capital of Taraba state, which borders Cameroon and had previously been spared the insurgency plaguing Nigeria's north.

"At least 11 people were killed and 22 people injured near police state headquarters Jalingo at 0830 (0730 GMT) when the police commissioner was on his way to office," said Ahmed Bello, a local Nigeria Red Cross official.

He said the blast happened between the state government finance office and the police headquarters.

Abubakar Moyoyo, a Jalingo businessman, told Reuters by phone he had seen 11 dead bodies at the scene.

The police commissioner, Mamman Sule, said his team were investigating whether he was the target of the attack. He confirmed three deaths and said the windscreen of his car had been shattered by the blast.

Nigerian police are often cautious over death tolls until official figures are agreed with senior officers in Abuja.

In the past year, Boko Haram has tried to extend its reach beyond its northeastern heartland, mounting attacks in and around the capital Abuja. The Jalingo strike followed two attacks on Christian worshippers in other parts of the country on Sunday that killed at least 19 people.

### CHURCH ATTACKS

Gunmen attacked a university theatre being used for Christian services in the northern city of Kano and a church in northeast Maiduguri, Boko Haram's hometown.

The sect's attacks have usually been on police and government in the mostly Muslim north, but it has also increasingly struck Christian worshippers in the past few months.

President Goodluck Jonathan has been criticised for failing to tackle the violence, which has gained momentum since his presidential election victory a year ago.

He has relied mostly on a tough military approach, with mixed results. A brief attempt at mediated dialogue with Boko Haram broke off last month within days.

Suicide car bombers targeted the offices of newspaper This Day in Abuja and in Kaduna last week, killing at least four people in coordinated strikes.

"The President urges Nigerians to remain united in their condemnation and rejection of the terrorists who have shown even more clearly by their latest attacks on the media and the academic community that their objective is to destabilize the nation," a presidency statement said on Monday.

Africa's most populous nation, with more than 160 million people, is split roughly equally between a largely Christian south and a mostly Muslim north.

The unrest is piling pressure on southern Christian Jonathan to improve security in the north and honor pledges made during his election campaign to create jobs and reduce poverty, seen as the main cause of unrest in the region.

Diplomats say that will be near impossible in the most violent and impoverished northern areas, caught in a vicious circle of poverty and insecurity.



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## 17. [Attack, Nigeria] Nigeria University Christian Service Attack Kills 15

Sunday, 29 April 2012

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/west/Witnesses-Say-15-Killed-in-Nigerian-Church-Attack-149411775.html>

An attack on a university campus has killed at least 15 people and injured many others in the northern Nigerian city of Kano. The attack appears to have targeted a morning Christian worship service.

Emergency service personnel say they heard three bombs, followed by gunshots, but by noon they were still not allowed on the scene. Later in the day, as casualty reports trickled in, witnesses said gunmen had attacked a church service with small explosives, shooting people as they tried to flee.

Police say the attackers fled on motorcycles before security personnel arrived on the scene.

This comes after nine were killed in an attack on media houses Thursday in Abuja and Kaduna. An Islamist militant sect known as Boko Haram claimed responsibility for those attacks, saying the media had issued false reports about the group's plans and activities.

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan says the government is doing all it can to fight the group that is believed to be responsible for more than 1,000 deaths since it began attacks in 2009. In January, coordinated bombings in Kano killed nearly 200 people, and crippled the city's economy.

In recent months, President Jonathan has been actively seeking foreign logistical assistance to combat the group, especially from the West. On Saturday, he condemned the group as he visited the site of one of Thursday's bombings.

"A terror attack on any part of the country is an attack on all of us, and indeed the whole world because terrorists' method is to ensure they have maximum damage, so the whole world will begin to look at their direction for relevance," he added.

U.S. lawmakers are considering naming Boko Haram a terrorist organization, which could move more American resources to Nigeria. Many Nigerians have criticized the Jonathan government for being unable to stop Boko Haram, including the country's national security adviser who suggested the ruling party is partially to blame for the security crisis.

Adam Yusuf is a cook who left his wife and five children in Kano to work in the capital, but he says he is constantly afraid for his family. Like many Nigerians, he says the government needs to find out what Boko Haram wants and negotiate, rather than trying to fight.

"Call them together and negotiate what they need," said Yusuf. "Why are they doing so? Because of what? It is simple because fight[ing] cannot solve the problem. Dialogue."

Boko Haram says its goals are to establish an Islamic state in Nigeria, and procure the release of all imprisoned members. But Yusuf says no one really knows what they want.

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## 18. [Attack, Nigeria] Explosion Rocks Gombe State University

Friday, 27 April 2012

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2012/04/explosion-rocks-gombe-state-university/>

Explosion yesterday rocked the Administrative block of the Gombe State University, Gombe prompting a colossal destruction of both the building and many valuable items in the building.

The block also houses the Senate, Council Chambers as well as the office of the Vice Chancellor of the University.

According to sources from the University, the incident occurred at about 8:30, Thursday night when workers and staff had closed and left office.

Though there were no human casualties, the items in the office which included chairs, tables and sensitive documents were burnt by the fire that ensued in the explosion.

Some students of the University who spoke to Vanguard said sporadic gunshots around the senate building and the second gate of the University preceded the explosion.

The incident caused unusual panic and resulted to an immediate mass exodus of the many students who fled the school on the heels of the explosion.

A fleeing female remedial student who craved for anonymity told this reporter that running home for safety in the company of other students that night was not easy as they took a great risky flagging down a vehicle whose driver they did not know to take them home.

The Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Abdulhi Mahdi responding to a question from Vanguard said that "there is nothing that I know about it. Just as you are seeing it, is the way I saw it too. It happened yesterday night. So I wouldn't know what actually happened".

On whether there were casualties, the VC said "no, there were no casualties. Not a single person. It happened at night when everybody must have left".

Professor Mahdi whose office was in the building read no meanings into the explosion as whether he was the target. He said that the fire which started on the outside roof of the building would have been extinguished if fire fighters were readily available.

His office particularly got lucky as the fire didn't get inside. But the windows of his office were shattered by the vibration of the explosion on the building.

Meanwhile, the State Governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo has visited the scene to ascertain the level of damage. He later told the Press that the perpetrators of the act are not to be fished out by the security agencies who are currently investigating the incident.

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Governor Dankwambo inspected the explosion site with his Deputy, Mr. Thainda Jason Rubainu, the Speaker of the State Assembly, Rt. Hon. Inuwa Garba, the State Commissioner of Police, the Commandant of the 301 Artillery Regiment in the state and a host of other government functionaries.

It could be recalled that Gombe State has witnessed serial bombings and explosions since the beginning of the year.

While many said that there has been speculation about an imminent attack on the University, it is not clear if the yesterday explosion was part of the attack.

It is also not known whether the university which has scheduled Monday for the commencement of its first semester exams will continue go ahead with the date.

No arrest has been made of the attack yet just as the security agencies including the Police have intensified patrol and increased surveillance especially in the state capital.

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## 19. [Attack, Kenya] Kenyan Church Hit By Grenade

Sunday, 29 April 2012

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/apr/29/kenyan-church-hi-by-grenade>

At least one person has been killed and a dozen wounded in a grenade attack at a church in the Kenyan capital, the latest in a series of attacks in the east African country since it sent troops into neighbouring Somalia.

The blast on Sunday was in a working-class area of the city, police and Kenya Red Cross officials said.

"I can confirm that one person is believed to be dead," a police spokesman, Eric Kiraithe, said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

The government has blamed previous attacks on the Somali-based al-Shabaab, which formally merged with al-Qaida this year, but police said it was too early to say who was behind the blast at the church.

"Chairs are thrown about and there is blood on the floor," said Daniel Mutinda, a Kenya Red Cross official at the church, which is made of iron sheeting.

In late March, one person was killed when a grenade was hurled at a Christian meeting near the port city of Mombasa. A second explosion minutes later struck a bar near Mombasa's main stadium.

The attacks on Mombasa followed one in the capital earlier last month at a bus station, which killed at least nine people.

There have also been attacks near the border with Somalia following Kenya's deployment of troops there last October.



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## 20. [Attack, Libya] Courthouse Bomb In Libya's Benghazi Injures One

Friday, 27 April 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/27/us-libya-explosion-idUSBRE83Q0EU20120427?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>

A bomb exploded at a courthouse in the Libyan city of Benghazi on Friday, wounding one person and damaging surrounding buildings in a fresh challenge to the post-Gaddafi government's struggle to restore stability.

A security official said three packages of explosives were planted by unknown suspects at a wall of the court. The blasts shattered windows of a nearby hospital, injuring one person inside.

The eastern city of Benghazi, the cradle of the county's revolution, has simmered with dissatisfaction since Muammar Gaddafi was ousted last August. Residents complain they have been all but forgotten by the new leadership in Tripoli.

In late January, protesters stormed the local headquarters of the ruling National Transitional Council (NTC), smashing its windows with stones and metal bars. On April 10, a home-made bomb was thrown at a convoy carrying the head of the United Nations mission to Libya but no one was hurt.

Hampered by the lack of an effective national army or internal security force, the NTC is grappling to disband dozens of powerful militias that effectively control various parts of the country.

Militia chiefs have resisted attempts to integrate their personnel into the official military and police forces.

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## **21. [Security, Nigeria] Another Bomb Factory Uncovered In Kano**

Tuesday, 1 May 2012

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2012/05/another-bomb-factory-uncovered-in-kano/>

The Joint Task Force, JTF, Tuesday morning uncovered a bomb factory at Sharada area of Kano after the military engaged the owners of the house in a gun battle that lasted over 4hours.

One suspected owner of the bomb factory was killed in the shoot out, as arms and Improvised Explosive Devices, IEDs, bomb making equipment were recovered. Two women and children were also rescued during the raid.

The area has been cordoned off by the JTF.

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## 22. [Attack, Somalia] Suicide Bomber Kills MPS In Central Somalia

Tuesday, 1 May 2012

<http://af.reuters.com/article/ugandaNews/idAFL5E8G18NG20120501>

A suicide bomber killed at least three people and wounded more on Tuesday at a hotel in the central Somali town of Dusamareb, where lawmakers visiting from the capital had gathered, witnesses and officials said.

While suicide bombers sent by Islamist rebels al Shabaab have struck government targets and African Union troops in the capital Mogadishu often in recent years, such attacks are rare in central Galgadud region.

Member of parliament Dahir Amin Gesow told Reuters he was in the hotel cafe when the bomber walked in blew himself up. He said several people were killed, including some lawmakers.

The commander of the pro-government militia which controls Dusamareb, the capital of Galgadud, said at least three were killed in the blast.

"The bomber targeted these officials from Mogadishu at the hotel. We are now busy collecting casualties," Abdiweli Siyad, commander of the Sufi militia group Ahlu Sunna Waljamaca, told Reuters.

"At least three people died, including a legislator, and five others were injured," he said.

Dusamareb, 560 km (350 miles) north of Mogadishu has been under the control of the Ahlu Sunna militia group for years, although al Shabaab fighters have seized the town briefly on several occasions, including in March this year.

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### 23. [Attack, Somalia] Al Shabab Strikes Somali Lawmakers

Wednesday, 2 May 2012

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/terrorism-security/2012/0502/Al-Shabab-strikes-Somali-lawmakers>

Al Shabab has claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing in a Somali province yesterday that killed at least two lawmakers visiting from the capital. They were meeting several other lawmakers to discuss establishing a local administration as part of a larger effort to end Somalia's series of transitional governments.

Most reports indicate there were civilian deaths as well.

Although Al Shabab attacks on government and African Union targets are common, they are rare in the city of Dusamareb and the Galgadud region, where the attack took place, Reuters reports. Dusamareb has long been controlled by a pro-government militia named Ahlu Sunna, which receives support from Ethiopia.

Al Shabab also claimed responsibility for blowing up a car in Mogadishu, killing one man. The militant group said he was targeted because he worked for the government, according to Reuters.

The two attacks came on the heels of a warning from the United Nations, the African Union mission to the country, and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an East African diplomatic organization, that a fledgling agreement to establish a lasting government is endangered, Agence France-Presse reports. A road map for replacing the weak Western-backed Transitional Federal Government (TFG) by August and bringing an end to decades of civil war was agreed to and signed by Somali leaders in September.

The biggest hurdle is determining what kind of government system would best unite the various administrations across the country. A new constitution and parliament are also needed.

"The roadmap continues to be jeopardised by the actions of individuals and groups in and out of Somalia, working to undermine the fragile progress we have collectively made in recent months," the statement from the international organizations read, according to AFP. "We have come too far, and too much is at stake, for us to allow the process to backslide at the exact moment Somalia has its best opportunity for peace in decades."

Al Shabab has been waging a war against the transitional government for years and controlled the capital of Mogadishu for much of that time, but a fierce African Union-backed campaign that began last summer has pushed them out and kept them on their back feet. The original 12,000 AU troops were boosted to 18,000 in October to include Kenyan troops; Kenya has accused Al Shabab of being behind a number of kidnappings in Kenya. The AU troops have expanded their efforts beyond Mogadishu, sometimes working in tandem with Ethiopian troops, BBC reports.

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## 24. [Attack, Somalia] Car Bomb Rocks Km4 In Mogadishu

Tuesday, 1 May 2012

<http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/3299>

At least four people were killed and ten others were injured in two separate blasts that rocked in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, on Tuesday afternoon.

In what appears to be a forced suicide car bomber, the perpetrators detonated a four door sedan in the strategic road that links Mogadishu's main airport and KM4 junction, which is regularly used by Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and African Union (AMISOM) vehicles.

Locals said the man driving the car was a well known businessman, Arafat, who sold cars to the government and was not aligned with al-Shabaab. Independent sources said he was likely forced to drive the car wired with remote controlled explosives, which was then detonated by al-Shabaab sources nearby.

"The explosion was huge and those who carried out that explosion attached the explosive to the car. They then they used a remote control the explosion from another area where they monitored their operation," Saleoh Omar, a TFG official confirmed to Somalia Report.

Locals said the explosion was quick and likely premature.

"The car came out of a garage near the road and exploded immediately. We do not know the target. No government vehicles or AMISIOM were in the area. Only the driver was killed and a person passing by," Mohamed Sa'id, an eyewitness, told Somalia Report.

Colonel Khalif Ahmed Ereg, a Transitional Federal Government (TFG) security intelligence chief for Banadir region who reached the scene, confirmed a car bomb was to blame, but suspected it was an intentional suicide bomber.

"We do not know the motive behind this barbaric attack, it seems that the intention was to damage TFG and AMISOM but it prematurely detonated. We can thank God for that. We are investigating the incident," said Colonel Khalif.

### Grenade Attack in Bakara Market

Meanwhile, at least two people were killed and ten were injured, mainly civilians, when a grenade was thrown into a busy intersection of Mogadishu's largest market, Bakara.

"The attack has happened as people were busy with their jobs. I saw many wounded people and then after the blast TFG forces opened fire into four directions so we were all scared," Ali Ahmed, a conductor of public transport, told Somalia Report.

These attacks come as al-Shabaab fighters vowed they will increase their attacks on the capital as a warning to the traditional elders who are set to approve the new constitutional draft.

This also comes as a suicide bomber blew himself up in a restaurant in Galgadud, killing several prominent Somali lawmakers today.

Although no group has yet claimed responsibility for today's attacks, officials blame the al-Shabaab militant group battling for control of Somalia which is known for conducting suicide attacks.



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## 25. [Attack, South Sudan] South Sudan Accuses North Of New Bombings

Thursday, 3 May 2012

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/South-Sudan-Accuses-North-of-New-Bombings--150031285.html>

South Sudan is accusing Sudan of bombing its border region Thursday despite a U.N. Security Council warning for the countries to end hostilities or face sanctions.

Southern army spokesman Philip Aguer said Sudanese warplanes dropped 12 bombs and launched artillery in the village of Lalop where southern forces are stationed.

Aguer said the attack, which took place at around 4 p.m. local time, was the first launched in the volatile border since Tuesday. The attack has not been independently confirmed.

The African Union says on Wednesday Sudan accepted "in principle" an AU "road map" for halting violence and resolving issues with South Sudan.

The road map gives the two countries 90 days to settle their issues or face binding international arbitration. The AU said South Sudan accepted the plan earlier this week.

The United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution Wednesday calling on the two countries to halt fighting and reach an agreement on oil, border and citizenship issues.

The African Union has said it is making arrangements for the "urgent resumption" of negotiations of all pending issues. Prior AU-mediated talks between the two Sudans have produced little progress.

South Sudan became independent from Sudan last July, six years after the end of a 21-year Sudanese civil war.

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## 26. [Attack, Syria] Suicide Bombs In Syria Reportedly Kill At Least Eight, Wound Nearly 100

Monday, 30 April 2012

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/04/30/sucide-blasts-in-syria-reportedly-kill-at-least-8-wound-nearly-100/>

Two suicide bombers blew up cars rigged with explosives near a military compound and a hotel in a city in northwestern Syria on Monday, killing at least eight people and tearing large craters in the ground, state media said.

The blasts were the latest setback for troubled United Nations efforts to end Syria's 13-month-old crisis. A team of U.N. observers is already on the ground to salvage a cease-fire that went into effect April 12 but has been widely ignored by both sides. U.N. officials have singled out the regime as the main aggressor in violations of the truce.

Monday's powerful bombs went off in the city of Idlib, an opposition stronghold that government troops recaptured in a military offensive earlier this year.

The state-run news agency SANA said security forces and civilians were among those killed, and that nearly 100 people were wounded. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an activist network, put the death toll at more than 20 people.

Syria's pro-government al-Ekhbariya TV aired footage of the aftermath from the blasts, showing torn flesh, smashed cars, twisted debris and blood stains on the pavement. The force of the explosions tore the facade of one multistory building, shattered windows in the area and sent debris flying for hundreds of meters (yards). Pro-government websites said five buildings damaged.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks. State media blamed "armed terrorists," a term it uses for rebels trying to topple the government.

The bombers detonated their explosives near a military compound and near the city's Carlton Hotel, SANA said.

A local activist, who only gave his first name, Ibrahim, for fear of repercussions, said the two sites are several hundred meters apart and that the explosions went off within five minutes of each other after daybreak Monday.

Two members of the U.N. observer team toured the site of the bombings, SANA said. Ibrahim said the observers have been staying at the Carlton, and a pro-government website reported that the hotel sustained some damage.

Earlier Monday, gunmen fired rocket-propelled grenades at the central bank and a police patrol in the capital of Damascus, wounding four officers and causing light damage to the bank, SANA said.

Monday's bombings were the latest in a series of suicide bombings to hit Syria.



An al-Qaida-inspired Islamist group called the Al-Nusra Front to Protect the Levant claimed responsibility Monday for a suicide bombing in downtown Damascus that killed at least 10 people on Friday. The Associated Press could not verify the authenticity of Al-Nusra's statement which was posted on a militant website.

On Sunday, the head of the U.N. observer team, Maj. Gen. Robert Mood, appealed to both sides to halt the fighting. "We want to have combined efforts focusing on the welfare of the Syrian people, true cessation of violence in all its forms," he said after his arrival in the Syrian capital. Sixteen monitors are on the ground, but the team is to expand to 300.



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## 27. [Special Interest, Yemen] Al Qaeda Bomb Maker Thought Killed In Yemen Resurfaces

Friday, 27 April 2012

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-202\\_162-57422798/al-qaeda-bomb-maker-thought-killed-in-yemen-resurfaces/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-202_162-57422798/al-qaeda-bomb-maker-thought-killed-in-yemen-resurfaces/)

When a drone strike killed one of the leaders of al Qaeda's affiliate in Yemen last year, U.S. intelligence officials thought they also had wiped out the terrorist group's top bomb maker.

Soon it became apparent that Ibrahim Hassan al-Asiri, the brains behind sophisticated bombs that have been used in attempts to attack the U.S., was still alive. A hunted al-Asiri went underground, knowing the U.S. was after him, particularly after the U.S. killed Anwar al-Awlaki, one of the Yemen group's top leaders.

But U.S. counterterrorism officials say he has resurfaced. They worry he might be at work doing what he does best: building bombs that could defeat airline security, The Associated Press has learned.



On "CBS This Morning" John Miller called Asiri "one of the most creative bomb makers . . . one of the most dangerous people that we have seen."

Asiri invented the "Underwear Bomb" brought on board a Christmas 2009 flight headed for Detroit which - had the detonation attempt by Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab been successful - could have killed hundreds of people. Asiri was also behind bombs placed inside printers shipped from Yemen via air freight that were intercepted in 2010. With news that Asiri is believed to be still, Miller said, "We know he's back at his workbench trying to think, what is the next thing?"

While the intelligence community sees no credible or specific threat related to the one-year anniversary of Osama bin Laden's death, counterterrorism officials remain anxious about the Yemen group plotting attacks and aren't taking any chances.

The group, known as al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, has been a major threat since 2009, when one of its adherents with a bomb in his underwear tried to bring down a Detroit-bound jetliner on Christmas Day.

In the past six months, counterterrorism officials have seen an uptick in intelligence about potential threats from the group, according to an intelligence official speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive information. The U.S. just recently changed its rules so that it can conduct more drone strikes in Yemen.

The terror group twice has tried to attack U.S.-bound flights and is considered the most dangerous al Qaeda affiliate, recruiting Westerners. Al-Asiri constructed the bombs that were used in the attempted attacks.

Last year, the U.S. designated al-Asiri as a terrorist for his suspected involvement in terror attacks. In 2009, al-Asiri dispatched his brother on a suicide mission to kill Prince Muhammed bin Nayef, the Saudi deputy interior minister. Al-Asiri built the bomb that was hidden in his brother's pants. Bin Nayef survived the attack, but al-Asiri's brother did not.

The FBI has a fingerprint and forensic evidence linking al-Asiri to one of the explosive devices used in attempted attacks on the United States. It's not clear who provided the FBI with the original fingerprint used to match the one lifted from the underwear bomb. But it probably came from Saudi Arabia, where al-Asiri and his brother were arrested for their involvement in an al Qaeda-affiliated terrorist cell. They were released and later fled to Yemen in 2006.

Officials are worried that the terror group "intends to advance plots along multiple fronts, including renewed efforts to target Western aviation," according to a joint intelligence bulletin circulated Wednesday from U.S. Northern Command, the FBI and the Homeland Security Department. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the bulletin.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said the U.S. has "no credible information" that terrorist organizations are plotting attacks on the U.S. to coincide with the one-year anniversary of bin Laden's death.

"However, we assess that AQ's affiliates and allies remain intent on conducting attacks on the homeland, possibly to avenge the death of bin Laden, but not necessarily tied to the anniversary," Carney said, referring to al Qaeda. President Barack Obama met with members of his national security staff Thursday to review the threat picture ahead of the anniversary, Carney said.

Bin Laden was killed in a May 2, 2011, raid in Pakistan by U.S. Navy SEALs. The terror leader was living in a compound in one of Islamabad's suburbs, having evaded capture for nearly 10 years.

As part of a plan to put pressure on AQAP, the U.S. is widening the war on al Qaeda in Yemen, expanding drone strikes against the terror network. U.S. counterterrorism forces can now target individuals plotting attacks on U.S. soil, even if the person cannot be identified by name, two senior U.S. officials said. Prior practice required militants to be identified as part of a lengthy legal vetting process.

"What this means in practice is there are times when counterterrorism professionals can assess with high confidence someone is an AQAP leader, even if they can't tell us by name who that individual is," one of the officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive strategic matters.

The White House did not approve wider targeting of groups of al Qaeda foot soldiers, a practice sometimes employed by the CIA in Pakistan, and strikes will only be carried out with Yemeni government approval, officials said.

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## **28. [Attack, Syria] Armed Terrorist Groups Escalate Their Attacks Using Explosive Devices In Syrian Cities**

Friday, 27 April 2012

<http://www.sana.sy/eng/337/2012/04/27/415344.htm>

The armed terrorist groups continued their criminal acts committed against civilians and security forces in several cities.

In Damascus, two law-enforcement members and civilians on Friday were wounded by explosion of an explosive device. The device was planted by a terrorist group beside a tree in front of Zaid Bin Thabit Mosque in Khalid Bin al-Waleed Street.

SANA correspondent quoted a source at the governorate Police Command as saying that a number of cars were damaged.

in Aleppo, an armed terrorist group detonated an explosive device in east al-Ansari area causing the injury of law-enforcement members and civilians.

An official source at the governorate said eight law-enforcement personnel were injured in the attack and a civilian leg was amputated.

In Deir Ezzour, the competent authorities seized a field hospital was used by the armed terrorist groups in al-Mohassan city. Different kinds of weapons were found inside the hospital.

A source at the governorate told SANA reporter that 12.5 mm and 13.5 mm machine guns , quantities of ammunition and military uniforms were also seized.

Two citizens were injured when an explosive device, planted by an armed terrorist group, went off in a Police car in al-zahira al-Jadida area east of al-Meidan quarter in Damascus.

A source at Damascus Police Command told SANA reporter that the explosive device was attached to the bottom of the car to the left side, which caused injury to Ibrahim Shouha and Aisha Mahasin, parents of the driver eng. Ayman Shouha.

The reporter quoted a medical source at al-Mujtahid Hospital as saying that Ibrahim is in a serious condition and Aisha was wounded in her left leg.

Another explosive device, planted by an armed terrorist group, went off near a lighting column in al-Qaboun neighborhood. The blast resulted in material damages only, according to SANA.

Two Civilians Injured in Explosive Device Blast at al-Adawi Highway in Damascus

Two civilians were injured as an explosive device went off at al-Adawi Highway in Damascus.

SANA correspondent quoted a police source as saying that the explosion took place near the road leading to the Faculty of Agriculture, injuring two citizens; Adeen Kamel and Saeed Muhammad Mesilmani, and causing damage to the cars passing by.

#### Armed Terrorist Group Assassinate Assistant Head of Department at Jobar Switchboard

An armed terrorist group assassinated on Thursday Muhammad Qusai Malek, assistant head of department at Jobar switchboard along with his wife's brother Bashar Halima who works at Scientific Research Center.

SANA correspondent quoted a police source in the governorate as saying that six terrorists broke into the house of Malek in Ein Terma area after breaking the door, before shooting him and injuring him in the foot, then they kidnapped him along with Bashar who was in the house at the time of the attack. The terrorists also stole the family's car, jewelry and a sum of money.

The source indicated that the bodies of Malek and Halima were found on Friday morning with traces of torture on them.

#### Five Law Enforcement Members Injured in Explosive Device Blasts in Tartous

In Tartous province on the Syrian coast, five law enforcement personnel were injured in two explosive device blasts between the cornice and Tal Nufous in al-Qubaiyat neighborhood.

The five members are Ahmad Mahmoud, Adham Hammoud, Adeen Majar, Baraa Ali and Nabeel Ghanem, according to a source in the province.

The source added that a third explosive device was dismantled by the military engineering units near the explosion area.

#### 5 Law-Enforcement Personnel Injured in Grenade Blasts in Hama

An armed terrorist group lobbed several grenades at law enforcement personnel in al-Sabouniye neighborhood in Hama, injuring an officer and four other personnel.

On a relevant note, a source in Hama governorate said that engineering units dismantled three explosive devices, each with a yield of 20 kg, planted by terrorists on al-Amin road.

The source also said that the authorities found the bodies of Maamoun Shekh al-Souq and Yehea Hallaq in Janoub al-Mallab neighborhood and Bab al-Balad area respectively, and that the bodies bore gunshot wounds. The two citizens had been abducted by terrorists on Saturday.

#### Two Explosive Devices Dismantled in Deir Ezzor

In Deir Ezzor province, the authorities dismantled two explosive devices planted by armed terrorist groups in a park adjacent to al-Madlaji roundabout in the city.

A source in the province told SANA reporter that one of the explosive devices weighs, which were prepared to be remotely detonated, 20 kg and the other weighs 30 kg.

#### Two Explosive Devices Dismantled in Aleppo

In Aleppo province, the military engineering units last night dismantled two explosive devices planted by armed terrorist groups in the city.

One of the two 2 kg explosive devices was planted in Salah Eddin area, while the other was in al-Sukari area, according to a source in the province.

#### Gas Cylinder Explodes in Deir Ezzor, Kills 3

A gas cylinder exploded in al-Jbeileh neighborhood in Deir Ezzor, killing 3 family members and injuring three others.

SANA correspondent quoted a police source as saying that the explosion ripped through the house of Salem al-Azzami who works in filling gas cylinders, killing his mother and two of his family members, and injuring three others.

#### Authorities Seize Car Loaded with Weapons and Ammo in Hama Countryside

The authorities seized a car loaded with weapons in the eastern Hama countryside and arrested the weapon smugglers and dealers inside it.

The car contained 18 assault rifles, 5 PKC machineguns, 5 belt-fed machineguns, and RPG launcher with five rounds, 7 pump action shotguns, 11 hand grenades, 5 radio communicators, pouches, stolen license plates and a large amounts of ammo of various calibers.



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## **29. [Attack, Syria] 10 Killed In Mortar Bomb Attack In Syria's Idlib Province**

Tuesday, 1 May 2012

<http://www.rte.ie/news/2012/0501/10-killed-in-syrian-mortar-bomb-attack.html>

The British-based monitoring group said two of the dead were children.

A number of other people have been injured, some critically.

Reports from Syria cannot be independently verified as state authorities have barred international journalists and rights groups.

The Observatory said Syrian forces fired the mortar bombs at the town.

The shelling marks another violation of a shaky UN-brokered truce, which has already been marred by sporadic clashes and a string of explosions in the capital, Damascus, last week and central Idlib yesterday.

Violence appears to be rising again after a lull immediately after the ceasefire's implementation 19 days ago.

Thirty United Nations monitors are already in Syria and the mission's number is expected to rise to 50 by the end of the week.

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### **30. [Attack, Syria] More Than 20 People Reported Dead In Bomb Blast In Idlib In Syria**

Monday, 30 April 2012

<http://www.rte.ie/news/2012/0430/chief-un-monitor-arrives-in-syria-to-oversee-truce.html>

The majority of those killed were members of the security forces, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Reports from Syria cannot be independently verified as state authorities have barred international journalists and rights groups.

Syrian state television put the death toll at eight, among them civilians, and said scores were also injured in two blasts that took place in Idlib's Hananu Square, on Carlton Street.

It said "terrorists" were behind the attacks.

It showed blood stains on the ground, and groups of angry people denouncing the violence and expressing support for the regime of President Bashar al-Assad.

One apartment block appeared in ruins and cars nearby were flattened by the force of the explosion.

A powerful blast, probably a car bomb, was also reported near the capital Damascus, causing casualties.

Overnight, a rocket-propelled grenade hit the Central Bank in the capital, state media reported and on Friday a suicide car bomb in the heart of the capital also killed 11 people.

Anti-regime activists have accused the government of being behind the series of explosions, while authorities say "terrorists" are responsible.

The violence is taking place despite a UN-backed ceasefire that came into effect on 12 April but has failed to fully take hold.

Veteran peacekeeper Major General Robert Mood urged all sides to abide by the ceasefire as he arrived in Damascus on Sunday to take command of the UN military observer mission overseeing the truce.

The peace plan brokered by UN-Arab League envoy Kofi Annan calls for a commitment to stop all armed violence, a daily two-hour humanitarian ceasefire, media access to all areas affected by the fighting, an inclusive Syrian-led political process, a right to demonstrate and the release of arbitrarily detained people.

UN leader Ban Ki-moon has condemned the bomb attacks but said UN observers had brought some improvement in areas where they have been deployed.

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### **31. [Attack, Iraq] Car Bomb Injures 17 In Mosul**

Tuesday, 1 May 2012

[http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/World-News/2012/05/01/Car-bomb-injures-17-in-Mosul-Iraq/UPI-37371335894767/?spt=hs&or=tn](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2012/05/01/Car-bomb-injures-17-in-Mosul-Iraq/UPI-37371335894767/?spt=hs&or=tn)

At least 17 people were injured by a car bomb in northern Mosul, Iraq, a security source told KUNA Tuesday.

Three police officers were among the injured during the Monday bombing, the news agency said.

A security blockade was set up in the blast area and ambulances transported the injured to an area hospital, the report said.

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### 32. [Attack, Iraq] 10 Killed, 18 Injured In E Iraq Bombing Attacks

Thursday, 26 April 2012

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/238283.html>

As many as 10 people have been killed and 18 others injured in two bomb attacks in the eastern Iraq province of Diyala.

The blasts took place at a coffee shop in a village near the town of Baqubah, 65 kilometers (40 miles) to the northeast of Baghdad, on Thursday, Reuters reported.

According to Iraqi security sources, the first attack was a car bombing, in which 10 people died and 15 others were wounded. Another bomb, which had been planted inside the coffee shop, went off subsequently, injuring three other people, the sources said.

Earlier in the day, a roadside bomb blast and a car bomb explosion killed five civilians and injured 27 others in Baghdad.

On April 19, at least 36 people died and about 150 others were wounded after more than 20 bomb attacks hit different regions across the country.

Bombings and killings take place across the country on a daily basis, often targeting Shia-majority areas and local security forces.



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### **33. [Attack, Egypt] 11 Dead In Egyptian Clashes In Cairo Near Defense Ministry**

Wednesday, 2 May 2012

[http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world\\_now/2012/05/egypt-clash-defense-ministry.html](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world_now/2012/05/egypt-clash-defense-ministry.html)

At least 11 people were killed Wednesday when unknown attackers armed with guns and firebombs clashed with protesters near the Defense Ministry in an escalation of violence symbolizing the country's political divisions ahead of this month's presidential elections.

The assailants rushed from an adjoining neighborhood at dawn and fought about 500 demonstrators, many of them supporters of Hazem Salah abu Ismail, an ultraconservative Islamist preacher recently disqualified from the presidential race. Authorities said at least 49 people were wounded.

The violence adds to the turmoil that has engulfed the country since last year's overthrow of former President Hosni Mubarak. The elections scheduled for May 23-24 are seen as the final transition to democracy. But the unrest and the military's hold on power have fueled anger and political uncertainty and led to new calls for large street marches.

The protesters were a mix of Ismail backers and activists opposed to the ruling Supreme Council of the Armed Forces. As in previous protests against the military, thugs sympathetic to the old regime or hired by unnamed forces appeared amid a lack of police. Neighborhood residents exasperated with demonstrations have also reportedly attacked the protesters.

Authorities said the deaths and injuries early Wednesday were caused by live ammunition, rocks, clubs and other weapons. The protests began nearly one week ago. Army forces were reportedly moving into the area to disperse the sit-in and stop other protesters from marching toward the Defense Ministry.

The army has promised to hand power to a civilian government by July 1.

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### 34. [Attack, Syria] Clashes In Syria, HRW Accuses Troops Of War Crimes

Wednesday, 2 May 2012

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/05/02/clashes-in-syria-hrw-accuses-troops-war-crimes/>

Syrian activists said government forces clashed with army defectors in the country's north on Wednesday, causing casualties and further enflaming an area near the Turkish border where rebel fighters have tried to seize territory.

An opposition group said 15 members of the security forces and two defectors died in the violence, but the figure could not be independently confirmed.

Syria's persistent bloodshed has tarnished efforts by a U.N. team of observers to salvage a truce that started to unravel almost as soon as it began on April 12.

A report by an international human rights group accusing Assad of war crimes during an offensive ahead of the truce further throws into doubt his commitment to a peaceful solution to the uprising that his government has been brutally suppressing for over a year.

Despite the violence, the international community still sees the peace plan as the last chance to prevent the country from falling into civil war — in part because no country wants to intervene militarily.

In the meantime, violence has persisted around the country by both Assad's forces who have tried to repress demonstrators calling for him to step down and by an armed rebellion that has sprung up as peaceful protests have proved ineffective. The U.N. says 9,000 people have died since the uprising began.

On Wednesday, activists north of the northern city of Aleppo said troops were engaged in intense clashes with army defectors and rebels in the village of al-Raai. An activist who identified himself by his first name Ammar said the clashes began at night and were continuing Wednesday. He said there were unconfirmed reports of casualties.

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 15 members of the Syrian security forces, including two officers, were killed when they were ambushed by rebels in al-Raai. It said two army defectors also died in the clashes.

Syria's official news agency said a member of the country's security forces was killed and three others wounded in a roadside bomb explosion in the central province of Hama. SANA said the bombing on a road between the towns of Tibet al-Imam and al-Latamneh was carried out by a "terrorist" group — a phrase authorities use for rebels fighting the regime.

In the report, Human Rights Watch detailed violence committed by government forces in northern Syria in a two-week period leading up to the cease-fire, bringing into question whether Assad simply used the time ahead of the cease-fire to strengthen his grip on power instead of preparing for peace.

The New York-based group said troops killed at least 95 civilians and burned or destroyed hundreds of houses as U.N. special envoy Kofi Annan was negotiating with the Syrian government to end the fighting. In a 38-page report, the group documented summary executions, killings of civilians and arbitrary detentions and torture that it says qualify as war crimes.

"While diplomats argued over details of Annan's peace plan, Syrian tanks and helicopters attacked one town in Idlib after another," said Anna Neistat, associate director for programs and emergencies at Human Rights Watch.

"Everywhere we went, we saw burnt and destroyed houses, shops, and cars, and heard from people whose relatives were killed. It was as if the Syrian government forces used every minute before the cease-fire to cause harm," she said.

The report is based on a field investigation conducted in the towns of Taftanaz, Saraqeb, Sarmeen, Killi and Hazana in Idlib province. Some of the incidents cited appear to confirm widespread reports at the time of an offensive in Idlib in early April that triggered a massive wave of refugees who crossed the border to Turkey with horrific accounts of mass graves, massacres and burned out homes. Activists at one point reported about 100 dead in the villages of Taftanaz and Killi.

HRW said the majority of executions took place during the attack on Taftanaz. It cited nine separate incidents in which government forces executed a total of 35 civilians in their custody. In other cases, government forces opened fire and killed or injured civilians trying to flee the attacks.

Other groups including the U.N.'s top human rights body have condemned Syria for widespread and systematic violations against civilians.

The U.N.-appointed Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria has published two reports during the conflict. Last month, it handed U.N. human rights chief Navi Pillay a secret, sealed list of top Syrian officials who could face investigation for crimes against humanity.

An advance team of U.N. observers is on the ground, in hopes of calming the situation. But while the level of violence has decreased since the April 12 cease-fire, Syrian forces continue attacking rebellious areas instead of withdrawing to their barracks, as required under the deal. Rebel fighters also kept up shooting attacks and roadside ambushes targeting troops.

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### **35. [Security, Northern Ireland] Newry Bomb Had 600 Pounds Of Explosives And Was Fully Primed**

Saturday, 28 April 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-17877896>

Police have said that a bomb found at the border near Newry contained 600 pounds of explosives and was fully primed. The device, which had been placed in an abandoned van on the Fathom Line, was discovered on Thursday.

It was made safe on Friday evening. Ch Supt Alasdair Robinson said the bomb was twice as big as the bomb that exploded outside Newry courthouse two years ago.

"If this had exploded it would have caused devastation," he said.

"To put it in perspective - anyone within 50m of this device would have been killed and anyone within 100m, seriously injured."

The police chief also rejected criticism that motorists had been able to drive past the bomb and said police had closed a main cross-border road within 12 minutes.

"Many police services would struggle to get an international border road closed in this time frame," he added.

"There was some residual traffic following the closures and, while we made the public aware of the road closures and advised them to avoid the area, a few cars ignored our advice. We do everything in our power to protect human life."

The Fathom Line was closed for 24 hours while the police and Army dealt with the alert. Ulster Unionist MLA for the area, Danny Kennedy said if the bomb had exploded it would have caused serious destruction.

He said: "It had the potential to cause lethal damage. A 600 pound device at the road side waiting for a police patrol. It is just unthinkable."

A member of the public reported the discovery of a suspicious vehicle to police on Thursday. It had been abandoned with its engine running. Dissident republican paramilitaries have been blamed for a number of bomb attacks in the city in recent years.

Earlier this month, a bomb was found near the Cloghogue roundabout in Newry, just off the main Belfast to Dublin dual carriageway. Police said the device contained a significant amount of explosives and had the potential to kill. It was also made safe by army bomb experts.

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### **36. [Security, Ireland] Viable Device Found In Roscrea**

Saturday, 28 April 2012

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/breaking/2012/0428/breaking9.html>

An Army bomb disposal team were called to deal with what a spokesman described as a viable improvised explosive device in Roscrea, Co Tipperary early this morning.

The Defence Forces sent the team to an estate in the Grange area of the town at 2.45am following a request from gardaí.

A number of homes had to be evacuated during the operation.

The device was found near a vehicle. A controlled explosion was carried out and the scene was declared safe at 4.40am.

A Defence Forces spokesman said it was the 70th callout for far this year and the 22nd viable device to be discovered.

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### **37. [Attack, Israel] Rocket Attack Strikes Near Sderot**

Monday, 30 April 2012

[http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/155303#.T6Az\\_NmRM14](http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/155303#.T6Az_NmRM14)

Palestinian Authority Arab terrorists in Gaza aimed at southern Israel Monday night, launching a rocket attack at the town of Sderot.

The short-range Qassam missile landed in an area about a kilometer away from Israel's security fence along the Gaza border.

The explosion occurred in an open area, and no property damage was reported by the authorities. No one was physically injured.

Residents received a 15-second warning of the impending attack due to the Color Red incoming rocket alert system.

However, residents living in areas targeted by rocket attacks are frequently traumatized. Children have their sleep disrupted and are often frightened when they are snatched up from their beds by parents in order to run to a bomb shelter or other space space. In addition, those affected by post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) due to prior attacks are typically re-traumatized as a result.

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### **38. [Special Interest, England] Britain Weighs Missile Plan For Games**

Monday, 30 April 2012

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304868004577376011840113098.html>

Britain's defense ministry said it is considering putting surface-to-air missiles on the rooftops of apartment buildings and at other locations in East London during this summer's Olympics, a stark reminder of the scale and intensity of the security operation surrounding the Games.

The Ministry of Defense said it is considering deploying missile systems with a range of up to five mileseight kilometers, and an altitude of up to 10,000 feetf more than three kilometers, at six locations across London during the Olympics.

Those locations include the housing complexes in the London districts of Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest. It also identified four other potential locations, including a park and a reservoir.

That underscores the challenge British authorities face: They want to ensure the Games go off without incident but don't want the event to be overshadowed by the security efforts, which are expected to be the U.K.'s largest-ever peacetime measures.

Missiles have been on standby in previous Olympics. Antiaircraft missiles were stationed near Olympic venues at the Beijing Games in 2008 and in Athens, four years earlier, but the idea is raising objections in East London.

A spokesman for the ministry said there are discussions among the police, local authorities and the relevant landowners about the implications of basing the missile systems in certain locations.

But no decision had been made about whether the missiles would be deployed, the spokesman added.

"This announcement raises real concerns for the people living in the block as well as the wider community," said Rushanara Ali, a Labour member of Parliament who represents the area of London where the missiles would be deployed. She added that residents hadn't been consulted properly and had been given little warning.

The plans come as authorities conduct exercises to test the response of police and other emergency response services to security and other incidents, including a series of events this week by the military.

In another reminder of the threat the U.K. faces, prosecutors on Monday said they had charged four men from Luton, a town northwest of London, with intending to commit, or assisting others to commit, acts of terrorism through activities including downloading electronic files containing practical instruction for a terrorist attack; discussing methods, materials and targets for a terrorist attack; and collecting and supplying funds for terrorist purposes.

The men, who range from 21 to 30 years old, also were charged with possessing documents likely to be useful for a terrorist purpose.



Prosecutors said they possessed literature linked to radical cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, who was killed last year in Yemen by a U.S. drone strike.

Among the literature was a guide by Mr. Awlaki called "44 Ways to Support Jihad" and an English-language jihadist magazine, called "Inspire." One of the men also allegedly possessed an al Qaeda manual.

The U.K. is preparing for a massive security effort, which authorities say begins in earnest operationally with the start of the torch relay on May 18 and runs through Sept. 9, the close of the Paralympic Games.

London's Metropolitan Police, which are leading the security effort, have said they expect to deploy as many as 9,500 officers on peak days of the Olympics in addition to regular policing numbers.

Some 13,500 personnel from the air force, army and navy will be involved in the safety and security operation and Royal Air Force jets and helicopters will be on standby to counter airborne terrorist attacks.

Authorities have been conducting a series of exercises over recent months to test their responses to major incidents, including responses to a terror threat.

That included a terrorist-attack drill in February at an unused subway station to test the responses of police and other emergency-response services.

This week, the military will conduct a series of events in London and other Olympic-event locations involving more than 1,000 military personnel, as well as aircraft and naval boats.

And, on Thursday, the military will roll out a Rapier air-defense missile system to Blackheath, near Greenwich in East London, ahead of a training exercise designed to test military procedures before the Olympics.

The terror-threat level in the U.K. is at "substantial," the third-highest level, having been downgraded from "severe" last year.

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### 39. [Security, Russia] Russia Threatens Pre-Emptive Strike On NATO Missile Defense Shields

Thursday, 3 May 2012

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/03/russia-missile-defense-pre-emptive-strike\\_n\\_1473593.html?ref=world](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/03/russia-missile-defense-pre-emptive-strike_n_1473593.html?ref=world)

Russia's top military officer has threatened to carry out a pre-emptive strike on U.S.-led NATO missile defense facilities in Eastern Europe if Washington goes ahead with its controversial plan to build a missile shield.

President Dmitry Medvedev said last year that Russia will retaliate militarily if it does not reach an agreement with the United States and NATO on the missile defense system.

Chief of General Staff Nikolai Makarov went even further Thursday. "A decision to use destructive force pre-emptively will be taken if the situation worsens," he said at an international conference attended by senior U.S. and NATO officials.

Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov also warned on Thursday that talks between Moscow and Washington on the topic are "close to a dead end."

U.S. missile defense plans in Europe have been one of the touchiest subjects in U.S.-Russian relations for years.

Moscow rejects Washington's claim that the missile defense plan is solely to deal with any Iranian missile threat and has voiced fears it will eventually become powerful enough to undermine Russia's nuclear deterrent. Moscow has proposed running the missile shield jointly with NATO, but the alliance has rejected that proposal.

Makarov's statement on Thursday doesn't seem to imply an immediate threat, but aims to put extra pressure on Washington to agree to Russia's demands.

The two-day conference in Moscow is the last major Russia-U.S. meeting about military issues before a NATO summit in Chicago later this month. Russia has not yet said whether it will send top officials.

In a candid, lively exchange during a conference side session, officials talked about the high level of distrust remaining between the two sides.

"We can't just reject the distrust that has been around for decades and become totally different people," Russian Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov said in addressing U.S. and NATO officials. "Why are they calling on me, on my Russian colleagues, to reject distrust? Better look at yourselves in the mirror."

U.S. State Department special envoy Ellen Tauscher responded that neither country can afford another arms race.

"Your 10-foot fence cannot cause me to build an 11-foot ladder," Tauscher said. "It's going to have to take a political leap of faith and it's going to take some trust that we have to borrow, perhaps, from each other and for each other, but why don't we do it for the next generation?"

At a later news conference, Tauscher played down Makarov's comments on pre-emptive measures

"We've heard it before," she said. "We think that's off on the horizon. We think they were showing us what could happen. I think we're far from there, but we're aware of what they're saying."

The Obama administration tried to ease tensions with Russia in 2009 by saying it would revamp an earlier Bush-era plan to emphasize shorter-range interceptors. Russia initially welcomed that move, but has more recently suggested the new interceptors could threaten its missiles as the U.S. interceptors are upgraded.

The U.S.-NATO missile defense plans use Aegis radars and interceptors on ships and a more powerful radar based in Turkey in the first phase, followed by radar and interceptor facilities in Romania and Poland.

Russia would not plan any retaliation unless the United States goes through with its plans and takes the third and final step and deploys defense elements in Poland, Antonov said Wednesday. That is estimated to happen no earlier than in 2018.

Russia has just commissioned a radar in Kaliningrad, its western outpost near the Polish border, capable of monitoring missile launches from Europe and the North Atlantic.

On Thursday, at the start of the conference attended by representatives from about 50 countries, Russia's Security Council secretary reiterated Moscow's offer to run the missile shield together with NATO. Nikolai Patrushev said such a jointly run European missile defense system "could strengthen the security of every single country of the continent" and "would be adequate for possible threats and will not deter strategic security."

NATO's deputy secretary general, Alexander Vershbow, told the conference that the U.S.-led missile shield is "not and will not be directed against Russia" and that Russia's intercontinental ballistic missiles are "too fast and too sophisticated" for the planned system to intercept.

Meanwhile, U.S. Senator John McCain, on a visit to Lithuania, lashed out at Russia's plans in Kaliningrad.

McCain said using missile defense as an "excuse to have a military buildup in this part of the world, which is at peace, is really an egregious example of what might be even viewed as paranoia on the part of Vladimir Putin."

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#### **40. [Attack, Russia] Car Bombs Kill At Least 13 Outside Police Station**

Friday, 4 May 2012

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/04/dagestan-car-bombs\\_n\\_1476791.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/04/dagestan-car-bombs_n_1476791.html)

Bombs hidden in two vehicles exploded outside a police station in the Russian republic of Dagestan, killing at least 13 people and wounding scores. Authorities said Friday it was probably a suicide attack by Islamic insurgents. More than 130 people were hospitalized, 16 of them in critical condition, said Kazanfar Kurbanov, the Emergency Ministry chief physician in Dagestan.

Militants frequently attack police and civilians in Dagestan, in Russia's restive North Caucasus, and law enforcement is engaged in nearly daily clashes with local militants. But bombing attacks such as Thursday night's in Makhachkala, the capital, are less common.

The first explosion occurred outside a traffic police station in Makhachkala when a car pulled up there for an ID check, officials said. Twenty-five minutes later, as the scene of the blast was filled with troops, investigators and firefighters, a second explosion occurred in a minivan parked nearby. Seven police officers and three firefighters were killed.

The two explosions were probably a coordinated attack aimed at police, said local Interior Ministry spokesman Vyacheslav Gasanov. The first blast was equivalent to 30 kilograms (66 pounds) of TNT, while the second one about contained 50 kilograms (110 pounds) of explosives, he said.

Magomed Sultanov, a duty officer at the Interior Ministry in Makhachkala, told The Associated Press that investigators suspect the explosions were carried out by two suicide bombers. The remains of a man and a woman were found near the two vehicles.

Russian Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliyev said in remarks carried by the NTV television station that the insurgents could have targeted the police station and its personnel – or might have been driving the explosives to downtown Makhachkala in order to stage a bombing there during the May 9 Victory Day parade.

Police reinforcements have been redeployed from neighboring regions to Dagestan in recent weeks in an attempt to bolster security and make up for personnel shortages among local law enforcement forces.

Local media reported that as many as 20,000 troops would be dispatched to Dagestan. Those figures were dismissed by the president of the province, Magomedislam Magomedov.

He conceded, however, that his province was sorely lacking in security. Both Chechnya and Dagestan have 18,000 police officers, but Dagestan's population is twice as large as Chechnya's.

In Brussels, EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton condemned "the heinous terrorist attacks," offered her condolences to the victims, and said "there can be no justification for such criminal acts."

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## 41. [Special Interest, North Korea] North Korea Missiles Put On Parade Are Fakes, Experts Say

Thursday, 26 April 2012

[http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world\\_now/2012/04/north-korea-missiles-put-on-parade-are-fakes-experts-say.html](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world_now/2012/04/north-korea-missiles-put-on-parade-are-fakes-experts-say.html)

Several experts believe missiles that North Korea paraded this month in Pyongyang are fakes because a closer study of photographs of the weapons reveals odd inconsistencies in their design.

The missiles were shown as part of birthday celebrations for the nation's founder, Kim Il Sung, just days after a failed rocket launch that embarrassed the reclusive regime. The country has continually touted its military heft in an escalating war of words with South Korea since then.

"Superiority in military technology is no longer monopolized by imperialists, and the era of enemies using atomic bombs to threaten and blackmail us is forever over," leader Kim Jong Un was quoted by the Associated Press as saying in a speech coinciding with the lavish military parade.

But a closer look at the six missiles shows that none of them are exactly the same, a glaring issue for weapons that must be carefully engineered, analysts Markus Schiller and Robert H. Schmucker wrote.

They spotted a number of strange features on the purported missiles. For instance, the warheads do not appear capable of separating from the missiles, a key stage in ensuring proper flight.

The surface of the missiles is undulating, "as if a thin metal sheet was fixed onto a simple inner frame" -- hardly a structure that could withstand atmospheric reentry, Schiller and Schmucker said. And the features of the missiles suggest they would use a strange fusion of liquid- and solid-fuel technology.

"That's plain impossible," said Schiller, senior associate at Schmucker Technologie, a Munich consulting company. "It's like looking at a train that has steam exhaust and electricity at the same time."

The findings, released last week, have convinced other experts that the missiles aren't really missiles.

The ballyhooed weapons inspired skepticism from the start: Theodore Postol, professor of science, technology and national security policy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said that when he first saw the weapons, he simply didn't believe that North Korea had the industrial muscle to make them.

"The only way North Korea could develop such a missile with its pitiful economy would be if someone gave it to them," Postol argued. His skepticism was deepened by the fact that the United States hasn't detected any test firings of the missiles, which would be needed to perfect them.

The question that remains is whether the missiles were mockups of a real missile that is being developed or simply phony missiles wheeled out for show, said David Wright, co-director of the global security program at the Union of Concerned Scientists. North Korea has shown off mockups before.

"It's very hard to know what game they're playing with this," Wright said.

Beyond the missiles, the bigger fear now is that North Korea will soon carry out a nuclear test, something it has done twice in the past after attempting a rocket launch.

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## 42. [Attack, Nepal] Five Die In Nepal Blast, Little Know Group Claims Responsibility

Monday, 30 April 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/5-die-in-Nepal-blast-little-know-group-claims-responsibility/articleshow/12935847.cms>

At least five persons were killed and about two dozen injured in a bomb blast in the southern Nepal holy city of Janakpur on Monday morning, authorities said.

The bomb in a motorcycle exploded a few minutes after it was left in front of a political sit-in at a market square in the city, Kosh Hari Niraula, assistant chief district officer of Dhanusha district said.

A little-known armed political group Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha (Democratic Terai Liberation Front) has claimed responsibility to local media through text message. The group called on the Madhesi parties in the coalition government to come to the streets to fight for the rights of the Madhesi people of southern Nepal, who have been demanding better representation in the state structure for the last five years.

The sit-in was, in turn, demand for a separate Mithila province in the new federal structure. Mithila was the ancient kingdom of King Janak, the father-in-law of Lord Rama with Janakpur as its capital.

One of the five died on the spot, three in hospital in Janakpur, about 250 kilometres southeast of Kathmandu, and one in Kathmandu where the more seriously injured were airlifted to. Those killed belonged to a cultural group which was staging a sit-in.

Nepal 's political parties have been in intense negotiations on the new constitution including the issue of demarcation of provinces for the last couple of weeks. The deadline for a new constitution is less than a month away.

The Janakpur blast and the ongoing general strike in western Nepal for the last four days highlights the tricky waters that Nepal's politicians have to tread as they finalise the new constitution.

Various groups across the country have been demanding provinces based on ethnicity while some political parties want provinces based on economic viability.

Armed political groups used to be active in Nepal's Madhes region, as the southern part is known, till a few years back but there had not been such incidents of late.

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### **43. [Security, India] Improvised Explosive Device Recovered In Assam**

Friday, 27 April 2012

<http://newsblaze.com/story/20120427071608nath.nb/topstory.html>

A powerful Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was recovered by security forces in Assam's Tinsukia district on Thursday, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, a joint of Assam police and army recovered the IED, weighing 5 kgs from a shop at 4 no Kakajan near Philobari under Dumduma police station.

"Suspected militants who were hiding the bomb at the shop triggered the explosion," a police official said.

Senior police officials rushed to the spot and launched a search operation in the area.

Meanwhile, security forces arrested a self-styled leader of a new born militant group at Gahpur in Sonitpur district on Thursday.

The nabbed militant was identified as Bipul Bora and he claimed himself as the self-styled commander-in-chief of a new born militant group Sanjukta Rakta Bahini.

"The nabbed militant were involved in extortions in the district," a police official said.

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#### **44. [Security, India] Five Kg Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Recovered In Meghalaya**

Sunday, 29 April 2012

<http://www.nagalandpost.com/ChannelNews/Regional/RegionalNews.aspx?news=TkVXUzEwMDAxNzU1Nw%3D%3D-01cKfcR%2FD08%3D>

Meghalaya police Saturday recovered a powerful improvised explosive device (IED) planted by Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) rebels inside a culvert in South Garo Hills, bordering Bangladesh, police said.

Security forces spotted wire linking inside the culvert at Dagi Teksrage area between Chokpot in South Garo Hills and Tura, the district headquarter of West Garo Hills, police said. Anti bomb disposal squad was called to defuse the five Kg bomb.

Police say that the landmine was planted by GNLA to trigger landmine blast.

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## 45. [Attack, India] Low-Intensity Bomb Goes Off In Madurai

Tuesday, 1 May 2012

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Madurai/article3373785.ece>

A low-intensity bomb rigged to a cycle exploded near an auditorium-cum-temple complex here in the early hours on Tuesday, causing a security scare ahead of next week's BJP state-level conference to be attended by senior leaders including L.K. Advani.

The explosion of the bomb placed in a box fitted to the cycle damaged the vehicle totally, police said, adding there was no casualty in the incident which occurred at around 3 a.m. near the Gupta Auditorium housing a Ram temple.

Police said the motive seemed to create a scare ahead of Mr. Advani's visit to the city for the two-day BJP conference slated to begin on May 10 and also during the ongoing annual Chitirai festival.

"It is a sophisticated device... there was a timer and eight batteries connected to the explosive," police said.

The procession marking Lord Kallazhagar's visit to the city attracts lakhs of devotees and the auditorium is located on the route in which the Lord would be taken around. The blast caused anxiety as security in the temple city has been beefed up for the festival and BJP meet.

Officials of the auditorium and two nearby hospitals claimed they had informed police about a person keeping a cycle in the area and taking it in the morning for the past three days, indicating a dry-run by the perpetrator.

But the Patrol police did not take the information seriously, they charged.

In October last year, a pipe bomb was unearthed at a nearby village on the Jan Chetna Yatra route of Mr. Advani.

Though police have arrested three persons from the city, two main suspects and activists of banned Al-Umma, Fakruddin and Bilal Mallick, are at large.

The latest incident caused concern as bombs had been recovered by police from three buses in the region in the recent past.

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## 46. [Security, India] Maoist Camp Destroyed

Tuesday, 1 May 2012

<http://expressbuzz.com/states/orissa/maoist-camp-destroyed/387461.html>

Uneasy calm prevails in Ganjam district following destruction of a Maoist camp and recovery of ammunition. The police said on Sunday that the Maoist camp was destroyed and huge quantities of materials, including landmine wire, were seized during an operation by security forces inside a forest in Ganjam district.

About 6 kg of wire used for landmine explosion, a generator, stabilisers, bullet-proof jackets and uniforms were among the materials seized from the camp in Sorada area which was destroyed during the raid conducted since Friday night, police said.

The seized materials included Maoist literature, several CDs, three containers with rice, dal, water jackets, medicines, glucose packets, saline bottles besides contraceptives and around 200 packets of condoms.

“Maoists who were camping there fled after an exchange of fire with security personnel on Friday night in the jungle. No one was hurt in the fire,” Ganjam SP Rajesh Pandit said. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Special Operation Group (SOG) had conducted the raid.

In another operation, security personnel seized a tiffin bomb, Maoist uniforms, medicines and literature from Shrambi forest under Kandhamal’s Kotagarh police limits.

Exchange of fire also took place in the area between ultras and security personnel during the combing operation on the same day, said DIG (southern range) R K Sharma. This was the first exchange of fire between the Red rebels and security personnel after the twin hostage crises.

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## **47. [Attack, India] Two Killed And 10 Abducted In Naxal Attack**

Thursday, 26 April 2012

[http://www.news24online.com/Two-killed-and-10-abducted-in-Naxal-attack\\_News24\\_43223.aspx](http://www.news24online.com/Two-killed-and-10-abducted-in-Naxal-attack_News24_43223.aspx)

At least two people were killed while more than a dozen were abducted on Thursday afternoon in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra, according to media reports.

This came as second attack with in a month after March 27, in which more than 12 CRPF personnel lost their lives.

According to informations, naxalits were demanding immediate suspension of operation green hunt and withdrawal of CRPF from jungles.

More information awaited.

It may be mentioned here that on March 27, While 12 personnel including three sub inspectors died, 28 constables of the '192 batallion' of the Central Reserve Police Force were injured after Naxals triggered a blast targeting their bus on an inter-state road in Dhanora Taluka in Gadchiroli district.

The bus was part of a fleet of CRPF vehicles ferrying personnel for a civic action programme in Gatta village.

The attack came on a day when CRPF chief K Vijay Kumar was on tour in the Gadchiroli area.

CRPF officials said around 40 kilograms of explosives was used by the Naxals in the container bomb that they had placed below the road.

Ten tribal men who were found running away from the spot have been held for questioning.

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## 48. [Attack, Bangladesh] Sixteen Cocktails Exploded In City

Sunday, 29 April 2012

<http://www.banglanews24.com/English/detailsnews.php?nssl=953e2ad25261d78a67bc9b4da4016994&nntl=2904201240249&toppos=3>

At least 16 cocktails were exploded in different areas of the city during the hartal hours on Sunday.

Two cocktails exploded at secretariat in the city on Sunday afternoon. No one was injured in the incident.

Four cocktails were exploded in front of Dhaka district and session judge's court at around 12:30pm.

Police held two persons for their alleged involvement in the incident.

A cocktail was blasted in front of Malibagh Baitul Ajim Shaheed Jame Masjid at around 11:30am. Police also recovered another abandoned cocktail from the same area.

A rickshaw puller, Md. Shafiqul Islam, 35, was injured in the cocktail explosion. The left part of his body was burnt completely.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Besides, three cocktails were exploded in front of RK Chowdhury University College in Sayedabad area at around 9am.

Police picked up two suspected persons allegedly for their involvement in the explosion.

Another cocktail was exploded in front of Siddheswari School and College in Maghbazar area at around 9am.

Three cocktails were blasted in front of Mugda Ideal School and College under Sabujbagh Thana at around 9am.

Besides, two cocktails were exploded in front of Boro Masjid in city's Nababpur area on Sunday morning.

Witnesses said someone might hurl the cocktails from roof of any adjacent building.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Wari zone Manjur Rahman told banglanews, "None was held or injured in the explosions."

The countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal, called by opposition BNP, is underway Sunday in protest against missing of BNP leader M Elias Ali.

Acting secretary general of the party Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir came up with the announcement at a press conference held at Naya Paltan central party office in the city on Saturday afternoon.

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## **49. [Security, United States] Inert Explosive Device Hoax Tied To Woodbridge Man**

Friday, 27 April 2012

<http://woodbridge-va.patch.com/articles/inert-explosive-device-tied-to-woodbridge-man>

A Woodbridge man was charged with manufacturing a hoax explosive device, a felony charge, after police shut down Aden Road Thursday.

Police reported to the 14100 block of Aden Road in Nokesville, VA for a suspicious package after a caller had reported to police that he had encountered an unknown man in the area.

“Once there, the accused attempted to hand the caller, what appeared to be, an explosive device,” said Prince William County Police Public Information Officer Jonathan Perok. “The caller refused to accept it, at which point, the accused placed the device in a ditch and walked away.”

Perok said the caller immediately contacted police. Police responded to the area of Aden Road and Parkgate Drive where Jerrold Long Feuchtwanger, 34, of the 3400 block of Madelyn Court, was detained without incident.

Perok said the device caused Aden road to be closed for several hours. The Virginia State Police Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit assisted and determined the device to be inert, said Perok.

Feuchtwanger was subsequently charged. His court date and bond information were not immediately available.

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## 50. [Security, United States] Fake Bomb Found Near Queens School

Monday, 30 April 2012

[http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/queens/makeshift\\_military\\_ordance\\_found\\_RnVEX4wqal3G2tR842cEyM](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/queens/makeshift_military_ordance_found_RnVEX4wqal3G2tR842cEyM)

A military-style toy bazooka was found outside a Queens elementary school this morning, forcing the evacuation of panicked students and teachers, police and education officials said.

A passer-by called 911 after spotting the 5-foot-long, camouflage-painted PVC pipe with the words “US Marines” emblazoned on it outside PS 68 in Ridgewood at 7:30 a.m., police said.

The NYPD’s bomb squad quickly responded to the scene on St. Felix Avenue near Seneca Avenue and determined that the harmless device was used to launch model rockets.

Students were allowed to return to class after 30 minutes.

The bazooka was found leaning against a lamppost.



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## 51. [Security, United States] Bomb Threat Empties High School Gym

Monday, 30 April 2012

<http://www.kpho.com/story/17950878/bomb-threat-empties-high-school-gym>

The Paradise Valley High School gymnasium was evacuated Monday afternoon after school officials discovered a bomb threat, PVHS spokesman Marty Macurak said.

Two English teachers reported the threat, which was sent as an e-file to one of the school's printers, Macurak said. The teachers reported the threat to the school's administrative team at about 1 p.m., the school said.

All students and staff were ordered out of the gym while Phoenix police searched the building at 3950 E. Bell Rd.

"We're were like, 'Oh gosh, what happened' and they were saying something threatened to bomb the school and they planted it somewhere by the gymnasium and no one could go in there," said student Deanna Moore.

Officers later gave an all-clear sign to re-open the gym.

Macurak said there was never any lock down.

"The student involved was quickly found and has admitted to writing the prank note," said Sgt. Trent Crump of the Phoenix Police Department.

Crump said the underaged student "is being referred for possible charging."

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## 52. [Security, United States] Sacramento Police Seize Cache Of Weapons Hidden Behind False Wall

Friday, 27 April 2012

<http://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2012/04/27/sacramento-police-seize-cache-of-weapons-hidden-behind-false-wall-in-home/>

A Neighborhood Watch sign is posted in the front window to ward off criminals, but police say it was the people inside this Colonial Heights home who were breaking the law by stashing away a cache of deadly weapons.

Among the 16 guns police found when they searched the home Wednesday were a loaded AK-22, a Tech-9 pistol, a sawed-off shotgun, a mobster-era tommy gun, eight handguns, two grenades and a spent rocket launcher used by the military to take out tanks.

“You put it on your shoulder, blast goes out the back, and go on with your day,” Sacramento Police Sgt. Paul Freeman said. “I’ve been on the streets 23 years and this is the first time I’ve seen one of these outside of a MacGyver episode or something.”



But this was no make believe. After getting a tip about possible illegal activity at the 54th street home, police found weapons in room after room, including a secret room apparently built to hide the guns.

“A couple of them were hidden behind a false wall, in a child’s bedroom,” Freeman said.

Sydney Whitaker, 47, who is listed as living at the home, was arrested for stolen and illegal weapons possession.

“Seriously? Wow, that’s too close, too close to home,” a neighbor said. “Oh man, they have kids too.”

Neighbors are rattled but not surprised. Police say there have been several complaints by neighbors about activity at the home. Some say they’ve even been threatened by the homes occupants.

CBS13 tried to reach out to Whitaker, who’s since bailed out of jail, but she did not want to talk.

Freeman said the investigation is ongoing and he anticipates additional arrests.

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### **53. [Security, United States] FBI Watched As Five Men Planned Ohio Bridge Bomb Plot**

Wednesday, 2 May 2012

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-501363\\_162-57425752/fbi-watched-as-5-men-planned-ohio-bridge-bomb-plot/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-501363_162-57425752/fbi-watched-as-5-men-planned-ohio-bridge-bomb-plot/)

After unknowingly working with an FBI informant for months, five men have been charged with plotting to bomb an Ohio bridge linking two wealthy Cleveland suburbs.

Federal authorities described the men as anarchists who are angry with corporate America and the government. The five appeared Tuesday in U.S. District Court following a Monday night arrest. Magistrate Judge Greg White ordered them jailed without bond pending a hearing May 7.

The men were charged with conspiracy and trying to bomb property used in interstate commerce. The charges carry possible penalties of more than 20 years in prison.

The arrests mark the latest case in which an FBI informant plans fake terrorism plots alongside targeted suspects. It continues to be a top strategy for the government in preventing terrorism.

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## 54. [Security, Colombia] Army Located Cache With War Material

Monday, 30 April 2012

<http://www.cgfm.mil.co/CGFMPortal/faces/index.jsp?id=14049>

An offensive operation against the FARC, by troops of the Second Division, allowed to locate a cache with weapons and uniforms belonging to the Farc 20th front, in the town of Lebrija, Santander.

The military action took place in the village of Lebanon, by the troops of Support and Services for combat Abrego # 5 'Mercedes', assigned to the Fifth Brigade, accompanied by dog handlers who infiltrated wooded area to locate the inlet with which it was intended to undermine the troops and civilians.

During registration, seized an Israeli mortar manufacture, commando-type 60 mm, 1,079 rounds of ammunition of different calibers, a provider Galil 5.56 mm rifle, camouflage uniforms, two multipurpose vests and two assault teams.

Although there were no arrests, military actions continue to ensure the security and tranquility in this region.

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