



Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data

Weekly News Update

Volume 1, Issue 23

16 December 2011

The RAPID Weekly News Update is a weekly collection of unclassified 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.trancite.com> using your government (.mil or .gov) email account.



Remains of a bomb left outside a Protestant church in central Kathmandu, Nepal.

[See [Bomb Attempt Targets Protestant Church](#)]

AFPAK

1. [Notice: Kabul, AFG] [Lashkar-e-Jhangvi AI Claims Kabul Suicide Attack](#)
2. [Trend: AFG] [The Ammonium Nitrate Nightmare](#)
3. [Attack: Helmand, AFG] [Explosives Expert Dies In Bomb Blast](#)
4. [Attack: Kunar, AFG] [Suicide Bomber Kills Six Afghans In Mosque Attack](#)
5. [Attack: Badghis, AFG] [Afghan Troops Shoot Suicide Bomber Near NATO Base](#)
6. [Attack: Badghis, AFG] [Bomb Blast Kills Two Afghan Soldiers](#)
7. [Attack: Karachi, PAK] [RCIED Wounds Two, Causes Panic](#)
8. [Attack: Khyber, PAK] [Militants Destroy Two Shrines in Landikotal](#)

IRAQ

9. [Attack: South] [Bombs Hit Southern Iraq Oil Pipeline](#)
10. [Attack: North] [Double Bombing In northern Iraq Kills Two, Wounds Dozens](#)
11. [Attack: Baghdad] [Seven Killed In Iraq Attacks](#)

AFRICOM

12. [Policy: Nigeria] [Nigerian City Bans Motorcycles, Institutes Curfew In Response To Attacks](#)
13. [Attack: Kenya] [Blast Hits Military Vehicle In Kenya](#)
14. [Attack: Kenya] [Kenyan Officer And Driver Injured In Blast](#)
15. [Policy: Kenya] [Police Launch Crackdown As Explosions Hit Kenya](#)
16. [Attack: Nigeria] [Boko Haram Bomb Explosion Kills Two In Maiduguri](#)
17. [Attack: Nigeria] [Bomb Explosion Rocks Local Electoral Commission Building](#)
18. [Attack: Nigeria] [Maiduguri Blast Kills Ten People](#)
19. [Attack: Nigeria] [Multiple Blasts In Nigeria Kill One, Wound Eleven](#)

PACOM

20. [Attack: India] [Blast In Imphal's PWD Building, Five Injured](#)
21. [Attack: Australia] [ATM Explodes In Bomb Attack In North Sydney](#)
22. [Law Enforcement: Australia] [Bomb Squad Swoops On Ex-Digger's House](#)
23. [Attack: Nepal] [Bomb Attempt Targets Protestant Church](#)
24. [Attack: Philippines] [Governor Claims He Was Target Of Bomb Blast That Killed Two](#)

CONUS

25. [Attack: Oregon] [Pipe Bomb Caused Deadly Blast In Canby](#)
26. [Policy: United States] [Pentagon Program To Limit Threat Of Roadside Bombs Faces Budget Cut](#)
27. [Law Enforcement: South Carolina] [Common Chemicals Menacing In Wrong Hands](#)

OTHER

28. [Trend: Mexico] [Letter Bomb Stirs Up Fears Of Mexican 'Unabombers'](#)
29. [Law Enforcement: Canada] [G20 Accused Had Enough HME To Cause Significant Damage And Injury](#)
30. [Attack: France] [Parcel Bomb Sent To Greek Embassy In Paris](#)
31. [Attack: Colombia] [Homeless Man Killed In FARC IED Attack](#)
32. [Attack: Colombia] [Two Killed, Thirteen Wounded In FARC Attacks In Caqueta and Meta](#)
33. [Attack: Colombia] [Victim Count Rises To Three In Maicao Attack](#)
34. [Policy: Iran] [Iran Denies Links To Suicide Attacks On US Embassies In East Africa](#)
35. [Policy: Lebanon] [France Points Finger At Syria For Lebanon Attack](#)
36. [Policy: Lebanon] [Syria Denies Involvement In Lebanon Bombing](#)

1. Lashkar-e-Jhangvi Al Claims Kabul Suicide Attack

Tuesday, 06 December 2011

http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2011/12/lashkar-e-jhangvi_al_almi_clai.php

A Pakistan-based terror group known as the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi al Almi, an offshoot of the anti-Shia Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, claimed it executed today's suicide attack in Kabul that killed more than 50 Shia worshippers. From The Guardian, which has a partial backgrounder on the group:

A spokesman for an obscure Pakistani extremist group called Lashkar-e-Jhangvi al Almi claimed responsibility in a phone call to Radio Mashaal - a Pashto language radio station.

Lashkar-e-Jhangvi al Almi is a small faction based in Pakistan's tribal area and is considered an even more radical offshoot of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, (LeJ), a murderous anti-Shia group founded in 1996. Both groups act as surrogates for al-Qaida.

The Taliban was quick to distance itself from Tuesday's bombing and the Afghan Taliban has generally avoided sectarian violence. The Pakistani Taliban, however, has its roots in anti-Shia violence, and LeJ acted as the training ground for its leader, Hakimullah Mehsud.

LeJ maintained training camps in Afghanistan under the Taliban regime but has not mounted attacks in Afghanistan in recent years. It is believed to have been behind some of the most audacious attacks in Pakistan, including the September 2008 bombing of the Marriott hotel in Islamabad and the armed assault on the visiting Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore in March 2009.

The group also claimed responsibility for the massacre of 29 Shia pilgrims on a bus in Pakistan's Baluchistan province in September, and an attack on an Ashura procession in Karachi in 2009 which killed 30 people.

Until now, the splinter group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi al Almi was best known for kidnapping two former Pakistani spies and a British journalist in the tribal area last year.

The two former agents with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence, Colonel Imam and Khalid Khawaja, were abducted in North Waziristan along with the British journalist Asad Qureshi, who was making a film for Channel 4.

The kidnapers demanded a \$25m (£16m) ransom for Imam, who was regarded as the godfather of the original Afghan Taliban for his undercover work in Afghanistan in the 1990s.

Pleas from the leaders of the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani network of militants went unheeded by the group. Imam and Khawaja were executed. Qureshi was later freed.

The Guardian narrative isn't 100 percent correct, however, as Hakeemullah Mehsud, the leader of the Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan, is seen on videotape executing Colonel Imam. See LWJ reports, Hakeemullah Mehsud alive, shown on tape executing former ISI officer, and Taliban, Hakeemullah Mehsud execute Colonel Imam. Given the incestuous relationships between jihadist groups in Pakistan's tribal areas, it is likely that the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi al Almi and the Taliban were both involved in Imam's murder. In fact, the so-called "Asian Tigers" claimed they kidnapped and executed Imam. The Asian Tigers were likely just a mashup of Taliban and LeJ fighters and commanders who were put together for

the specific purpose of killing Imam and Khawaja, and thus giving a degree of plausible deniability to both the LeJ and the Pakistani Taliban.

While at present there is no evidence that the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi al Almi actually carried out the suicide attack in Kabul, the target - Shia worshippers - fits their profile. One thing is clear: the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi al Almi, which has never conducted an attack in Afghanistan, must have had help from the Taliban and/or the Haqqani Network in order to execute the suicide bombing. It is highly unlikely that the group would score such a devastating strike on its first try. It probably leveraged the infrastructure of the so-called Kabul Attack Network, which in itself is a network of key elements from the plethora of terror groups operating in and around the capital (al Qaeda, the Taliban, the Pakistani Taliban, the Haqqani Network, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Hizb-i-Islami Gulbuddin).

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

2. The Ammonium Nitrate Nightmare

Monday, 11 December 2011

<http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htmurph/articles/20111211.aspx>

The U.S. is having a difficult time preventing the Taliban and drug gangs in Afghanistan from getting explosives. That's because of the widespread use of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, which has become the favorite bomb building material in the area. Anticipating this, two years ago, the Afghan government agreed to ban the use of ammonium nitrate and make available other (less effective) fertilizers. That program did not work out. The problem was that the terrorists only needed about 600 kg (1,320 pounds) of ammonium nitrate a day to keep their bombing campaign going. The existing smuggling network (from Pakistan) had no problem sneaking that much in. Paying locals to build and plant these bombs cost less than a million dollars a month.

The Afghan bomb makers even learned how to remove an "anti-explosive" ingredient from the fertilizer. The ammonium nitrate fertilizer produced (at only two factories) in Pakistan has calcium carbonate added to make it less explosive. But the calcium carbonate is easily removed by simple, if time consuming, procedures that the Afghan tribesmen can handle. The U.S. wants to include another additive (urea granules) to make the ammonium nitrate less explosive and more difficult to remove all additives. That really doesn't solve the problem; it just makes ammonium nitrate a little more expensive for the terrorists to use. The bomb makers have lots more to worry about than additives.

In Afghanistan, as in Iraq, the use of IEDs (Improvised Explosive devices) resulted in lots of countermeasures. In Iraq the U.S. mobilized a multi-billion dollar effort to deal with IEDs, and that paid off. New technology (jammers, robots), tactics (predictive analysis and such), equipment (better armor for vehicles and troops) and a lot of determination did the job. Gradually, IEDs became less dangerous. In 2006, it took about five IEDs to cause one coalition casualty (11 percent of them fatal) in Iraq. By 2008 it took nine IEDs per casualty (12 percent fatal). That trend has continued in Afghanistan, where it now takes over 60 IEDs to kill one foreign soldier. But the drug profits are so large and the ammonium nitrate IEDs so cheap to build and use, that these bombs keep showing up.

Foreign troops in Afghanistan are now encountering over a thousand IEDs a month. This is twice what they encountered in early 2009. About half of combat deaths are from IEDs, which is down from about 61 percent. Overall casualties in Afghanistan are down 15 percent this year. The percentage of casualties from IEDs is rapidly declining as more MRAP armored vehicles and countermeasures are moved in. Currently, over 80 percent of the IEDs encountered last month are detected before they could harm foreign troops.

There are several differences between the IEDs in Iraq and Afghanistan. These include the quality of manufacture, the skill of emplacement, and the explosives used. In Iraq there were thousands of tons of munitions and explosives scattered around the country after the 2003 invasion ended. This was the legacy of Saddam Hussein and the billions he spent on weapons during his three decades in power. The Iraqi terrorists grabbed a lot of these munitions and used them for a five year bombing campaign.

With no such abundance of leftover munitions, the Taliban had to fall back on a common local explosive, ammonium nitrate. This is a powdered fertilizer that, when mixed with diesel or fuel oil, can be exploded with a detonator. While only about 40 percent of the power as the same weight of TNT, these fertilizer bombs are effective as roadside bombs. But they are bulkier, and a slurry, usually mixed in a plastic jug or a barrel. Moreover, the fuel oil must be mixed thoroughly and in exactly the right proportion, otherwise the explosive effect is much less than expected. But the biggest problem is that if you can't get the ammonium nitrate, you have no explosives. But attempts to ban ammonium nitrate failed.

While IEDs are even less effective in Afghanistan, because they are the main cause of NATO casualties, they get a lot of media attention. In Afghanistan the enemy started off with one big disadvantage, as they didn't have the expertise or the resources of the Iraqi IED specialists. In Iraq the bombs were built and placed by one of several dozen independent gangs, each containing smaller groups of people with different skills. The Taliban IED gangs are much less skilled than those encountered in Iraq. At the same time, the equipment, techniques, and troops who neutralized the IED campaign in Iraq have been moved to Afghanistan. This is a major reason the effectiveness of Taliban IED attacks are declining so quickly.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

3. Explosives Expert Dies In Bomb Blast

Tuesday, 12 December 2011

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2072971/Explosives-expert-died-Afghan-bomb-blast-missing-order-retreat.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

An Army explosives expert working on the front line in Afghanistan was killed because a vital order did not get through to him.

Corporal Loren Marlton-Thomas, 28, was killed instantly by a Taliban bomb not knowing that his mission had been called off.

The tragedy was revealed at an inquest into his death held in Blackpool, Lancashire at which coroner Christopher Beverley recorded a verdict of unlawful killing.

Tragic: Corporal Loren Marlton-Thomas had been ordered to withdraw from his position

Tragic: Corporal Loren Marlton-Thomas had been ordered to withdraw from his position

The hearing was told how the Army has since changed the way it relays messages to troops in the field.

Captive U.S. soldier Bowe Bergdahl 'recaptured by the Taliban after three days on the run following daring escape' Pakistan to block Nato convoys 'for weeks to come' following U.S. drone strike that killed 24 soldiers

The coroner was told that soldiers did not use radios in case their frequencies triggered off enemy bombs.

On the day of the tragedy in November 2009, the order calling off the mission was never received by the corporal's unit.

And even when his commanding officer made contact with his HQ, he was still not given the vital order.

The dead soldier's widow, Nichola, attended the inquest. The couple lived in Lytham, Lancs.

She heard her husband, a member of the 23rd Engineer Regiment, was killed instantly by the blast at Garesh in Helmand Province.

He was leading a team charged with defusing roadside Improvised Explosive Devices planted by the Taliban.

They should have pulled out of the area because of another Army operation which had been put in place. But that order was never received.

Instead, Corporal Marlton-Thomas became stuck in mud in an irrigation channel and his CO, Sgt Major Ken Bellringer went to his aid.

Proud: Nicola Marlton-Thomas said she believed her husband died doing a job he loved

Proud: Nicola Marlton-Thomas said she believed her husband died doing a job he loved

The sergeant major told the hearing: 'He was really stuck so I went to his aid. I started to pull him out and we were having a real chuckle. I tried to stabilise myself and then pull him.'

'The next thing I remember is rolling through the air. When I landed I kept my eyes shut because I did not want to see anything.

'I kept shouting to the corporal "dont worry, I am still here".'

The force of the blast blew Corporal Marlton-Thomas into a canal and at first his unit did not realise he was missing. His body was found the next day by U.S. Navy divers.

Sgt Major Bellringer lost both his legs in the blast. He believed that the corporal may have triggered the device when he became stuck in the mud and it detonated when he was being pulled free.

The coroner said : 'It is hard to imagine what the scene must have been like in Afghanistan that day. Men and women fight against terrorism in all parts of the world with great courage.'

Following the ruling, Nichola Marlton-Thomas said: 'The inquest has cleared up many things about what happened that day.

'I know my husband died doing a job he was good at and a job he loved. I think he tried to protect me by saying he was always at the back of his unit and never got in the thick of the action.'

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

4. **Suicide Bomber Kills Six Afghans In Mosque Attack**

Friday, 09 December 2011

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/12/suicide_bomber_kills_62.php

A suicide bomber killed six Afghans, including a district police chief, in an attack at a mosque in the eastern province of Kunar, a known haven for the Taliban and al Qaeda.

The suicide bomber detonated his explosive-packed vest as worshippers were leaving the mosque in the district of Ghaziabad.

"The attacker detonated his explosives in the mosque, killing the district police chief, an intelligence officer, two police and two civilians," Kunar's governor told AFP.

The attack is the second suicide bombing at a mosque in Afghanistan this week. On Dec. 6, a suicide bomber killed 54 Afghans at a mosque in Kabul. The Afghans were Shia who were celebrating Ashura. The Lashkar-e-Jhangvi al Almi, a Pakistan-based terror group allied with the Taliban and al Qaeda, claimed responsibility for the attack.

The Taliban have carried out numerous attacks at mosques in the past, including the assassination of Kunduz's governor in the province of Takhar on Oct. 8, 2010, and more recently, a suicide bombing that killed seven people, including a local police commander, in an attack at a mosque in the northern Afghan province of Baghlan on Nov. 6.

Today's suicide attack in Kunar took place just two days after the International Security Assistance Force killed Ahmed Shah, a "senior Taliban member" in the province who planned suicide attacks. Shah was killed in the Pech district in a "precision air strike," ISAF stated in a press release.

"Ahmed Shah was well-known in the Pech district for planning suicide operations in the Manogai area of the district. He used car bombs and multiple suicide bombers to carry out attacks," ISAF stated.

ISAF said Shah "planned attacks against Afghan government officials and security forces " and "recently constructed a plan to increase attacks in Pech district, and provided a safe haven for 40 insurgent fighters."

Kunar is an al Qaeda safe haven

Kunar province is a known safe haven for al Qaeda and allied terror groups such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba. The presence of al Qaeda cells has been detected in the districts of Pech, Shaikal Shate, Sarkani, Dangam, Asmar, Asadabad, Shigal, and Marawana; or eight of Kunar's 15 districts, according to an investigation by The Long War Journal.

Since September 2010, ISAF has killed or captured six top al Qaeda commanders and operatives in Kunar.

On April 14, an ISAF airstrike killed Abu Hafs al Najdi, al Qaeda's operations chief for Kunar province, who was responsible for "establishing insurgent camps and training sites" throughout the province. Also killed in the airstrike was Waqas, a senior al Qaeda operative who was from Pakistan, along with an unspecified number of other operatives.

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Prior to the killing of Najdi and Waqas in April of this year in Kunar, special operations forces captured Abu Ikhlas al Masri, the previous operations chief for Kunar, in December 2010. [For more information, see LWJ report, ISAF captures al Qaeda's top Kunar commander.]

A few months earlier, in October 2010, US aircraft killed three senior al Qaeda operatives in an airstrike on a compound in the Korengal Valley. Among those killed in the strike was a Saudi named Abdallah Umar al Qurayshi, who was a senior al Qaeda commander who coordinated the attacks of a group of Arab fighters in Kunar and Nuristan provinces and also maintained extensive contacts with al Qaeda facilitators throughout the Middle East. Qurayshi has also been described as al Qaeda's third in command in Afghanistan. The two operatives also confirmed killed in the strike were Abu Atta al Kuwaiti, an explosives expert; and Sa'ad Mohammad al Shahri, a longtime jihadist and the son of a retired Saudi colonel. Shahri, like Najdi, was on a Saudi most-wanted list.

ISAF has also been actively hunting another top al Qaeda commander, Qari Zia Rahman, since the summer of 2010. Rahman has been described as a "dual hatted al Qaeda and Taliban commander," and leads forces in Kunar and Nuristan provinces in Afghanistan as well as across the border in Pakistan's tribal agencies of Bajaur and Mohmand.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

5. Afghan Troops Shoot Suicide Bomber Near NATO Base

Tuesday, 13 December 2011

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia-pacific/afghan-troops-shoot-dead-would-be-suicide-bomber-near-gate-of-nato-base/2011/12/13/gIQAiqYHrO_story.html

Afghan troops have shot dead a would-be suicide bomber trying to approach the gate of a NATO base in the country's northwest.

Delbar Jan Arman, the governor of Badghis province, says Afghan security forces became suspicious of the man and killed him before he was able to detonate his explosives.

Arman says the attacker's explosives-packed vest detonated during the incident. He says no one else was harmed in the explosion.

Tuesday's incident occurred outside the base in Qalay-e-Naw, the capital of Badghis province, about 340 miles (550 kilometers) northwest of Kabul.

A mix of military and international civilians work at the Spanish-run base to improve provincial governance, services and infrastructure in the area.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

6. Bomb Blast Kills Two Afghan Soldiers

Thursday, 15 December 2011

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/215858.html>

At least two Afghan soldiers have been killed and two others wounded when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb in Afghanistan's northwestern province of Badghis, Press TV reports.

Deputy provincial governor, Abdul Ghani Saber, told Press TV the incident took place on Thursday morning while the soldiers were patrolling in the village of Darrah-i-Bum.

However, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed that five Afghan soldiers were killed in the incident.

Roadside bombs and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are by far the most lethal weapons Taliban militants have used against Afghan forces, foreign troops, and civilians.

Insecurity continues to rise across Afghanistan despite the presence of nearly 150,000 US-led forces in the war-torn country.

A United Nations report on Afghanistan issued on September 28 said that the average monthly number of security incidents recorded for the year through the end of August has risen nearly 40 percent.

The report also said civilian casualties, already at record levels in the first six months of the year, rose 5 percent between June and August 2011 compared with the same three-month period in 2010.

Around 130,000 people were displaced by the conflict in the first seven months of the year, up nearly two-thirds from the same period a year earlier.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

7. RCIED Wounds Two, Causes Panic

Saturday, 10 December 2011

<http://www.allvoices.com/contributed-news/11069195-a-bomb-attack-in-karachi-lowintensity-wounded-two-people-and-caused-panic>

A bomb attack in Karachi low-intensity wounded two people and caused panic, police said.

The remote-controlled bomb exploded beside the road near the University of Karachi, near the spot where a bomb attack on Friday killed three soldiers from the militia force of Pakistan Rangers.

Police said that the target of the attack was not immediately clear, but the bomb exploded when a vehicle of Pakistan Rangers passed close to the university.

"It was a bomb planted. Two bystanders were injured," Salam Sheikh, a top police officer, told AFP.

A spokesman for the Pakistan Rangers said that the troops remained unharmed in the episode.

No one has claimed responsibility so far for the attack, but almost 4,700 people were killed in attacks blamed on Pakistan by Taliban and other al-Qaeda network-connected by 2007.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

8. Militants Destroy Two Shrines in Landikotal

Sunday, 11 December 2011

<http://www.allvoices.com/contributed-news/11070987-militants-destroy-2-shrines-in-landikotal>

Three heart beating incidents happened in Khyber agency today when unidentified people set ablaze a shrine and blew up another in Kam Shalman area of Landikotal in Khyber Agency on Saturday. However, no casualty was reported.

The sources said that unknown people set ablaze the tomb of Sheikh Bahadar Baba late Friday night.

“Most of the shrine building was reduced to ashes. The entire building and even the veranda located at some distance from the tomb were engulfed by the inferno,” a resident said. However, no casualty was reported as nobody usually stayed at the shrine during the night.

Also, unidentified militants blew up the shrine of Sheikh Musa Baba with a time bomb. The blast partially damaged the shrine’s building, the sources said, adding that the explosion also smashed windowpanes and doors of the nearby houses.

Local people thronged the spots later and launched reconstruction work on the shrines. They demanded the government to ensure security of the shrines.

In the recent past, 12 shrines in Landikotal subdivision of Khyber Agency have been demolished or partially damaged in bomb blasts.

Militants kill tribesman in Tirah: The fighters of the outlawed Lashkar-e-Islam (LI) gunned down a member of the Zakhakhel Afridi tribe and kidnapped two others in Tirah valley of Khyber Agency on Saturday.

The sources said that a shepherd belonging to the Zakhakhel Afridi tribe was shot dead by the LI militants in Khari Mela in Tirah valley. They also kidnapped two other tribesmen from the area. The two sides have been fighting against each other in the area since March this year.

Meanwhile, the bullet-riddled body of one Badshah Gul was found in Shalobar area in Bara tehsil in Khyber Agency. Badshah Gul was kidnapped by unknown persons on Friday.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

9. Bombs Hit Southern Iraq Oil Pipeline

Wednesday, 14 December 2011

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/12/14/182451.html>

Three bombs hit an oil pipeline that transports crude from Iraq's southern oilfields to storage tanks around the oil hub of Basra on Tuesday, an oil police source said.

The impact on oil production or exports was not immediately clear, but firefighters were working to put out the blaze caused by the blast, the source who was at the explosion site said.

"The explosions happened in succession and caused an enormous fire," he said.

"We cannot go near the explosion site because the fire is still raging ... we fear the fire might extend to other nearby oil pipelines."

The source said the oil police were checking other pipelines for more bombs.

An oil official in Basra confirmed the blast was caused by a bomb attack. The pipeline was carrying crude to the Zubair 1 storage facility near Basra, the two sources said.

In early June, militants blew up a storage tank at the Zubair 1 storage facility, despite tight security.

Basra, which handles the bulk of Iraq's oil exports, has generally seen fewer attacks this year than other cities in the country following an overall decline in levels of violence since the peak of sectarian conflict in Iraq in 2006-07.

In October, two bombs hit pipeline networks transporting crude from Iraq's Rumaila oilfield, the country's biggest, cutting output from the field to 530,000 barrels per day from about 1.24 million bpd.

Iraq's oil police have stepped up patrols to protect installations against a possible surge in al Qaeda attacks as U.S. troops withdraw before Dec. 31, the head of the force said on Tuesday.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

10. Double Bombing In northern Iraq Kills 2, Wounds Dozens

Wednesday, 14 December 2011

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/double-bombing-in-northern-iraq-kills-2-wound-dozens/2011/12/14/gIQACZDHuO_story.html

Iraqi officials say a double bombing in northern Iraq has killed at least two people and wounding dozens.

Police and hospital officials in Tal Afar say a parked car bomb first went off in the western part of the city, causing no casualties. As people gathered at the scene, a truck packed with explosives blew up nearby, tearing through the crowd.

The officials say at least 29 people were wounded in Wednesday's blast.

Tal Afar is 260 miles (420 kilometers) northwest of Baghdad.

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

The violence came the same day that President Barack Obama met with troops in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, to honor their service in Iraq as U.S. forces depart the country.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

11. Seven Killed In Iraq Attacks

Thursday, 08 December 2011

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hiuFk3c4HB5dPV5Pr1_4gmMqgfQQ?docId=CN.G.9864b194b8f4c55c198c1ee061ac7720.551

A spate of gun and bomb attacks across northern and central Iraq on Saturday killed seven people and left four others wounded, security officials said.

In the disputed northern city of Kirkuk, a Shiite Turkman chemicals specialist for the state-owned North Oil Company was killed by a magnetic "sticky bomb" attached to his car.

Hussein Mohsen Maqsud, a member of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's Dawa Party, had just left his home when the explosion occurred, a police officer and a party official said.

Also in Kirkuk, a civilian was killed in a gun attack in the north of the city, 240 kilometres (150 miles) north of Baghdad, the police officer said.

In the Iraqi capital, an anti-Qaeda militiaman was killed and a policeman was wounded by a gun attack on a checkpoint in Saidiyah, south Baghdad, an interior ministry official said.

The militiaman was a member of the Sahwa, or Awakening Council, which is comprised of Sunni Arab tribesmen who sided with the US military against Al-Qaeda from late 2006, helping turn the tide of Iraq's bloody insurgency.

In Babil province, south of Baghdad, a civilian was killed by gunmen in a village northeast of provincial capital Hilla, a police major said. In a separate incident in Babil, three people were wounded by two katyusha rockets that had been intended for a nearby US military base, according to the major.

Two men were also killed in Diyala province, north of the capital, in separate attacks, an official in the provincial security command centre said.

Taha Yasin was killed by gunmen in Abu Garma village, east of Diyala capital Baquba, while Internet cafe owner Hussein Tamimi was killed by shooters using silenced weapons in Baladruz, southeast of Baquba, according to the official.

And in Mosul, police said a taxi driver was killed by gunmen in the west of the main northern city.

Saturday's attacks come with less than a month to go before US troops are to have completed their withdrawal from Iraq. Around 7,000 US military personnel now remain in the country.

Violence has declined in Iraq since its peak in 2006 and 2007, but attacks remain common. A total of 187 people were killed in November, according to official figures.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

12. Nigerian City Bans Motorcycles, Institutes Curfew In Response To Attacks

Monday, 12 December 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201112122391.html>

Nigerian authorities banned motorcycle taxis and imposed a curfew on parts of Jos after a series of bomb blasts rocked the city at the weekend.

The Special Task Force, a team appointed to ensure peace reigns in Plateau state, announced the ban and curfew in a press statement on Sunday.

On Saturday night, bomb attacks rocked three television viewing centres in the state's North Local Government Council, killing one person and injuring 14 others.

"The general public and the good people of Plateau should be informed that no motorcycle will be allowed to operate beyond 7pm within the Jos-Bukuru metropolis. Riding of motorcycles is only permitted from 6am to 7pm. This ban will be strictly enforced," said the statement.

In addition, the Arewa Consultative Forum in Kaduna, a forum for northern leaders held a two-day peace conference where top leaders from the north denounced the deadly activities of the Islamic sect Boko Haram, a move many Nigerians think is coming rather too late.

Among northern leaders who attended the meeting were Vice-President Namadi Sambo, Senate President David Mark, former military Head of State Gen Yakubu Gowon and former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar.

Although many northern leaders attended the event, the boycott by Middle Belt leaders and traditional rulers showed that the search for a united north was still out of sight.

And given Wednesday's devastating explosion that killed about 15 people in Kaduna metropolis and Saturday's bombings, northern leaders may have to add bite to their talks to wriggle the North out of the web of violence.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

13. Blast Hits Military Vehicle In Kenya

Sunday, 11 December 2011

http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/2280/Blast_Hits_a_Military_Vehicle_in_Kenya

[Website does not allow copy/paste. To read full story, please click the link above.]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

14. Kenyan Officer And Driver Injured In Blast

Monday, 12 December 2011

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/Explosion+injures+two+in+Wajir+after+fete/-/1056/1288162/-/r33shez/-/>

An intelligence officer and his driver were injured in an explosion in Wajir on Monday, the third to occur in two days and blamed on Somalia's Al-Shabaab militia.

The explosion occurred a few minutes after noon, near a venue where residents and senior government officials had attended Jamhuri Day celebrations.

The injured officer is in charge of the National Security Intelligence Service in the area. A vehicle he was travelling in ran over an explosive that had been planted on the road from the stadium.

Wajir DC Kennedy Nyaiyo said the car was in a convoy leaving the venue. "He has been rushed to the Wajir District Hospital where he is receiving treatment, he only sustained slight injuries," the DC said.

Witnesses said the front part of the vehicle was blown up, ripping off the bonnet.

"The NSIS vehicle was the second last car to pass, with the police following. The police immediately started chasing some people who were seen running after the explosion.

"They managed to arrest one suspect who tripped as he was running," said the witnesses who sought anonymity.

The DC confirmed that a suspect had been arrested by officers who were escorting the senior officials.

"We have arrested one individual in connection with the incident and we believe he will provide us with crucial information about the people who were involved with the attack," he said.

Mr Nyaiyo denied reports that four bystanders also suffered injuries.

On Sunday an administration policeman was killed and three others injured in another explosion in Mandera while nine army soldiers sustained injuries in a similar incident in Wajir.

Mr Nyaiyo said the perpetrators must have been aware that the route would be used by senior government officials after the ceremony.

The injured officer was last month shot at as he left a mosque in Wajir town.

North Eastern PC James ole Seriani who addressed residents in Garissa blamed the recent attacks on foreigners.

"We would like to remind these people who are hurling this grenades and planting mines in the ground that their days are numbered, we will catch up with them from their hideouts", the PC said.

Mr Seriani added that police reservists would be deployed along the border to boost security. "We are in a war situation with Al-Shabaab and we will only win it if we have the support of the public who should work closely with security apparatus," he said.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

15. Police Launch Crackdown As Explosions Hit Kenya

Monday, 12 December 2011

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2011-12/12/content_14250607.htm

Kenyan authorities on Sunday launched crackdown after an Administration Police (AP) officer was killed and nine military soldiers wounded in twin separate attacks in Mandera and Wajir towns in northern Kenya.

Regional police commander Leo Nyongesa said security had been beefed up in the two districts and urged locals to give helpful information that may lead to arrests.

"We have beefed ups security in the two districts to apprehend those behind the attacks. We have also launched investigations to establish the motive behind the twin attacks," Nyongesa told Xinhua late on Sunday.

He urged the locals to cooperate with the government to give helpful information that will lead to the arrest of those criminals linked to Al-Shabaab insurgents that were applying guerrilla tactics.

The incident comes barely a week after an administration was killed and three others seriously injured in Ifo 2 refugee camp in Dadaab district after an explosives planted under an acacia tree where the officer escorting UNHCR convoy usually had a rest exploded.

Nyongesa said the police were on high alert over the incident and more reinforcements have been sent in the areas where both incidents occurred,

However, military spokesman Emmanuel Chirchir said only two soldiers escaped with minor injuries in the Wajir incident which took place at 1230 local time (0930GMT).

He said the military officers were travelling from Wajir to Mandera in a convoy of three when one military vehicle drove over a landmine.

"A military vehicle (Hamvee) drove over an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Wajir. The vehicle was heading to Elwak. A mobile phone suspected to have been used to detonate the explosive was recovered from the scene. Two soldiers suffered minor injuries, the vehicle was damaged," Chirchir said late on Sunday.

But eye witnesses and police reports said nine soldiers were critically injured in the incident and are currently undergoing treatment in Wajir district hospital.

In Mander, the police said the APs died on the spot and two regular police officers seriously injured in Mandera in an incident which took place at 1430 hours (1130GMT). The three were on a foot patrol near the Kenya-Somalia border.

"The Administration police officers were patrolling in Bula Hawa when they were attacked, one died while his colleague is wounded. They were patrolling on foot and he died on the spot," Nyongesa said, adding that the AP may have stumbled on the explosive device.

The regional police chief said the colleague who was wounded was rushed to the Mandera district hospital where he was being treated for burns and other related injuries.

"I want to take this earliest opportunity to condemn this criminal incident, we will make sure that we get all those involved to book from their hideouts," Nyongesa said.

"Its also my appeal to the residents of Wajir and the region at large to remain calm and offer any tangible information that will help us arrest this criminals who might be hiding in their midst."

Kenyan security personnel patrolling the Somalia border have been hit with a series of explosion attacks since Kenya sent its troops to fight Al-Shabaab inside Somalia, often killing or injuring officers.

Security forces at the border points are grappling with threats posed by the insurgents who have been laying landmines mainly targeting police and soldiers patrolling the Somalia border.

The source who requested anonymity for fear of reprisal said that after the loud bang which followed by smokes.

"We were resting in a small canteen chewing mirra (khat), when we saw the other two vehicles which had military officers passing, all I remember is hearing a loud explosion which was followed by smokes just seconds after the third land come passing," added the source who spoke on phone.

Following the incident, military officers surrounded the nearby settlement in a bid to arrest those behind the attack.

Wajir District Commissioner Kennedy Nyaiyo who confirmed the incident immediately condemned the incident, saying that "such characters out to cause havoc in the district that has enjoyed peace for long would not be spared."

The incident comes barely after an administration was killed and three others seriously injured in Ifo refugee camp 2 in Dadaab district after a land mine exploded at a regular checkpoint.

The East African nation has been beset by a spate of grenade and landmine attacks since it launched cross border incursion into neighbouring Somalia last month to pursue the al Qaeda allied Al- Shabaab militant group.

Since the Kenya military incursion into Somalia, several attacks believed to have been carried out by Al-Shabaab have occurred in Mandera, Wajir, and Garissa and Dadaab districts of northern Kenya even as the military reports gains against the group by capturing their military bases and killing scores of them.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

16. Boko Haram Bomb Explosion Kills Two In Maiduguri

Friday, 16 December 2011

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2011/12/bomb-explosion-as-boko-haram-kills-2-injure-others-in-maiduguri/>

Gunmen, suspected to be members of Boko Haram sect, Wednesday, killed two people and injured three on Santimari Polo Road. A bomb exploded in Gwange, Layin Bus, at the same time.

The Gwange explosion was also believed to have been planted by Boko Haram members.

Vanguard gathered that the yet-to-be identified gunmen came with an unmarked Volkswagen Golf car at 7:49pm and opened fire on people playing cards in front of a shop belonging to a GSM recharge card dealer.

Two people died, including a Head Teacher of COCIN Church Primary School in Polo, Mallam Caleb.

The gunmen, according to investigation, were targeting a State Security Services, SSS, personnel who normally visits the shop, especially at night.

Eyewitness account

An eyewitness, who did not want his name in print, said he was just passing along the road when he saw the gunmen shooting and quickly laid down to avoid stray bullets.

He said: "I heard them saying to people 'don't run, don't worry, we are not here for you. We have our target'.

"I believe they came to hunt for one SSS man who normally comes here to play cards with some of his friends. But they ended up killing innocent people. Unfortunately, the SSS man was lucky as I learnt that he didn't visit the shop that day."

People see Polo as one of the safe areas, as most of the residents of the area are predominantly Christians. However, the area has experienced several attacks in the past two months.

Confirming the incident to Vanguard in a telephone conversation in Maiduguri, Spokesman of the Joint Task Force, JTF, Lt.-Col. Hassan Mohammed, said some members of Boko Haram detonated an Improvised Explosive Device, IED, at 7:45pm Wednesday in Gwange ward.

He stressed that the sect members were targeting one of their patrol vehicles, but missed as the bomb exploded after their patrol vehicle had left the area. He said no casualty was recorded in the blast.

Similarly, Hassan said some yet-to-be identified gunmen came to Polo with a Volkswagen Golf car at the same time the Gwange blast occurred, and opened fire on some members of the public.

Hassan said on reaching the area, his men pursued two of the suspects who abandoned their car and fled.

He said no arrest was made, but that his men were on top of the situation as normalcy had been restored.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

17. Bomb Explosion Rocks Local Electoral Commission Building

Tuesday, 13 December 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201112131017.html>

The office of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Ikole Local Government Area of Ekiti State was yesterday, razed down through a substance suspected to be explosive material said to have been thrown at the office by yet unknown persons.

INEC's Public Relations Officer in the state, Mr Taiwo Gbadegesin, who confirmed that the incident occurred at about 10a.m yesterday, however, added that no life was lost.

Also, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, Mr. Mohammed Jimoh, who confirmed the incident, said the police had deployed bomb experts to the scene to ascertain what really happened.

According to him, the security man attached to the INEC office is already with the police assisting them in the investigation to unravel those behind the bombing.

While it was not clear at press time, those behind the incident, a source alleged that some hoodlums who drove in a red sport utility van to the INEC office along Odooro Road, launched the explosive materials, having overpowered the security man attached to the place.

The suspected arsonists were said to have threatened to kill the security man before they threw the bomb which razed down the place.

The incident was strange since there was no election held in the area in the recent time.

The last rerun election held in Ekiti State at the weekend, actually took place at another senatorial district, different from where the explosion occurred.

While reacting to the incident, Gbadegesin, who said the arsonists were there for a purpose, said information reaching INEC indicated that the culprits, who came from Abuja actually wanted to retrieve a particular file.

He disclosed further that the arsonists, who meant to bomb the store, ended up destroying the entire building.

He lamented that at the time of the operation, some top officers of the INEC were attending a workshop in Ado-Ekiti, the state capital.

According to him, fire fighters made spirited efforts to put out the fire, with the assistance of residents of the community, but did not succeed, as most of the departments have been burnt down.

Gbadegesin said the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) in the state, Alhaji Hussaini Pai, led top officials of INEC to the place to assess the extent of damage done to the building.

But, the REC commissioner said it could not be confirmed whether the explosion was actually through a bomb explosive or fire incident.

He confirmed that police had taken over the investigation of the incident to ascertain the cause.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

18. Maiduguri Blast Kills Ten People

Tuesday, 13 December 2011

<http://www.starafrica.com/en/news/detail-news/view/nigerian-city-rocked-by-powerful-blast-208397.html>

A powerful bomb blast targeting soldiers followed by gunfire rocked the troubled Nigerian city of Maiduguri on Tuesday, with at least 10 people killed, an official and a hospital source said.

Residents claimed soldiers reacted to the bombing by shooting indiscriminately and burning homes, with troops having been accused of such abuses following previous attacks after alleging residents were complicit.

A military spokesman denied the accusations.

The violence began when two men in a sedan drove towards a military post and sought to throw a bomb at soldiers in the restive city, which has been the epicentre of violence blamed on the Islamist sect known as Boko Haram.

Military roadblocks and outposts have frequently been targeted by the extremists in Maiduguri, located in northeastern Nigeria.

"The explosive device detonated in his hands, killing him on the spot, while his comrade fled, abandoning the car," said Lieutenant Colonel Hassan Mohammed, spokesman for a military task force in Maiduguri.

"We discovered ammunition in the car. No other life was lost and nobody was injured in the attack."

Residents said the blast was followed by sporadic gunfire. They alleged soldiers then stormed through the neighbourhood, firing their weapons and setting houses on fire.

"After the blast, everybody moved indoors, but later I began hearing screams and commotion and saw billows of smoke covering the sky," one resident said.

"I realised soldiers were moving door-to-door setting houses on fire. I scaled over the fence of my house and ran out of the area barefoot while soldiers set fire to my house."

Another resident also alleged soldiers were carrying out the abuses and said people had fled the area. A hospital nurse said at least 10 people were killed in the day's violence.

"So far we have received 10 dead bodies... and 30 others injured, some critically, and from the state of some of the injured, the death toll may rise," the nurse told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"Some of the bodies brought to the hospital have gunshot wounds while others have burns."

Mohammed, the military spokesman, said "nobody was shot and no homes were burnt by soldiers."

The military has come under harsh criticism over its actions in Maiduguri, with some local leaders calling for the task force operating there to be withdrawn.

Thousands of people have fled Maiduguri out of fears of further violence.

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Boko Haram has been blamed for scores of attacks, mostly in northeastern Nigeria, though the group also claimed responsibility for the August suicide bombing of UN headquarters in the capital Abuja that killed at least 24 people.

There has been intense speculation over whether the group has formed links with outside extremists, including Al-Qaeda's north African branch. It is believed to have a number of factions with varying aims.

It launched an uprising in 2009 put down by a brutal military assault which left some 800 dead, then went dormant for about a year before emerging with a series of assassinations.

Bomb blasts have since become frequent and have grown in sophistication.

Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation with some 160 million people, roughly divided between a mainly Muslim north and predominately Christian south.

Tuesday's blast occurred ahead of President Goodluck Jonathan's presentation of his 2012 budget before parliament in Abuja, but it was unclear if there was any link.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

19. **Multiple Blasts In Nigeria Kill One, Wound Eleven**

Sunday, 11 December 2011

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2011/12/11/world/africa/AP-AF-Nigeria-Violence.html?ref=world>

Three bomb attacks blamed on a feared radical sect killed one person and wounded 11 others in a volatile central Nigerian city, an official said Sunday.

The bombs exploded Saturday night in three locations in Jos where people had gathered to view a televised soccer match between Real Madrid and Barcelona, Plateau state spokesman Pam Ayuba said.

Authorities suspect a radical Muslim sect locally known as Boko Haram which has launched similar simultaneous attacks in northern Nigeria, he said.

The sophistication of these latest attacks, which targeted some 600 people who were drinking while watching the high-profile match, suggests the work of Boko Haram, Ayuba said.

The blast killed a 35-year-old barber, Ayuba said. A fourth unexploded bomb was found in one of the viewing centers, he said.

Of the 11 wounded, nine have been discharged from the a local hospital, authorities said.

The attacks occurred in heavily militarized areas of a city which sits in Nigeria's "middle belt," where dozens of ethnic groups vie for power. The city has been at the epicenter of religious and ethnic violence in the country, straddling the dividing line between Nigeria's largely Christian south and Muslim north.

Authorities suspect Boko Haram is responsible for a drive-by shooting at a beer parlor Sunday morning that killed a policeman who had just ended a night shift in the northeastern city of Maiduguri, military spokesman Lt. Col. Hassan Mohammed said.

In June, simultaneous bomb attacks in the group's stronghold in Maiduguri killed at least 25 people in June at beer gardens. Boko Haram, whose name means "Western education is sacrilege" in the local Hausa language, says it wants the strict implementation of Shariah law across the country's north.

The Jos violence, though fractured across religious lines, often has more to do with local politics, economics and rights to grazing lands. The government of Plateau state is controlled by Christian politicians who have blocked Muslims from being legally recognized as citizens. That has locked many out of prized government jobs in a region where the tourism industry and tin mining have collapsed in the last decades.

Human Rights Watch says at least 1,000 people were killed in communal clashes around Jos in 2010 and another 200 died at the turn of the year.

Similar attacks appeared to have clustered during holidays.

Last year, a series of Christmas Eve bombings in Jos killed at least 32 people and wounded at least 74 others. Boko Haram claimed responsibility. The group also claimed responsibility for May blasts that killed more than a dozen people at open-air bars in two northern cities and a town near the capital hours during a long weekend to mark the inauguration of a president from Nigeria's predominantly Christian south

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It was during the May attack that bars emerged as a new target.

Three months ago, two bomb attacks targeted informal beer parlors hit the city, but left no casualties. No one claimed responsibility for the attacks, although beer parlors are a typical Boko Haram target.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

20. Blast In Imphal's PWD Building, Five Injured

Wednesday, 14 December 2011

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/Imphal/Blast-inside-PWD-office-in-Imphal-6-injured/Article1-782248.aspx>

At least five persons including two women were injured in a bomb explosion inside the Public Works Department (PWD) building in Imphal on Wednesday afternoon. The incident took place in the corridor of the building's second floor around 1.30pm. Suspecting the hand of militants, the police feel the bomb might have been planted on Tuesday night or early this morning.

"It was a high-intensity explosion. An investigation is on," said V Zathang, additional director general of police.

When asked about the lapse of security, the officer said, "The matter will be looked into."

Most of the employees including the injured were in their office rooms when the blast took place.

"The explosion was so powerful that it blew up the roof," said PWD employee Ch Bhagirot, who came out of the office soon after the blast. Three of the injured were admitted to hospital while the two others were discharged after first aid.

No militant group operating in the state has claimed responsibility till the filing of the report. No arrest has been made, either.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

21. ATM Explodes In Bomb Attack In North Sydney

Wednesday, 14 December 2011

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/atm-explodes-in-bomb-attack-in-north-sydney/story-e6freuy9-1226221432283>

Bandits targeted a cash machine in North Sydney last night blowing it to pieces and escaping from the scene.

An ATM on Miller Street, Cammeray exploded before 3am shattering surrounding windows and sending debris across the road and onto the other side of the street.

Four local residents were walked through the crime scene and police have received information regarding three males rushing from the area only moments after the explosion.

The men are believed to have been carrying crow bars and wearing blue overalls.

Police closed the road near Cammeraygal Street while forensic officers examined the crime scene.

No funds were extracted from the cash machine and police will review CCTV footage today.

Three years ago a number of gangs were believed to be responsible for more than 40 "bamraids" carried out in and around Sydney in 2008.

A restaurant was fired bombed last night injuring one man and destroying the shop's entire first level.

Police set up a special strike force to investigate the problem and at the time police Commissioner Andrew Scipione called for a national summit to address the problem.

The "bamraids" stopped after police made a number of arrests and banks increased security at ATM's.

Anyone who witnessed the incident should contact Crime Stoppers.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

22. **Bomb Squad Swoops On Ex-Digger's House**

Friday, 15 December 2011

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/bomb-squad-swoops-on-ex-diggers-house/story-e6frf7jx-1226222568295>

A former soldier is due to appear in court this morning charged over a string of weapons and explosives counts.

Christopher Gray appeared last night in an out-of-sessions court at Sunshine Police Station, charged with one count of possessing an explosive substance.

But further charges were expected after the police bomb squad closed off street in the outer western suburbs.

The police bomb squad, with a bomb disposal robot, checked the house following the raid.

Earlier in the day, the arson squad was also involved in the search of the 22-year-old's Kurrung home, closing off the street as they conducted their search.

Gray did not seek bail and will appear in the Melbourne Magistrates Court today.

Police sent the bomb squad into a suburban street after discovering what they allege was the Nazi collector's large arsenal of weapons and chemicals.

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End of sidebar. Return to start of sidebar.

Officers closed off the street in Kurung after seizing several guns and alleged bomb-making equipment, the Melton Leader reported yesterday.

Police had been responding to reports of a domestic dispute when they discovered the weapons in a search.

Among items seized include rifles, ammunition, gun parts, explosion-making devices and chemicals, and Nazi paraphernalia.

It is understood the arrested man was discharged from the Australian Army about 12 to 18 months ago on medical grounds.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

23. **Bomb Attempt Targets Protestant Church**

Monday, 11 December 2011

<http://www.bosnewslife.com/19444-nepal-christians-on-alert-after-bombings>

Christians in Nepal remained on high alert Sunday, December 11, amid reports that militants claimed responsibility for an attack on a Christian aid group, while security forces defused a “powerful” bomb near the entrance of a Protestant church in the capital Kathmandu.

The bomb, which was in a cloth bag and stuffed in a white plastic sack, was discovered Sunday, November 27, outside the Navajiwani Church, which belongs to the Assemblies of God grouping of churches in the capital's Kuponjole district, Christians revealed.

Suman Gurung, the church pastor, explained however that security for services and Church activities in the future would be stepped up.

“We will continue to be vigilant and pray. We didn't used to examine bags of those coming to worship but from now on we will do that,” he added in a statement.

Security has become a key concern for Christians in the capital Kathmandu, following a November 22 bomb attack on the United Mission to Nepal (UMN), a major Christian non-governmental organization building hospitals, schools, hydropower plants and industrial development and training institutions in Nepal.

Police said they found leaflets at UMN's targeted office in Kathmandu, signed by someone calling himself "a senior member of the Nepal Defense Army" (NDA), a militant armed group that has attacked Christians and Muslims, demanding that they leave Nepal.

NDA representatives reportedly said the majority population in Nepal was Hindu and therefore it should be a Hindu state. The leaflets also accused the UMN of converting Hindus to Christianity.

The blast came some two years after the NDA claimed responsibility for a blast at one of Nepal's biggest Catholic churches, killing three people.

Christian observers linked the attacks to an ongoing discussion on religious freedom in Nepal's new constitution, including the right to convert.

Last week, Nepalese law makers extended for another six month a deadline for writing the constitution as political parties failed to complete the task.

Political infighting has prevented the government from starting any major development projects in the Himalayan nation, where averages per cap income of \$490 makes it the 17th poorest, the World Bank said.

About half the nation's children are said to be malnourished, its roads are crumbling, fuel shortages are frequent and clean drinking water is scarce.

While Nepal has one of the largest sources of untapped hydropower in the world, the country often faces blackouts of up to 14 hours a day, as authorities are apparently unable to build any new plants to use it.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

24. Governor Claims He Was Target Of Bomb Blast That Killed Two

Friday, 16 December 2011

<http://gulfnews.com/news/world/philippines/governor-claims-he-was-target-of-bomb-blast-that-killed-two-1.951876>

Two people were killed, one of them on the spot, when a bomb exploded on a small stylised vehicle, near a municipal hall, during a celebration to mark the founding of Sinsuat town in the southern Philippines yesterday, police said.

A local government official claimed he escaped a deadly target set by his political enemies.

Regional police director Felicisimo Khu said in a radio interview that the blast occurred a kilometre away from the municipal hall in Datu Odin. The names of the two who died were not released.

Initial investigation has shown they must have been sent on a mission to take the bomb elsewhere, but failed to do so before the bomb exploded, said Khu, adding that no one was injured in the incident.

Meanwhile, Governor Esmail Mangudadatu of Maguindanao claimed he was the real target of the attack, adding he was near the municipal hall to celebrate with his constituents.

"I heard a loud explosion when we were celebrating an event near the municipal hall. They have not stopped attacking me," Mangudadatu said in a TV interview.

He referred to the killing of 57 people, including his wife, sister, followers and more than 30 journalists in a convoy that was to file his candidacy as Maguindanao governor in November 2009.

The accused killers, his political rivals, were identified as former governor of Maguindanao Andal Ampatuan Sr his son Andal Ampatuan Jr, and several other relatives who are now being tried for the massacre.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

25. Pipe Bomb Caused Deadly Blast In Canby

Tuesday, 13 December 2011

<http://www.kgw.com/news/local/Police-investigating-deadly-Canby-blast-search-Salem-home-135547548.html>

A pipe bomb caused the deadly explosion that killed a man outside a Canby home last Sunday, police said Tuesday.

A bomb squad searched a home in Salem Tuesday as part of the investigation.

Ivan Velasco Rodriguez, a 31-year-old father of four, was killed in the Canby explosion. He was trying to earn some extra money by helping the tenants move and collecting scrap metal, when a box suddenly blew up, investigators said. He died of head trauma on the way to the hospital.

Tuesday afternoon, police said they had evidence indicating that the blast was caused by a pipe bomb inside a tool-type box in the driveway.

The tenants who lived in the Canby home were moving to a rental located near the intersection of 23rd and Market Street NE in Salem. That's where police were searching Tuesday, some 30 miles away from Canby.

Witnesses watched as the bomb squad went through the Salem rental home and also a car parked in the driveway. When asked what they were looking for, police did not comment to KGW.

Rodriguez lived about two miles away from the scene of the Canby explosion, in an apartment with his wife and four young children.

Neighbors there were struggling with the sudden death of a man who they said was always doing what he could to help others in the community.

"He was just a happy-go-lucky man, a young kid of 31-years-old and he didn't deserve this. Of course he wasn't looking for it," said Mini Acevedo, Rodriguez's friend and supervisor at work.

The manager at Rodriguez's apartment complex said it was unthinkable that anyone would intentionally hurt him.

"He was a likeable guy, a church-going guy," Erminia Acevedo said.

The Canby Police Dept. set up a tip line at (800) 800-3855 for any information regarding the explosion or manufacture of the device. A \$5,000 reward was offered for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of the person responsible.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

26. **Pentagon Program To Limit Threat Of Roadside Bombs Faces Budget Cut**

Saturday, 10 December 2011

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/pentagon-program-to-limit-the-threat-of-roadside-bombs-faces-budget-cut/2011/12/08/gIQAEQ5VIO_story.html

Budget hawks may cut back a five-year-old Pentagon program aimed at curbing casualties from the crude roadside bombs known as IEDs, a leading threat to U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

The Senate Armed Services Committee has proposed trimming \$265 million from the Pentagon's \$3.2 billion budget for the program. The Government Accountability Office and some think tanks have said it's duplicative, raising questions about the long-term viability of the program.

At issue is whether the hand-made bombs, which the military calls IEDs, for improvised explosive devices, are likely to be continuing threats to U.S. troops, with the Iraq occupation ending this month and forces preparing for an end to the coalition combat mission in Afghanistan by the end of 2014.

The Pentagon created the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization in 2006, near the height of the war in Iraq. In the years since, the program has provided hand-held detectors, bomb-sniffing dogs and other tools to help control the danger from the bombs, many of which are made with easily available fertilizer. Forces in Afghanistan encounter about 1,500 of them a month.

Their role in future conflicts is less clear.

Pentagon spokesman Maj. Chris Perrine said, "We are not aware of any proposal to disestablish" the IED program. But another Pentagon official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to relate internal debate over the subject, said, "decision makers in the Defense Department are in discussions about" the program's future.

Lt. Gen. Michael D. Barbero, head of the program since March, has argued that the bombs will be a global threat for many years. Beyond Iraq and Afghanistan, he said, more than 500 "IED events" occur each month.

"We are never going to stop all IEDs, but with a holistic, decisive, whole-of-government approach, we will significantly impact the effect the IED has on the battlespace and here at home," Barbero said in an interview in the September issue of Ground Combat Technology.

Retired Lt. Gen. James M. Dubik, a senior fellow at Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare, wrote in the December issue of Army magazine, "IEDs are becoming more common as domestic threats as well as overseas military threats."

The fiscal 2012 Defense Department budget request had \$3.2 billion set aside for the IED program, with more than \$2.7 billion of that to pay for continuing or newly contracted initiatives.

The crude bombs cause about 90 percent of casualties to U.S. troops on foot patrol in Afghanistan. Military officials say the toll would be even higher without the increased intelligence, protective devices and disarming techniques the Pentagon's IED program has helped develop and disseminate.

The House Armed Services Committee approved full funding for the coming fiscal year, writing in its report that it "expects improvised explosive devices to remain an enduring threat to U.S. forces." The House Appropriations Committee also endorsed full funding for the IED group.

The Senate Armed Services Committee, however, justified its proposed cut by citing “lack of coordination” with some activities undertaken by the individual services. The committee report said, “The Army and the Marine Corps have pursued their own separate efforts to develop counter-IED mine rollers.”

The committee also noted that the IED program “was established in response to threats confronted by U.S. forces in Afghanistan and Iraq” and proposed that its funds be carried in the supplemental budget that finances the war activities instead of the main Defense Department budget.

The Senate appropriators agreed that the budget should be in the war account.

Outside Congress there are other critics. The nonpartisan Center for a New American Security, in a report written in part by retired Lt. Gen. David W. Barno, a former commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, suggested that the IED group be shut down in 2017, with “its most promising technologies” integrated into the military services for further development.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

27. Common Chemicals Menacing In Wrong Hands

Friday, 09 December 2011

http://www.thetandd.com/news/article_dae559b2-2224-11e1-99cc-001871e3ce6c.html

While black smoke rose skyward and debris floated down like confetti, the shock wave from the explosion set off a car alarm about 300 yards away.

"This is what can be done with regular household chemicals," says FBI Special Agent and Bomb Tech Doug Edmonson. "It may not be an innocent scene."

Explosions marked the culmination of the FBI's chemical and homemade bomb recognition class, held in Bowman at the facilities of Threat Management Group.

Eleven of the 12 bomb squads across the state attended the training, which proved a bomb doesn't have to look like Hollywood's alarm clock strapped to a stack of dynamite.

By itself, a can of household cleaner may not mean much. But combine it with a few other chemicals, and it becomes a deadly device.

"Things add up," Edmonson said. "If these guys run across an item or two, we want them in the back of their mind to say this needs checking out."

Bomb experts asked that the specific chemicals not be publicized. But each one can readily be found on a store shelf, and many are already in most homes as cleaners.

Authorities said Umar Abdul Mutallab had detonation cord and an explosive combination of household chemicals secured underneath his clothing when he was taken into custody onboard Flight 253 on Christmas Day 2009.

Bomb techs demonstrated the equivalent of what the 24-year-old Nigerian had on him. The det cord alone was enough, but the resulting blast shook the ground.

"This is actually the mixture the Christmas Day bomber had in his underwear," Edmonson said. "Imagine that on an airplane."

Mutallab pleaded guilty to eight criminal counts, including the attempted mass murder of the 289 passengers on board the flight. He is awaiting sentencing.

Other incendiary devices are designed to give the bomb maker time to escape and have been used domestically at fur factories and in other domestic terrorism scenes.

A single blasting cap planted inside a chicken - already plucked and ready for the cooker - resulted in a perlow about 75 feet wide.

A couple of chemicals found in many homes were enough at Thursday's demonstration to light an inferno - but only after reacting with each other over a period of five minutes or more.

A year ago today, authorities and bomb techs in San Diego burned a house instead of trying to dismantle the suspected chemical bombs inside. It was believed to be too dangerous.

UNCLASSIFIED

Experts say the same household chemicals have been used overseas by terrorists for years.

"All of the stuff we've been showing them this week is made from regular chemicals," Edmonson said. "We're seeing it more and more in the U.S."

And that's the reason behind the domestic training. A bottle of cleaner and a reactor agent could mean serious injury or death here at home.

"It's here, it's here," Edmonson said. "We need to be ready, we need to be prepared."

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

28. Letter Bomb Stirs Up Fears Of Mexican ‘Unabombers’

Friday, 09 December 2011

<http://insightcrime.org/insight-latest-news/item/1956-letter-bomb-stirs-up-fears-of-mexican-unabombers>

A letter-bombing at a Mexican university could be the work of a shadowy anti-technology group which has committed a series of attacks targeting university professors for their research.

A professor at the Polytechnic University in Pachuca, Hidalgo, sustained minor burns on Wednesday after he opened an envelope bomb addressed to a colleague. Officials said the letter had been identified as suspicious by the intended recipient, and the victim was apparently investigating the envelope as a member of the school’s security committee.

While officials have not identified any suspects in the incident, it bears a resemblance to two separate mail bombings at technical institutes in Mexico City in August, one of which injured two professors. A group calling itself "Individuals Tending to the Wild" claimed responsibility for the attacks, saying they had targeted the universities for their research into nanotechnology. Local media reported that a communique released by the group claimed that the researchers were furthering the "destruction, manipulation and domestication of the Earth."

The group has also previously expressed support for Ted Kaczynski, otherwise known as the “Unabomber,” whose attacks on universities and airlines across the United States spanned nearly two decades, killing three people and injuring 23.

In response to the incident, Hidalgo authorities have announced heightened security measures at university campuses across the state.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

29. G20 Accused Had Enough HME To Cause Significant Damage And Injury

Wednesday, 14 December 2011

<http://www.torontosun.com/2011/12/14/g20-accused-had-enough-bomb-making-material-to-cause-significant-damage-and-injury-expert>

Imagine the horrific explosion that ripped apart the London Underground in 2005 — and now almost double it.

That's the scope of potential damage Byron Sonne could have unleashed from the material discovered in his Forest Hill home before the G20 Summit, according to the homemade explosives expert testifying at his trial.

And Dr. John Anderson doesn't buy that Sonne, 39, was just a hobbyist who liked making crystals and building rockets. After looking at the myriad of chemicals, lab devices and contraptions seized from his multi-million dollar home, the Crown expert came to only one conclusion.

“While I haven't seen any evidence that something explosive was made,” he said, “I can think of no other reason than to make at some point an improvised explosive device.”

The longest-held detainee from the Toronto G20 arrests — he was imprisoned for 11 months before finally being released on bail in May — Sonne has pleaded not guilty to four charges of possessing explosive substances and one of counselling others to commit mischief.

Until the scientist's shocking testimony, we were ready to believe Sonne's protestations that he was just a geek unfairly caught up in a G20 dragnet looking for terrorists in all the wrong places.

But after a day spent in the often confusing organic chemistry class conducted in court Wednesday by the Crown's military expert on improvised explosive devices, we aren't so sure.

And we can now understand why red flags were waving everywhere.

Anderson was asked to examine a long list of items seized by police from Sonne's former matrimonial home just after his arrest on June 22, 2010. In his alphabet soup of neatly arranged chemicals stored in the garage, furnace room and basement lab, there were two large cans of acetone, a 4 litre jug of methyl hydrate, bottles of muriatic acid, hydrogen peroxide, jars of hexamine, potassium nitrate, ammonium nitrate, potassium permanganate - the stuff used by the airline underwear bomber - and aluminum powder.

Alone, he said, these chemicals may be harmless, but combined, Sonne's vast amount of ingredients could have made five explosive devices of one kilo each. Asked by prosecutor Liz Nadeau for an idea of what that would mean in terms of explosive power, Anderson said between two and three kilos were used in the London terror bombings that killed 52 and injured 700.

Even just one kilo of detonated explosive material, he explained, would be devastating.

“In a crowded area, it would cause significant damage and injury,” Anderson said. “It would blow apart the back of a bus if the package was in the back.”

And it's not rocket science.

As the group of high school boys paying rapt attention could probably attest, these court proceedings weren't telling them anything new: a simple Google search of "making bombs" delivers 96,800,000 results.

"They're all over the Internet," Anderson said of the recipes. "You just have to type in the right words."

He admitted that some of the potential bomb-making ingredients look like innocuous, everyday items - from almond flour to sugar to vegetable oil and steel wool. "That's the difficulty," he conceded. "It can be ordinary kitchen stuff."

But Anderson argued that other items found at Sonne's home have few other applications - such as a contraption called an electrochemical cell which was used to turn potassium chloride into potassium chlorate. "Potassium chlorate is a component of homemade explosives," Anderson explained. "It's a restricted material."

Police also found Sonne had bought "Ragnar's Guide to Home and Recreational Use of High Explosives" from amazon.com and Anderson said there was a "significant" correlation of what he read in the book and the evidence seized at Sonne's home.

Anticipating the defence's cross-examination, the Crown attorney then asked whether the cocktail of chemicals found could have been used innocently by someone making model rocket fuel.

Anderson admitted that rocketry is not among his many areas of expertise. "I tend to blow things up not to launch things," he said with a laugh. "That's my job."

And deciding whether Sonne is a would-be terrorist or a mad scientist is the difficult task of Justice Nancy Spies.

Cross-examination of the chemical expert will continue Thursday.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

30. **Parcel Bomb Sent To Greek Embassy In Paris**

Monday, 12 December 2011

<http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFTRE7BB19N20111212>

An anonymous parcel containing explosives and apparently mailed from Italy was found and safely disposed of at the Greek embassy in Paris on Monday, in an incident that coincided with a flurry of letter bombs and threats in Rome.

French bomb disposal experts carried out a controlled explosion on the package, which was discovered in the morning and was treated as suspicious because no sender's details were displayed, a spokesman at the Greek embassy said.

"We saw that it was suspicious because there was no sender identified," the spokesman said. "We called the police experts, who examined the package and carried out a controlled explosion. There were explosives inside the package."

He said the package appeared to have come from Italy and that it was the first such incident he knew of at the embassy.

The Greek foreign ministry also said the parcel had been sent from Italy, adding that no embassy staff had been harmed.

In the last few days, Italy has experienced a spate of mail scares, the most recent being envelopes containing bullets and threatening letters mailed to Justice Minister Paola Severino and Rome Mayor Gianni Alemanno.

Last week an Italian anarchist group claimed responsibility for two letter bombs sent to the chief of a state tax collection agency and a top banker in Germany.

The letter sent to Deutsche Bank chief executive Josef Ackermann was intercepted in Germany before it was opened. The other blew up in the hands of the tax collection agency chief, destroying part of a finger and injuring his eyes.

A year ago the same anarchist group claimed responsibility for two parcel bomb attacks against the Swiss and Chilean embassies in Italy just before Christmas 2010, which wounded two people, as well as a device that wounded two people in the offices of a Swiss nuclear lobby group in March.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

31. Homeless Man Killed In FARC IED Attack

07 December 2011

http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=es&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.opanoticias.com%2Fjudicial%2Fejercito-senala-que-las-farc-emplea-nuevos-metodos-para-el-uso-de-explosivos-en-huila-y-caqueta_10132

Translation:

The Army achieved during the past weekend, the discovery of explosive devices in various jurisdictions of Huila and Caquetá, abandoned by FARC guerrillas to attack the forces and endangering civilians. Official sources indicate that these actions are carried out by the subversive organization in order to avoid military pressure.

Troops of the Ninth Brigade managed to neutralize during the last weekend in jurisdictions of the departments of Huila and Caquetá several explosive devices left by FARC guerrillas and demonstrate the use of new methods regarding the use of deadly traps endanger the physical integrity of the security forces and civilians in rural areas of this zone.

The first discovery came a time when units of the Task Force Algeciras and log out operations in the path control 'Las Perlas' rural zone of San Vicente in Caquetá, where located a hut with four packages food ration, packed with explosives.

"It's four bags of ration sealed, which would have been equipped with explosives, becoming a lethal trap for the soldiers and peasants who pass through the sector. This situation allows to uncover a new form used by the rebels to attack the troops, "military sources said the Ninth Brigade.

A second finding was made in the village of 'La Hondita' the town of Colombia in the department of Huila, where troops from Artillery Battalion 9 'Tenerife', able to detect a minefield of six landmine explosive type, installed as a terrorist front 55 'Teofilo Forero', which were destroyed in a controlled manner by units of Explosives and Demolitions Team, EXDE of the Ninth Brigade.

"The operations were intensified in the area, allowing 25 locate a camp for terrorists. The place was protected by six explosive devices, three activation system pressure relief and three more tension, "the Ninth Brigade.

Parallel to these findings, in the village of Santa Lucia in the municipality of Algeciras troops managed to locate an improvised explosive device using the metal detector, a device planted by terrorists mobile column Teofilo Forero Castro ', according to military sources said military institution.

Similarly, in the village of El Tigre in the municipality of Puerto Rico, Caquetá, troops of Task Force destroyed in a controlled manner Algeciras another landmine.

"The operations will not only allow the neutralization of the FARC terrorist intentions, but are also evidence of the pressure and the siege of structures outside the law that seek to gain ground and destabilize public order in areas of strategic Huila and Caquetá departments, "military sources expressed the Ninth Brigade.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

32. Two Killed, Thirteen Wounded In FARC Attacks In Caqueta and Meta

Sunday, 11 December 2011

http://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?hl=en&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=es&tl=en&twu=1&u=http://www.rcnradio.com/noticias/editor/dos-muertos-y-trece-heridos-de-125045&usg=ALkJrhgAHpXg3mO56mlwYIFamOVKLgn21g

Translation:

The FARC released three cylinder bombs in the town center of La Macarena (Meta), leaving 10 injured, while in Caquetá, two soldiers died and three others were seriously affected after falling into a minefield.

The first act of violence was reported in the municipality of La Macarena, between neighborhoods and the Third Las Colinas, where they lost the three-cylinder pump, close to the military base, which presumably was the target of the attack.

The community is afraid, because this is not the first time live an attack like this, which took them by surprise at 7:00 pm on Saturday, when the families were at home resting.

In Caquetá, a group of soldiers was in the middle of a minefield in the village of Burma, rural area of La Montanita (Caquetá), when on work of manual eradication of illicit crops in the area north of the department.

According to press information Commando Brigade of the Twelfth Army, in fact professional soldiers died: Luis Cardoso and Francisco Perez Torres, who belonged to the battalion Guepí Heroes.

The other soldiers were injured consideration, for which they receive specialized care at the clinic Medilaser Florence.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

33. **Victim Count Rises To Three In Maicao Attack**

Wednesday, 07 December 2011

http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=es&tl=en&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.rcnradio.com%2Fnode%2F124171%3Futm_source%3Dtwitterfeed%26utm_medium%3Dtwitter

Translation

In the past another child died in the explosion of a truck loaded with explosives outside a police station in the municipality of Maicao, La Guajira. Since there are three fatalities from this attack that also killed one adult and one child, and left 13 wounded.

The blast destroyed the police station, located in the area of San Martin, and several homes and shops within a radius of 150 meters, the report said the authorities responsible for not talking about the attack.

Two of the dead are a 33 year old man who passed a motorcycle at the time of detonation and a 9 year old boy riding in a vehicle hit by the blast, he said.

According to information provided by the authorities to RCN Radio, a truck that had been abandoned a block from the police station in the street 17, in the residential sector of Maicao, had an explosive device which was activated.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

34. Iran Denies Links To Suicide Attacks On US Embassies In East Africa

Monday, 12 December 2011

http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2011/12/iran_denies_links_to_suicide_a.php

As a writer, it is always interesting to see how widely your work is read, and when you strike a nerve. Yesterday, Iran's foreign ministry publicly responded to Thomas Joscelyn's article at The Weekly Standard on a US court's conclusion that Iran was indeed tied to the 1998 suicide attacks on the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania (he also published a report on the decision here at The Long War Journal). From Fars:

Iran on Sunday categorically rejected a claim newly raised by a US court that tried to link Tehran with terrorist bombings in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.

Last week the Weekly Standard magazine reported that a Washington district court has alleged that both Iran and Sudan were culpable for the al-Qaeda's 1998 embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania.

In Reply, Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ramin Mehman-Parast said in a statement that "the baseless accusation is another scenario designed by the US administration against Iran".

Kudos to Thomas Joscelyn for getting under the skin of the Iranian regime for highlighting its complicity in terror attacks.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

35. France Points Finger At Syria For Lebanon Attack

Sunday, 11 December 2011

http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2011/12/11/world/middleeast/international-us-france-syria-lebanon.html?_r=1&ref=world

France's Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said Sunday Paris believed Syria was behind attacks on its troops in Lebanon earlier this week.

A roadside bomb wounded five French peacekeepers in southern Lebanon Friday, in the third attack this year on United Nations forces deployed near the frontier with Israel.

"We have strong reason to believe these attacks came from there (Syria)," Juppe said on RFI radio. "We think it's most probable, but I don't have proof."

France - with Britain, Germany and the United States - has been pushing for the U.N. Security Council to take up the issue of Syria again. In October, Russia and China vetoed a resolution that would have condemned Damascus's crackdown on pro-democracy protesters and threatened possible sanctions.

Paris is now pushing for the creation of humanitarian corridors to provide aid to the population.

When asked if he believed Hezbollah had carried out the attack on behalf of Damascus, Juppe said: "Absolutely. It is Syria's armed wing (in Lebanon)."

Friday's bombing follows attacks in May and July against French and Italian peacekeepers and comes as the United Nations prepares a review of its 12,000-strong operation, which was beefed up after Israel's 34-day war with Hezbollah in 2006.

Juppe called on the Lebanese government to ensure the safety of peacekeepers in the country and said the review at the U.N. would assess the consequences of the attacks and redefine the objectives of the UNIFIL mission.

Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati is due to visit Paris in January and Syria is likely to be top of the agenda.

France has led Western efforts to try to force Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to end the crackdown. Juppe has suggested a need to set up zones to protect civilians, the first proposal by a major Western power for outside intervention on the ground.

Resistance has been fiercest in the central city of Homs. Increasingly in the last several weeks the town has seen sectarian killings and kidnappings between Sunni Muslims, who are the majority in Syria, and members of Assad's Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shi'ite Islam.

Juppe said he was worried about the situation in Homs and hoped the Arab League would still be able to convince Damascus to allow observers into the country to provide aid and see what was happening on the ground.

"It is still being discussed and we hope the (Arab League) will achieve it," he said.

The U.N. Security Council agreed Friday to France's request for a briefing on Syria's crackdown from the U.N. human rights chief, overcoming resistance from Russia, China and Brazil, Western envoys said.

Juppe said Assad had lost all legitimacy and Paris was pushing Russia to change its stance at the United Nations where Moscow has refused to endorse any Security Council resolution against Syria.

"We are trying to convince Russia to get out of the isolation that it's put itself in," he said.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

36. Syria Denies Involvement In Lebanon Bombing

Tuesday, 13 December 2011

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/12/12/world/meast/lebanon-syria-explosion/>

Syria on Monday denied involvement in last week's bombing that wounded French U.N. troops in Lebanon.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry accused France of adopting conspiracy theories about the attack.

The remarks came after French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said it was "probable" that Syria was involved.

Friday's attack was one of several on peacekeepers in the region this year. The bomb went off near a U.N. patrol vehicle in southern Lebanon, wounding five French U.N. troops. A civilian was also wounded, Lebanon's National News Agency reported.

Andrea Tenenti, deputy spokesman for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, known as UNIFIL, said the injuries suffered were light.

French and Lebanese officials roundly condemned the strike, which occurred east of the city of Tyre and near the town of Burj Al Shamali.

Speaking Sunday evening to France's TV5 Monde, Juppe said, "We have strong reason to believe these attacks came from there (Syria). ... We think it's most probable, but I don't have proof."

Asked whether Syria uses Hezbollah "for that kind of attack," Juppe responded, "Absolutely."

Hezbollah, the Shiite militant group in Lebanon, receives financial and political assistance from Syria.

Hezbollah said last week's attack was "aimed against Lebanon's security and stability" and called on "the security apparatuses to exert all efforts to put an end to such attacks."

Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesman Jihad Makdissi responded Monday to Juppe's remarks, strongly denying any involvement in the "reprehensible act," Syrian state-run news agency SANA reported.

"It seems that the French foreign minister is now adopting conspiracy theories, which he accuses others of doing," Makdissi added.

Hezbollah issued a statement saying it was surprised by Juppe's "behavior." It called on him "to correct his position, and pay heed to the seriousness of this kind of accusations which represent great injustice, and which Hezbollah completely reject."

U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon monitors the cessation of hostilities between Lebanon and Israel. It has been in southern Lebanon since the nation's 1978 conflict with Israel. After the 2006 war between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah militia, the peacekeepers' mandate was expanded to include helping Lebanon keep the country's south "free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons" other than government troops.

In July, an explosion in the port city of Sidon left six French troops wounded. And in May, a blast wounded six Italian troops from the 15,000-member contingent.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)