



Weekly News Update

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



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1. [Attack: Panjshir] **Suicide Bombers Attack Us Facility Killing Two** (AFP)

Saturday, 15 October 2011

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/274646/suicide-attack-on-afghanistan-us-facility-kills-two/>

Four Taliban bombers blew themselves up at a US-run development base in northern Afghanistan on Saturday, killing two men in the first suicide attack to hit the once-peaceful region in 10 years of war. The insurgents targeted the US Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) facility in Rokha district, Panjshir province, killing two drivers and leaving two guards wounded, said provincial police chief Mohammad Qasim Jangalbagh.

The police and the governor's office confirmed that it was the first suicide attack in the Panjshir valley since the war began, underscoring the violence being wrought on once-tranquil parts of the country after a decade at war.

The Taliban claimed responsibility, saying the attack was launched with a car bomb packed with 600kg of explosives. The rebel group frequently exaggerate their claims.

Security for the ethnic Tajik-dominated area once ruled by guerrilla hero Ahmad Shah Massoud was handed over from Western troops to Afghans in July.

"An explosion which targeted the PRT in Panjshir left two drivers dead and two guards of the PRT wounded," said Jangalbagh.

He said the drivers had been bringing fuel supplies to the base when it came under attack.

"The first suicide attacker detonated his explosives inside his four-wheel drive vehicle while the other three reached the PRT gate and exploded themselves," he said.

"The Americans are inside their base, and the bodies of the suicide attackers lie at the gate of the PRT," he added.

A spokesman for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Christopher Pewitt confirmed the incident but had no record of fatalities.

"We can confirm a suicide attack on the PRT early this morning in Panjshir. There were no casualties to ISAF. Civilians were injured in the blast," he said, without giving further details.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the insurgents attacked the gate of the base.

"Five mujahedeen fighters attacked the gate of PRT in Panjshir province and detonated a car packed with 600kg of explosives," he told AFP by phone from an undisclosed location.

Afghan political analyst Mahmood Saikal said the insurgents' ability to strike in the heart of one of the most peaceful provinces "undermines the security transition process".

"How did these suicide attackers enter that province, because we have had good security in Panjshir province?" he said.

Violence across the country was up by nearly 40 percent in the first eight months of this year compared to the same period last year, according to UN figures that are disputed by ISAF.

ISAF claims instead that attacks were down two percent over the same period.

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Elsewhere Saturday, two Taliban insurgents died and three others were wounded when mines they were assembling exploded in the restive southern province of Kandahar, senior local officials said.

The men were making the bombs in a tent in Dand district, said provincial government spokesman Zulmai Ayoubi.

“As a result of the explosion two were killed and three wounded,” he said, adding that the toll may rise. “They were killed by their own mines,” confirmed Kandahar police chief Abdul Razeq.

Roadside bombs are the weapon of choice for the Taliban, whose 10-year insurgency has been largely focused on the southern heartland.

The United Nations says the first half of this year saw 1,462 civilians killed, with insurgents responsible for 80 percent of the deaths.

There are 140,000 foreign forces in Afghanistan, some 100,000 of them from the United States, fighting to reverse the Taliban-led insurgency.

All combat troops are due to leave by the end of 2014 when Afghan forces take over full responsibility for security although thousands are likely to remain in training and mentoring roles.

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2. [Attack: Spin Boldak] **Three Police, Afghan Child Killed In Car Bomb Blast** (Deutsche Presse-Agentur)

Friday, 14 October 2011

http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/southasia/news/article_1668932.php/Three-police-Afghan-child-killed-in-a-bomb-blast

Three Afghan border police officers and one child were killed Friday in a car bombing in volatile southern Afghanistan, an official said.

An Afghan border police post was targeted in the bombing in Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province Friday evening, a spokesman for the Kandahar governor said.

Three other police and two civilians were injured in the explosion and had been taken to a district hospital, a statement said.

The governor's office condemned the attack.

Meanwhile two foreign soldiers were killed in two separate incidents on Friday, the NATO-led coalition said in a statement.

One soldier died during an operation, while another died following a roadside bomb blast.

Both incidents took place in eastern Afghanistan. The coalition did not say where the soldiers were from.

More than 130,000 international soldiers are currently fighting the decade-long Taliban insurgency following the 2001 US-led invasion of Afghanistan.

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3. [Attack: Kandahar] **Suicide Bomb Attack Kills 3 Border Protection Forces In Kandahar** (Kaama Press)

Saturday, 15 October 2011

<http://www.khaama.com/suicide-blast-kills-3-border-protection-forces-in-kandahar-112>

According to local authorities in southern Afghanistan, at least three border protection police forces were killed following a suicide bomb in a checkpoint in Spin-Boldak district of Kandahar province.

The officials further added, the incident took place on Friday night and at least three other border protection police forces were injured and 1 children was killed and 2 other civilians were injured following the incident.

The suicide bomb attack was carried with a vehicle laden with explosives near a police check post.

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4. [Attack: Undisclosed] **Car Bomb Attack On US Base Kills 6** (AP)

Sunday, 16 October 2011

<http://www.freep.com/article/20111016/NEWS07/110160484/Attack-on-U-S-base-kills-6?odyssey=tab%7Cmostpopular%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE>

Militants tried to blast their way into an American base in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, striking before dawn with rocket-propelled grenades and a car bomb.

All four attackers were killed, as were two truck drivers parked nearby, said provincial Police Chief Gen. Mohammad Qasim Jangalbagh. Two Afghan security guards were wounded.

A NATO spokeswoman confirmed the attack but said there were no American deaths or injuries. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

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5. [Security] **Afghan Cops Seize Explosives, With Help From Kent's Regiment** (Archant)

Monday, 17 October 2011

http://www.kentnews.co.uk/news/afghan_cops_seize_explosives_with_help_from_kent_s_regiment_1_1093037

Afghan police being mentored by Kent's county regiment have seized a truck containing enough explosives and component parts to make more than 140 improvised explosive devices.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, which has its regimental headquarters at Howe barracks, Canterbury, are in Afghanistan helping to prepare Afghan National Police (ANP) to take over law and order duties.

The massive find resulted in the destruction of more than 700kg of homemade explosives after police found a secret compartment hidden in the back of the lorry.

The interception happened near Gereshk on October 7 after the ANP stopped a suspicious vehicle at a checkpoint on Highway 1, a main transit route in the area.

Officers became suspicious after finding the back of the truck was completely empty. After closer investigation they discovered the hidden compartment in the back.

They found the haul of home-made explosive along with two pistols, a number of insurgent propaganda magazines, and a significant amount of other IED components.

IEDs kill western forces and civilians and are often planted at roadsides.

Lieutenant Colonel Shadi Khan, District Chief of Police, said: "I am very happy. This is a good day for the Afghan Police and the local population in Gereshk. This find will give the people confidence that their police are up to the job in improving security."

The ANP are currently being mentored by troops from the 1st Battalion the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (1PWRR), who form the Police Mentoring and Advisory Group (PMAG) in Central Helmand. PMAG works closely with local police at precinct, district and provincial level- significantly, on this occasion, the police were operating independently.

Lance Corporal Matthew Kim, part of the Police Advisory Team in Gereshk, said: "We only took over about a week ago, and I've already seen that the police here can get results. Hopefully we can continue this good work and maybe save more lives in the future."

Captain Stuart Horder is second-in-command of the team responsible for mentoring the District Police Commander.

He said: "This find is significant. Not only does it removing a lot of capability from the insurgent bomb makers, but it also reinforces the capability of the police in front of the population. From my position, it appears that the police are certainly moving in the right direction."

The ANP's Explosive Ordinance Disposal Team destroyed the deadly contents of the truck. Captain Khan Muhammed and his team transported the explosives to a remote spot in the desert and destroyed them with a controlled explosion.

Captain David Malenoir-Evans, of the Explosive Ordinance Disposal and Search Task Force, is the lead mentor for the Afghan police bomb squad. He said: "This is a significant find that has undoubtedly saved

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many innocent lives. The fact that this was an entirely Afghan-led operation is testament to the improving capability of the Afghan Security Forces.”

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6. [Attack: Herat] **Roadside Bomb Blast Kills At Least Five Soldiers** (AKI)

Wednesday, 19 October 2011

http://www.adnkronos.com/IGN/Aki/English/Security/Afghanistan-Roadside-bomb-blast-kills-at-least-five-soldiers_312554982920.html

A blast by a roadside bomb in western Afghanistan on Wednesday killed at least five Afghan soldiers, according to news reports.

The troops were killed in Herat province when their vehicle struck the bomb.

Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the attack that is similar to ones carried out by Taliban insurgents.

Herat province spokesman Mohyaddin Noori told the Associated Press that four enlisted troops and one officer died in the blast. They were returning to their base when the explosion tore through their pickup truck, the report said.

US-led Nato troops are training the Afghan military to take over responsibility for security by the end of 2014 when the foreign military presence is due to end.

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7. [Attack: Balochistan] **Pakistani Minister Escapes Bomb Attack** (Bernama)

Saturday, 15 October 2011

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsworld.php?id=620102>

Pakistan Provincial Minister for Services and General Administration Department (SGAD) Sardar Sanaullah has escaped a bomb attack in Balochistan on late Friday, Iranian news agency IRNA reported Saturday.

Assistant Commissioner of police Qadir Baksh said that Sanaullah escaped the attack late Friday after an explosive device planted along with RCD highway near Anjera area went off when he was on his way to Khuzdar from Kalat.

A heavy contingent of police and law enforcing agencies rushed to the spot and set up a security cordon around the minister.

"We will deal with the attack according to tribal customs," Sardar Sanaullah said.

Spokesman for the banned Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) claimed responsibility for the attack.

Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Mohammad Aslam Raisani condemned the blast and termed it an "attack on tribal system".

He said the government would not bow before terrorists and those involved in the attack would be arrested.

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8. [Attack: Swabi] **Man Injured In Blast; Another Bomb Defused** (The News International)

Sunday, 16 October 2011

[http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:cHUEY-xpAXY\]:www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx%3FID%3D72812%26Cat%3D7+Man+Injured+In+Blast%3B+Another+Bomb+Defused&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us&client=safari](http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:cHUEY-xpAXY]:www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx%3FID%3D72812%26Cat%3D7+Man+Injured+In+Blast%3B+Another+Bomb+Defused&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us&client=safari)

Police here Saturday foiled a sabotage bid and defused a five-kilogram time device planted in a mosque adjacent to the residence of Swabi Jamhoori Ittehad (SJI) leader, official sources said.

Also, the watchman of a private school was injured in an explosion in the city early in the day.

The sources said the bomb was hidden in a fruit crate and placed at the mosque built in the property of the Tarakai family.

Imran Khan Tarakai, spokesman for the Tarakai family, said that he and MNA Usman Khan Tarakai prayed in the mosque just a few minutes earlier and the crate was lying beside them. Two persons left the crate containing the bomb and while they were leaving the mosque, some people told them that they had left behind their crate but they said they would take it on their return, he said, adding that they informed the police who recovered the bomb from the crate.

District Police Officer Muhammad Ijaz Khan, he said, also reached the Tarakai House to monitor the situation. The bomb disposal unit officials shifted the bomb from the residential area to the Shewa-Dagai Road and defused it.

It was not immediately known who were behind the bombing bid but officials believed that apparently the Tarakai family was the target.

Meanwhile, a bomb planted near the front gate of a private school went off early in the day. As a result, the watchman, Jumadad Khan, was injured and the building was partially damaged. Officials said that for the first time a private school was targeted by miscreants in the area.

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9. [Attack: Khyber] **Roadside Blast Kills Pakistani Soldier** (Press TV)
Sunday, 16 October 2011
<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/204959.html>

A roadside bomb blast has killed at least one Pakistani soldier and wounded two others in the country's troubled northwest, Press TV reports.

The incident took place after a patrolling security vehicle struck a planted bomb in Aka Khel area of the Khyber tribal region in northwestern Pakistan, a Press TV correspondent reported.

The two injured are reportedly in critical condition and have been taken to the local hospital.

The area has been cordoned off as security forces search the area.

Meanwhile, militants have also attacked a security forces check point in Orakzai tribal region, leaving at least two security forces wounded.

Pakistani security forces have been carrying out military operations in Orakzai Agency since March 2010.

Despite an offensive by the Pakistani government against pro-Taliban groups, the militants have spread their influence in various regions, killing hundreds of people and security forces in Pakistan.

Since late 2009, there has been a surge in militant and bomb attacks in Pakistan.

Pakistan has lost more than 35,000 people in militant attacks and bomb explosions since 2007, according to the Associated Press. Millions more have been displaced by violence and militancy across the country.

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10. [Attack: Awaran] **Roadside Bomb Kills Anti-Taliban Fighter** (Nawaiwaqt)

Tuesday, 18 October 2011

<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Regional/Lahore/18-Oct-2011/2-FC-men-killed-in-bomb-blast>

Two personnel of Frontier Corps (FC) were killed and two others were injured in a remote controlled bomb attack in Tertaj area of Awaran district on Monday.

An official of Levies Force Abdul Ghafoor Shah said, an FC convoy was travelling in Awaran City from FC camp near Drasi River when it came under attack. 'An explosive device was planted alongwith road and it detonated by remote control when FC convoy comprising a vehicle and truck passed by', he told the reporters.

Consequently, two FC personnel died on the spot while two others sustained splinter wounds. The sources said the truck was badly damaged in the blast. Heavy contingent of FC and Levies officials reached the spot and threw a cordon in the area.

The deceased and injured were shifted to hospital. The identities of the victims could not be ascertained soon. When contacted FC spokesperson Murtaza Baig, confirmed the incident and said a FC man died and two others were injured.

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11. [Attack: Basra] **Explosion At ICU Peshawar, No Casualties** (The Express Tribune)

Tuesday, 18 October 2011

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/276586/explosion-at-icu-peshawar-no-casualties/>

No casualties were reported in the explosion that occurred behind the Khyber Union Hall on university premises.

Eyewitnesses said explosives had been planted along the wall by unidentified motorcyclists, who fled after placing the package there.

The explosion created panic among students and teachers, and damaged a part of the campus.

There has been no claim of responsibility for the attack.

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12. [Attack: Baghdad] **Bomb Blast Near Liquor Store Kills 7 People** (AP)

Tuesday, 18 October 2011

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/iraq-bomb-blast-near-liquor-store-kills-7-people/193967-2.html>

A bomb blast near a Baghdad liquor store on Monday evening killed seven people and injured another 18, Iraqi medical and police officials said.

Three of the dead and five of the injured were police officers, the officials said.

The information came from police in eastern Baghdad and the hospital where the dead and injured were taken.

It was not immediately clear whether the liquor store was the target or the police officers. Police and Iraqi security officials are often targeted by Sunni militants trying to undermine the country's fragile security.

Conservative Shiite militant groups have sometimes targeted liquor stores and cafes.

Later in an eastern Baghdad neighborhood, a roadside bomb exploded near a police patrol, killing one civilian and wounding another four people, said hospital and police officials.

All the officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters. Security has improved dramatically in Iraq since the black days of the 2006 and 2007, when death squads roamed the streets and as many as 100 bodies a day would turn up at the morgues. But attacks such as Monday evening's still happen regularly.

With all US troops leaving Iraq by the end of this year, Iraqi security forces will be responsible for maintaining security in the country on their own. They face serious challenges, including a continuing insurgency, little ability to protect their own airspace and lingering sectarian tensions.

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13. [Attack: Ramadi] **Civilian Killed, 4 Wounded In Ramadi** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Wednesday, 19 October 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145337&l=1

One civilian was killed and four wounded in bomb blast mid of Ramadi, police sources in Anbar province said here today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the bomb exploded inside a civilian car near Anbar Health Department, which led to killing its owner.

After five minutes another bomb exploded by the side of the road near the first explosion, which led to wounding four civilians.

No further information were released.

Ramadi, center of Anbar province, lies 110 km west of the capital, Baghdad.

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14. [Attack: Abu Ghraib] **Civilian Killed, 11 Wounded in 3 Baghdad Blasts** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Friday, 21 October 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145350&l=1

A civilian was killed and 11 wounded in three spontaneous bomb explosions in Sadr City, east of the capital, police sources said today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the three explosions took place late last night, which led to the casualties and damaging a number of cars and shops in the adjacent area.

No other details were given.

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15. [Attack: Colombia] **Colombian Student Killed In Explosion During March** (AFP)
Wednesday, 12 October 2011
<http://www.ntn24.com/news/news/colombian-student-killed-explosion-during-march>

One student was killed Wednesday when homemade explosives she was carrying went off in Cali during a demonstration that was part of a nationwide student protest effort, police said.

"The protest march was passing by the Valle University Hospital and apparently the girl, who had several homemade bombs, fell to the ground, and the devices exploded, killing her", said a police official in Cali, some 500 kilometers (300 miles) southwest of Bogota.

At least one other student was injured in the blast and was being treated at the hospital.

The girl was carrying several so-called "papa bombs" which are made from phosphorous and gunpowder and compressed into a ball that explodes when contact is made with a hard surface.

The death occurred as thousands of students marched in eight Colombian cities to protest reforms being proposed in higher education.

In Cali, the march had been peaceful with around 1,000 participants.

The marches led by the Colombian Student Organization (ECO) are protesting reforms that would force public universities to finance themselves.

Education Minister Maria Fernanda Campo told reporters Wednesday that the plans would be maintained.

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16. [Attack: Bulgaria] **Police Work On 4 Leads In Blast Against Bulgarian Journalist** (Novinite)
Saturday, 15 October 2011
http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=132962

Bulgaria's police are working on four possible leads in the blast that destroyed the car of popular Bulgarian journalist, Sasho Dikov, Thursday evening.

The main one is the explosion deemed to be the work of extremists, with ties to the opposition, who wanted to influence the October 23 presidential and local elections rather than killing or intimidating Dikov, according to the Bulgarian Trud (Labor) daily.

Dimitar Vuchkov, who is temporarily in charge of the Interior Ministry because Interior Minister, Tsvetan Tsvetanov, is on leave over being the head of the election headquarters of the ruling Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria, GERB, party, is quoted saying that the blast could very well be a pre-election provocation. He has also confirmed a possible connection between the attack on the journalist and the bomb that exploded in front of the offices of Galeria, an anti-government newspaper, early on February 10 in downtown Sofia, again at the time the capital was hosting the visit of several European leaders.

The latest explosion coincided with the trip to the country of the Presidents of the European Commission and of the European Parliament, Jose Manuel Barroso and Jerzy Buzek and of three EU Commissioners.

An unidentified high-ranking employee of the Interior is further cited informing that the authorities are seeking the perps among all political fractions in the lead of the attack being connected with the elections.

The second lead is that the blast is the work of people who are from GERB circles, but have been disappointed by its leadership because they "did not get what they expected," and now want to doom the ruling party to failure in order to trigger changes in political power for personal gains. Dikov is considered by them a suitable target since he is known for his criticism against the government.

The journalist, himself, had commented the explosion is most beneficial for the enemies of the cabinet.

The possibility that the attack has been triggered by Dikov's work as journalist is still on the table.

Police say they are also working on a version that the blast is tied with circles of football fans, angered by broadcasts of the Kanal 3 (Channel 3) TV, of which the journalist is a program director, exposing pre-arranged games and failures of the Bulgarian National Football Team.

The authorities have almost entirely dismissed the possibility of the attack stemming from personal motives.

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17. [Security: Bulgaria] **Explosives Reported Missing From Sofia's Blasted Arms Dump** (Novinite)
Saturday, 15 October 2011
http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=132964

A large amount of explosives is missing from the former military depot in Chelopechene near the capital Sofia, the Defense Ministry has reported.

14 unexploded 85-millimeter projectiles have disappeared from Chelopechene with the Ministry warning the munitions are dangerous when moved, transported and dismantled and asking citizens to inform the Military Police if they happen to stumble upon them.

The Military Police and Interior are investigating the case and have started a pre-trial procedure for alleged theft. All places near the capital which purchase metal scrap have been checked and local authorities have been alerted to be on the lookout for the explosives.

The explosives had to be detonated after a cleaning of the depot on Thursday.

On Saturday, Defense Minister, Anyu Angelov, vowed severe sanctions for the employees at Chelopechene, who had allowed for the theft to occur.

Three years ago, the Chelopechene disposal depot, storing tons of obsolete munitions outside Sofia was rocked by a series of powerful explosions, shaking apartment buildings and panicking thousands.

Around 7 am on July 3, 2008 the Bulgarian capital Sofia was shaken by powerful gunpowder explosions as a military storage facility located in the northeast Sofia Quarter of Chelopechene exploded. The explosions initially caused panic among the two-and-a-half million residents of the Bulgarian capital as the authorities including the Defense Ministry, the General Staff of the Army, and the Interior Ministry failed to react and explain the causes of the explosions for almost an hour after they started.

Fortunately, no persons were killed or injured in the Chelopechene explosions but the blasts did cause material damages in the northern suburbs of Sofia. The military storage site was reported to contain more than 20 tons of conventional explosives, which continued to go off for days after the initial blasts were over, and it took the authorities several weeks to secure the site.

The munitions storehouse explosions at Sofia's Chelopechene led the US State Department to include Bulgaria in the list of states with poorly maintained munitions depots. It said Bulgaria is the only NATO and EU member state with exploding munitions facilities.

According to a report by the US State Department, the Chelopechene incident, which panicked more than two million people in Sofia, together with a similar one in Uzbekistan on July 10, are "the latest in a series of incidents spanning many years and among the most recent manifestations of an international problem that has worsened since the end of the Cold War - government arms depots filled with ageing, unstable, poorly maintained, improperly stored, and weakly guarded munitions."

The US Department of State announced earlier this year it has assisted the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Bulgaria in safely destroying 500 surplus Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS) missiles and 500 grip stocks (launchers). The Bulgarian Defense Ministry plans to completely clean the site by the end of the year.

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18. [Attack: Nigeria] **Explosion Rocks Abuja, Near IGP's Residence** (The Moment)

Saturday, 15 October 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201110150138.html>

The Federal Capital Territory, Abuja yesterday was thrown into another panic following an explosion that occurred in the highbrow Maitama District.

The explosion affected three buildings on Lahn Crescent in Maitama District, Abuja, partially damaging two that belong to former Principal General Staff Officer (PGSO) to General Sani Abacha, General Lawrence Onoja (rtd) and ex-director general of the defunct National Security Organisation (NSO), Alhaji Umaru Ali Shinkafi.

But the third building which belongs to the Inspector General of Police, Hafiz Ringim, about 500 metres away from the scene is located at No. 3 on the Street.

The explosion, which is the first within the vicinity of the official residences of some ambassadors and heads of foreign missions, made residents and security agents to run for safety because of fear of another attack by the bloody Islamic sect, Boko Haram.

When contacted last night, the Inspector General of Police confirmed the incident, but said it was an explosion, not a bomb blast.

'The construction company discovered a rock and brought a quarry expert to break it through an explosive device,' he said.

He added that though the explosion happened near his residence, it did not touch his building.

When our reporter visited the area, red mud covered the entire compound of General Onoja's residence, just as the roof of his building was ripped open.

Besides, the explosion completely shattered the front and rear windscreens of a sleek Mercedes Benz car with registration Number Abuja CF 476 ABJ.

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19. [Attack: Northern Ireland] **Rucksack Bomb Attack Was 'Sheer Madness'** (Derry Journal)
Thursday, 14 October 2011
http://www.derryjournal.com/news/local/bomb_attack_was_sheer_madness_psn1_1_3155472

Derry's most senior police officer has described Wednesday night's bomb attack as "senseless and madness."

Chief Superintendent Stephen Martin made the comment yesterday morning as PSNI officers examined the scene of the blast and trawled through CCTV footage from the area.

"My reaction is one of condemnation and relief. Relief first and foremost that no one was hurt and the area was evacuated and by the police officers who went there, put themselves in harm's way and got people out but also one of condemnation around the sheer senselessness and madness associated with this act," he said.

CS Martin also said the bomb was contained in a rucksack left outside the office.

"It was a smallish device but it seems to have caused quite a bit of damage to the City of Culture office itself. It absolutely could have had lethal consequences if someone had been standing beside it when it detonated. That is the madness about this. These are not made by manufacturing companies. They are improvised, clandestinely-made devices made in garages and barns by people with limited engineering experience. If this device had exploded when someone was near it they would have been killed or injured," he said.

He also said: "There is not an absolute security response to this and it would be completely counterproductive to close the city centre down and take steps to create imagery associated with the past."

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20. [Security: Philippines] **Police Probes Blast In Maguindanao Town** (ABS-CBN Central Mindanao)
Saturday, 15 October 2011

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/regions/10/15/11/police-probes-blast-maguindanao-town>

Police are investigating an explosion that occurred in the town of Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao Friday evening.

A bomb exploded right in front of a health center in Barangay Poblacion Dos in Shariff Aguak past 7 p.m., police said.

According to the Shariff Aguak's municipal police station chief, the army's explosive ordnance disposal team has yet to identify the bomb that was used in the blast.

Their investigation was suspended Friday night due to heavy rains in the area. Authorities said the scene investigation will continue Saturday to gather the components of the unidentified bomb that was used.

No one was reported hurt in the explosion.

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21. [Attack: Somalia] **Lawmaker Injured In Roadside Bomb Blast** (Press TV)
Monday, 16 October 2011
<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/204835.html>

A Somali lawmaker has lost his both legs after a powerful bomb explosion targeted his car in the war-weary Somali capital of Mogadishu, Press TV reported.

The incident took place in Mogadishu's northern neighborhood of Karan on Saturday evening when a bomb blast hit Mohamed Ananug's vehicle.

At least eleven Somali government troops and five civilians lost their lives in the massive blast. The three bodyguards of the Somali parliamentarian were also killed in the terror attack.

Earlier in the day, ten civilians were killed in heavy clashes between Somali government troops backed by African Union forces and al-Shabab fighters in Mogadishu's northern neighborhood of Yaqshid.

Over 59 local residents were also injured as the two groups exchanged heavy gunfire and barrages of mortar shells. Somali ambulance workers transported the injured to nearby hospitals.

Somalia has not had a functioning government since 1991 when warlords overthrew former dictator Mohamed Siad Barre.

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22. [Security: India] **Army Trains 2,000 Police, Paramilitary Men In IED Handling** (Times of India)
Sunday, 16 October 2011

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-10-16/india/30286142_1_cpmf-paramilitary-men-naxal

Army has trained over 2,000 troops belonging to the central paramilitary forces (CPMF) and various state forces to deal with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), frequently used by Maoists to carry out attacks.

The training is being conducted at army training facilities located under the Lucknow-based Central Command and over 60,000 police personnel have been trained since 2006 for counter-naxal operations, Army sources said here.

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23. [Security: India] **Sikharpur: Shop Owner Admits To Bomb-Making** (IBN Live)

Monday, 17 October 2011

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/sikharpur--shop-owner--admits-to-bombmaking/193888-60-117.html>

Investigations into the bomb explosion in a mobile shop at Sikharpur Nadikulasahi under Chauhaganj Police limits on October 8 have led to recovery of arms, ammunition and explosives.

The owner of the shop Kartik Behera (22) has confessed to his involvement in bomb-making. Police on Sunday recovered a Mauser along with five rounds of live ammunition and substantial quantity of gunpowder from a house near the mobile shop. He had apparently been using the one-room shed as his bomb-making unit.

What has surprised the police is that Behera had no criminal antecedents nor had he established connections with any group. He had apparently taken to the illicit activities recently with the intention of entering the world of crime. He could have planned to get into extortion for fast money, Chauhaganj Police said.

On October 8 evening, the Shiva Communications mobile shop, owned by Behera, was rocked by a couple of blasts injuring around six, including him. While it was believed to have come under attack from miscreants, examinations revealed the blasts occurred inside the shop itself. The crude bombs kept inside had gone off.

Behera had been absconding since then but finally surrendered on Saturday. He was brought on remand by police and interrogations led to the recovery. He had no experience or training in bomb-making but had been trying his hand at the dangerous work. The bombs, he had kept in shop, had exploded due to his inexperience, police said.

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24. [Attack: Nigeria] **Gunmen Bomb Gombe Mopol Base, Four Dead** (All Africa)
Monday, 17 October 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201110170473.html>

A policeman and three attackers were killed yesterday when gunmen launched a pre-dawn bomb attack on a Mobile Police base in Gombe State.

Fifteen vehicles were burnt and a building destroyed when the bomb tore through the 34th Mobile Police Force Squadron base at about 2.30am yesterday in Kwami, five kilometres from the edge of Gombe city, witnesses said.

Security sources said the gunmen detonated two bombs and broke into an armoury and took away weapons, but the police authorities declined to confirm or deny this.

A reporter for the Associated Press saw two bodies burnt beyond recognition after the blast. A News Agency of Nigeria correspondent also reported two corpses lying outside the perforated wall of the barracks.

Gombe State Police Commissioner Orubebe Ghandi Ebikeme said it was not clear who was behind the attack but it bore the hallmarks of similar strikes carried out by Boko Haram, whose home base is in neighbouring Borno State.

Yesterday's attack was the first of its kind in Gombe State since the Boko Haram sect launched a campaign of violence last year.

A resident of Kwami, civil servant Ibrahim Musa, told AFP news agency he had heard three blasts in the space of five minutes, which panicked local residents who did not leave their homes to investigate until the morning.

"At the barracks I saw the admin block completely razed down," he said. "Some of the adjoining buildings were also torched."

The gunmen made their way into the premises through the surrounding bushes and engaged the police in a heavy exchange of fire resulting into the death of at least three gunmen and a police mobile sergeant who was burnt in one of the vehicles.

The vehicles included Hilux pick up vans, a lorry and other patrol vehicles which were parked in the premises few meters away from the damaged armoury

When our correspondent visited scene of the incident, men of the police anti-bomb squad were seen combing the area which was littered with fragments from the exploded bombs.

The front wall of the barracks was seen littered with bullet holes, and there was a large hole in it which was believed to be the way created by the attackers to flee after a shootout with the police.

Security officials suspected that the gunmen raided the base so as to get weapons.

Assistant Inspector General of Police in charge of Zone 3, AIG John Mourenike, who inspected the bombed base along with the state police commissioner, said the situation was not as bad as it was painted but declined to comment about the extent of the damage.

He said though the front door of the armoury was damaged the armoury itself was intact, adding that it was too early to suspect anybody or rush into judgment before investigation.

The AIG said the gunmen might have made their way into the barracks through a porous wire fence that surrounded the base.

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Mourenike said security agencies were now on red alert in the state and neighbouring Adamawa, Taraba and Bauchi states.

Police commissioner Ebikeme said he had invited men of bomb disposal unit from Yola to investigate the incident and promised to give after the experts have completed their job. He said the base was cordoned off because "there are still unexploded bombs around the area."

There was an unusual presence of security personnel in and around Gombe city in the wake of the bombing.

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25. [Attack: Turkey] **Four Policemen, Two Civilians Hurt In Turkey Bomb Blast** (Focus Information Agency)

Sunday, 16 October 2011

<http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n261911>

A makeshift bomb went off during a demonstration by supporters of the Kurdish separatist group PKK in southern Turkey Sunday, injuring four policemen and two civilians, media reported, AFP reports.

The device, hidden behind a trash can, exploded in the town of Sehan in southern Adana province as "our security forces intervened to stop a banned protest, injuring six people, including two civilians, Anatolia news agency quoted Adana governor Huseyin Avni Cos as saying.

"Two police officers are in serious condition," the governor said.

The NTC news channel said police were moving to disperse a banned demonstration by supporters of the PKK at the time of the blast.

A surge of attacks by Kurdish rebels also targeting civilians are piling pressure on Turkey, which has threatened to launch an incursion into northern Iraq to root out rebel bases.

Turkish warplanes have bombed rebel bases in northern Iraq several times since August, killing between 145 and 160 rebels, according to the general staff.

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26. [Security: India] **Three Assam Rifles Men Injured In Manipur Bomb Blast** (Indian Express)
Tuesday, 18 October 2011
<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/three-assam-rifles-men-injured-in-manipur-bomb-blast/861542/>

Three Assam Rifles personnel were injured when a powerful bomb exploded in Manipur's interior Ukhrul district bordering Myanmar, official reports said on Tuesday.

The bomb planted by militants exploded while the security personnel were on patrol in Litan area in the district yesterday.

The injured personnel belonging to the 23rd Assam Rifles posted at Litan were identified as V G Sudhar (36) from Kerala, Ashini Kumar (28) from Punjab and W Amyunao (25) from Manipur's Ukhrul district, the reports said.

They were admitted to hospital, where their condition was stable.

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27. [Attack: Syria] **Four Syrian Soliders Killed In Bomb Blast** (AFP)

Monday, 17 October 2011

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/~ /NewsContent/2/8/24389/World/Region/Four-Syrian-soliders-killed-in-bomb-blast.aspx>

An officer and three soldiers were killed in a bomb explosion in northwestern Syria on Monday, a human rights activist said, adding that the blast was activated by suspected army defectors.

"Gunmen suspected of being army defectors blew up a bomb by remote control as an army vehicle passed by Ehssem in the countryside of the (northwestern province of Idlib), killing an officer and three soldiers, and wounding others," said Rami Abdel Rahman.

Abdel Rahman's Syrian Observatory for Human Rights had earlier reported that five soldiers were killed in clashes Monday with gunmen suspected too of being army defectors in the flashpoint central province of Homs.

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28. [Attack: Turkey] **Five Police Officers Wounded In Adana Bomb Attack** (Press Trust of India)
Saturday, 16 October 2011
<http://www.todayszaman.com/news-260075-five-police-officers-wounded-in-adana-bomb-attack.html>

Five police officers and two civilians were injured when a bomb exploded near the scene of an illegal demonstration held in the southern province of Adana, news reports said on Sunday.

Two of the police officers suffered serious injuries, reports said. Police believe the bomb, placed in a pile of garbage on Obalar Street in Adana, was set off by a remote control. The explosion occurred as riot police were trying to disperse a crowd who had gathered in support of the terrorist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Demonstrators attacked police with stones and Molotov cocktails.

Those injured in the explosion were taken to Çukurova University's Balcalı Research Hospital for medical treatment. Police officer Veli Ataşçı, who was severely injured in the blast, remains in critical condition officials stated, adding that Ataşçı had an edema in his brain and lungs, and also risks losing one of his eyes.

Dr. Aşkın Tüfekçi stated that two nails had been removed from the body of the other seriously injured police officer, Emre Önderci, who is in intensive care. Another police officer, Ali Şener, sustained injuries to his right arm, left leg and right thigh; however his general condition is fine. The other two police officers, Mustafa Kaya and İbrahim Yılmaz were slightly injured and are suffering from tinnitus and wounds caused by the nails that were placed in the bomb. Dr. Tüfekçi said that the two wounded civilians, Mehmet Dağtekin and Mehmet Hasip Aslan, were in a good condition.

As part of an investigation carried out by the Adana Counterterrorism Unit into the blast, officers questioned people who were present at the time of the explosion.

Teachers supporting PKK suspended from duty by Education Ministry

In a separate incident, five teachers who were arrested for supporting the outlawed PKK in one of the Democratic Solution Tents erected by the pro-Kurdish Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) were released by the court, but were suspended from duty by the Education Ministry on Monday. The tent had been put up by the party during its disobedience campaign in March 2011. Named the Democratic Solution Tent, it is often referred to as the "peace tent."

Police in Batman searched the Democratic Solution Tents in March 2011 and seized 166 Molotov cocktails, 11 liters of oil, 115 sticks, 272 fireworks, one unlicensed handgun, 34 ski masks and posters of Abdullah Öcalan, the jailed leader of the terrorist PKK. Police also detained four men in the tent against whom detention warrants had been issued by a local court in the past for participating in illegal demonstrations.

Union of Democratic Educationalists (DES) head Gürkan Avcı stated last month that almost 100 teachers who support the PKK, including 12 in September, were taken into custody in operations against the PKK and Kurdish Communities Union (KCK), an umbrella political organization of the PKK.

The PKK, fighting for autonomy in Turkey from its bases in northern Iraq, has stepped up its attacks in recent months, killing dozens of members of security forces and many civilians since July. The PKK, branded a terrorist group by Ankara, Washington and the European Union, took up arms against the Turkish state in 1984 to fight for Kurdish autonomy. More than 40,000 people have died in the conflict.

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29. [Attack: Somalia] **Suicide Car Bomb Rattles Somali Capital; 4 Dead** (AP)

Wednesday, 19 October 2011

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/story/2011-10-18/somalia-explosion/50819274/1>

A suicide car bomb exploded near Somalia's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday, killing at least four people even as Somali and Kenyan leaders met and agreed to cooperate on military action against Islamist insurgents.

The blast rattled central Mogadishu and killed at least three passers-by and the suicide bomber, said police official Ali Hassan. Six people were wounded and taken to the hospital, he said.

The explosion did not damage the ministry building but did tear down a stone wall in front of it. Hundreds of on-lookers gathered to see the demolished car scattered across the road. Several body parts littered the street. "The car bomb blew up among people and cars passing down the street. I don't know if his target was the civilians, but thanks to Allah the loss was not so big," said Mohamed Nor Siyaed, an eyewitness.

Abdikarim Sheikh Hussein, a university student in Mogadishu, said he was standing on the other side of the street when the explosion happened. Bloodied textbooks were lying on the ground in the post-explosion ruins.

"When the car blew up a ball of flame and smoke engulfed the whole area, then some wounded people ran through the streets" he said.

African Union and Somali troops battling al-Shabab militants have mostly pushed the insurgents out of Mogadishu, but al-Shabab has vowed to carry out attacks in the capital. Earlier this month al-Shabab unleashed a suicide blast that killed more than 100 people, many of them students. It was the deadliest bombing in Somalia by al-Shabab.

The latest attacks have raised fears that al-Shabab is targeting everyone, not just government officials and African Union peacekeepers.

Hassan Jimale said he's now afraid to attend university classes, saying the education centers may again be targeted like the students.

"I am afraid the students themselves will bomb us in the classes," Jimale said. "You can't know who's going to kill you! Women are veiled and men can hide explosive vests under their shirts."

Tuesday's blast came as Kenya's ministers of foreign affairs and defense traveled to Mogadishu to meet with Somalia's president following Kenya's launch of military operations in southern Somalia against al-Shabab militants. The explosion occurred several miles (kilometers) from where those meetings were believed to have taken place.

Al-Shabab on Monday said it would launch terror attacks inside Kenya unless that country pulls back the hundreds of troops who have moved into southern Somalia in search of al-Shabab. In response, Kenyan police on Tuesday sent out a terrorist attack warning and increased security at some downtown sites, including the Somali neighborhood of Nairobi.

Somalia's government earlier this week said it did not approve of Kenya's push into southern Somalia. But on Tuesday the two sides agreed to coordinate their military operations in pursuit of al-Shabab insurgents after Kenyan Foreign Minister Moses Wetangula met with President Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed.

"The recent spate of blatant attacks is indicative of a changed strategy by (al-Shabab) calculated to terrorize civilians," a joint Kenyan-Somali statement said. "This warrants decisive action to forestall the threats ...

restore security in the border areas and ensure that insurgents do not launch attacks against Kenya, the region and beyond."

Kenya said it launched its military action in response to the kidnappings of four Europeans over the last six weeks, though military analysts suspect that Kenya had prepared the invasion before the abductions.

The push by Kenyan ground forces toward a strategic Somali town was slowed on Tuesday by heavy rain, Kenyan military spokesman Maj. Emmanuel Chirchir said. Kenyan troops and pro-Somali government forces are heading toward the town of Afmadow, a crossroads town just north of the port city of Kismayo, where al-Shabab is entrenched.

Chirchir said Kenyan forces were at the Somali town of Qoqani, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) from Afmadow. Residents of Afmadow on Monday reported that al-Shabab fighters were leaving as the troops approached.

"Our troops are heading to Afmadow now, and we expect to capture it either today or tomorrow," Abdinasir Serar, a commander with the pro-government Ras Kamboni militia told The Associated Press by phone from Qoqani.

Kenya moved two battalions of about 800 troops each across the border in two locations, a Nairobi-based official said. Tanks, helicopters and artillery have also been deployed. The invasion is the most significant foreign deployment of the Kenyan military since independence from Britain in 1963.

Al-Shabab threatened on Monday to bring down Nairobi skyscrapers and referenced the July 2010 bomb attacks they masterminded in Kampala, Uganda, that killed 76 people. Al-Shabab said the attacks were retaliation for Uganda's troops contributions to the African Union peacekeeping force in Mogadishu.

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30. [Attack: Turkey] **Roadside Bomb Blast Kills 8** (AP)

Tuesday, 18 October 2011

<http://www.onenewsnow.com/AP/Search/World/Default.aspx?id=1460316>

A roadside blast killed five policemen and three civilians, including a 4-year-old girl, in Turkey's southeast on Tuesday, an official said.

A police vehicle appears to have been the target for the attack in the town of Guroymak in Bitlis province, while the civilians were traveling in a truck behind, said provincial Gov. Nurettin Yilmaz.

The area has seen a spike in attacks by suspected Kurdish rebels seeking greater autonomy in Turkey, killing dozens of members of the country's security forces and at least 18 civilians since mid-July.

Since 1984, the conflict has killed tens of thousands of people.

Tuesday's attack came hours after police rounded up dozens of alleged Kurdish rebel supporters around the country.

Yilmaz said the civilian casualties were all from the same family, including the 4-year-old girl and a 13-year-old boy. Three other people were wounded in the explosion, he said.

One soldier was wounded in a separate roadside bomb attack in the southeastern province of Mardin, authorities said.

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31. [Attack: India] **Bomb Blast At Minister's Residence** (Nagaland Post)

Wednesday, 19 October 2011

<http://www.nagalandpost.com/ChannelNews/Regional/RegionalNews.aspx?news=TkVXUzEwMDAwNzY4Ng==g7iT0nhUWqA=>

A low intensity bomb exploded inside the compound of state social welfare minister, N. Loken at Leimapokpam in Bishnupur district on Tuesday night.

According to police sources, the bomb, a local made, was hurled by unidentified militants Tuesday night around 11 pm. It exploded inside the fencing wall of the residence. The minister was not at his residence at the time of bomb attack. He is currently staying in a government allotted quarter.

No casualty was reported in the blast, police said, adding that some damages were caused to the RCC fencing of the minister's residence.

The attack at the minister's residence came up after a long gap of time. There had been attack at the residence by militants on several occasions in the last few years, allegedly in connection with monetary demand.

Various militant groups are demanding siphoning off funds released by the Centre for the scheme sponsored by it to the state social welfare department. However, which group had conducted the latest attack could not be immediately confirmed by the police.

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32. [Attack: Somalia] **Mogadishu Roadside Bomb Hurts Two People** (All Africa)

Wednesday, 19 October 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201110200007.html>

At least two people have been injured in a roadside bomb attack targeting government soldiers riding a van in Mogadishu, witnesses said Wednesday.

Local residents said the bomb was a remote controlled device as it was already planted a bridge street in Mogadishu's Hamar-jajab district.

Eyewitnesses told Shabelle the bomb attack missed government soldiers' van which was the target.

The wounded were children as they were rushed to the medical facilities immediately after the attack.

According to locals, at least one person was arrested by the security forces of Somali government in connection with bomb blast.

No comments were immediately available from the government officials about the roadside bomb.

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33. [Attack: Mexico] **Car Explodes In Northern Mexico As Soldiers Pass** (AP)

Friday, 21 October 2011

http://www.boston.com/news/world/latinamerica/articles/2011/10/21/car_explodes_in_northern_mexico_as_soldiers_pass/

Drug violence escalated Thursday in two Mexican regions when a vehicle exploded during a car chase in the northern city of Monterrey and later eight bodies were dumped in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz.

No one was injured when the car, pursued by a military convoy, exploded, authorities said.

Police in Nuevo Leon state, where Monterrey is located, are trying to determine if the car was loaded with explosives or if assailants threw grenades at it, said a military official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing investigation.

Photographs of the scene showed an almost-disintegrated small car and the damaged metal door of an auto repair shop. The explosion caused no other reported damage.

The troops were on a routine patrol in Monterrey when they spotted a suspicious car carrying several men and gave chase.

Drug traffickers first used explosives against authorities in July 2010, when a car bomb aimed at federal police officers exploded in Ciudad Juarez, killing three and wounding nine. The following months, three other car bombs were detonated in Ciudad Victoria, capital of the border state of Tamaulipas.

In Veracruz, hours later a person called police reporting bodies found in the town of Paso de Ovejas. Authorities arrived at a local cemetery late Thursday and found six bodies. Two others were located near a ranch, said a statement by the Veracruz Attorney General's Office.

The Mexican army and navy beefed up security in the area.

The industrial city of Monterrey has seen a spike in drug violence since early 2010, when the Gulf drug cartel and the Zetas began a fierce fight for control of the city and its metropolitan area.

In Veracruz, authorities said violence is caused by the rivalry between a gang aligned with the Sinaloa drug cartel and the Zetas, which has increased its presence in the state.

Also Thursday, a federal judge sentenced four military officers to more than 29 years in prison for giving drug traffickers information on police operations, the Attorney General's Office said in a statement.

The four soldiers, three lieutenants and a captain were arrested in June 2009 as part of a widespread corruption probe known as "Operation Clean House."

The officers were linked to drug lords Ismael Zambada and the Beltran Leyva brothers, the statement said.

They were giving them "information that allowed them to evade justice and operate with impunity."

The military officers are Capt. Jose Manuel Reyes, and Lts. Ricardo Santos Vazquez, Jaime Guatemala Nino and Francisco Jimenez Garcia. Each received a sentence of 29 years, four months and 15 days in prison, federal prosecutors said.

They also have to pay fines ranging from \$13,600 to \$122,000.

Federal prosecutors didn't say where the officers were working while allegedly collaborating with drug traffickers or how long they allegedly passed information to them.

Zambada is one of the leaders of the Sinaloa drug cartel, Mexico's most powerful. The Beltran Leyva brothers were once part of the same cartel but they split after the 2008 arrest of Alfredo Beltran Leyva.

Navy sailors and customs agents also found 24 metric tons of precursor chemicals in two containers when inspecting a ship in the Pacific seaport of Manzanillo coming from Busan, South Korea. The containers were from Shanghai, said a Thursday statement by the Mexican navy.

Mexican authorities have made major busts of large labs with such chemicals and meth this year, signaling an expansion of methamphetamine production possibly by the Sinaloa drug cartel, the country's most powerful.

Mexico is the primary source of meth to the United States and most of Mexico's precursor chemicals come from Asia.

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34. [Attack: Philippines] **Twin Explosion Rocks Zambo Sibugay** (Sun Star)

Friday, 21 October 2011

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/zamboanga/local-news/2011/10/21/twin-explosion-rocks-zambo-sibugay-186294>

Two improvised bombs exploded Thursday night in two areas in Zamboanga Sibugay province, police said.

No one was hurt in the blasts that took place three hours apart, Zamboanga Peninsula police director Elpidio De Asis said.

He said the first explosion took place around 8 p.m. at a vacant lot owned by Estila Alquitas near the wharf of Malangas town.

The second explosive went off around 11:20 p.m. near a terminal in the town of Imelda, the police official said.

He said post-blast investigators were analyzing bomb components found at the blast sites.

Authorities are also studying the correlation of the explosion to the attacks to government troops in various areas of the province.

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35. [Attack: Somalia] **Bomb Attack Targets IRCS In Somalia** (Press TV)
Friday, 21 October 2011
<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/205662.html>

The headquarters of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) near the Somali capital city of Mogadishu has been targeted by an explosive attack that reportedly did not succeed, Press TV reports.

The blast occurred at 20:25 local time on Wednesday in front of the building where IRCS field and medical staff are stationed. An investigation into the incident found that the building was the prime target of the attack.

Iranian physicians and relief workers were not injured in the incident that badly damaged the entrance of the building and shattered its windows.

Local sources say the assailants first clashed with security forces standing guard near IRCS camp before heading for the building where one of them set off his explosive belt and the other one fled the scene.

IRCS has so far dispatched nearly 6,000 tons in humanitarian aid to Somalia. It has also set up 20 relief camps in the Somali capital of Mogadishu as well as a permanent medical center and six makeshift field clinics across the country.

Somalia has been hardest-hit by what is widely described as the worst drought to inflict the Horn of Africa in 60 years.

The UN has declared famine in six regions in southern Somalia, warning that the natural disaster would spread to all eight regions of the country's south.

Drought and famine have together affected more than 11.8 million people throughout Somalia as well as in Kenya and Ethiopia.

According to the United Nations, it is estimated that a quarter of Somalia's population of 9.9 million are now either internally displaced or living outside the country as refugees.

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