

RAPID

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WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

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



Terrorists Wanted To Bomb Nairobi On Sunday

Police said they had thwarted what would have been a deadly terror attack after they recovered a cache of deadly terror weapons.

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1. [Attack, Afghanistan] Teenage Bomber Kills Six Near NATO HQ In Kabul

Saturday, September 8 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/08/us-afghanistan-bomb-idUSBRE88703L20120908>

A 14-year-old suicide bomber detonated explosives near the heavily barricaded NATO headquarters in Kabul on Saturday, killing six civilians including children, NATO and local officials said.

The bomber wore a vest packed with explosives and rode right up to the NATO gates on a bicycle, underscoring the insurgents' ability to strike deep inside the Afghan capital, ahead of the withdrawal of most foreign combat forces by the end of 2014.

Pieces of flesh and splattered blood lay on the street near the base, where the small bodies of children were lifted into ambulances. Scores of young children peddle trinkets and chewing gum around the foreign bases, hoping to earn a bit of cash.

Wailing women in head-to-toe burqas who said they were the dead children's mothers rushed shortly after the attack to the site, where small flip flops lay strewn in the mud.

Kabul Police, in a statement to media, said the bomber was 14 years old, without giving details.

The Taliban took responsibility for the attack, but denied they had deployed a teenage bomber, saying instead he was a 28-year-old who targeted the Kabul offices of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) condemned the use of children. "Forcing underage youth to do their dirty work again proves the insurgency's despicable tactics," said spokesman Brigadier General Gunter Katz.

The U.S. embassy in Kabul said in a statement that using "the most impressionable and vulnerable", such as a teenager, to carry out such attacks revealed the true nature of the insurgents.



Ministry of Interior spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said six civilians were killed in the attack, which took place just before noon, and five more wounded, including children.

Security was beefed up across the capital on Saturday as celebrations were underway to commemorate the 11th anniversary of the death of Ahmad Shah Massoud, the hero of the 1980s war against Soviet forces, and later a fierce opponent to the Taliban.

Massoud was killed on September 9 by al Qaeda militants posing as reporters.

The Saturday bombing was the latest example of how militants are able to strike the most secure parts of the Afghan capital even after more than a decade of fighting Western forces with far superior firepower.

President Hamid Karzai blamed Afghan intelligence officials and NATO for failing to prevent the last major insurgent attack in Kabul, when a group of insurgents stormed several buildings in the diplomatic quarter in April, resulting in an 18-hour stand-off between security forces and militants.

Sediqqi speculated on his Twitter feed that Saturday's attack may have been carried out by the Haqqanis, the most experienced insurgents in Afghanistan.

On Friday the United States said it is designating the Haqqani network -- blamed for a number of high-profile attacks on Western and Afghan targets in Kabul -- a terrorist organization.

Senior Haqqani commanders told Reuters from an undisclosed location that the move showed the United States was not sincere about peace efforts in Afghanistan and warned of more attacks on American forces in Afghanistan.



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2. [Attack, Afghanistan] Suicide Bomber Kills 16 In North Afghanistan

Monday, September 10 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/10/us-afghanistan-bomb-idUSBRE88900P20120910>

A man wearing an explosive vest blew himself up in a crowded intersection in northern Afghanistan on Monday, killing 10 policemen and six civilians, local officials said.

The policemen were targeted in the urban capital of Kunduz province, police chief Sameullah Qatra said, referring to the most volatile zone of the relatively peaceful north.

"He killed ten policemen and six civilians," Qatra said, adding that 30 more people, including those belonging to the security forces, were also wounded.

No one immediately took responsibility for the attack, which bore the hallmarks of Taliban insurgents.

Monday's suicide bombing came two days after a young teenager detonated explosives near the heavily barricaded NATO headquarters in Kabul, killing six civilians, including children.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for that attack, but denied the bomber was a teenager.

Last week, a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-packed vest at a funeral in eastern Nangarhar province, killing at least 25.

Despite the presence of hundreds of thousands of Afghan and foreign troops fighting the Taliban-led insurgency, violence is at its worst since the Islamists were toppled by Afghan and U.S. forces in late 2001, five years after they took power.

A recent U.N. report said the Taliban were responsible for 80 percent of civilian casualties in the conflict.



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3. [Attack, Pakistan] Three Security Men Hurt In Bara

Monday, September 10 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/09/11/three-security-men-hurt-in-bara/>

Three security personnel were injured in two different incidents in Bara tehsil of Khyber Agency on Monday.

Officials said that two personnel of Frontier Constabulary were injured critically when an improvised explosive device planted along the roadside in Naw Gaze Baba was detonated through a remote control. A patrolling party of security forces was passing through the area at the time of blast, they added.

In another incident, a security official was injured when militants attacked a patrolling party of security forces in Qambarabad near Bara Bazaar.

All the injured were shifted to military hospital in Peshawar.



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4. [Attack, Pakistan] Car Bomb Ravages Parachinar Market

Tuesday, September 11 2012

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/434722/car-bomb-ravages-parachinar-market-front-page/>

At least 13 people were killed and dozens wounded in a car bombing at a busy market in Kurram Agency – a region mired in decades of sectarian tension.

“A white-coloured Corolla, packed with explosives, detonated in Turi Market around 2:40pm,” Political Agent Shahab Ali Shah told The Express Tribune. “It’s not clear whether it was a suicide blast or the bomb was set off remotely,” he added.

Turi Market is situated in the heart of Parachinar, the headquarters of Kurram Agency. Most shopkeepers here belong to the Pashtun Turi tribe, who are Shias by sect.

“The car detonated as a security convoy passed by,” Sahibzada Mohammad Anis, the commissioner of Kohat Division, told AFP. Intelligence officials also confirmed to AFP that the target seemed to have been the convoy.

Witnesses said that the car was driven into the market by a suspected suicide bomber.

Political Agent Shah confirmed that 13 people were killed and over 50 wounded in the blast. The Express Tribune correspondent, however, said he counted 14 bodies.

The blast destroyed over 20 shops and damaged six vehicles parked in the market. The site was littered with rubble and twisted metal.

“Mortar shells and rockets were also used in the bomb to kill maximum number of people,” an explosives expert told The Express Tribune.

The victims were all members of the Shia community. Some of them were identified as Shahid Hussain, Salman Ali, Hidayat Hussain, his young son Muhammad, Manzar Hussain, Said Gul Agha, Sharif Hussain, Syed Ishaghat Hussain, Maulana Haji Akbar Hussain and Arshad Hussain.



The injured, among them two women and as many security personnel, were shifted to hospitals in Parachinar, in neighbouring towns of Hangu and Thal.

However, medics referred those with critical wounds to the Lady Reading Hospital in Peshawar.

Residents said the blast also damaged the main electricity supply line, plunging Parachinar into darkness.

Tribal elders from the local Shia community condemned the bombing and announced three days of mourning in the city. Political Agent Shah appreciated the community for maintaining calm after the blast.

Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but Taliban have been carrying out similar attacks in the region which has also seen sectarian violence for decades.

Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Governor Barrister Masood Kausar directed the authorities to airlift the injured to hospitals in Peshawar. He also promised compensation for the victims of deadly attack.





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5. [Attack, Afghanistan] Suicide Bomb Blast Kills Five Afghans

Tuesday, September 11 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/09/11/suicide-bomb-blast-kills-five-afghans-officials/>

A suicide bomber killed an Afghan police commander and four civilians in a remote town near the Turkmenistan border on Tuesday, police said.

The bomber, strapped with explosives, followed the local police official into a shop and blew himself up, killing the officer and four others, the deputy police chief of western Herat province, Abdul Hamid Hamidi told AFP.

The attack happened in Kushki Kuhna district.

Six other people, mostly civilian bystanders, were wounded.

There was no claim of responsibility but most suicide bombings are blamed on Taliban insurgents.

The attack came on the 11th anniversary of the Sept11, 2001 attacks, which saw the United States lead military action in Afghanistan a month later to bring down the Taliban regime.



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6. [Attack, Pakistan] Seventeen Injured In Hub Bombing

Tuesday, September 11 2012

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\09\11\story_11-9-2012_pg1_2

At least 17 people, including two women, were wounded in a bomb blast on Monday night in Hub, an industrial town of Balochistan. According to Hub Police Deputy Superintendent Raza Muhammad, some workers of a cement factory were en route to Karachi in a bus when explosives planted on a motorbike parked along the highway exploded. As a result, 17 people sustained injuries, he said. "Explosives were detonated by a remote-controlled device," he added. Rescue workers and police rushed to the site after the incident and moved the injured to a nearby hospital. "Some seriously injured people were referred to Karachi for further treatment," doctors at the hospital said. Police and other law enforcement agencies cordoned off the area following the incident. The blast also damaged two buses while some passers-by were also among the injured. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Police started investigation of the incident.



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7. [Attack, Pakistan] Militants Blow Up School In Fata

Wednesday, September 12 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=9/12/2012&id=5#5

Militants blew up Government Primary School Haji Malik Nadir in the Parata Qilla area of Haleemzai tehsil (revenue unit) in Mohmand Agency of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) on September 11, increasing the total number of schools destroyed in the agency to 103, reports Central Asia Online. Agency Education Officer Said Mohammad Khan told Dawn that the school was set up in 1986. The school was non-functional as staffs were not appointed there, he added. Officials said that 400 bags of cement owned by FATA Secretariat Special Programme (FSSP) were also recovered from the school building.

Meanwhile, a teacher of a girls' school went missing when she was coming to Mohmand Agency from Attock District of Punjab, reports Dawn. Officials said that the teacher, Robina Tabassum, went missing near Shabqadar area when she was on her way to the school. The Agency education officer said that the teacher belonged to Attock District.



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8. [Attack, Pakistan] Three Bomb Blasts Reported In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Wednesday, September 12 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=9/12/2012&id=4#4

Unidentified militants blew up four pylons of 132 KV electricity transmission line near Abdul Wali Khan Sports Complex in Kala Dher area of Charsadda District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on September 11, reports Dawn. As a result, all the four pylons were destroyed, disrupting supply of electricity to the area, they added. Sources said that two kilograms of explosives were planted at each pylon. The powerful blasts panicked people of the area.

Separately unidentified militants set on fire a bridge in Pariat village some 45 kilometres from Chitral, cutting off access for hundreds of people as their land route was disconnected from the rest of the District.

Meanwhile, a house was partially damaged when an improvised explosive device (IED) went off in the limits of Chamkani Police Station in Peshawar. The miscreants had planted the bomb to the outer wall of the house of Muhammad Karim at Pandu area and blasted it with remote-control device. The wall and windowpanes of the house were damaged. According to the Bomb Disposal Squad, the outlaws used 100 grams of explosive. No casualty has been reported.



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9. [Attack, Afghanistan] Suicide Bomber Kills Five In Western Afghanistan

Wednesday, September 12 2012

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/09/11/suicide-bomber-kills-5-in-western-afghanistan/>

Afghan police say a suicide bomber has blown himself up in western Afghanistan, killing five civilians.

Noor Khan Nikzad, a spokesman for the police chief in Herat province, says the Tuesday afternoon explosion in Kushki Kuhna district also wounded six civilians.

He says the target of the attack was a local community leader named Abdul Hakim. Hakim and the four other victims were killed when the bomber detonated his explosives after he walked into a shop.

Western Afghanistan is one of the more peaceful areas of the country but it has been the scene of a rising number of attacks in recent years.



AFRICOM

10. [Security, Kenya] Kenyan Police Seize Over 150 Bomb Detonators From Nairobi House

Friday, September 7 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/07/us-kenya-violence-idUSBRE88616V20120907>

Kenyan police seized more than 150 detonators in Nairobi on Friday, highlighting the security risks the east African country faces ahead of an election next year because of its struggle with al Qaeda-linked militants in neighboring Somalia.

Home to a large Somali population, Kenya has been hit by a wave of grenade attacks after its troops crossed into Somalia last year to crush al Shabaab Islamists it blamed for kidnappings and bomb attacks on its own soil.

Kenya's second-biggest city Mombasa was also convulsed by violent protests late last month after the killing of a Muslim cleric accused by Washington of helping al Shabaab in Somalia.

"I can confirm the detonators were seized at one estate. They are dangerous explosives," Moses Ombatti, a deputy regional police official in Nairobi, told Reuters on Friday.

The house where the detonators were seized was in the Githurai neighborhood, a suburb just outside the business district.

The assassination of Muslim cleric Aboud Rogo and the ensuing violence - in which churches were torched and two grenades were thrown at police vehicles - has raised fears that more violence may follow ahead of a presidential election in March 2013.

There are also fears that the unrest could become sectarian in Mombasa, a tourist hub and a major Indian Ocean port, where grenade attacks blamed on Somali militants and their sympathizers have already strained Muslim-Christian relations.

Muslims predominate in many Mombasa neighborhoods.

Rebels promised to carry out revenge attacks in east Africa's largest economy after



Kenyan troops crossed into Somalia last October to fight al Shabaab. Since then, there have been several attacks on churches and bars in Kenya.

Kenya's December 2007 election was marred by violence that killed more than 1,200 people and nearly tore the country apart after a dispute over the results.





AFRICOM

11. [Attack, Nigeria] IED Explodes In Bauchi, Two Policemen Injured In Gun Duel With Robbers

Sunday, September 9 2012

<http://www.tribune.com.ng/sun/news/8468-ied-explodes-in-bauchi-2-policemen-injured-in-gun-duel-with-robbers>

An improvised explosive device (IED) planted at Railway area of Bauchi metropolis exploded on Friday night without injuring anyone, even as two policemen sustained varying degree of injuries in an exchange of gun fire with men suspected to be armed robbers at Wuntin Dada area of the Bauchi State capital, also on Friday night.

The IED, it was gathered, was planted in an uncompleted building in the area. Residents in the area said that they did not really know when the device was planted in the area, adding that they suddenly heard the loud bang of the explosion in the night when most people had retired to bed.

"Nobody really knew that such a thing was hidden in the building. All we heard suddenly was a loud bang which scared many away. Thank God that no live was lost and nobody was injured either," said a resident, Abubakar Adamu.

In another development, men of the state police command on Friday night engaged some men of the underworld in a fiery exchange of gun fire at Wunti Dada area of Bauchi metropolis, in an incident in which two policemen were said to have sustained injuries.

The robbers, Sunday Tribune gathered, laid an ambush for a police patrol team in the area and engaged the team in a gun duel, while it was said that the robbers took to their heels seeing the superiority of the police.

No one was, however, arrested by the police, while it was unknown as of the time of filing in this report whether any of the suspected armed robbers sustained any injury in the gun duel.

Confirming the separate incidents to journalists on Saturday, the Bauchi State Commissioner of Police, Mallam Mohammed Ladan, stated that an IED was detonated at Railway area, while some hoodlums, suspected to be armed robbers ambushed a po-



lice patrol team at Wunti Dada area, located on the Bauchi-Jos road.

"The IED that exploded at Railway was detonated in an uncompleted building but no one sustained any injury. This is as a result of the fact that it was detonated at an empty place," Mallam Ladan said.

"As for the Wuntin Dada incident, it is true that some of our men were ambushed by suspected armed robbers and had an exchange of fire with policemen. Two policemen sustained injuries in the process. We have since overcome the situation and everything has returned to normal," he added.

In view of the security challenges currently being faced in the country, Ladan advised members of the public to always help the police with useful information which could be used in arresting criminals, adding that such information would be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Meanwhile, in a response to the directive of the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Muhammed Dahiru Abubakar, that police should provide 24-hour protection for telecommunications masts across the country, the Bauchi State Police Command has stated that it has taken proactive measures to curtail the activities of hoodlums who are attacking people and telecommunications stations in the state.

According to a press statement made available to journalists in Bauchi by the Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Hassan Mohammed Auyo, warned motorcyclists from carrying three people at once, saying that it had been observed that those carrying out this dastardly act were always three in number on motorcycle.



AFRICOM

12. [Security, Kenya] KDF Kill Over 50 Shabaab Militants In Harbolle

Tuesday, September 11 2012

http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000065940&story_title=KDF-kill-over-50-Shabaab-militants-in-Harbolle

The Kenya Defence Forces troops killed more than 50 Al-Shabaab militants in Harbolle town as they proceeded to Kismayu port.

Department of Defence headquarters said the militants had tried to stop the troops from advancing towards the port sparking a deadly clash.

During the 2pm clash, one Somali National Army Soldier killed and seven others including one KDF soldier injured.

Spokesman Col Cyrus Oguna said the dead Somali soldier was hit by an Improvised Explosive Device.

The KDF and AMISOM forces are racing against time to capture Kismayu after taking control of more than 20 regions previously inhabited by Al-Shabaab

"Another town has fallen today (Tuesday) in our advance to Kismayu, atleast 50 Al Shabaab have been killed, we believe they could be more," said Oguna.

Harbolle is few kilometers from the port city, which is part of the ultimate goal of the troops in Somalia.

Last week, Kenyan navy shelled Kismayu, the main Somali city controlled by militant Islamist group Al-Shabaab in an attack aimed at capturing the port.

Al-Shabaab is reinforcing its positions in the city and people are fleeing the town. The port remains some of the few places that the gang controls by most residents are now fleeing.

Last month, Al-Shabaab lost control of Merca, the third biggest port city after Mogadishu and Kismayu, to AU and pro-Somali government forces.

Kenya sent troops to Somalia last year, saying that it wanted Al-Shabaab defeated because the militants threatened its security. Since then, a series of grenade attacks have taken place in the country.

Kenya Defence Forces, fighting under the auspices of Amisom, killed 36 Al-Shabaab militants before capturing Miido town, as part of their advancement towards Kismayu last week.

Five Kenyan soldiers and two others from Somalia's TFG in Mogadishu were killed.



AFRICOM

13. [Attack, Somalia] Somali President Safe After Hotel Bombing

Wednesday, September 12 2012

<http://blogs.voanews.com/breaking-news/2012/09/12/somali-president-safe-after-hotel-bombing/>

Somalia's new president is safe after two suicide bombers attacked a Mogadishu hotel where he was speaking.

VOA correspondent Gabe Joselow, who was at the site of the attack, says two bombs detonated outside the Jazeera Hotel Wednesday as Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and Kenyan Foreign Minister Samson Ongeri talked to reporters inside.

Militant group al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the bombings in a Twitter message about two hours after the attacks.

A VOA Somali service reporter said the first bomb was a suicide blast at the gate to the hotel complex, and the second was a car bomb. She also says AU troops opened fire on several suspected attackers who tried to get in the hotel.

Several people were killed, including the two bombers, and several others injured.

The Somali president and Kenyan delegation were unharmed and later escorted out of the hotel to an undisclosed location.

Mr. Mohamud was elected president by Somalia's parliament on Monday. The election was the final step of a U.N.-backed plan to bring a stable central government to Somalia.

The Horn of Africa country has endured two decades of chaos and conflict since the last stable government collapsed in 1991.

Last month, Somali leaders adopted a new constitution and installed a new federal parliament and speaker.

In a statement late Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton congratulated the Somali people for their steps toward a new government. She said the U.S. remains



committed to helping the new government strengthen democratic institutions, and improve stability and security.

View the Al Jazeera video of the attack [here](#).

WARNING: Includes some graphic images.



AFRICOM

14. [Attack, Libya] US Confirms Its Libya Ambassador Killed In Benghazi

Wednesday, September 12 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-19570254>

The US ambassador to Libya is among four Americans killed in an attack on the US consulate in Benghazi, President Barack Obama has confirmed.

Unidentified armed men stormed the grounds overnight amid uproar among Muslims over a US-produced film said to insult the Prophet Muhammad.

They shot at buildings and threw handmade bombs into the compound.

It has not been confirmed how the ambassador, J Christopher Stevens, and the others died.

Protesters against the film also attacked the US embassy in Cairo on Tuesday night. In Kabul, the Afghan government gave orders for the video-sharing website Youtube to be closed to the public until the offending film was removed.

In a statement, President Obama condemned the "outrageous attack" on the facility in Benghazi, the eastern Libyan city which was a rebel stronghold during the uprising against Col Muammar Gaddafi.

"Chris was a courageous and exemplary representative of the United States," he said.

"Throughout the Libyan revolution, he selflessly served our country and the Libyan people at our mission in Benghazi."

Mr Obama ordered a tightening of security at US diplomatic posts around the globe. Libya's interim leader, Mohammed Magarief, apologised to the US over the killings, which he called "cowardly criminal acts".

Reports say a militia known as the Ansar al-Sharia brigade was involved in the attack, but the group has denied the claim, the BBC's Rana Jawad in Tripoli says.

'Rocket attack'

Reports suggest that Ambassador Stevens and his staff went to the consulate in an attempt to evacuate the site after it was attacked.

They were reportedly trying to leave the consulate building for a safer location when gunmen launched an intense attack, apparently forcing back security guards.

"The American ambassador and three staff members were killed when gunmen fired rockets in their direction," a Libyan official in Benghazi told Reuters news agency.

A second US man killed in the attack was named as Sean Smith, a father of two who was employed as an information management officer.

The names of the remaining two victims have not yet been released.



US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton described Mr Smith in a statement as "one of the best".

The attack was condemned by UK Foreign Secretary William Hague as "brutal and senseless".

"These diplomats were serving not only their own country but the people of Libya and were working for the peace and stability of Libya in the future," he said in a statement.

Safety concerns

Our correspondent says many people are still armed following the conflict that overthrew Gaddafi.

Analysts say the attack will raise serious new concerns about stability in the country and the ability of the new Libyan administration to maintain security. Other countries will be wondering whether their consular staff are safe in Libya, they say.

The film that sparked the demonstration is said to have been produced by a 52-year-old US citizen from California named Sam Bacile, and promoted by an expatriate Egyptian Copt.

The two men are described as having anti-Islamic views.

A trailer of the low-budget movie, which correspondents say is highly provocative and insulting to Muslims, has appeared on YouTube translated into Arabic. The BBC's Richard Galpin says there are real fears that protests over the video could spread.

A demonstration in Cairo on Tuesday saw protesters breach the US embassy and tear down the US flag, which was flying at half-mast to mark the 9/11 attacks. They condemned what they said was the humiliation of the Prophet of Islam under the pretext of freedom of speech.



AFRICOM

15. [Attack, South Africa] Protesters Bomb Pupil's House

Wednesday, September 12 2012

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/protesters-bomb-pupil-s-house-1.1381145#.UFCxV66O6So>

The lives of Olifantshoek matric pupils and their families have been put under severe threat after protesters petrol-bombed the home of one learner and threatened to do the same to other learners attending school camps.

The matriculant, whose home was petrol-bombed on Monday night, is part of a group of 32 matrics who have been sent by the Northern Cape Department of Education to a camp in Keimoes.

About 35 schools are closed in the Northern Cape following violent protests.

On Tuesday, one of the leaders of the protesters told the DFA that they would set more houses alight if the department failed to return the matriculants to the community immediately.

“The department must bring those children back or else their homes will also go up in flames,” the protest leader, who did not want to be named, stated.

He added that the situation in the town was tense on Tuesday after the learner's house was torched on Monday night.

“As we speak now (on Tuesday) parents of matric learners who have been sent to Keimoes are queuing at the local police station demanding that the department bring back their children because they fear that their homes will also be petrol-bombed,” he stated.

The Northern Cape police downplayed the bombing of the home on Tuesday, saying that the petrol bomb that was thrown into the house through a window, did not explode.

“The house was not torched. The petrol bomb that was thrown into the house did not explode and therefore there was no damage to the house,” police spokesman,



Colonel Hendrik Swart, said.

The department said that the protesters did not have a right to demand that the matric learners be brought back from the camp in Keimoes.

“We do not have an obligation to accede to the demands of the protesters. The only obligation we have as a department is with the parents of these learners and we will therefore continue to convince the parents of the other matric learners in Olifantshoek to allow their children to attend these camps,” the department’s spokesman, Sydney Stander, said on Tuesday.

He said that claims by protesters that the parents of the pupils gathered at the Olifantshoek police station to demand their return were untrue.

“The principal of Langeberg High School and some of parents of learners who were moved to Keimoes have received telephonic threats and they are currently at Olifantshoek police station to formally lay complains to police. They are not there demanding that the learners be returned. In fact no parents have approached us to return their children,” Stander stated.

Efforts to get hold of families of some of the learners were futile on Tuesday because both the protesters and the Department of Education refused to give the DFA contact details of the parents.

Police spokeswoman, Lieutenant-Colonel Andrea Cloete, said that the police were monitoring the situation in the town.



AFRICOM

16. [Law Enforcement, Nigeria] Nigeria Arrests 11 Boko Haram Suspects, Seizes Guns And Bombs

Wednesday, September 12 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/12/us-nigeria-bokoharam-idUSBRE88B12420120912>

Nigerian authorities arrested 11 suspected members of Islamist militant group Boko Haram overnight and seized automatic weapons, ammunition and several home-made bombs, the military said on Wednesday.

Boko Haram is waging a low-level insurgency in the largely Muslim north of Nigeria, aiming to revive an ancient Islamic state caliphate in the modern nation of 160 million people, split roughly evenly between Muslims and Christians.

The militants have claimed responsibility for the deaths of hundreds of people since launching an uprising in 2009.

The men were arrested in the Waka-Biu region of Borno state, spokesman for Borno's military and police Joint Task Force (JTF), Lieutenant Colonel Sagir Musa, said.

They recovered a submachinegun, seven AK-47s, 1,568 rounds of ammunition, 12 empty shells and 19 homemade bombs, he said.

Boko Haram, whose fighters usually target members of the security forces, government offices and churches, started attacking mobile phone installations last week, saying phone companies were helping authorities to track them.

A military crackdown on the group in the north appears to have weakened their capabilities, and they have not managed a deadly large-scale strike for several months, although they are still active across the north.

Nigeria's government says it is negotiating with some Boko Haram members on a peaceful way out of the conflict. The sect's spokesman has denied it is in talks with authorities but has never ruled them out in principle.



AFRICOM

17. [Law Enforcement, Kenya] Terrorists Wanted To Bomb Nairobi On Sunday

Friday, September 14 2012

<http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2012/09/terrorists-wanted-to-bomb-nairobi-on-sunday-police/>

Police in Nairobi on Friday said they had thwarted what would have been a deadly terror attack in the city after they recovered a cache of deadly terror weapons at a house in Eastleigh area.

Two suspects of Somali origin were arrested during the dawn security operation on Friday.

Police said they were part of a larger terror gang that planned to attack strategic buildings and major churches in Nairobi's Central Business District.

Nairobi Area deputy police boss Moses Ombati said the suspects planned to use the weapons to attack churches on Sunday.

"We have information that these suspects wanted to use these arms to harm innocent Kenyans during Sunday church services," a police officer who was involved in the operation said.

"We have now launched a massive operation to hunt these terrorists," the anti terrorism police officer who did not want to be named as he is not authorized to talk to the media said.

Two other suspects are at large and police are looking for them in the city.

"The weapons include six suicide bombs, 12 hand grenades, four AK47 rifles and 480 bullets," said Ombati.

"The suicide bombs had been mounted on vests attached with mobile phones with batteries, it seems they wanted to use it as an ignition to a series of explosion."

Anti terrorism police say the arsenals were found in the house following a tip off. According to the neighbors the suspects have been living in the seven story building



for the past two months.

Senior police officers were in the area Friday morning as further operations were carried out.

Police sources said they anticipated getting more weapons.





CENTCOM

18. [Attack, Iraq] Explosions Kill 58 In Iraq, French Consulate Hit

Sunday, September 9 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/09/us-iraq-blasts-idUSBRE88802Z20120909>

At least 58 people were killed in attacks across Iraq on Sunday, including a car bomb outside a French consulate.

Iraq's conflict has eased since its height in 2006-2007 when sectarian slaughter killed thousands. But Sunni Islamists and an al Qaeda affiliate still launch about one major attack a month in an effort to reignite tensions between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims following the U.S. military withdrawal in December.

The most serious of the bombings, blasts and shootings on Sunday happened near the city of Amara, 300 km (185 miles) south of Baghdad, when two car bombs exploded outside a Shi'ite shrine and a market place, killing at least 16 people, officials said.

"So far 16 corpses were brought to the hospital, and more than 100 people were wounded," said Sayid Hasanain, a local health official.

With its main hospital overflowing with injured from the attacks, mosques in Amara used prayer loudspeakers to call for blood donations.

Overnight in Dujail, 50 km (30 miles) north of Baghdad, gunmen and a suicide bomber driving a car attacked a military base, killing 11 soldiers and injuring seven, police said.

Later on Sunday, a car bomb killed eight people queuing for jobs as police guards for the Iraqi North Oil Company in the flashpoint city of Kirkuk, 250 km north of Baghdad, police said.

Kirkuk was hit by several other blasts. A car bomb and a bomb packed into a motorcycle detonated outside a crime investigation office, killing seven and wounding 40.

More people were killed in several other blasts across the country, including in the



towns of Baquba, Samarra, Basra and Tuz Khurmato.

FRENCH TARGET

The car bomb that exploded outside the French consular building in the usually stable city of Nassiriya, 300 km south of Baghdad, killed a police guard and wounded four other guards, authorities said. The consul, an Iraqi citizen, was not at the office at the time of the attack.

Two other people were killed and three wounded by a separate car bomb in the city.

French diplomats have been hit before by violence in Iraq.

In June last year, a French embassy convoy was hit by a roadside bomb in Baghdad that wounded seven local Iraqi guards, one month after another embassy convoy was hit by an explosive device.

Since the last U.S. troops left, insurgents have often hit high-profile targets, including Shi'ite religious sites or local military or government offices, to show they can still carry out coordinated attacks and undermine the government's claim to provide security.

Iraq's local al Qaeda wing, Islamic State of Iraq, has claimed responsibility for other major attacks on security forces and Shi'ite neighborhoods. But former members of Saddam Hussein's outlawed Baathist party and other Sunni Islamist groups are also fighting the government.

Infighting in Iraq's delicate cross-sectarian government, and a resurgence of the al Qaeda wing, have raised fears of a return to widespread violence, especially as Iraq struggles to contain spillover from the growing conflict in Syria.



CENTCOM

19. [Attack, Syria] Aleppo Car Bomb Blast Kills At Least 30

Monday, September 10 2012

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/10/aleppo-car-bomb-blast_n_1870248.html

The death toll from a car bomb in Syria's largest city has risen to 30, state media said Monday, as the new international envoy to the country said the Syrian people are desperate to see peace and stability.

The Sunday night blast ripped through the northern city of Aleppo, which has become one of the main battlegrounds of the country's civil war. Activists say at least 23,000 people have been killed since the conflict erupted in March 2011.

On Monday, the new U.N.-Arab League envoy, Lakhdar Brahimi, said he will travel to Syria this week to meet with regime officials as well as civil society.

"I answer to no one except the Syrian people," Brahimi told reporters in Cairo, where he was meeting with Arab League officials and Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi. "Syrians aspire to peace, stability and to realizing their goals of freedom and political progress."

Brahimi, who is tasked with brokering a diplomatic solution to the conflict, replaced former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who stepped down in August in frustration after his six-point peace plan collapsed.

The fight for Aleppo, a city of 3 million that was once a bastion of support for President Bashar Assad, is critical for both the regime and the opposition. Its fall would give the opposition a major strategic victory with a stronghold in the north near the Turkish border. A rebel defeat, at the very least, would buy Assad more time.

Syria's state run news agency, SANA, said Monday the death toll has risen to 30 civilians – including women and children – with 64 people wounded.

The blast happened near two hospitals. According to Aleppo-based activist Mohamed al-Hassan, one of the hospitals, Al-Hayat, was turned into a site for the treatment of government troops shortly after the fighting in Aleppo began in July.



SANA also reported that the blast was caused by a small truck rigged with more than 1,000 kilograms (2,200 pounds) of explosives, which left a crater 6 meters (20 feet) deep.

SANA blamed terrorists, the term the regime uses for rebels, for the attack. But there was no immediate claim of responsibility from the rebels or any other group.

Some opposition activists disputed the SANA claim that the dead were all civilians. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, citing hospital sources that it did not name, said members of the military were among the dead.

It was impossible to confirm the claims. Syria heavily restricts media access to the country, making official media and activist reports crucial sources of information.



CENTCOM

20. [Attack, Yemen] Bomb Misses Yemen Defense Minister, Kills 13

Tuesday, September 11 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390443884104577645353993932504.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

A powerful car bomb struck the Yemeni defense minister's motorcade as he was driving through the nation's capital Tuesday, killing at least 13 people but leaving the minister unharmed, security officials said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast but al Qaeda's Yemeni branch has carried out several failed assassination attempts against the minister, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Nasser Ahmed, in the past. The attack comes a day after Yemeni authorities announced the death of the No. 2 leader of the network's Yemeni branch in an apparent U.S. airstrike.

Tuesday's bombing hit the last vehicle in the minister's three-car convoy as it was traveling through Sanaa's al-Izaa neighborhood, Yemeni security officials said. The blast left the car a charred hulk of twisted metal with burnt bodies strapped inside, and blew out the windows of storefronts and scorched a building nearby. Pools of blood stained the pavement.

Eight of the minister's security guards and five civilian bystanders were killed, the officials said on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to brief the media.

"This is awful," said Mohamed El-Mehdi, who works in the area. "The people and children are unable to grasp what happened."

He said some of the five civilians killed were the owners of nearby shops.

While there was no claim of responsibility for the assassination attempt, al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, the terror network's Yemeni branch, has been locked in a fierce battle with the country's military, and has tried on several recent occasions to kill the defense minister.

In May, the group carried out a suicide bombing that killed 96 soldiers and wounded



at least 200 in a military parade in the capital. Al Qaeda said it had been targeting Gen. Ahmed, who wasn't hurt in the attack.

Last September, a suicide attacker driving an explosives-laden car blew himself up in the southern city of Aden next to the minister's passing convoy. Gen. Ahmed escaped that attack unscathed as well. There was no claim of responsibility, but Yemen's military had been battling al Qaeda militants there at the time.

A month earlier, the minister's convoy also came under attack in the southern province of Abyan, which was an al Qaeda stronghold at the time.

Al Qaeda's Yemeni branch is seen as the world's most active, planning and carrying out attacks against targets in Yemen as well as in the U.S. The group took advantage of the political vacuum during unrest inspired by the Arab Spring last year against the country's longtime authoritarian president.

As government forces were focused on suppressing protests in the capital and elsewhere, al Qaeda seized control of large swaths of land in southern Yemen. The group governed several major cities in the south for months until a U.S.-backed Yemeni military offensive led by the new president was able to push the militants into hiding.

In another blow to the group, the death of al Qaeda in Yemen's No. 2 leader is seen as a major breakthrough for U.S. efforts to cripple al Qaeda in Yemen. The impoverished nation on the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula is on the doorstep of Saudi Arabia and fellow oil-producing nations of the Gulf and lies on strategic sea routes leading to the Suez Canal.





CENTCOM

21. [Special Interest, Iran] New Intel Shows Iran Working On Nuclear Bomb

Tuesday, September 11 2012

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2012/September/New-Intel-Shows-Iran-Working-on-Nuclear-Bomb/>

New intelligence reveals Iran is working on a nuclear bomb, according to diplomats who shared their insight with The Associated Press.

The intelligence shows the country has been trying to calculate the destructive power of a nuclear warhead, another step toward building such a weapon.

The six anonymous diplomats said information from America, Israel, and at least two other countries suggests Iran's research was done in the last three years.

David Albright, who leads the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security, responded to the latest revelation. The group often advises Congress and other U.S. government branches on issues related to Iran.

"You want to have a theoretical understanding of the working of a nuclear weapon that is then related to the experiments you do on the various components," Albright said. "The two go hand-in-hand."

Iranian leaders call the allegations false. But the International Atomic Energy Agency said it can't disprove the claims unless Iran cooperates with its investigation.

The country has failed to cooperate with IAEA efforts to investigate such claims for more than five years.

Iran Foreign Ministry spokesman Rahmin Mehmanparast told reporters his country will only start answering the agency's "questions and concerns" when "our rights and security issues" are recognized.



CENTCOM

22. [Law Enforcement, Iraq] Iraqi Police Thwart Twin Car Bomb Attack In Mosul

Wednesday, September 12 2012

http://al-shorfa.com/en_GB/articles/meii/newsbriefs/2012/09/12/newsbrief-05

The Iraqi police in Ninawa province said Wednesday they thwarted a twin attack involving two car bombs targeting a market west of Mosul.

"A police force discovered two car bombs parked on the roadside in al-Mualemeen area west of Mosul, and summoned an army unit that dismantled the bombs without causing any losses," Ninawa police spokesperson Col. Khalid al-Hamdani told Al-Shorfa.

"The cars were set to target a popular market," al-Hamdani said. "The second was due to be remotely blown up 15 minutes later, after security personnel and citizens gather to evacuate the victims of the first blast."

Al-Hamdani said al-Qaeda was responsible for the planned attack, adding that security forces arrested a suspect who is now under investigation.



CENTCOM

23. [Attack, Syria] Rebels Claimed To Have Killed 18 Soldiers In Car Bomb

Thursday, September 13 2012

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/world/2012/0913/1224323960276.html>

Syrian rebels have reportedly killed 18 soldiers in the northern province of Idlib by detonating a car bomb near an army post and raking it with fire.

Some 70-100 soldiers were present yesterday at the time of the strike, according to the Britain-based opposition Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Heavy fighting was also said to be taking place in Aleppo where four Syrian-Armenians were killed and a number of troops killed and wounded on the airport road. The Armenians, members of the local community, had returned from a visit to Armenia where many Syrian-Armenians have fled since fighting flared in Aleppo last month.

The city's Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim said hundreds of Arab-Christian families have left during the ongoing battle.

"In its modern history Aleppo has not seen such critical and painful times as the last few weeks. Christians have been attacked and kidnapped," he said.

Christians, who account for less than 10 per cent of the population, are seen as supporting the secular government against the largely Muslim fundamentalist rebels. UN investigators have said that victims of the conflict are increasingly targeted because of their faith.

Jordan's King Abdullah expressed concern over the "risk of a fragmentation of Syria" and rising sectarian violence that "not only endangers the unity of Syria" but could also spill over into neighbouring countries. He warned that "this risk is looming closer".

Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi has, apparently, pressed Tehran to drop Syrian president Bashar al-Assad, a close ally, after including Iran in an "Islamic Quartet". This comprises pro-rebel Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, which he hopes will be able to resolve the Syrian crisis. Iran countered by urging Mr Morsi to invite Iraq and Venezuela, which adopt a pro-Assad stance, to join the grouping in order to create balance and transform it into a non-aligned body.

Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez said he will consider the Iranian proposal to join the grouping with the aim of ending "imperialist aggression" in Syria. He has accused Washington of fomenting violence in Syria with the aim of promoting regime change.



Meanwhile, the United Nations said more than 250,000 Syrians have fled to adjacent countries and that 1.2 million have been displaced within the country.



EUCOM

24. [Attack, Turkey] Suicide Bomber Kills One At Istanbul Police Station

Tuesday, September 11 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/11/us-turkey-explosion-idUSBRE88A0A320120911>

A suicide bomber threw a grenade into a police station in a suburb of Turkey's largest city Istanbul on Tuesday then blew himself up, killing one police officer and wounding at least seven other people.

There was no claim of responsibility and it was not immediately clear whether the attacker had acted alone. Separatist Kurdish militants, far-left groups and Islamic radicals have all carried out attacks in Istanbul in the past.

"First (the attacker) threw a grenade, then blew himself up at the entrance of the police station, where the X-ray machines are located," Istanbul police chief Huseyin Capkin told reporters at the scene.

"The policeman working at the entrance was killed. Another four personnel were wounded, as well as three others who are civilians," he said, adding that the attacker was aged around 25 but declining to comment further on his identity.

The front doors of the police station in Sultangazi, a working class and largely residential district on the northern edge of central Istanbul, were destroyed in the blast.

Medics ferried the wounded into a local hospital while armed police sealed off streets around the building.

The main domestic security threat in Turkey comes from the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), deemed a terrorist group by the United States, European Union and Turkey. But the PKK has focused its campaign largely on targets in the mainly Kurdish southeast.

The Kurdistan Freedom Hawks (TAK), a group linked to the PKK, has claimed responsibility for previous bomb attacks in Istanbul and other cities around the country. Far-left groups and Islamic radicals have also carried out bomb attacks.



Turkey has seen some of the fiercest fighting this summer between PKK militants and the security forces since the separatist rebels took up arms in 1984 with the aim of carving out their own state in the southeast.

The clashes, which have involved air strikes on Kurdish militants in northern Iraq, have taken place hundreds of kilometers (miles) away from Istanbul in the mountainous border region with Iraq and Syria on the other side of the country.

More than 40,000 people have been killed since the start of that conflict almost three decades ago.

The most serious recent attacks in Istanbul occurred in November 2003, when car bombs shattered two synagogues, killing 30 people and wounding 146 in what the authorities said bore the hallmarks of al Qaeda.

Part of the HSBC Bank headquarters was destroyed and the British consulate damaged in two more explosions a week later, which killed a further 32 people.



EUCOM

25. [Security, Serbia] NATO Cluster Bomb Kills Serbian Deminer

Friday, September 14 2012

<http://main.omanobserver.om/node/109569>

A man was killed yesterday in Serbia by a cluster bomb left over from the 1999 Nato military mission in the country, television broadcaster B92 reported.

The 49-year-old man worked with a company contracted to demine an area on Kopaonik mountain, on the border with Kosovo, the report said, quoting regional police commander Miljan Petrovic.

The incident was still under investigation.

It is the second deadly incident with cluster bombs on Kopaonik within six weeks. In early August, two soldiers were killed while demining.

Nato bombed Serbia for 78 days in 1999 to force the withdrawal of its security forces from Kosovo, then a province with a majority Albanian population.

The ammunition it dropped included cluster bombs, which carry between 150 and 250 bomblets.

Based on information supplied by Nato, it is estimated that some 37,000 bomblets were dropped during the intervention. Some 2,500 are believed to still be armed and remain a threat.

The bomblets are still strewn in parts of southern Serbia, northern and north-western Kosovo and possibly even north-eastern Albania, along its border with Kosovo.



PACOM

26. [Attack, Indonesia] Bomb Explosion Near Indonesian Capital Injures Six

Sunday, September 9 2012

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/09/09/bomb-explosion-near-indonesian-capital-injures-5/>

A suspected militant was critically injured when a bomb apparently being prepared for a terrorist attack exploded in a house near Indonesia's capital, police said Sunday. At least three other people living nearby were injured along with two suspects who fled.

An elite anti-terror squad was searching for the two men who escaped after the strong blast late Saturday in Depok, a town on the outskirts of Jakarta, said National Police spokesman Maj. Gen. Anang Iskandar. The explosion came just days after police raided another home in Jakarta where similar bomb-making materials were found in connection with a terrorist group that allegedly plotted to kill police and bomb the country's Parliament.

"The government strongly deplores and condemns those who caused such an explosion," Djoko Suyanto, a top security minister, told reporters Sunday, adding that President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono had been informed while attending a Pacific Rim summit in Vladivostok, Russia. "The president has ordered the hunt for the two suspects who fled the blast scene, and that's what we are doing."

National Police chief Gen. Timur Pradopo said the two suspects were severely wounded in their hands, and he warned the public to be on the lookout for anyone with such injuries.

Iskandar said police at the site found a badly injured man whose left hand had been cut off. Bomb-making devices were found scattered around him.

"We suspect he was making bombs when one of them detonated prematurely," Capt. Agus Widodo, a local police chief in Depok, told reporters at the scene. "His condition is critical. We cannot talk to him."

He said the man also suffered burns over up to 70 percent of his face and body.



The house had been rented for the past month and was listed as an orphanage foundation office and herbal clinic, but was never opened to the public.

Police questioned five people living near the house, including two injured men and a woman with slight wounds to her head.

They said they saw two men flee on a motorbike just after the blast, and that one managed to jump a fence even though he appeared wounded, Widodo said.

"It was actually a militant safe house from evidence found there," Widodo said.

Police seized six pipe bombs, three grenades, two machine guns and a Beretta pistol, Iskandar said in a text message. A bomb squad team was investigating the explosives, which were packed with nails to maximize impact.

The incident came amid a security crackdown in recent days in which two militants were killed and three others arrested. Last week, police found bomb-making materials at another home in Jakarta where suspected bomb maker Muhammad Toriq lived, but he managed to escape when police raided the house.

Iskandar said there was a resemblance between Toriq and the man in critical condition. He said police would conduct a DNA test to determine if the identities matched, adding that explosives found in Depok were similar to the homemade bombs discovered at Toriq's home.

Toriq is believed to be linked to a militant group that planned to shoot police and bomb the Parliament building to wage "holy war" and establish an Islamic state.

Indonesia, a secular nation with more Muslims than any other in the world, has been battling terrorists since 2002, when militants linked to the Southeast Asian network Jemaah Islamiyah started attacking Western nightclubs, restaurants and embassies.

More than 260 people have been killed, many of them foreign tourists.

Recent terror attacks in Indonesia have been carried out by individuals or small groups and have targeted local "infidels" instead of Westerners, with less deadly results.



PACOM

27. [Law Enforcement, Indonesia] Indonesia Works To Foil Homeland Terrorism Plots, As Alleged Bomb Maker Surrenders

Monday, September 10 2012

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Indone-sia+works+foil+homeland+terrorism+plots+alleged+bomb+maker/7216364/story.html>

Indonesia's anti-terrorism forces have been busy over the past few months stopping militants plotting not against Westerners, but instead preparing to wage "holy war" against police and a government seen as barriers to creating an Islamic state.

The latest case involved alleged bomb maker Muhammad Toriq, who surrendered late Sunday while carrying a gun and ammunition and wearing a suicide bomber belt that did not contain any explosives.

He had been on the run since last week when police flushed him out of his Jakarta house after neighbours reported seeing smoke billowing from it. He escaped again over the weekend after a blast rocked a house in the capital's outskirts. Police believe a bomb accidentally exploded while it was being prepared for a terrorist attack, critically injuring one alleged militant inside the home.

Toriq is believed to be linked to a group that had an elaborate plan to shoot police and bomb Parliament as a way to wage jihad against the "infidels" to establish Islamic Sharia law in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Police seized five pipe bombs, a big haul of explosive materials and several jihadist books from Toriq's home. Investigators also found guide books on how to make bombs and to mix poisons.

Toriq told police he had planned to go on a suicide bomber mission Monday targeting either police, Indonesia's elite anti-terrorism squad or Buddhists as a way to protest against treatment of the minority Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.

He had written a suicide note but told police he decided against the mission at the last minute after he thought about the pain it would cause his mother, wife and son,



said National Police spokesman Brig. Gen. Boy Rafli Amar.

"To assassinate local infidels and police is the most realistic action for Islamist militants now because it more practical and inexpensive," said Taufik Andri, an analyst from the Inscription Peace Foundation, established in 2008 to help reform militant inmates.

He said America and its allies remain an enemy, but today's young militant generation agrees with hard-liner clerics that a secular government without Islamic Sharia law is an infidel government. Its leaders and law enforcers are the real enemies of Islam.

Since March, police have arrested nearly two dozen suspected Islamic militants and killed seven in a series of raids. All of them were plotting domestic attacks against Indonesians instead of foreigners who have been the main target here in the past, said Ansyaad Mbai, who heads the country's anti-terror agency.

In 2002, Islamist militants with links to al-Qaida bombed two nightclubs on Bali island killing 202 people, most of them Westerners. Most attacks since then have been smaller and local.

The change signals Indonesia's success in suppressing its main underground terror networks, but also shows how radical groups still operating in the open remain potent breeding grounds where angry young men can become attackers.

"They are the young militants who aspired to establish a caliphate in Indonesia," Mbai said. "They were inspired by jihadist books and literature, and sermons of Islamist radical clerics."

Two suspects and a member of an elite anti-terrorism squad were killed Aug. 31 when police raided a militant group in Central Java's Solo town, the hometown of convicted Islamist radical cleric Abu Bakar Bashir. Two men have been arrested in that case, and two other suspects remain at large.

The men — aged between 19 and 30 — are accused of killing a police officer last week and attacking two police posts in mid-August as part of a plot targeting authorities in Solo.



In a video of his police interrogation, suspect Bayu Setiono, 22, described their group as "underground" with no leader that planned to kill police and create a situation like in Ambon and Poso, for the sake of upholding Islamic Sharia law and the establishment of a caliphate in Indonesia.

Thousands of people were killed in the Muslim-Christian conflict in those two eastern Indonesian towns from 1999 into the 2000s.



PACOM

28. [Trend, Indonesia] Bombs Set For Attacks On Policemen, Buddhists

Tuesday, September 11 2012

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2012/09/11/bombs-set-attacks-policemen-buddhists.html>

The National Police said on Monday that the bomb-making materials found in several areas in Greater Jakarta had been prepared for a string of terror attacks targeting police officers and Buddhists.

Police spokesman Brig. Gen. Boy Rafli Amar told reporters that suspected terrorist Muhammad Thoriq, who surrendered to the police on Sunday, admitted that his group had planned to attack the police's Mobile Brigade (Brimob) command center in Kelapa Dua, Depok; a police station in Salemba, Central Jakarta; the office of the police's Densus 88 counterterrorism unit and the Buddhist community.

Boy said that the Buddhists were targeted in relation to the religious violence involving the Buddhist majority and the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.

The officer said that Thoriq, one of the bomb makers, was planning to detonate the bomb himself. "It is true that he was one of the 'grooms'," Boy said, using the term used by the militants to describe suicide bombers.

In the past few days, the police have arrested a number of suspected militants believed to be connected to the terror shootings in Surakarta, Central Java, that killed one policeman last month. They also found bomb-making materials in Tambora, West Jakarta, and in Beji, Depok, where the bomb exploded prematurely, injuring at least five people.

Thoriq allegedly made the bomb found in Tambora. He fled his house after his neighbors found out about his activities. From his house, the police confiscated bomb-making materials such as sulfur, potassium, charcoal, aluminum powder, two boxes of nails, duct tape, four 9-volt batteries, five 25-centimeter pipes filled with explosives, electronic switches and several detonators.

In their latest operation, the Jakarta Police said that in a joint operation between the city police and the police's anti-terror squad Densus 88, they raided a rented house



in Bojonggede, Bogor, on Monday morning, after its tenant Arif, 26, was found to be connected to the Depok blast. “Arif was arrested at around 9 a.m. [on Monday morning]. He is a member in Thoriq’s group but was not in Depok when the blast occurred,” Jakarta Police spokesman Sr. Comr. Rikwanto said.

Arif’s uncle Deni, who serves as a community unit chief in Arif’s local neighborhood, said that Arif once worked at the so-called Pondok Bidara orphanage in Beji where the bomb went off on Saturday night.

According to Deni, Arif had been approached by a man named Anwar who tried to influence him with talks of jihad. Arif reportedly was uncomfortable with the idea and tried to avoid Anwar. “Anwar called Arif all the time and [Arif] didn’t want to pick up the phone. He even changed his phone number because he was desperate to cut all communications with Anwar,” Deni said.

From the house in Bojonggede, police confiscated pipes cut into pieces and filled with explosives, seven 9-mm bullet magazines, iron tubes for gun barrels and silencers, gas masks and notes on how to make bombs.

Jakarta Police spokesman Rikwanto confirmed that Thoriq was involved in the Saturday night bomb blast in Depok. “Thoriq was on the scene when the blast occurred. He was among several people who escaped the scene shortly afterward,” he said.

Witnesses reported that two men fled the scene on a motorbike, and another man on foot, just after the bomb rocked the house in Beji. Police seized a large stash of bomb-making materials, including six pipe bombs, three grenades, a Berreta pistol, two machine guns, potassium chloride, five 9-volt batteries and an electric detonator that were found in the house.

The police also found a letter that was addressed to Thoriq’s mother, wife and baby boy. “Thoriq’s letter said that he is looking for Allah,” Boy said.

The police are still trying to identify the man who was critically injured in the Depok blast. “We have received DNA samples from possible family members. But none of them could identify the victim due to the extent of his injuries,” Boy said.



PACOM

29. [Security, India] Bomb Found Near FCI Godown, Minister's Residence In Manipur

Tuesday, September 11 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Bomb-found-near-FCI-godown-ministers-residence-in-Manipur/articleshow/16349617.cms>

A 10-kg bomb planted by insurgents was found near a godown of Food Corporation of India (FCI) and private residence of a Manipur minister in Imphal's west district, officials said on Tuesday.

The IED was found near the FCI godown area at Sangai pouro, near Imphal airport, at around 10.30pm on Monday, official sources said.

The device, fitted with a timer, was later defused, they said.

The place from where the IED was recovered is 100 metres from the private residence of Manipur health minister T Phungzathang.



PACOM

30. [Attack, Australia] Small Bomb Explodes Outside Vic Court

Tuesday, September 11 2012

<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/national/8530837/small-bomb-explodes-outside-vic-court>

A homemade bomb has exploded outside a Melbourne court, causing minor damage.

Police said the blast cracked glass panels at the front entry of Broadmeadows Magistrates Court early on Tuesday morning.

Acting Sergeant Jessica Rosewarne said officers were called to the scene of the "small explosion" about 4.30am (AEST).

Investigators are urging anyone with information about the incident to contact CrimeStoppers.



PACOM

31. [Security, Malaysia] Cops Recover Bomb Cache In Robbery Suspect's Home

Tuesday, September 11 2012

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/9/11/nation/12002290&sec=nation>

A police team, tracking down a suspect involved in an armed robbery, stumbled upon a cache of weapons including bombs and detonators in the house of an army officer here.

Police have so far recovered a dozen detonators, bullets and booby traps from the officer, who is believed to be a bomb specialist, during the 1.45am raid in Senai.

It is learnt that police were investigating the man in connection with a recent goldsmith robbery in the state, which led officers to the house.

It is learnt that a search around the house led to the seizure of the items in one of the rooms several days ago.

Initial investigations showed that the explosives were smuggled out of an army camp in Ulu Tiram.

Kulaijaya OCPD Supt OCPD Supt Zulkefly Yahya confirmed the arrest of a 31-year-old army personnel and the seizure of an array of items including bullets and other explosive-making related items.

Meanwhile, in another unrelated case, the Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) southern region detained a local fishing boat for trying to sell 60,000 litres of subsidised diesel worth RM1.2mil to ships in the waters off Penggerang.

MMEA southern region enforcement chief Maritime Rear Admiral Adon Shalan said the vessel was detained after his officers found the diesel kept in boxes at about 11.45am on Sept 8.

He added that the boat captain and four crew, aged between 20 to 40, were detained.



PACOM

32. [Security, India] Explosives Made In Govt Units Seized From Maoist Suppliers

Tuesday, September 11 2012

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/Patna/Explosives-made-in-govt-units-seized-from-Maoist-suppliers/Article1-927918.aspx>

The Maoists and illegal miners have access to government explosives factories, two suppliers arrested by Rohtas police with a large quantity of electric detonators said on Monday. The two suppliers- Dipak Kumar Singh and Bikram Kumar Singh- were arrested during a raid at Adamapur village in Sasaram mufassil police station area following a tip-off that they were to hand over a big consignment of explosives to Maoist.

Acting on inputs provided by the arrested suppliers, the police raided their godown at Takia Muhalla here and recovered 40,000 aluminum short delay detonators.

"The highly explosive detonators, often used by the Maoists against security forces, were carrying labels of Dorica, Indian Explosives Limited and Made in India," Rohtas superintendent of police (SP) Manu Maharaj said. The arrested suppliers said they used to buy detonators and explosives from Chunar (Uttar Pradesh) and supply to Maoists and illegal miners in Bihar, Jharkahnd and Chhattisgarh, the SP said.

It was a serious matter that persons supplying detonators to Maoists had access to explosives made in government factories, the SP said, adding the "clandestine trade" was being investigated.

Senior police and intelligence officials were interrogating the arrested suppliers for more information.



PACOM

33. [Attack, India] Three Injured In Grenade Blast In Assam

Tuesday, September 11 2012

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/three-injured-in-grenade-blast-in-assam-265983>

Three people were injured in a grenade attack by suspected militants in Bongaigaon town in Assam's Bongaigaon district this evening, police said.

The blast took place under the Bir Chilarai overbridge in the town.

Inspector General of Police (Law and Order) LR Bishnoi said suspected militants lobbed a grenade at a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) team, who were frisking people at a mobile check post there.

The Assam Police had earlier intensified security across the state following interception of a message sent by the top brass of the anti-talk faction of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) to target security forces across the state.

Militants belonging to the anti-talk faction of the ULFA triggered an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast at Doomdooma town in Tinsukia town on Thursday last, injuring 12 people including three policemen.

On Saturday, the outfit triggered a grenade blast at Paltan Bazar in Guwahati, killing one CRPF personnel and injuring 12 others.



PACOM

34. [Security, India] Huge Haul Of Ammonium Nitrate

Wednesday, September 12 2012

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/huge-haul-of-ammonium-nitrate/290553-60-116.html>

The Kunnankulam police on Monday seized another cache of ammonium nitrate weighing 1,100 kg from a quarry near Choondal in Thrissur and arrested two persons in connection with the case, third such incident in a span of one month in the district.

The arrested were identified as quarry owner Mohanan of Paramelvettil and Santhosh Kumar of Kurumattil house.

The arrest and seizure of ammonium nitrate were made following the arrest of a person, Davis, at Pattambi the other day, the police said.

The police had seized 58 bags of ammonium nitrate from their two trucks while conducting a routine inspection. The police registered a case against them under the Explosives Act.

Earlier, the Mannuthi police on Thursday had seized 1,250 kg of ammonium nitrate, capable of causing huge explosions, from two different places and arrested four people in connection with the incident.

In yet another case, the police had seized a huge cache of the banned ammonium nitrate, weighing around 17,000 kg, from

a lorry after it was intercepted by the police following a tip-off at Vazhikkadavu in Malappuram a month ago.

The consignment was meant to be delivered to Alungal Chemicals at Vazhayoor in the district. But in a detailed investigation the police found that no such firm was existing in the district.

“Surveillance has been intensified along the National Highways in the state after an intelligence input on large scale smuggling of the material for explosion purposes, police sources said.



PACOM

35. [Special Interest, Indonesia] Indonesian Suicide Bomber 'Back From Heaven'

Thursday, September 13 2012

<http://blogs.aljazeera.com/blog/asia/indonesian-suicide-bomber-back-heaven>

Muhammad Toriq wrote to his family that he would be in heaven when they read his farewell note. Instead the 32-year-old cell phone voucher seller turned up at a police station wearing a suicide bomber belt.

“Toriq thought he would go to heaven by killing people.” Indonesia’s anti-terror chief looks firmly at a group of journalists from national media outlets. “Who gave him this ridiculous idea? Who taught him this?”

Ansyaad Mbai calls Toriq the best example why Indonesia urgently needs to crack down on preachers spreading hatred and schools teaching “a wrong version of Islam”. Toriq and his group were planning to attack police stations and a Buddhist organisation. Police has become the most recent target of Indonesia’s extremists and Buddhists were chosen because of the repression of Muslim Rohingya in mainly Buddhist Myanmar.

“Toriq showed up at heaven’s gate and he was not allowed in. Tell that to the Indonesian people,” Mbai continues to address the journalists. “Terrorists are not allowed into heaven.”

Ansyaad Mbai has warned for many years that radicalisation is rapidly growing in Indonesia. According to his intelligence sources many mosques, schools and universities are “infiltrated” by radical groups. “We have become a hotbed in the region because other countries have adopted strict laws against spreading hatred. Some also have a system of selecting ulamas (religious teachers),” he said during an interview in his well-protected office.

Ten years after 203 people were killed during attacks in Bali the government wants to adopt a national programme of deradicalisation. One of the ideas flagged up is the certification of religious teachers and preachers to filter those spreading hatred and provoking violence. Mbai hopes the highest Muslim council, Majelis Ulema Indonesia (MUI), will set up the screening.



The idea was immediately refuted by MUI. “It’s impossible to have someone issue licenses for religious preachers. We are chosen and recognised by the people,” says chairman Slamet Effendi Yusuf. “This idea is only good to be laughed about.”

The controversy shows exactly the sensitivities in Indonesia when it comes to religious issues. While anti-terror groups say religious leaders have an important role in stopping the spread of radicalisation, religious groups say it is purely a law enforcement issue.

“The government should be more firm. Schools that clearly have links with those involved in bombings should be closed down,” says Effendi Yusuf. “Don’t try to use us religious teachers as an instrument to do your job.”

It is feared that without the support of the ulamas Indonesia will have a hard nut to crack. Although most of the religious preachers have adopted a moderate version of Islam and they condemn the spread of hatred and violence, they hardly speak out against it in public.

The reason is that only 12 years ago Indonesia came out of an authoritarian regime that strongly controlled religious preachers in the country. The government prohibited religious sermons that could threaten the Indonesian union state, which could mean many things in those days. Often radical clerics were jailed for many years, went into hiding or fled to Malaysia.

Since the country has adopted democracy including freedom of speech, prohibiting anyone to speak out has become a sensitive issue. Although this does not seem to count for independence activists in Ambon and Papua, in eastern Indonesia. They are jailed for many years only for their statements or simply for showing the independence flag.

Still Mbai believes he can convince the ulamas to participate in the deradicalisation drive. “I just want to challenge them. Who will be able to deradicalise Abu Bakar Bashir for example,” he says referring to the jailed leader of Jemaah Islamiyah, the group responsible for most of the bombings. “If someone is brave enough to talk to him and tell him he is wrong, then we are making great progress.”



In his farewell letter Toriq had asked his wife to bring up their son as a mujahideen, a Muslim fighter. One of the main reasons he cancelled his suicide mission is said to be that he thought about his son. According to Mbai this shows that Indonesia is dealing with a new breed of extremists than the more hardline older generation. "But it doesn't mean they are less dangerous."



PACOM

36. [Security, India] Grenade Recovered Inside Old Secretariat In Manipur

Thursday, September 13 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=9/13/2012&id=8#8

Kanglaonline reports that a Chinese made high explosive hand grenade was found planted at the Southern block of the Manipur Secretariat where the State Home Minister, Chief Secretary, Chief Election Officer and other top VIPs have their offices on September 13. The Chinese grenade was found under a Bolero vehicle from the parking lot of the Old Secretariat.



PACOM

37. [Attack, India] One Injured In Crude Bomb Blast At PCB Hostel

Thursday, September 13 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/allahabad/One-injured-in-crude-bomb-blast-at-PCB-hostel/articleshow/16387145.cms>

A 27-year-old plumber, identified as Rajendra, sustained injuries after a crude bomb exploded on the terrace of the hostel on the PCB campus under Colonelganj police circle here on Thursday.

The incident, according to report, took place while the plumber was repairing the water pipeline on the terrace of the hostel and came in contact with some cartons lying in garbage on the on the roof.

"While searching for a broken part of the pipeline, the plumber touched a carton containing a crude bomb which exploded and left him injured" said an official adding "three of his fingers were injured severely in the incident" he added. After the incident, the plumber was taken to a private hospital for treatment and his condition was stated to be stable.



PACOM

38. [Attack, India] Bomb Explodes In Raw Complex, None Hurt

Friday, September 14 2012

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/manipur-bomb-explodes-in-raw-complex-none-hurt/291417-3-225.html>

A bomb exploded in the office complex of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and Special Bureau in Imphal west district of Manipur but no casualty was reported, officials said on Friday.

The bomb, which was an improvised explosive devices (IED) was allegedly planted by suspected insurgents with a timer, went off on Thursday partly damaging some trees but no one was hurt, they said.

The spot where the bomb exploded is just behind the Lamphel police station, they said, adding that an investigation would be conducted how the bomb was planted or hurled in the office complex of the Central intelligence agencies in the high-security area.

The incident occurred barely 12 hours after a powerful grenade, allegedly hurled by the insurgents, was found on Wednesday last inside the heavily-guarded complex of the Manipur secretariat (south block).

Banned Revolutionary People's Front (RPF), political wing of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), in a statement claimed responsibility for the bomb attack at RAW office alleging the office was involved in informing the whereabouts of insurgents, strategy adopted by ultras. Thursday's explosion was the fifth of its kind by insurgents this month.



NORTHCOM

39. [Trend, United States] L.A. Bank Robbers Strap 'Bomb' To Manager, Order Her To Rob Bank

Wednesday, September 5 2012

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/los-angeles-bank-robbers-strap-bomb-kidnapped-bank/story?id=17161972#.UE9ORK6O6Sp>

Two masked criminals kidnapped a bank manager, strapped what they said were explosives to her stomach and ordered her to rob the bank, Los Angeles police said today.

The woman was allegedly abducted on Tuesday night and held overnight, according to ABC News' Los Angeles affiliate KABC. She was taken to the Bank of America where she worked around 8:30 a.m. today and instructed to rob it.

"A device was strapped to the woman's body," said Capt. Mike Parker of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. "She was told that it was explosives and she was ordered to go into the bank, take out all the money. She did do that in fear for her life."

"While she was inside the bank, there were other employees present. She explained to them what was happening," Parker said. "She took the money out of the bank and threw it out the door to the bank robbers."

The ski mask wearing thieves fled with the money in a two-door car, possibly a white Kia, according to KABC.

The bank manager was left with the device on her and authorities called a bomb squad. Los Angeles County Sheriff's investigators and FBI agents, including bomb technicians, responded to the scene.

The device was removed from the woman and detonated by a bomb robot, according to authorities.

"A device left on the bank employee's person was rendered safe by a Sheriff's bomb squad and further investigation is ongoing, to include search for suspects," the FBI's L.A. office wrote in a statement.

The two robbers are still on the loose.

The tactic of strapping bombs to people in order to extort or steal money has been tried before.

In August 2011, 18-year-old Madeleine Pulver of Australia was trapped in her house with a device around her neck that she was told was an explosive. She spent 10 hours attached to the device before it was determined to be fake.

Her father is the chief executive of a software company called Appen Butler Hill that



specializes in voice recognition software, fueling speculation that she was the victim of an attempted extortion plot.

In 2003, a Pennsylvania pizza delivery man named Brian Wells was involved in a bomb plot and bank robbery that resulted in his own death. Wells thought he was an accomplice of the men planning the bank robbery and that the device strapped to him would be a fake.

Wells was instructed to rob the bank and tell police that the device was forced onto him and that he was a hostage. However, the bomb turned out to be real and killed Wells when it detonated.



NORTHCOM

40. [Law Enforcement, United States] Two Arrested For Using Improvised Explosive Devices In Sykesville

Tuesday, September 11 2012

<http://westminster.patch.com/articles/two-arrested-for-using-improvised-explosive-devices-in-sykesville>

Deputy State Fire Marshals have charged two individuals for using improvised destructive devices to damage property in the Sykesville area.

Blayne Cianci, 19, of Finksburg was taken into custody at his home Monday afternoon without incident, according to a news release. A sixteen-year-old male juvenile, of Sykesville, has also been charged.

The arrests stem from an early morning incident on Sept. 3 when investigators say the two manufactured six destructive devices and placed them inside of five mailboxes and a propane gas grill in the Sykesville and Woodbine areas.

According to a news release, the destructive devices were created by using illegal firework materials which they then ignited and discharged inside of the items which were destroyed. The firework components were modified consumer fireworks, which even unmodified, are illegal for sale and use in Maryland, the fire marshal said.

Both Cianci and the juvenile have been charged with six counts of manufacturing and possession of a destructive device, six counts of malicious destruction of property, six counts of discharging fireworks without a permit, and six counts of possession of fireworks without a permit, according to a news release.

The juvenile has been released to his guardian pending further action by the Department of Juvenile Services. Cianci is being held at the Carroll County Sheriff's Department Detention Center pending a bond hearing.



NORTHCOM

41. [Trend, United States] Homemade Bomb By 11-Year-Old Sparks Concern

Thursday, September 13 2012

http://www.stltoday.com/news/state-and-regional/missouri/homemade-bomb-by--year-old-sparks-concern/article_d4cfcaf0-8a13-518f-8e2b-44b48e133db7.html

An 11-year-old St. Louis County boy has been turned over to juvenile authorities after making a crude explosive device that caused a brief scare at a police station.

KMOV-TV reports that parents of the boy discovered their son had made a bomb of flammable liquid in a plastic bottle. Unsure what to do with it, the parents took it to the Des Peres Police Department.

Officers realized the bomb posed a risk so they called in the fire department's hazmat unit, which diffused the device.

Police say the boy told them he learned how to make the bomb on the Internet.



SOUTHCOM

42. [Special Interest, Colombia] Colombia's New Cocaine: Blood Gold

Thursday, September 13 2012

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2012/09/13/colombia-new-cocaine-blood-gold/>

Once deemed the cocaine capital of the world, Colombia is now falling behind its Andean neighbors in coca production and instead criminal organizations in the country are shifting to another valuable product as a source of income: gold.

According to a study released by the Spanish conflict-analysis organization the Toledo International Center for Peace (CITpax), illegal gold mining has overtaken coca production as the top source of income for Colombia's organized crime and guerrilla groups including the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Potential cocaine production in Colombia is down by 72 percent since 2001 and the country now ranks third in cocaine production, behind Peru and Bolivia, Gil Kerlikowske, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, said earlier this summer.

The report states that in eight of Colombia's 32 provinces, gold mining has become the top source of income for these groups who have taken an advantage of an uptick of so-called "mom-and-pop" mining operations through extortion.

The rising price of gold on the world market – an ounce currently is worth over \$1,700 – has helped contribute to a proliferation of the business, said Adam Isacson, a senior associate for regional security policy at the Washington Office on Latin America. A small mine is also easier to hide, as opposed to a coca field, and illegal gold mining is off the radar of U.S. authorities more concerned with anti-drug tactics, he said.

"Gold from Colombia is certainly coming to the U.S. and to the rest of the world market," Isacson said.

He said it's unclear what contacts these gold groups have in the United States but hypothesized that the business is run by brokers working in Colombia.

The CITpax report states 86 percent of Colombia's gold is mined illegally, with around 20 percent of the profits from mines going to the FARC, with the National



Liberation Army (ELN) and other criminal organizations controlling smaller shares.

Colombia's organized crime, guerrilla and paramilitary groups have exploited other elements and minerals for sale as well. Paramilitary groups are heavily involved in country's illegal emerald trade and last month the Colombian navy seized 400 kilos of illegally mined tungsten, a rare metal, near the country's border with Venezuela.

The FARC may be illegally extracting tungsten for use in the construction of projectile explosives. The Colombian trafficking group ELN, as well as the Rastrojos and Urabeños, are also allegedly involved in the business.

Isacson said that before the armed groups targeted gold mining, the operations were generally "mom-and-pop." But now that these organizations have seen the profit that accompanies gold mining, and they have honed in on these small mines.

Groups like the FARC make profits from the illegal gold mines by taxing the "mom-and-pop" operations. But recently, they have also started running their own operations and employing local workers to mine the gold.

Another problem in Colombia that has allowed the illegal mining business to flourish is a lack of oversight from the central government in the country's more isolated regions.

"Despite all the progress, about half of Colombia is still a country that has no national government," Isacson said, adding that there are few roads in some rural regions and it is difficult for the army or law enforcement to patrol these areas.

Gold mining, however, is still prevalent in some of the country's most developed departments such as Antioquia, which is home to Colombia's second largest city, Medellín.

The peace talks between the FARC and the government of President Juan Manuel Santos probably won't broach the topic of illegal mining. However, even if demobilization is discussed in the peace talks, which is scheduled to begin this October in Norway, not all FARC members would be willing to give up gold min-



ing since it has become so lucrative.

“These gold mines function as ATMs for the FARC, instant money,” Isacson said. “The question in the peace talks is: “Will the FARC be able to deliver their leaders involved in gold mining who are making a lot of money?””