

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.



Five Arrested In Nasr City For Possessing Weapons, Explosives

A cache of weapons smuggled across the Libyan border into Egypt is found in Nasr City .

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1. [Attack, Pakistan] Blast In Nowshera District; Two Injured

Monday, October 22 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/10/22/blast-in-nowshera-district-two-injured/>

Two people were reported injured in a blast that took place on the Swabi road in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Nowshera district on Monday, DawnNews reported.

The bomb was planted on a stationary motorbike in the district's Jehangira area.

The bomb exploded soon after a convoy of KP Chief Minister Ameer Haider Khan Hoti crossed the site.

The injured were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Police said it appeared that the bomb was planted to target the chief minister's convoy.

One kilogram of explosive material was used in the blast, police sources said, adding that suspect individuals were also arrested from the area.





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2. [Attack, Pakistan] Eleven Persons Injured In Separate Incidents Of Bomb Blast In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Tuesday, October 23 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=10/23/2012&id=4#4

Eight persons were injured, including two Police personnel, in a remote-controlled bomb blast attached to a bicycle in a Shewa area under Kalu Khan Police Station of the Swabi District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on October 22, reports The Express Tribune. Station House Officer (SHO) Fayaz Khan said that unidentified persons attached a bomb to a bicycle and parked it near a PCO shop in Shewa Adda. He added that the bomb exploded around 4:00pm in a usually crowded area in which a Police inspector, a constable along with six others persons were injured.

Earlier in the same District, a bomb planted on a motorbike exploded soon after the motorcade of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Amir Haidar Khan Hoti passed from the Mall Road in the Swabi town. According to details, the chief minister came to Bacha Khan Medical Complex in Shamansoor through a helicopter around 10am, and started moving towards the city of Swabi in a convoy at around noon. He was expected to address Awami National Party (ANP) activists at Swabi Grid Station and inaugurate the Swabi Jehangira Road. When the convoy was passing through Mall Road, a motorcycle parked near a dump yard exploded, creating panic in the area. However, no human loss was reported in the explosion.

Separately, a blast in a plaza on Frontier Road in Badabher area, a suburb of Peshawar, injured three Frontier Constabulary (FC) personnel, reports Dawn. The blast occurred when FC personnel were being deployed in the plaza.



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3. [Attack, Pakistan] KP CM Escapes Unhurt In Bomb Attack

Tuesday, October 23 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-18365-KP-CM-escapes-unhurt-in-bomb-attack>

Chief Minister Ameer Haider Hoti escaped unhurt in a remote controlled bomb attack on his motorcade on the Swabi-Jahangira road here on Monday.

Eyewitnesses said that the explosion occurred as soon as the motorcade of the chief minister passed the Sehat Medical Centre on the Swabi-Jahangira road. Officials of the bomb disposal unit said that three kilograms explosives planted in a motorcycle parked on the Swabi-Jahangira Road were used in the blast.

The chief minister was on the way to inaugurate the Swabi-Jahangira and Swabi-Topi road at the Karnal Sher Khan Chowk. The chief minister returned to the venue for the public meeting at the Swabi on the same route and addressed the gathering there.

Addressing the participants of the public meeting, he said that after the explosion the security officials advise him to move to Peshawar instead of addressing the public meeting. "I decided to address the public meeting because the party workers and followers of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan were waiting for me," he said. "We are the followers of Bacha Khan. We are pursuing the philosophy of non-violence. We will not allow those trying to cause harm to our nation, colleagues and the country," he vowed. The chief minister said the government was ready to hold parleys with the militants, if they gave up militancy and upheld the principles of peace.

Earlier, he inaugurated construction work on the Kotha Bypass. The project will be completed at the cost of Rs180 million in seven months. He also announced the construction of Panjpir Khur causeway and Panjpir School causeway.

The six kilometer long Turbandi Road will be constructed at a cost of Rs65 million and the 10 kilometer long Sherdarra Road would be built at a cost of Rs109.7 million. He said the completion of over 32-kilometer Swabi-Jahangira Road would be made at a cost of Rs1618.89 million provided by the Asian Development Bank.



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4. [Security, Pakistan] IED Defused In Bara

Wednesday, October 24 2012

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\10\24\story_24-10-2012_pg7_8

An improvised explosive device (IED) installed on a road was defused in the Sheikhan area of Bara on Tuesday. According to police, the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) found explosives during a search operation. The squad defused the bomb that was planted to target a police patrolling team. Earlier in the morning, three FC personnel were injured when explosives stored in a room of an underconstruction building went off in the Badhaber area in the outskirts of the district.



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5. [Attack, Pakistan] Khyber Blast Injures Four FC Men

Wednesday, October 24 2012

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\10\24\story_24-10-2012_pg7_9

Four Frontier Constabulary (FC) soldiers were injured on Tuesday in a remote-controlled bomb blast in the militancy-infested Khyber Agency, which borders Peshawar, security officials said. The attack comes as a joint operation of police and paramilitary FC personnel was launched in southern periphery of Peshawar where authorities suspect the militants have safe havens. According to the officials, suspected militants bombed the room on a plaza's rooftop at Faqirabad Chowk where the FC personnel had taken positions. "Four FC men were injured by the remote-controlled blast," the officials spoke on condition of anonymity. "About five kilogrammes of explosives were used in the blast." The operation in southern suburb of Peshawar follows attack on police station in Mattani area, close to semi-autonomous Darra Adam Khel, in which SP (Rural) Khurshid Khan was killed along with four policemen by the Taliban on October 14.



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6. [Attack, Afghanistan] Farah District Governor Killed In Bomb Blast

Wednesday, October 24 2012

<http://www.tolonews.com/en/afghanistan/8081-farah-district-governor-killed-in-bomb-blast>

The district governor of Purchaman in western Farah province and one of his bodyguards were killed in a roadside bomb blast on Tuesday evening, Afghan officials said.

Mohammad Salim Mubariz was killed when his vehicle struck a roadside bomb while travelling last night in the Purchaman district, provincial police chief Mohammad Ghaus Malyar said.

Two other bodyguards were injured in the blast and have been taken to a nearby hospital, he said.

No group including the Taliban claimed responsibility for the blast.

Insurgents use improvised explosive devices to target local and Nato troops, although they are also responsible for a large number of civilian deaths.

The Farah blast happened a day after two policemen were killed and six more were injured in two separate roadside bomb blasts on opposite sides of Afghanistan.

A blast in eastern Khost province's Isamealkhil district killed two police and injured four others on Monday morning, local officials said.

While two policemen were injured in a roadside mine blast in the Aderskan district of western Herat province.





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7. [Attack, Pakistan] Three More Schools Bombed In Mohmand Agency, Swabi

Wednesday, October 24 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/10/24/three-more-schools-bombed-in-mohmand-agency-swabi/>

Militants on Wednesday night blew up two more schools in Mohmand Agency, increasing the number of schools destroyed in the agency to 108, while another school was bombed in Swabi district of northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Officials told Dawn.com that Government Primary School Malik Aurangzeb and Government Primary School Dilawar in Haleemzai Tehsil of Mohmand Agency had been destroyed last night.

According to officials, 108 schools have so far been destroyed in the agency in such incidents.

Meanwhile, in a separate incident, militants blew up Government Middle School Wasilabad in Swabi's Tehsil Lahore, destroying a room and the boundary wall of the school.



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8. [Attack, Pakistan] Bridge Targeted With Bomb In Peshawar

Thursday, October 25 2012

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\10\25\story_25-10-2012_pg7_10

A remote-controlled bomb was set off under the bridge situated near Bacha Khan Markaz at Pajagai Road on Wednesday. A loud explosion was heard in the vicinity, but no one was hurt, police confirmed. According to police, the improvised explosive device was planted under the bridge and detonated remotely, and the explosion was heard far and wide. Soon after the explosion, the officials of the police and security forces rushed to the spot and cordoned off the area before starting a search operation to hunt down the miscreants who had planted the bomb.





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9. [Attack, Pakistan] Girl Killed, Three Injured In Hangu Bomb Explosion

Thursday, October 25 2012

<http://www.brecorder.com/pakistan/general-news/87943.html>

A girl was killed and three others injured in a bomb explosion at village Karimwal in Hangu district, police said on Thursday.

The explosion occurred in the house of Sharif Khan at Gulshan Colony between Wednesday and Thursday night where roof of a house collapsed due to impact of the explosion.

As result, 18-year-old Ayesha was killed and three others sustained wounds.

The injured were rushed to hospital. Police have started investigation.



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10. [Security, Pakistan] Bomb Found In North Nazimabad Block A Defused

Thursday, October 25 2012

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/456737/bomb-found-in-north-nazimabad-block-a-defused/>

The Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) on Thursday defused a bomb recovered in Block A of North Nazimabad in Karachi, Express News reported.

According to North Nazimabad Division SP Latif Siddiqui, a locally manufactured bomb, with an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and a detonator inside, was recovered outside a bungalow in the area's Block A.

The security guard of the bungalow, Muhammad Ayub, found a package lying outside the house with wires sticking out from it. He informed the police right away.

Express News correspondent Wasiq Muhammad quoted police as saying that the terror bid was planned to attack the Bohra community, which is celebrating Eid today.

The attackers were on their way to plant the bomb near the community's central in the area – Hyderi.

However, the police had already sealed the road from KDA Chowrangi to Pahar Ganj for snap checking and was carrying a targeted operation to foil any possible terror bid during the day.

Fearing getting caught, the attackers could not reach the intended site and threw the bomb in the residential area instead.

Weighing between 3-5kg, the bomb was successfully defused by the BDS. A case has been registered with the North Nazimabad Police Station under Terrorism Act.



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11. [Attack, Afghanistan] Afghanistan Mosque Suicide Bomb Attack Kills At Least 41

Friday, October 26 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-20092591>

A suicide bomber targeted worshippers who had gathered at a mosque in north Afghanistan for prayers to mark Eid al-Adha, killing at least 41 people.

More than 50 people were wounded in the attack, which happened as people were leaving the Eid Gah mosque in Maymana, capital of Faryab province.

Senior provincial government and police officials attended the prayers, but appeared to escape serious injury. The victims were mainly police officers and civilians.

Officials said that 14 civilians and six children were among the dead.

"We had just finished Eid al-Adha prayers and we were congratulating and hugging each other," deputy provincial governor Abdul Satar Barez told the AFP news agency.

"Suddenly a big explosion took place and the area was full of dust and smoke and body parts of police and civilians were all over the place. It was a very powerful explosion."

One survivor told the BBC that the attacker had used potent explosives and ball bearings inside his suicide jacket to cause maximum casualties.

Mr Barez said senior police and government officials had been the target, but were inside the mosque at the time so escaped the force of the blast.

Shafi Bekoghlu, a BBC Uzbek reporter based in Maymana, said he had been due to go to the mosque but was running late so went to a different mosque for Eid prayers.

"Just as I got home, I heard a very loud explosion. I rushed to the hospital and saw lots of cars, police cars and ambulances - carrying bodies in," he said, adding that police fired warning shots into the air to prevent people entering the hospital.

"I went back to the hospital a couple of hours later and saw the bodies of policemen lined up."

Doctors told the BBC that a number of the injured were in a critical condition.

One prominent tribal elder who survived the blast said the attacker was wearing police uniform and was not searched by members of the security forces, the BBC's Bilal Sarwary reports.

He managed to breach several layers of security, 50m from the provincial governor's office.

Intelligence reports prior to the attack had suggested insurgents wanted to target the Eid Gah mosque, in the heart of Maymana, our correspondent adds.

Attacks in northern Afghanistan are far less common than in the south and east, and Faryab province has been considered to be relatively peaceful.

However, there have been a spate of assassinations in Maymana in recent days, our correspondent says.

A senior former Taliban commander, who had defected to the government side, was killed along with his son, as well as a number of very prominent tribal elders seen to be giving crucial support to the government.

Friday's attack came as Afghan President Hamid Karzai urged the Taliban to stop "killing their people and destroying their mosques, hospitals and schools" and join the peace process.

"They can run for any position they want... if they want to join the government they are welcome," Mr Karzai said of the insurgents in his Eid al-Adha message.



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12. [Attack, Afghanistan] Bomb Hits Italian Armoured Car In Afghanistan, No One Hurt

Friday, October 26 2012

http://www.agi.it/english-version/world/elenco-notizie/201210261210-cro-ren1028-bomb_hits_italian_armoured_car_in_afghanistan_no_one_hurt

A rudimentary bomb hit a Task Force South 'Cougar' armoured car at 11:21 a.m. Friday (8:51 a.m.

CEST) near Kormaleq, about forty kilometres from Farah. The six occupants of the armoured car were unhurt, just reporting damage to the front of the vehicle. However the troops will still undergo a medical examination on their return to base.

The 'Cougar' special armoured vehicle with blast protection used by the Engineers, was part of a patrol of Task Force South stationed in Farah, engaged for three days in support of the Afghan security forces to control the southern province of Farah. The specialist engineering units of Regional Command West are integrated in all joint operations with the Afghan police and army, and are capable of identifying and removing improvised explosive devices along the main axes of communication. Specialised teams of the third and 32nd Engineers carried out 37 operations in the last month, finding and destroying rudimentary bombs, which are the biggest threat to local and international security forces as well as the civilian population.



AFRICOM

13. [Security, Somalia] Puntland State Seizes Explosive Weapons And Arms

Saturday, October 20 2012

<http://www.raxanreeb.com/2012/10/somalia-puntland-state-seizes-explosive-weapons-and-arms/>

Bossaso (RBC) the security forces and coastal armies of semi-autonomous region of Puntland state have on late Friday night announced the seizure of cache of weapons and bomb materials in the northern coastline district of Qandala of Bari region. Officials say,

The governor of bari region, Abdisamad Mohamed and the state admiral chief of navy forces, Abdirizak Diriye farah who held together a news conference in Bossaso port have said, that the capture of this explosive devices were eased by the people and officials In qandala district who bravely informed to the security forces.

Abdisamad Mohamed Gallan, the governor of Bari province told BBC Somali that the residents in Qandala district have reported these explosive devices to the security forces.

“ local communities have contacted us and we acted urgently by sending security forces together navy forces and state officials to Qandala district and seized the arms and several ammunitions” said Governor Gallan.

Adding that he thinks the weapons were imported from Yemen and that the weapons were heading to Al-shabab militias and said it was a big seize and failure to the rebels.

State admiral for navy forces of Puntland abdirizak Diriye said the seized materials include: rocket-propelled grenade launchers, several machineguns, and countless ammunitions, missiles and ant-aircraft artillery which three days ago brought to the district by Arab smugglers.

However, it is unclear the carriers of this cache weapons and their destinations but Bari officials and puntland navy forces have said they are investigating the matter.

Qanadala is a coastal town, situated east of Bassaso city along the Gulf of Aden in northern Somalia.





AFRICOM

14. [Attack, South Africa] Two Killed, 15 Injured After Bomb Hits Prison Van

Monday, October 22 2012

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2012/10/22/two-killed-15-injured-after-bomb-hits-prison-van-police>

At least two prisoners died and 15 were injured when a bomb tore through a prison transport van in Johannesburg on Monday, a South African police spokesman told local radio.

"The driver heard a loud bang and there was an explosion on the vehicle," Brigadier Neville Malila told Talk Radio 702.

There were a total of 36 prisoners on the van and 19 were unharmed, he said.



AFRICOM

15. [Attack, Sudan] Rebel Attacks Kill Civilians In Sudan

Wednesday, October 24 2012

http://allafrica.com/stories/201210240046.html?aa_source=sptlgt-grid

Two children were killed and eight civilians injured on Tuesday when rebels of Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA)/northern sector launched a mortar strike on Kadogli, capital of Sudan's South Kordofan State, according to Sudanese army spokesman.

"A mortar strike was launched from a distance of about 12 km and targeted the external security stations of Kadogli city, including Sharan and Al-Rusaires stations," Al-Sawarmy Khalid Saad, the Sudanese army Spokesman, told Xinhua.

"Some rockets fell inside Kadogli City which resulted in the killing of two children and wounding of eight civilians," he added.

He further noted that the Sudanese army has responded to the bombardment.

In the meantime, the SPLA/northern sector admitted that its forces have bombarded the capital of South Kordofan, but justified it as self-defence, saying it was in response to what it termed as a continuation of violations by the Sudanese army, who kept targeting positions controlled by the rebels.

"We are defending ourselves in the face of provocations by the army of the National Congress Party," Arno Taloudy, SPLA/northern sector spokesman, told Xinhua by phone.

"Since October 18, the Sudanese army has been bombarding our positions. Our forces had to respond violently and target their bases around and inside Kadogli city," he added.

On Oct. 8, the SPLA/northern sector launched a mortar strike in Kadogli, leaving six died and 22 injured. Two days later, the rebels attacked Kadogli once again.

The Sudanese army and the SPLA/northern sector have been fighting each other since June 2011.



AFRICOM

16. [Trend, Sudan] Huge Fire, Explosions At Military Factory In Capital

Tuesday, October 23 2012

http://allafrica.com/stories/201210240382.html?aa_source=sptlgt-grid

Fear and panic spread in the Sudanese capital Khartoum on Tuesday when massive explosions and fire erupted at a military factory in the southern suburbs of the city as the authorities failed to clarify the cause of the incident but dismissed rumors of a hostile action behind it.

Sounds of explosions followed by huge fire occurred at Al-Yarmook arms and ammunition factory of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in Al-Shigara area south of Khartoum at around mid-night, sparking a wave of panic among the area's residents who fled their homes in fear.

The fire and explosions also spread to near-by buildings, leading to the collapse of some of them, as hospitals in the area received dozens of people suffering from severe cases of suffocation due to the smoke.

The explosions also set free large pieces of shrapnel and ammunition which scattered in the area, a Sudan Tribune reporter said.

Fire fighting forces rushed to the scene and helped contain the fire as security forces blocked all roads leading to the large factory. A number of senior officials, including Khartoum State Governor Abdel Rahman Al-Khidir and officers from the National Intelligence and Security Services as well as SAF also arrived at the scene later.

Meanwhile, the authorities made conflicting statements on the cause of the incident but reported that no casualties were incurred as a result.

Khartoum State Governor Abdel Rahman Al-Khidir said in a televised statement that the cause of the incident is not clear yet but he discounted the possibility of foreign entities being involved.

His statement was clearly aiming to quell wildly spreading rumours that the factory was hit by an airstrike. Some witnesses told Sudan Tribune that the explosion occurred after a sound resembling that of a rocket was heard and the sky lit up. There is also a rumor that an airplane carrying military materiel crashed on the site of the factory but Sudan Tribune was not able to independently verify those claims.

Al-Khidir said that the explosion probably happened at the main storage facility of the large factory.

SAF's spokesman Al-Sawarmi Khalid Saad said that an internal explosion occurred in one of the storage facilities and the fire spread due to the plenty of grass in the area. He confirmed that they already launched an investigation into the incident.

An anonymous police source also told AFP that the explosion erupted during a routine maintenance operation, adding that the authorities continue to count the losses.

A similar explosion occurred at the same factory in August 2006 leading to the injury of seven SAF members. The authorities attributed the incident at the time to an electric short circuit.



AFRICOM

17. [Security, Uganda] UPDF Overruns Al-Shabaab Hideout

Thursday, October 25 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201210251444.html>

The Uganda contingent of the African Union forces in Somalia has raided an al-Shabaab hideout in the thickets of Albao, 20km north-west of Mogadishu, seizing several military hardware and items used for terrorism attacks.

The Uganda contingent backed by the Somali National Army (SNA), in an overnight operation captured six ready-to-use improvised explosive devices (IED), two remote controls and one IED manual, officials and commanders from the field said on telephone.

AMISOM forces did not incur any loss or injury in the operation, said Brig. Michael Ondoga, the Ugandan contingent commander.

"We are committed in supporting the Somali people in attaining peace," Ondoga noted, adding: "Such operations will continue day and night to wipe out the few remaining pockets of the insurgents. Since we denied them their traditional urban centres, they have resorted to living a wild life in thickets."

Ondoga again waved an olive branch for the militants to end rebellion and join in the reconstruction of Somalia. "We call upon them to disengage so they can stop living in the bushes," he said.

Other items collected after the attack on al-Shabaab were six nicad batteries, five dozens of dry cells used for IED remote control and half a dozen offensive grenades.

Ammunition taken from the al-Shabaab hideout comprised 14 sub-machine guns with 34 magazines, two PK machine-guns with five chains, two pistols and one rocket-propelled grenade pipe with three bombs.

Also confiscated were four fuses, eight pairs of military uniforms, one GPS (Global Positioning System), one VHF radio, one walkie-talkie, five solar panels, one campus, 18 magazine pouches and 2,435 bullets of different calibers.

Others were a laptop computer, 14 mobile telephones, two military water bottles and valuable literature.

This operation comes at a time when AMISOM and the SNA are restoring calm in sector one after a spate of terrorist activities in Mogadishu over the last month.

Over the last one month, the allied forces have arrested, from multiple targets within the vicinity of Mogadishu, suspected key masterminds of the terrorist attacks and recovered ammunition from them.

Al-shabaab retreated from Mogadishu in August last year.



AFRICOM

18. [Special Interest, Sudan] Sudan Accuses Israel Of An Airstrike In Khartoum

Friday, October 26 2012

<http://us4.campaign-archive2.com/?u=74786417f9554984d314d06bd&id=d7761275c9&e=23446d9ec3>

"Sudan Accuses Israel of an Airstrike in Khartoum
is republished with permission of Stratfor."

Summary

The Sudanese government has accused Israel of bombing the Yarmouk arms factory in Khartoum, where explosions killed two people late Oct. 24, The Sudan Tribune reported. Initial reports indicated an accidental fire at the facility caused the explosions, but Sudan claims to have evidence of an Israeli raid and has promised to present it to the United Nations. Israeli officials have refused to comment on Sudan's accusations.

The arms facility is believed to play a role in supplying militants in Gaza with weapons, and Israel has previously launched airstrikes targeting supply convoys for Gaza-bound arms in Sudan. Though Israel would be capable of taking out this installation, no evidence has yet emerged to support Sudan's accusations. Moreover, an attack on an arms factory in the Sudanese capital would be a much more provocative move than any of the previous strikes.

Analysis

Sudan is a known transit country for Iranian weapons taken through the desert into Egypt and then routed to Gaza. Reports have suggested that Iran is directly involved in the Yarmouk compound, and while there is little available hard evidence on Iran's activities there, the Yarmouk facility has been cited for other illegal arms trafficking over the past decade. For instance, Yarmouk took shipments of Chinese-made weapons for distribution to Sudanese soldiers and militias, a violation of international arms embargoes on Sudan.

Attacks by Hamas and other groups in Gaza using weapons smuggled into the Gaza Strip from Sudan via Sinai obviously pose a clear threat to Israel. This threat has recently grown due to Egypt's strained internal security and its impact on bilateral relations with Israel and on security near the Egypt-Gaza border. This trend has been seen in the recent round of rocket attacks against Israel emanating from Gaza. The Egyptian government's sensitivity to Israeli military operations in Sinai further complicates Israel's ability to respond to the threat, a consideration that could prompt Israel to attempt cutting off militant supply lines at an earlier point.

An airstrike in Khartoum would be inconsistent with Israel's approach to previous reported operations in Sudan. Previous Israeli airstrikes hit targets along the country's coastline, far from the capital. In January 2009, the Israeli air force targeted and destroyed a convoy of 17 trucks filled with weapons en route to Gaza. The strike occurred in northeastern Sudan near the border with Egypt. Months later, an anonymous source in the Israeli military leaked the details of the operation, which supposedly involved dozens of attack planes, escort fighters and drones to evaluate the damage. In another incident, Sudan accused Israel of launching an airstrike on a car carrying a Hamas arms trafficker in Port Sudan in April 2011, though Israel never acknowledged conducting the operation.

There are several notable differences between those targets and the Yarmouk arms factory. The location of the factory in Khartoum is much farther away from Israel and much deeper into Sudanese airspace than any previous attack. A Stratfor source claimed that the purported Israeli jets returned by initially flying east and then exiting Sudanese airspace across the Red Sea near the Egyptian border. This would be the shortest route to return from Khartoum to Israel but still means the jets would have had to travel more than 800 kilometers (about 500 miles) through Sudanese airspace on their way out. The Israeli air force has demonstrated the capability to perform air raids at long distances before, both in military exercises and during the bombing of the Palestine Liberation Organization headquarters in Tunisia in 1985. While the threat posed by Sudanese air defenses and fighters to an attacking force may not be significant, the longer range of such an operation would increase the logistical complexity of the mission, and thus the overall risk of complications.

Additionally, attacking an arms factory in the capital of a sovereign nation presents a much higher political risk than



attacking illegal smugglers in the desert. However, because Sudan has few allies, the risk of blowback for attacking a weapons factory that may be supplying arms for militants in Gaza and elsewhere would probably be limited. A larger political concern would be the need for at least a minimal level of cooperation with Egypt on such a mission. Egypt would almost certainly be notified regarding the attacking Israeli jets' flight path, and Israel would need assurances that Cairo would not disclose this information. If the Israeli military carried out this attack, the location in Khartoum could have been specifically chosen to send a message to Sudan that it is defenseless against Israeli retaliation if Khartoum supports smuggling operations.

The potential Israeli security gains from this type of operation are unclear. Unless the Yarmouk factory in Sudan produced a significant percentage of the weapons smuggled into Gaza and used against Israel, taking out one facility would not have much impact on attacks emanating from Gaza. The attack would do nothing to eliminate weapons stocks already in the Gaza Strip, and since the fall of Moammar Gadhafi's regime, Libya has become another source for weaponry smuggled into Gaza via Sinai. Sudan also has a large stockpile of small arms and has other weapons production facilities, which would allow it to easily compensate for the loss of one facility. If Israel ordered such an attack, it would have had to believe that taking out this facility would deal a substantial blow to militants' supply lines -- a blow worth risking the loss of multiple aircraft or increasing tensions with Israel's neighbors at an already difficult time. This would be a far more assertive stance than we have seen Israel take toward Sudan in the past, and if Israel was in fact behind the explosions at the Yarmouk factory, it could signal a much tougher stance against the proliferation of small arms and support for anti-Israeli organizations in the region.

Israel has refused to comment and few countries have made official complaints about the alleged airstrike on the weapons factory, but the only purported evidence Sudan has presented thus far is a photo of ordnance that does not appear like anything the Israeli air force would be expected to use in an airstrike. Reports of a blackout in the area and witness accounts of missile sounds followed by explosions at the Yarmouk compound could all be consistent with an accidental fire at a building that was probably constructing explosive ordnance like artillery shells and short-range missiles. All currently available evidence points to an accidental explosion that was hijacked for domestic political purposes in Sudan.





CENTCOM

19. [Attack, Lebanon] Lebanon On Edge After Anti-Syrian Intel Official Killed By Beirut Car Bomb

Friday, October 19 2012

<http://www.cnn.com/2012/10/19/world/meast/lebanon-beirut-blast/index.html>

Tensions were high Friday night around Lebanon, hours after a top Lebanese intelligence official known for his anti-Syrian stance and at least two others were killed in a massive explosion in normally peaceful neighborhood of Beirut.

Gunfire erupted in the capital and enraged citizens blocked roads after the blast, which left Brig. Gen. Wissam al-Hassan dead and heightened fears that Syria's civil war could boil over into neighboring Lebanon. In Sidon, people shouted, blocked city streets and burned tires in protest, according to CNN iReporter Ernesto Altamirano.

The friction turned to violence in other spots, including clashes in the seaside Lebanese city of Tripoli between supporters and foes of Syria's government.

Saad Hariri, a Lebanese opposition leader and former prime minister, told CNN that he had no doubt who was responsible for the bloody car bombing: Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. He accused the Syrian leader of "killing his own people" and said "he will not think twice" about killing Lebanese in order to protect himself.

"The message from Damascus today is anywhere you are, if you are against the regime from Lebanon, we will come and get you," said Hariri, who blames the 2005 assassination of his father, former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, on Syria's government. "No matter what you try to do, we will keep on assassinating the Lebanese."

The blast took place during Friday afternoon rush hour in East Beirut's cosmopolitan Ashrafiyeh district, a predominantly Christian and populous area replete with shops, churches and office buildings. The neighborhood is considered among the safest in the city, said Aram Nerguizian, who teaches around the block from the attack site.

The huge blast shattered this peace -- spurring panicked and tearful residents to pour out of their apartments, with some carrying victims to nearby ambulances. The bomb's impact created a crater near Sassine Square, tore balconies off apartments, left rows of mangled cars and charred buildings, and shook the windows in CNN's offices, about a 10-minute drive from the scene.

At least one car was engulfed in flames, blackened wreckage littered the street, and windows were blown out.

The exact casualty count was unclear: Lebanon's National News Agency said eight people died and more than 90 were injured, but it later amended the figure to at least three deaths and 110 injuries.

Reports said al-Hassan was among the dead. And a Lebanese political source who did not want to be named told CNN it was 99% confirmed that al-Hassan had been killed. "There is an unrecognizable body found, and they have found his personal belongings at the scene," the source said.

The intelligence official's killing brought a sense of déjà vu to Lebanese, recalling the 2005 assassination of Rafik Hariri, which triggered the end of Syria's occupation of Lebanon, and the turmoil that followed.

Al-Hassan, the chief of the Internal Security Forces Information Branch, was a powerful Sunni Muslim figure aligned with a political movement that emerged after Rafik Hariri's assassination and opposes Syria's government under al-Assad. He was also leading an investigation into a Lebanese politician accused of working with two Syrian officials to plan attacks inside Lebanon.

That former minister and member of parliament, Michel Samaha, is in jail awaiting trial after being accused of trying to arm and form an armed group to spread sectarian violence in Lebanon by plotting political and religious assassinations. Two Syrian security officers also have been charged in the case.

"Unfortunately, today, al-Hassan paid the price for his success," Saad Hariri said.

His brother Ahmed Hariri, a top party official in the March 14 movement opposition bloc, said in a press conference that he holds Lebanon's government responsible for inadequate security and not doing more to prevent the blast. He urged Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati and his government to resign immediately.



Mikati declared Saturday a day of national mourning in decrying the "abominable crime" in a statement. But his failure to appear publicly after the explosion elicited criticism, including from one protester in Beirut who said, "This government is killing us by not doing anything. It is not acting like a government. It is like a ghost government."

Human rights groups, foreign governments and world leaders condemned the attack, demanded justice and called for calm in the volatile Middle East nation. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, for instance, urged "all Lebanese parties not to be provoked by this heinous terrorist act and to maintain their commitment to national unity."

The Shiite militant and political movement Hezbollah -- which has a prominent role in Lebanon's government and which the U.S. government labels a terrorist organization -- also criticized the blast, which it described as a "sinful attempt to target the stability and national unity."

Syria called the attack a cowardly, "unjustifiable" terrorist act.

Yet some, including Saad Hariri and Andrew Tabler of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, are not convinced, believing Damascus is responsible either directly or indirectly for the bombing.

Many Lebanese believe al-Assad wants to promote instability in Lebanon and elsewhere to turn attention away from the 19-month long civil war in his country.

Lebanon is still recovering from its own 15-year civil war, which ended in 1990. Since then, the country has been plagued by assassinations and sectarian tension among Sunnis, Shiites, Christians and others.

"An event like this can increase the risks of Sunni-Shiite conflict in urban centers like Beirut," Nerguizian said. "It could be a harbinger for more instability."



CENTCOM

20. [Security, Jordan] Jordan Disrupts Major Al-Qaeda Terrorist Plot

Sunday, October 21 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/jordan-disrupts-major-al-qaeda-terrorist-plot/2012/10/21/e26354b4-1ba7-11e2-9cd5-b55c38388962_story.html?tid=pm_world_pop

Authorities in Jordan have disrupted a major terrorist plot by al-Qaeda-linked operatives to launch near-simultaneous attacks on multiple civilian and government targets, reportedly including the U.S. Embassy in the capital, Amman, Western and Middle Eastern officials said Sunday.

The Jordanian government issued a statement describing the plot and saying that 11 people with connections to al-Qaeda's affiliate in Iraq have been arrested.

The foiled attack, described as the most serious plot uncovered in Jordan since at least 2005, was viewed with particular alarm by intelligence agencies because of its sophisticated design and the planned use of munitions intended for the Syrian conflict — a new sign that Syria's troubles could be spilling over into neighboring countries, the officials said.

The alleged plotters are Jordanian nationals. The officials said the group had amassed a stockpile of explosives and weapons from Syrian battlefields and devised a plan to use military-style tactics in a wave of attacks across Amman.

The scheme called for multiple strikes on shopping centers and cafes as a diversionary tactic to draw the attention of police and security officials, allowing other operatives to launch attacks against the main targets, which included government buildings and embassies.

A Western official briefed on details of the plot confirmed that the heavily fortified U.S. Embassy in Amman was among the targets. Like others interviewed for this report, the official spoke on the condition of anonymity because the investigation is still unfolding.

The Jordanian government's statement said its intelligence service had broken up a cell that had been planning the attacks since June, arresting 11 people described as "supporters" of al-Qaeda in Iraq. The group had intended to use explosives and mortar rounds acquired from Syria, as well as machine guns, car bombs and militia-style guerrilla tactics, to ensure "the highest death toll," according to the statement.

The suspects had traveled to Syria multiple times and brought weapons with them, government officials said. They were arrested less than a week after Jordanian officials captured three Jordanians as they attempted to cross illegally into Syria, allegedly to join radical Islamist militias fighting Syrian loyalists there.

In a news conference late Sunday in Amman, Jordanian government spokesman Samih Maaytah said that the plot was "not related to the Syrian crisis" and that "Jordan will not change its approach" to the conflict in response to the discovery.

The timing of the plot was viewed as curious. Jordan has increasingly allied itself with forces seeking the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad, the Syrian autocrat opposed by rebels as well as a growing cadre of foreign Islamist militants inside Syria. Jordan hosts hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees within its borders and has helped deliver humanitarian aid to rebel-held cities.

But intelligence gleaned from surveillance of the cell suggests that the plotters intended to destabilize Jordan's pro-Western government with massive blows against government institutions and tourism-dependent economy, the officials said.

"This was a serious plan, with a great potential for loss of life," said a former Western intelligence official briefed on the details. For Jordan, beset by economic problems and deepening political unrest, he said, "this may not have been a tipping point, but it could have been a very hard blow."

The former intelligence official said the plotters had access to large amounts of explosives from Syria and intended to use them to construct massive bombs.



“Weapons are everywhere right now, flowing from Iraq into Syria, and back and forth into Lebanon,” the former official said. “The longer the conflict goes on, the worse it gets.”

Also Sunday, a Jordanian soldier was killed in a clash between government security forces and a band of 16 armed militants seeking to cross illegally into Syria, government officials said. Four of the gunmen also were killed in the 20-minute firefight, the first to claim the life of a Jordanian officer since the Syrian uprising began. The State Department had no immediate comment on the plot and declined to confirm or deny that the U.S. Embassy in Amman had been on the target list.

The last major terrorist strike in Jordan occurred in 2005, when al-Qaeda militants launched simultaneous attacks against three Amman hotels, killing 60 people and wounding 115.



CENTCOM

21. [Attack, Syria] Bomb Rocks Damascus As Peace Envoy Meets With Assad

Sunday, October 21 2012

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world_now/2012/10/damascus-bomb-peace-envoy.html

A car bomb exploded Sunday at one of the entrances to Damascus' Old City, killing 13 people and injuring 29, as an international peace envoy seeking a cease-fire in the Syrian conflict met with President Bashar Assad, state media reported.

Authorities said the bomb detonated in Bab Touma Square, a historic Old City district that has mostly been spared the violence raging across much of Syria.

Bab Touma — or Thomas's Gate, after the apostle Thomas — is considered an important landmark of early Christianity. The ancient district remains home to many members of Syria's Christian minority.

Scenes on state television showed burned-out cars as body bags lay in the vicinity of Bab Touma, with the signature arched stone entrance to the Old City in the background.

No group took immediate responsibility for the blast. The government blamed the bombing on an "armed terrorist group," its customary description of rebels seeking to oust Assad.

The official Syrian Arab News Service quoted a Syriac Orthodox priest, identified as Father Gabriel Dawood, as saying: "In this place there were children on their way to their schools and people going about their business. Where is justice and amity?"

Anti-Assad rebels have turned to car bombs and other homemade explosives in their fight to overthrow the government.

The Britain-based, pro-opposition Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the car bomb in Bab Touma exploded near a police station. The group offered a lower casualty toll, with 10 people dead and 15 injured, but could not immediately break down how many casualties were civilians and how many were law enforcement officers.

Rebels have repeatedly targeted police and military installations. But car bombs targeting specific facilities or individuals often cause casualties among civilians near the detonation sites.

In Damascus, Lakhdar Brahimi, the United Nations and Arab League special peace envoy for Syria, had a meeting with Assad, who vowed to support "any sincere efforts seeking to find a political solution to the crisis," the state news agency reported.

Brahimi is seeking a cease-fire to coincide with the Muslim holiday of Eid Al Adha, which begins Friday. The veteran Algerian diplomat has voiced the hope that a truce, once begun, could be extended and jump-start a political process to help end a bloody conflict that has raged for more than 19 months, leaving at least 20,000 dead.

Various nations, including the United States and Turkey, which both have called for Assad to step down, have backed Brahimi's plan for a cease-fire. The envoy says opposition representatives also have been supportive, though it is unclear if the disparate armed rebel factions fighting inside Syria are on board with a truce.



According to the official news agency, Assad said that any political process “should be essentially based on the principle of halting terrorism and what is required in this regard from the countries involved in supporting, arming and harboring the terrorists in Syria to halt such acts.”

The Syrian president was clearly referring to nations such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, which have provided material assistance to the Syrian rebels.





CENTCOM

22. [Attack, Iraq] Car Bombs, Mortars Kill Nine In Baghdad Shi'ite Districts

Tuesday, October 23 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/23/us-iraq-violence-idUSBRE89M0R720121023>

Car bombs and mortars killed at least nine people and wounded 28 more in Shi'ite districts in Baghdad on Tuesday, just days before Iraqis started celebrating the Islamic Eid al-Adha religious festival.

Three car bombs exploded and mortars landed in the Shi'ite neighborhood of Shula, northwestern Baghdad, killing 8 people and wounded 28, and another person was killed by a mortar round in Kadhimiya area, police and hospital sources said.

Violence in Iraq is well below the bloody peak of sectarian war in 2006-2007, but al Qaeda affiliates and other Sunni Islamist insurgents often target Shi'ites in an attempt to stoke tensions between Sunni and Shi'ite communities.

The insurgents have launched one major assault a month since U.S. troops withdrew in December. Security officials say they believe insurgents may try to carry out a large attack during the religious holiday starting on Friday.

The monthly death toll from militant attacks across Iraq doubled in September to 365, the highest figure for more than two years, with most of them killed in bomb attacks, according to government figures released this month.





CENTCOM

23. [Trend, Yemen] Yemen Munitions Depot Blast Kills Six Soldiers

Monday, October 22 2012

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/yemen-munitions-depot-blast-kills-six-soldiers>

An accidental blast at an army ammunition depot stocked with mines and explosives killed six soldiers in south Yemen on Monday, a local municipality official said.

The blast occurred Monday morning in an explosives warehouse at an army base in the southern port city of Aden, "killing six soldiers and wounding others," local municipality chief Abdel Munim al-Abd told AFP.

He said an initial investigation revealed that the explosion took place "while soldiers were organizing the explosives in the warehouse."

According to Munim, the warehouse is stocked with large quantities of mines and explosives that were recovered after al-Qaeda's retreat from their strongholds in the southern Abyan province in June.

Local residents said a series of loud blasts rang out across the city and large plumes of smoke could be seen rising from the site.

This is the second such accident in Yemen in less than a week.

On Thursday, a shell fired accidentally at an army weapons depot in the Yemeni capital Sanaa killed two people and wounded seven others.



CENTCOM

24. [Attack, Bahrain] Fire-Bomb Attack In Bahrain; 70 Evacuated

Tuesday, October 23 2012

http://www.tradearabia.com/news/MISC_224388.html

Seventy people, including children, had to be evacuated after two apartment buildings in Hamad Town, Bahrain, were pelted with Molotov cocktails.

They were forced to exit the eight-storey buildings through smoke-filled staircase at around 3 am yesterday in Al Louzi neighbourhood following the violent attack that reportedly targeted BDF officers.

Four cars were also gutted, of which three were parked in the area underneath the buildings and the other was reportedly singled out and attacked as it was in the parking lot opposite the facility.

"Several residents suffered from smoke inhalation," said an Interior Ministry official.

"The damage to the building was 60 per cent on the exterior wall and 20 per cent of interior damage.

"I am not sure as to the reason this building was attacked, it may be because BDF employees live in that area, but that is just a guess."

"The civil defence arrived at the scene accompanied by special security forces to protect them (residents)."

One tenant described the "horrific" incident as women and children were escorted out of the burning buildings.

The Bahraini said he saw two shirtless masked men flee the scene immediately after the attack.

"I live in the apartment just above the building's parking area and I was woken up by the sound of an explosion," he said.

"When I looked out of my window I saw smoke and two men who were shirtless and masked running away into the open ground near the buildings.

"When I eventually came down I saw the police standing far away and they did not come to help us. We really needed their help because the elevators were not working as there was no power and there was no light in the stairways, which was already full of smoke.

"Children and women were falling down the stairs because there was no light and there was no way to see through the smoke. The ones that came out were gasping for air.

"The building is filled with BDF staff and that may be why they targeted it."

Another resident claimed firemen responded to the blaze late.

"The Civil Defence came late and ran out of water when they were trying to put out a fire on one of the cars," said the Bahraini, who wished to be known only as Khalil.



"It took an hour for the next fire engine to arrive and the building was still on fire the whole time while we were waiting for the truck to arrive."

"They (firemen) didn't even use the extinguishers that are on every floor, but the residents did."

A Civil Defence source denied the claims, adding "They (fire engines) reached the scene in a few minutes and started dousing the fire."

"It is not true that we didn't have enough water to put out the fire or that the second fire engine was delayed."

"We always have additional water in the engines so we don't have to wait or go back to fill the tanks."

However, one resident praised firemen for rescuing several people from the building.

"A lot of people didn't wake up as the alarms in the building are very sensitive and often go off if someone is having a cigarette, but eventually the Civil Defence broke down doors to wake people up and get them out," said the Bahraini.

Meanwhile, a Housing Ministry official was sent to the scene to assess the damage.

"Smoke travelled all the way up to the sixth floor causing smoke damage all the way up the side of the building and the residents' apartments were coated in soot," said the ministry senior engineer.

"The ministry has been issued orders to immediately fix the structure and the residents' homes."

"Already there are electricians, plumbers, painters, elevator repair men and cleaning crews on site."

"Electricity has been turned off because several water pipes were damaged."



CENTCOM

25. [Attack, Syria] Escalating Violence Overweighs Possibility Of Quick Cease-fire In Syria

Thursday, October 25 2012

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2012-10/25/c_123866590.htm

A spate of blasts and clashes rattled Syria on Wednesday, drawing dim shadow over a possible cease-fire during the upcoming holiday of Muslim Eid al-Adha that will start on Friday.

A suicide bomber detonated his explosive-laden car at early time Wednesday at a military checkpoint in the northern province of Raqqa, killing eight people and injuring seven, local media said.

According to the report, the bomber slammed his car against the checkpoint located in al-Qantari area, on the road between the northern provinces of Raqqa and Hasaka.

Soon after, armed groups blasted a gas pipeline also in Hasaka, the pro-government Sham FM radio reported, adding that the blasted pipeline connects Hasaka province with the coastal city of Banyas.

In the afternoon, a car rigged with explosives went off in the Damascus suburb of Daf al-Shouk, killing four and injuring 11 others, the state TV said, adding that the explosion left material damages to nearby buildings.

Other media reports said the blast had been carried out by an Afghani suicide bomber, in sign of the increasing number of foreign jihadists operating in Syria.

The blast site is adjacent to Damascus' battered district of Tadamun, which has emerged as a hotspot in Syria's 19-months-old crisis.

Opposition activists posted an online amateur video purporting to show the blast site from a distance. They said the blast was caused by an explosive device that ripped through a checkpoint of Syrian forces in the Daf al-Shouk area, adding that the rebels "al- Ansari Battalion" claimed responsibility for the deadly attack.

Also on Wednesday, Syria's state media said that armed groups massacred 25 civilians in the Damascus suburb of Douma, and that children and women were among the killed. It added that the exact area where the carnage took place is a stronghold of the extremists "Islam Brigade."

However, the activists' network Local Coordination Committees accused the government troops of being behind the carnage.

After the carnage news, Syria's ministries of information and foreign affairs denounced the massacre and blamed the countries that support the armed rebels of having a hand in the recent escalation of violence.

The Information Ministry said the carnage has come to serve political agendas ahead of the meeting of the UN Security Council on Syria, adding that such style has become typical for the armed groups.

The ministry reiterated accusation against some countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey and France, of funding and supporting the armed groups in Syria, saying that such role is an evidence of the international involvement



in the unrest-torn country.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry said "the armed terrorist groups and their backers are still shedding the Syrian blood in a way that runs against all the humanitarian values and in a repetitive timing that always precedes the UN Security Council's sessions."

In a letter sent to the UN and other affiliated humanitarian organizations, the ministry shouldered the UN the responsibility to carry out its role in countering terrorism regardless of its perpetrators, backers and financiers.

Meanwhile, clashes between the Syrian troops and the rebel Free Syrian Army (FSA) were reported to have continued in several hotspots nationwide, particularly in Idlib and Aleppo.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based activists' group, said 150 Syrians had been killed so far on Wednesday. It said the dead include 73 unarmed civilians, 12 of whom were children.

As the violence grinds on, the UN-Arab League (AL) joint special representative Lakhdar Brahimi to Syria said Wednesday that the Syrian government accepted his proposal for a cease-fire during the four-day Eid al-Adha holiday.

"The Syrian authorities will issue a statement on the cease-fire Thursday," Brahimi said in the Egyptian capital Cairo, noting that he had contacted many fighting groups in Syria, and most of them accepted the cease-fire.

"If the cease-fire initiative could succeed, other measures would be built on it and the cease-fire would be implemented on a wider scale and within a complete political process," Brahimi added.

After Brahimi's statement, Syria's Foreign Ministry made it clear that the Syrian army's general command is still studying the truce proposal, saying in a brief statement that the last decision will be announced Thursday.

The UN Security Council on Wednesday welcomed the truce initiative, and called on "all regional and international actors to use their influence on the parties concerned to facilitate the implementation of the cease-fire and cessation of violence."

The Security Council welcomed the important and timely initiative of Brahimi "for a cease-fire and a cessation of violence in all its forms during the period of Eid al-Adha," the statement said.

While the international community is seemingly pushing for the cease-fire, the chances for such a move are slim.

The rebel FSA reportedly announced they would abide by the truce, but stipulated the government's halt of military operations first.

However, the al-Nusra Front, an al-Qaida-linked extremists' group currently operating in Syria, has reportedly refused the truce. Little is known about the group but it has claimed responsibility for the bulk of blasts that had struck army and security installations in Syria and claimed the lives of scores of soldiers and civilians alike.



Brahimi, the international envoy, spent four days in Syria earlier this week in a bid to garner support for his proposal.

The Syrian leadership has shown a relatively vague attitude towards the truce, emphasizing that it welcomes any peaceful initiative to end the crisis in Syria and simultaneously makes that conditional on receiving beforehand international assurances that the opposition groups, or what it calls as "armed terrorist groups," would initiate the truce. However, Brahimi made it clear that he has promises from the armed groups, not guarantees.

The armed rebels and the jihadists in Syria have grown more resourceful recently amid reports that they have already acquired portable air-defense systems.

Meanwhile, Russian Chief of General Staff Nikolai Makarov said Wednesday that verified information shows that Syria's opposition has acquired portable air-defense systems produced abroad.

"The General Staff has information that armed rebels fighting against Syrian government forces have man-portable air-defense systems made in various countries, including the U.S.-made Stingers," Makarov told reporters. "Although the Americans denied delivering anything (lethal) to the rebels, we have reliable evidence," he added.

Such chaos casts dim prospects over having a cease-fire soon in Syria amid the high mistrust amongst the conflicting parties on ground and the insincere intentions by Western powers, local analysts said.



CENTCOM

26. [Attack, Syria] Bomb Kills Six In Damascus

Thursday, October 25 2012

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/international/25-Oct-2012/bomb-kills-6-in-damascus>

A car bomb explosion in southern Damascus killed six people and wounded 20 others on Wednesday, state television said, while a watchdog gave a death toll of eight.

“The terrorist car bomb blast in Daf al-Shuk killed six people, wounded 20 others and caused material damage,” said the Syrian state broadcaster. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said “a car bomb hit the area between Tadamun and Daf al-Shuk, targeting a vehicle carrying 24 passengers, killing eight people.” The blast also “wounded 20 others,” it said, adding that it was unclear whether the victims were civilians or soldiers.

The Britain-based watchdog said clashes raged in Tadamun immediately after the blast. The attack took place as international peace envoy Lakhdar Brahimi announced in Cairo that the Syrian regime and “most” rebel commanders have agreed to a truce during the four-day Eidul Azha holiday, which begins on Friday. President Bashar al-Assad’s regime said it would take a “final decision” on the proposed ceasefire on Thursday, while the Free Syrian Army, the main rebel group, said it would cease fire during the four-day Eid provided government forces stop shooting first.



CENTCOM

27. [Security, Bahrain] Bahrain Says It Uncovered Weapons Cache Inside Unlicensed Mosque

Thursday, October 25 2012

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/10/24/245746.html>

Police in Bahrain said on Wednesday they uncovered a weapons cache inside an unlicensed mosque where locally-made bombs were being produced.

Authorities said they seized electric detonators, stopwatches and other materials used to make bombs.

The cache was uncovered in the area of Abou Baham, a scene of violence attributed by official media to Shiite hardliners.

On Sunday authorities detained seven men over the killing of a policeman, as demonstrators tried to break through police checkpoints around the village where he lost his life.

Bahrain, which hosts the U.S. Fifth Fleet, has been convulsed by unrest since February last year following mass demonstrations led by majority Shi'ites demanding democratic change in the Sunni-led monarchy.

The ruling Al Khalifa family brought in Gulf Arab troops, mainly from Saudi Arabia, and imposed over two months of martial law to end the uprising.

The incident in the early hours of Friday was the first in which a policeman had been killed since martial law ended in June 2011. Policemen were attacked by rioters with petrol bombs and an unspecified "explosive device", the authorities said.

"Seven Bahrainis have been detained and have been referred to the public prosecution in the case of a bombing attack in al-Eker ... in which one policeman was killed and a second critically wounded during a routine patrol," a statement from the government's Information Affairs Authority said.

It named the slain policeman as 19-year-old Imran Ahmed but did not give his nationality. Many Pakistanis and some Arab nationals serve in Bahrain's riot police - a source of friction with protesters.

The opposition, which says more than 45 people have died in clashes since martial law ended, want full legislative powers for parliament and for the makeup of the Cabinet to be approved by parliament too. The Cabinet has been headed by an uncle of King Hamad bin Isa since 1971.





CENTCOM

28. [Law Enforcement, Egypt] Five Arrested In Nasr City For Possessing Weapons, Explosives

Thursday, October 25 2012

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/five-arrested-nasr-city-possessing-weapons-explosives>

Security forces in Cairo on Thursday arrested five people suspected of hiding weapons and explosives inside a building in Nasr City.☞☞

An Interior Ministry official told Al-Masry Al-Youm that it is too early to say if the arrested suspects belong to Al-Qaeda or another jihadi movement. He added that the prosecution is still carrying out investigations.

A gunman was killed Wednesday after an exchange of fire with security forces in Nasr City, the Interior Ministry said.

The building the man was hiding in caught fire during the fight, and the suspect's body was found charred with no clues to his identity.☞☞

Security authorities said they had information implicating the man of involvement in the attack on the US consulate in Benghazi.

Security sources reported finding 17 bombs, four RPGs, three automatic weapons, and huge quantities of ammunition inside the building.





CENTCOM

29. [Attack, Syria] Damascus Car Bomb Shatters Syria Truce

Friday, October 26 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/26/us-syria-crisis-idUSBRE88J0X720121026>

A powerful car bomb exploded in Damascus on Friday, inflicting many casualties and buffeting a shaky temporary truce in the Syrian conflict on the occasion of a Muslim religious holiday.

State television said the "terrorist car bomb" had killed five people and wounded 32, according to "preliminary figures".

Opposition activists said the bomb had gone off near a makeshift children's playground built for the Eid al-Adha holiday in the southern Daf al-Shok district of the capital.

Fighting erupted around Syria earlier as both sides violated the Eid al-Adha ceasefire arranged by international peace envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, but violence was far less intense than usual.

The Syrian military said it had responded to attacks by insurgents on army positions, in line with its announcement on Thursday that would cease military activity during the four-day holiday, but reserved the right to react to rebel actions.

Brahimi's ceasefire appeal had won widespread international support, including from Russia, China and Iran, President Bashar al-Assad's main foreign allies.

The U.N.-Arab League envoy had hoped to build on the truce to calm a 19-month-old conflict that has killed an estimated 32,000 people and worsened instability in the Middle East.

Violence appeared to wane in some areas, but truce breaches by both sides swiftly marred Syrians' hopes of celebrating Eid al-Adha, the climax of the Haj pilgrimage to Mecca, in peace.

"We are not celebrating Eid here," said a woman in a besieged Syrian town near the Turkish border, speaking above the noise of incessant gunfire and shelling. "No one is in the mood to celebrate. Everyone is just glad they are alive."

Her husband, a portly, bearded man in his 50s, said they and their five children had just returned to the town after nine days camped out on a farm with other families to escape clashes.

"We have no gifts for our children. We can't even make phone calls to our families," he said, a young daughter on his lap.

The imam of Mecca's Grand Mosque called on Arabs and Muslims to take "practical and urgent" steps to stop bloodshed in Syria.

"PAINFUL DISASTER"

The Syrian conflict has aggravated divisions in the Islamic world, with Shi'ite Iran supporting Assad and U.S.-allied



Sunni nations such as Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar backing his foes.

"The world should bear responsibility for this prolonged and painful disaster (in Syria) and the responsibility is greater for the Arabs and Muslims who should call on each other to support the oppressed against the oppressor," Sheikh Saleh Mohammed al-Taleb told worshippers during Eid prayers.

For some in Syria, there was no respite from war, but by dusk the death toll was still significantly lower than in recent days, when often between 150 to 200 people have been killed.

The heaviest fighting took place around the army base at Wadi al-Daif, near the Damascus-Aleppo highway, which rebels have been trying to seize from the army for two weeks.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said nine soldiers were killed by rebel bombardment of the base, which completely destroyed one building, and four rebel fighters were killed in clashes around Wadi al-Daif.

Four people were killed by tank fire and snipers in Harasta, a town near Damascus, activists said. Gunfire and explosions echoed over Douma, just east of the capital. Rockets killed one person in the besieged Khalidiya district of Homs.

Clashes erupted at a checkpoint near the Mahlab army barracks in Aleppo. There was shooting at checkpoints near Tel Kelakh, on the Lebanese border, and clashes in the town itself.

Heavy machinegun fire and mortar explosions were audible along the Turkey-Syrian border near the Syrian town of Haram, a Reuters witness in the Turkish border village of Besaslan said.

Rebels in the northern town near the Turkish border said a sniper had killed one of their fighters early on Friday.

"We don't believe the ceasefire will work," rebel commander Basel Eissa told Reuters. "There's no Eid for us rebels on the front line. The only Eid we can celebrate will be liberation."

Assad himself, who has vowed to defeat what he says are Islamist fighters backed by Syria's enemies abroad, was shown on state television attending Eid prayers at a Damascus mosque.

The prime minister, information minister and foreign minister, as well as the mufti, Syria's top Muslim official, were filmed praying alongside the 47-year-old president.

Assad, smiling and apparently relaxed, shook hands and exchanging Eid greetings with other worshippers afterwards.

MILITARY STALEMATE

Protests against him burst out in March last year, inspired by Arab uprisings elsewhere, but repression by security forces led to an armed insurgency, plunging Syria into a civil war which neither side has proved able to win or willing to end.

A commander from the rebel Free Syrian Army had said his fighters would honor the ceasefire but demanded Assad meet opposition demands for the release of thousands of detainees.



Some Islamist militants, including the Nusra Front, rejected the truce. Many groups were skeptical that it would hold.

"We do not care about this truce. We are cautious. If the tanks are still there and the checkpoints are still there then what is the truce?" asked Abu Moaz, spokesman for Ansar al-Islam, a group whose units fight in and around Damascus.

The war in Syria pits mainly Sunni Muslim rebels against Assad, from the minority Alawite sect which is distantly related to Shi'ite Islam. Brahimi has warned that the conflict could suck in Sunni and Shi'ite powers across the Middle East.

Brahimi's predecessor, former U.N. chief Kofi Annan, declared a ceasefire in Syria on April 12, but it soon became a dead letter, along with the rest of his six-point peace plan.



EUCOM

30. [Attack, Cyprus] Fan Throws Explosive On Pitch At Hurt Anorthosis Player

Monday, October 22 2012

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/10/22/omonia-nicosia-anorthosis-flare-explosion-video_n_2001468.html?utm_hp_ref=sports

A terrifying scene occurred during a Cypriot soccer league match between Anorthosis and Omonia Nicosia on Sunday when a flare thrown onto the field by a fan exploded.

According to the Associated Press, Anorthosis forward Ricardo Laborde was being attended to by trainers on the field after a firecracker landed and exploded inches away from him. In the video footage shown above, smoke filled the area after the explosion, sending several players to the turf. Anorthosis said nobody was seriously injured, as reported by the AP.

The match was delayed for 10 minutes in the second half and the explosive was said to be thrown from the Omonia supporters, per 101 Great Goals and The Sun.

Anorthosis went on to win 2-0.

Sadly this is the second time (that we know of) in which an explosive has interrupted a soccer game in just over a month. In September, a midfielder in an Asian Champions League quarterfinal match picked up an object thrown onto the pitch and tossed it off just before it exploded.



EUCOM

31. [Attack, Israel] Bomb Wounds Israeli Officer On Gaza Border

Tuesday, October 23 2012

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/10/23/245447.html>

An Israeli officer was severely wounded on Tuesday when a bomb went off beside an army patrol along the border with the Gaza Strip, a military spokeswoman said.

The attack came on the same day that the Emir of Qatar was due to arrive in Gaza in the first visit by a head of state to the blockaded enclave since it was taken over in 2007 by the Iranian-backed Islamist Hamas movement.

No Palestinian armed group claimed responsibility for the bomb attack. An Israeli military statement said the soldiers were on a "routine patrol adjacent to the security fence in the central Gaza Strip" when the explosion occurred.

The officer was evacuated by helicopter to hospital, the statement added.

Israel on Monday killed two Palestinian gunmen, one of them a Hamas gunman.

Although Hamas is hostile to Israel, it has regularly sought to stay out of recent cross-border confrontations as it shores up its Gaza rule in the face of more radical challengers and reaches out to potential Arab allies abroad.

Israel and Gaza are in a state of perpetual low-level conflict, marked by sporadic rocket attacks from Gaza by Islamic armed groups and air strikes by the Israeli forces.

The video can be seen here: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/10/22/omonia-nicosia-anorthosis-flare-explosion-video_n_2001468.html?utm_hp_ref=sports



EUCOM

32. [Attack, Russia] Bomb Kills Policeman At N. Ossetia Border

Tuesday, October 23 2012

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2012/10/23/Bomb-kills-policeman-at-N-Ossetia-border/UPI-65321351010859/?spt=hs&or=tn

A car filled with explosives blew up at a border checkpoint between the Russian republics of North Ossetia and Ingushetia Tuesday, a ministry spokeswoman said.

Alla Akhpolova of the North Ossetian Interior Ministry said the blast killed one police officer and injured three others, the Russian news agency RIA Novosti reported.

"The explosion was so powerful that parts of the car were scattered within a radius of 328 feet," Akhpolova said.

Authorities said the car was driven by a suicide bomber but there was no information on who was behind the attack.



EUCOM

33. [Attack, Italy] Small Bomb Goes Off Outside Courthouse In Fermo

Wednesday, October 24 2012

http://www.ansa.it/web/notizie/rubriche/english/2012/10/24/Small-bomb-goes-off-outside-courthouse-Fermo_7682247.html

A small home-made bomb exploded outside the main courthouse in this mid-Adriatic city Tuesday night, police said Wednesday.

No one was hurt in the attack, which was claimed by an unidentified anarchist group.

The bomb, which police said was like a large firecracker, was let off opposite the courthouse's garage.

Police said they had found a leaflet saying 'Free the Jailed Anarchists' on a window ledge near the garage where the small rudimentary device went off without doing much damage.

It was not immediately clear which anarchist group was involved.



PACOM

34. [Security, India] Cooker Bombs, Explosives Found In Maoist Hideouts In Bihar

Saturday, October 20 2012

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/Patna/Cooker-bombs-explosives-found-in-Maoist-hideouts-in-Bihar/Article1-947528.aspx>

After the killing of six Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Gaya, security forces on Friday launched joint search operations in Chakarbandha forest area under Dumaria police station of the district and seized nine pressure cooker bombs and six improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

However, a joint team of CRPF and state police on Friday failed to lay their hands on any hardcore Naxalite leader. Police suspect that Maoist leaders, after getting wind of the impending search operation, could have escaped to forests of the adjacent Palamu district of Jharkhand.

The search operation began following intelligence inputs that the armed guerilla squad of Maoists was present in the area. The forces entered the area from different sides and conducted intensive search in forest villages. Security personnel are keeping tabs on various routes which Maoists could use as escape routes.

The Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) of the CRPF has been pressed into operation inside the forest. "The battalion is equipped with hitech weapons, bomb detecting equipment and its commandos are ready to combat any attack of the Naxalites," said officials.

Dumaria is said to be a major Maoist stronghold in the state. Thick forests and hilly terrains make the area a safe haven for the rebels. Combing operations had been intensified in surrounding areas of Maigra and Chakarbandha so that the Maoists could not escape, said CRPF sources. Inspector general (CRPF) M K Sinha confirmed that combing operations were on against Maoists in areas bordering Palamu and Aurangabad districts. He said the death of the six CRPF personnel would not derail the fight against Maoists. "The CRPF will go ahead with its combing operations against ultras. We will chase them out of hiding in the forests and hilly areas," Sinha added.

Deputy inspector general (CRPF) Umesh Kumar told HT that out of nine injured personnel of the para-military force, deputy commandant B K Singh and constable Saifuddin Ali had been airlifted to New Delhi for better treatment. The explosives seized from Maoist hideouts has been destroyed," said Kumar.



PACOM

35. [Attack, India] Low-Intensity Explosion Creates Panic In Vadgaon Maval

Saturday, October 20 2012

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-10-20/pune/34605915_1_low-intensity-explosion-nomadic-tribes-gelatine-sticks

A low-intensity explosion near the main bazaar road created panic in Vadgaon Maval on Friday afternoon. The blast occurred around 12.15 pm. No one was injured.

Police officials who rushed to the spot found that pellets used by nomadic tribes to hunt pigs had caused the explosion.

Superintendent of police (Pune rural) Manoj Lohiya said, "The incident took place in one of the tenements belonging to a nomadic family from Madhya Pradesh, who arrived in Vadgaon Maval around three days ago. They had illegally stored ammonium nitrate powder and Navsagar, a chemical adulterant used to make illicit liquor. They use the material to hunt pigs."

He said, "The nomadic tribes prepare pellets by mixing ammonium nitrate powder and Navsagar. Pigs die after consuming these pellets. The blast did not take place due to gelatine sticks, as we were earlier informed. The pellets were kept near a stove and exploded due to the heat."

"We have seized the materials from one tenement. Two people were detained for questioning. We have registered a case under relevant sections of the Explosive Substances Act," he added.



PACOM

36. [Security, Philippines] Troops Defuse Bomb In Maguindanao Town

Monday, October 22 2012

<http://www.philstar.com/nation/article.aspx?publicationsubcategoryid=200&articleid=862193>

Army bomb experts safely defused Sunday afternoon a live anti-tank rocket ethnic Teduray farmers found in a grazing area for their water buffaloes and cattle in Datu Unsay town in Maguindanao.

Col. Prudencio Asto, public affairs chief of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the rocket-propelled grenade could have been left by fleeing bandits belonging to the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters soldiers flushed out of their enclaves in Datu Unsay in August.

"It was just fortunate that neither the farmers there nor their farm animals stepped on the projectile," Asto said.

A shoulder-fire RPG round has an effective blast radius of 30 to 60 meters. It can pierce through thick protective steel armor of military combat vehicles and tanks owing to the high combustibility of the explosive charges compressed in its rocket head.

Asto said responding Army bomb disposal experts deactivated the RPG round promptly.



PACOM

37. [Attack, Indonesia] Two Bombs Explode In Poso Traffic Police Post, Three Injured

Monday, October 22 2012

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/lawandorder/two-bombs-explode-in-poso-traffic-police-post-3-injured/551650>

Two bombs exploded in Poso, Central Sulawesi, early on Monday, injuring three people, including two traffic policemen.

According to Poso Police Traffic Chief Adj. Comr. Abidin, the first bomb exploded in the back part of the traffic police post along Jalan Yos Sudarso, in the central part of Poso city, at 6:15 a.m. on Monday.

Police officers First. Brig. Rusliadi and Brig. Ruslan immediately went to the traffic post to check on what happened. While they were inside, the second bomb exploded.

Rusliadi and a bank security guard named Akbar who went to the post after hearing the first explosion were seriously injured by the second explosion. Ruslan was slightly wounded.

Abidin said the perpetrator must have placed the explosives into the police post after the officers left for a meeting.

“The perpetrator knew the exact time the post would be empty,” he said, adding that the post was located close to a Christian vocational school (SMK Gereja Kristen Sulawesi Tengah), Bank Rakyat Indonesia branch and the residence of the Poso district chief.

“This morning all members joined the meeting. Rusliadi was there to replace other officers when the explosion happened.”

National Police spokesman Brig. Gen. Boy Rafli Amar said police have questioned witnesses and were searching for the perpetrators.

Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Djoko Suyanto condemned the attack by what he called a terrorist and asked people to remain calm.

“I deeply regret [the attack] and strongly condemn the perpetrator of this bad action,” Djoko said in a text message to Beritasatu.com on Monday. “[I] advise Poso people to remain calm and to not be provoked.”

Four hours before the explosion, a church in Madale subdistrict, Poso, was torched by an unknown person. Police found fuel and kerosene in the church.

Poso Police chief Adj. Comr. Eko Santoso said, as quoted by Tempo.co, that these incidents might have been carried out to divert attention as police prepare to attack an alleged terrorist camp in the Tamanjeka mountains in the province.



PACOM

38. [Attack, India] One Killed, Four Injured In Grenade Blast In Kokrajhar

Wednesday, October 24 2012

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/assam-1-killed-4-injured-in-grenade-blast-in-kokrajhar/302039-3-251.html>

One person was killed and four others were injured when unidentified persons lobbed a hand grenade at a busy place in Assam's Chirang district on Wednesday evening, officials said. The miscreants came in a car and hurled the grenade towards a group of people around 6.30 pm near a wine shop at the railway crossing in Basugaon town, they said, adding one person died on the spot while four others were hurt.

The attack took place in midst of the culmination of the Durga Puja festival and hundreds of people were returning from the immersion procession at that time. Additional police and paramilitary forces have been rushed to the spot from the district headquarters of Kajalgaon.

Unofficial sources said police recovered another live grenade from the spot. However, officials remain tight-lipped about the recovery.

Kokrajhar was hit by a wave of ethnic clashes between Bodo tribals and Muslims in the last week of July this year. The cause of the violence remained unclear, albeit over 80 people lost their lives.



NORTHCOM

39. [Security, United States] Bomb Squad Detonates IED Found In Waukesha Home

Friday, October 19 2012

<http://fox6now.com/2012/10/19/sheriffs-bomb-squad-sent-to-waukesha-home/>

The Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office sent bomb squad technicians to investigate and later detonate an improvised explosive device (IED) at a Waukesha home on Friday, October 19th.

Waukesha police responded to a home on Falls Court around 11:30 a.m. Officers were there with a search warrant. While executing that warrant, they located the IED.

Once bomb squad technicians arrived on the scene, they removed the item and detonated it at a remote location.

No other information on this investigation is available at this time.





NORTHCOM

40. [Security, United States] Five Arrested After Police Find Homemade Bomb, Drugs

Tuesday, October 23 2012

<http://www.unionleader.com/article/20121023/NEWS03/710249947/1006/news03>

A homemade bomb, drugs, property stolen from recent burglaries and drug paraphernalia allegedly greeted police searching an Orange Street home on Oct. 12, and now five people are under arrest and facing a variety of charges.

On Oct. 11, Kevin Wheeler, 26, of 6 Orange St., was arrested and charged with a class A felony of receiving stolen property for having in his possession a stolen Walther P99C .40 caliber fire arm, according to court documents.

Following his arrest, Milford Police obtained a search warrant for his residence and executed it on Oct. 12 at around 6:35 p.m., according to Capt. Chris Nervik. During their search, officers allegedly discovered more stolen property that appears to have come from recent burglaries in the area. They also reportedly discovered heroin and marijuana, along with drug paraphernalia, but it was a suspicious metal device that caught the officers' attention, said Nervik.

“The officers weren't sure what it was, but they knew it didn't look right,” Nervik said.

The Nashua Police Department's Bomb Squad was called in to investigate and remove the device using a robot. They determined the device to be explosive and the robot was able to disable it.

Nervik said it didn't appear based on the investigation thus far that the bomb was intended for use against the public, and may have been intended as a sort of improvised firework, but police are continuing to investigate.

“Any kind of explosive device is dangerous, and that's why we called in the bomb squad,” said Nervik.

Following the search, Wheeler was arrested and charged with receiving stolen property, possession of a controlled drug, and possession of explosives — all felonies. He is currently being held on \$10,000 cash following his arraignment and probable cause hearing at the 9th Circuit Court in Milford.

Also during the search, three juveniles were taken into custody for possession of controlled drugs and possession of alcohol. The juveniles were released to their parents.

On Oct. 19, following an investigation, police rounded up three other residents of the Orange Street residence including Kimberly M. Tello, 42; Jeffrey D. Pollock, 43; and Nathan O'Brien, 24.

Tello has been charged with possession of a controlled drug and was released on \$2,500 personal recognizance bail. Pollock was charged with possession of a controlled drug and operating while a habitual offender, both class B felonies, and released on \$25,000 personal recognizance. O'Brien, also charged with possession of a controlled drug, was released on \$25,000 personal recognizance.

A fifth man, Kenneth M. Martel, 33, of 104 Amherst St. in Milford, was also arrested for possession of a controlled drug and was released on \$25,000 personal recognizance.



NORTHCOM

41. [Attack, Canada] Car Bomb In Saint-Bruno

Friday, October 26 2012

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/bomb+Saint+Bruno/7448435/story.html>

Longueuil police are investigating a bomb that was detonated under a car early Thursday morning in a quiet, residential area of Saint Bruno de Montarville.

Police were called at 3:40 a.m., almost two hours after residents say they heard a noise and felt a vibration.

"Because of that earthquake a couple of weeks ago, they actually thought it was another earthquake so they didn't call police," Constable Mark David, a spokesperson for the Longueuil Police Service, told The Gazette.

No one was injured, and damage was confined to the two cars in the driveway of a home near the corner of Le Grand Boulevard Est and Rue de la Fougère.

The owner of the house was the one to alert police after she left the house at 3:40 a.m. and noticed the damage to the cars. David said the homeowners are not known to police.

The Sûreté du Québec's bomb squad was called in to search the home and surroundings, but found no other devices. Access to part of the street was blocked for most of the day Thursday as Longueuil police investigators inspected the scene.





SOUTHCOM

42. [Attack, Colombia] Bomb Attacks Injure Ten In Southwest Colombia

Friday, October 19 2012

<http://www.nzweek.com/world/bomb-attacks-injure-10-in-southwest-colombia-15962/>

At least 10 people were injured on Friday as a couple of explosive devices went off in southwest Colombia, official sources said.

The first attack occurred in a rural area in the municipality of Pradera, where a police patrol was ambushed. The blast wounded four policemen, who were sent to a hospital in Cali, capital of the Cauca Valley province, said the sources.

According to Cauca Valley Police Commander Col. Nelson Ramirez, a second device exploded when police and emergency response teams arrived at the scene, injuring another four policemen and two civilians.

The attacks took place around 9:00 a.m. local time (1400 GMT) Friday, and were believed to be the work of the "Gabriel Galvis" sect of the FARC (the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) rebels, the police chief added.



SOUTHCOM

43. [Attack, Colombia] FARC Rebels' Kill Five Soldiers In Southern Colombia

Saturday, October 20 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/26603-farc-rebels-kill-5-soldiers-in-southern-colombia.html>

Five soldiers have been killed by FARC rebels in the south of Colombia, a regional army commander said Saturday.

According to the commander of the 27th Jungle Brigade, the five men were killed and three more were injured by a roadside bomb detonated by guerrillas.

"While carrying out operations in the area, unfortunately the FARC, that used explosives and elements forbidden by human rights and international humanitarian law, activated a charge as one of the vehicles passed," Colonel Juvenal Diaz told Spanish press agency Efe.

"Five of our men were killed instantly and three more were injured," the colonel added.

The attack took place in an area on the border with Ecuador, allegedly by members of the FARC's 48th front, "under the command of 'Robledo'."



SOUTHCOM

44. [Trend, Colombia] Two Hundred Fifty-Five Workers Killed By Land Mines

Tuesday, October 23 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/26649-255-workers-killed-by-land-mines-govt.html>

Two hundred fifty-five "manual coca eradicators" have been killed by mines while performing their duties, reported the government on Tuesday.

The official number of deaths while performing duties of destroying coca crops is currently at 255, with an additional 85 reported as injured by the mines used to protect the illegal crops, reported newspaper El Espectador.

The families of these victims have filed a series of lawsuits against the government to the value of approximately \$13.5 million.

The manual coca eradicators are charged with the job of efficiently destroying coca crops once the area is taken over by the army or other government authorities. They are civilians, sometimes recruited through a public order, that are accompanied by security forces of either the police or the military.

The most recent global report indicates that drug cultivation of illicit crops has declined by 15% in Colombia.

The central government reported that, because of the situation being too dangerous, recruitment of eradicators by public order has been suspended in La Macarena, Meta in central Colombia. A spokesman stated that, "In La Macarena, there were many operations in which a significant group of eradicators were victims of landmine accidents."



SOUTHCOM

45. [Attack, Colombia] Two Killed, Ten Injured In Bomb Attack On Supermarket In Northern Colombia

Wednesday, October 24 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/26669-2-killed-10-injured-in-bomb-attack-on-supermarket-in-northern-colombia.html>

A bomb attack on a supermarket in the northern Colombian city of Santa Marta has killed at least two and injured at least ten, local media reported Wednesday.

According to local authorities, the attacker threw a grenade into the supermarket.

Local newspaper El Heraldo reported that the explosion killed an employee and a client.

Santa Marta police told reporters that a 17-year old suspect was arrested after the attack.

According to El Heraldo, Santa Marta has suffered several bomb attacks over the past few weeks, causing unrest among the locals.

The area around the coastal city has seen a rise in violence over the past months due to tensions between Colombia's largest neo-paramilitary group, the "Urabeños," and a newly-formed neo-paramilitary group formed by allies and family members of extradited warlord Hernan Giraldo who used to control the area around Santa Marta.



SOUTHCOM

46. [Trend, Colombia] Mayor Attributes Caribbean Bomb Attack To Criminal Gang

Thursday, October 25 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/26685-mayor-attributes-caribbean-bomb-attack-to-criminal-gang.html>

A bomb attack Wednesday that left three dead in a supermarket in the Colombian Caribbean town of Santa Marta has been blamed on criminal gangs that have been terrorizing the region, according to the mayor of Santa Marta.

The mayor of Santa Marta, Carlos Caicedo, confirmed Thursday that the 17-year-old who launched the grenade in a supermarket, leaving 23 injured and three dead, is linked to criminal gangs, reported W Radio.

Criminal gangs in the Santa Marta area, located in the Magdalena department, have increasingly wreaked havoc in the community over the past few months, due to the the culmination of several factors such as the reduction in their illicit crop cultivation and gang wars.

Caicedo claimed in an interview with Caracol Radio that the local criminal syndicates have increasingly resorted to the use of extortion and terror on local businesses, such as the supermarket, as a means of gang income. The gangs have more frequently been forcing establishments to pay up since authorities have been cracking down on their other means of cash flow, such as the cultivation of illicit crops throughout Magdalena.

Another reason for escalated violence and bomb attacks occurring in the region is allegedly due to a turf gang war over the Santa Marta Caribbean territory, providing gangs with access to the ideal drug trafficking location on the Caribbean ocean.

Allegedly, the grenade attack in the supermarket Wednesday is connected to the feared neo-paramilitary group, the "Urabeños," who have been increasingly terrorizing the community as a result of their battle with a newly formed neo-paramilitary group, formed from allies of extradited warlord Hernan Giraldo who used to control the Santa Marta area.

The two groups have been struggling over the drug territory, consequently instilling fear and perpetrating acts of violence throughout the Santa Marta area.

"It's a new generation of illegal actors, and others from the 'Urabeños' and 'Los Rastrojos' [gangs]," said Caicedo.



SOUTHCOM

47. [Law Enforcement, Colombia] Authorities Capture 16 Criminals, Gangsters, FARC Rebels

Friday, October 26 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/26688-authorities-capture-16-criminals-gangsters-farc-rebels.html>

Sixteen members of various criminal gangs, including rebel guerrilla group FARC and common criminals, were captured Thursday as part of Operation Sword of Honor, initiated by Colombia's military.

The various criminals were arrested for trafficking and transportation of narcotics, extortion, conspiracy to commit crimes, domestic violence, murder, manufacturing and carrying of weapons exclusively permitted for private use of armed forces and aggravated robbery, among others, reported newspaper El Espectador.

The military offensive captured outlaws in nine of Colombia's 32 departments.

In the process of capture, authorities reportedly immobilized a vehicle, motorcycles, seized four weapons, a grenade, ammunition and a "significant amount of hallucinogens."

Operation Sword of Honor is a two-year war plan that is a joint effort of the National Police, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Agriculture, public prosecutors and the Armed Forces, which will use more than a hundred specially-trained members of the security forces to take down members of the FARC and other armed gangs.





SOUTHCOM

48. [Law Enforcement, Colombia] FARC Explosives Expert' Arrested In Medellin

Friday, October 26 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/26705-farc-explosives-expert-arrested-in-medellin.html>

Authorities in Colombia's second largest city Medellin arrested on Friday an alleged explosives expert and hitman from rebel guerrilla group FARC.

According to newspaper El Espectador, the alleged explosives expert, alias "Noraldo," was detained while hiding in a house in the Castilla neighborhood in the northwest of Medellin, consequently sustaining wounds during the capture operation, reported newspaper El Meridiano.

Noraldo has allegedly been the FARC's explosive expert for the past 12 years and a valuable figure in the Santa Rita battalion, a part of FARC's larger 18th Front.

Noraldo was "responsible for the planting of explosive devices used to attack troops and civilians in the region" as well as "harass authorities" and murder security forces in the area.

Not only was Noraldo one of the FARC's explosive experts for the past 12 years but he was also allegedly culpable for recruiting minors to the guerrilla group and a former henchman and hitman for Santa Rita's leader, alias "Agustin" or "Reyes," reported El Espectador.