



## Weekly News Update

Volume 1, Issue 21

02 December 2011

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



The aftermath of a Boko Haram bombing in Gaidam, Yobe State, Nigeria  
[See [Boko Haram Kills Four Policemen In Yobe Attacks](#) ]

UNCLASSIFIED

**AFPAK**

1. [Tech] [Canada Orders Black Boxes To Track Afghan Bomb Blasts](#)
2. [Trend: Karachi, PAK] [Overview Of Attacks In Karachi, Pakistan](#)
3. [Attack: Farah, AFG] [Explosions Kill Three Afghan Civilians In Farah Province](#)
4. [Attack: Landikotal, PAK] [Bomb Blast Injures Six In Landikotal](#)
5. [Attack: Quetta, PAK] [Five Killed, Eleven Wounded In Attack On Chinese Engineers](#)
6. [Attack: Pakistan] [Two Killed, Seven Injured In Bomb Blast](#)
7. [Attack: Karachi, PAK] [Man With US Passport Blows Himself Up In Park](#)
8. [Attack: Jano Veri, PAK] [Roadside Bomb Hits Militia Vehicle](#)
9. [Attack: Gulistan-e-Johar, PAK] [Al-Qaeda Commander Blows Himself Up](#)
10. [Attack: Hangu, PAK] [Peace Committee Leader Killed In Hangu Blast](#)
11. [Peshawar, PAK] [Bomb Targets Official In Peshawar](#)

**IRAQ**

12. [Trend] [Iraq Death Toll Down In November](#)
13. [Attack: Baghdad] [SVBIED Hits Baghdad Green Zone—First Suicide Attack Since 2007](#)
14. [Attack: Diyala] [Bomb, Gunmen Kill Eighteen As Iraq Marks US Withdrawal](#)
15. [Attack: Baghdad, Basra, Abu Ghraib] [Bombings Across Iraq](#)
16. [Trend: Baghdad] [New Wave Of Bombings Raises Toll For Iraqis](#)
17. [Attack: Taji] [Suicide Car Bomb Kills 19 At Iraqi Prison](#)

**AFRICOM**

18. [Attack: Somalia] [Five Dead In Mogadishu Suicide Bomb Attack](#)
19. [Attack: Somalia] [Explosion In Hospital Injures Seven In Mogadishu](#)
20. [Attack: Somalia] [Bomb Blast Hits Govt Army Vehicle In Mogadishu](#)
21. [Attack: Somalia] [Suspected Al-Shabbab Bomb Blast In Mogadishu Kills Eleven](#)
22. [Attack: Nigeria] [Boko Haram Kills Four Policemen In Yobe Attacks](#)
23. [Attack: Kenya] [Blast Kills Kenyan Soldier Near Somali Border](#)
24. [Render Safe: South Africa] [Explosives Found In Eastgate](#)

**PACOM**

25. [Attack: Philippines] [Bombing At Hotel Wedding In Southern Philippines](#)
26. [Attack: Philippines] [Bomb Explodes As Philippines Marks Massacre Anniversary](#)
27. [Attack: Nepal] [Bomb Attempt Targets Protestant Church](#)
28. [Attack: India] [Blast Hits Imphal Ahead of PM Visit, One Killed](#)
29. [Attack: India] [Assam Railway Blast Kills Two ULFA Militants](#)
30. [Attack: Philippines] [Bomb Blast Injures Four Soldiers In Compostela Valley](#)

**CONUS**

31. [Trend] [DOD Holds First HME Conference To Defeat IEDs](#)
32. [Law Enforcement: Maryland] [Two Eleven Year-Olds, Teen Arrested For Possession Of IEDs](#)
33. [Law Enforcement: North Carolina] [Federal, State Officials Investigating Bomb Explosion](#)
34. [Law Enforcement: New York] [New York Police Arrest ‘Lone Wolf’ Bomb Plot Suspect](#)
35. [Law Enforcement: Ohio] [Man Accused Of Making Explosives Pleads Guilty To Reduced Charge](#)

**OTHER**

36. [Trend] [Counter-IED Market In Decline](#)
37. [Trend: Dagestan, NC] [Dagestan—The Most Dangerous Place In Europe](#)
38. [Attack: Dagestan, NC] [Militant Killed, Another Wounded In Shop Bomb Attempt In Dagestan](#)
39. [Law Enforcement: Malta] [Authorities Search For Detonator From Malta Blast](#)
40. [Law Enforcement: Columbia] [Army Discovers FARC Landmine Cache Hidden In Cans Of Tuna](#)

**1. Canada Orders Black Boxes To Track Afghan Bomb Blasts (TS)**

Monday, 21 November 2011

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/politics/article/1090448--military-orders-black-boxes-to-track-afghan-bomb-blasts?bn=1>

Canada's fleet of armoured vehicles in Afghanistan is being equipped with special devices to track the effect of bomb blasts.

The 2,000 data recorders that the military is ordering — essentially a black box for ground vehicles — will be required to study the acceleration and rotation of the vehicles as well as the internal pressure caused by the blast waves.

The pressure that results from the explosion can lead to traumatic brain injuries and other internal organ damage — one of the unique injuries that has stemmed from the decade-long war in Afghanistan.

Though combat operations ended over the summer and Canadian troops are now involved in a three-year training mission, the military says the devices are needed to fill “a gap in information/data gathered regarding incidents in theatre.”

The specific details of the blasts can then be easily downloaded for study and use by defence intelligence officials, scientists looking at soldier safety with Defence Research and Development Canada, the research arm of the Canadian Forces, as well as those tasked with managing military equipment.

The U.S. military has come up with similar initiatives through the Army's Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center.

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

## 2. Overview Of Attacks In Karachi, Pakistan (PDT)

Monday, 21 November 2011

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011%5C11%5C21%5Cstory\\_21-11-2011\\_pg7\\_1](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011%5C11%5C21%5Cstory_21-11-2011_pg7_1)

The bomb blast that shook the Sea View area near Village Hotel was one of the 14th suicides attacks Karachi has witnessed so far. These suicide attacks have claimed the lives of 331 people and injured 867 others injured.

The mega city witnessed its very first suicide attack, carried out by a woman in November 2000, at the office of one of the local newspapers located along the MA Jinnah Road. It left three persons dead and six others wounded.

On May 8, 2002, the second similar attack near one of the leading hotels of the city killed 17 people, including 11 French engineers, and injured 45 others. In the same year on June 14, the third suicide attack targeted the US Consulate and left 12 persons dead besides injuring 43 others.

In 2004, the militants twice targeted the religious sites of Shia sect, killing 58 persons and injuring 140 others. A suicide attacker targeted Imambargah Hyderi, located near Sindh Madarsatul Islam, on May 6, 2004 while Imambargah Ali Raza came under extreme terrorism on May 31, 2004.

In the same month of 2005, yet another Imambargah Madinatul Ilm was hit by a suicide attack that left three persons killed and 36 others injured.

Subsequently, a wave of sectarian violence engulfed the city, claiming the lives of seven workers of a leading international food chain. The US Consulate came under another attack when a suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden car into a parked van of consulate, leaving three persons dead, including the head of the Crime Investigation Authority in Pakistan besides injuring 36 others.

Undeniably, the most shocking bomb blast of the country's history shook the metropolis on March 11, 2006 when some 65 persons, including dozens of religious leaders, lost their lives in a blast inside Nishtar Park during a religious congregation of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal.

Although the attack claimed numerous lives of people, including top-notch religious scholars, the investigators are yet to uncertain if it was a suicide attack or a planted bomb.

In July, 2006, religious scholar and the leader of then Muttahida Majalis-e-Amal Allama Hassan Turabi was targeted along with his nephew in a suicide bomb blast that took place near his residence located in Gulshan-e-Iqbal. Two back-to-back suicide attacks occurred at Karsaz Road when Benazir Bhutto returned back to Pakistan after eight years of exile. The blasts left 160 persons killed and injured 500 others.

The shrine of Abdullah Shah Ghazi came under a suicide attack on Oct 7, 2010 when some 11 persons were killed and 35 others injured.

In the same year on Nov 11, the Crime Investigation Department building was hit by an explosive-laden vehicle, which claimed 18 lives. Investigators claimed that the bomber first parked the vehicle and then exploded the same through a hand grenade. The 13 such attack hit the residence of SSP Chaudhry Aslam, claiming eight lives besides wounding eight others.

The 14th such incident happened in the Sea View area near Village hotel on Nov 16, 2011 when suicide attacker blew himself up when police men was followed them, resultantly five terrorists and two policemen lost their lives. Interestingly law enforcement agencies has failed to arrest the terrorists involved in the last four incidents, including CID Office, Abdullah Shah Ghazi Shrine, SSP Chaudhry Aslam house and the Sea View attacks

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

### **3. Explosions Kill Three Afghan Civilians In Farah Province (KP)**

Monday, 21 November 2011

<http://www.khaama.com/7822-511>

Local security officials in western regions of Afghanistan on Monday said, at least three Afghan civilians were killed following an explosion in western Farah province.

The officials further added, the incident took place early Monday in this province.

Provincial security chief for western Farah province Gen. Mohammad Ghous Malyar confirming the incident said, the incident took place after explosives which was attached to a motorcycle went off in the area killing at least 3 Afghan civilians.

The source further added, the main target of the explosion was the convoy of the Afghan national police forces which were crossing the area.

Gen. Malyar said, Afghan national police forces did not suffer any casualty as a result of the explosion.

No group including the Taliban militants have so far claimed responsibility behind the incident.

Local officials blame the Taliban militants for carrying such attacks, using roadside bombs and improvised explosive devices to target Afghan and coalition forces which normally leads to civilians casualties.

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

**4. Bomb Blast Injures Six In Landikotal (PDT)**

Tuesday, 29 November 2011

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\11\29\story\\_29-11-2011\\_pg7\\_8](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\11\29\story_29-11-2011_pg7_8)

A powerful bomb explosion destroyed a Khasadar Force's vehicle in a mechanic repair store in Landikotal bazaar on Torkham road on Monday morning in front of the Landikotal Press Club. The bomb explosion wounded six Khasadar Force personnel, including their subedar, Samar Qand Afridi, and mechanic Jabir. This is the fifth explosion in the past few days in the Landikotal sub-division of Khyber Agency. The situation in the area is fast becoming precarious, which has scared the local people. The bomb was magnetic and was attached to the vehicle of Samar Qand. After the explosion, Samar Qand and Jabir were shifted to Peshawar due to their critical condition, while three Khasadar personnel were admitted to the Landikotal hospital. The three were identified as Majeed, Akbar Hussain and Hameed Ullah. Khasadar Force sources said that the vehicle and the subedar were probably the main targets of the attack. Separately, another bomb blast on Monday morning in a house under construction at Khuga Khel Shinwari belonging to transporter Saleem Khan destroyed the verandah of the house, two rooms and the kitchen.

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

**5. Five Killed, Eleven Wounded In Attack On Chinese Engineers (PT)**

Wednesday, 23 November 2011

<http://paktribune.com/news/Quetta-5-killed-11-wounded-in-attack-on-Chinese-engineers-245311.html>

At least five people, including three security personnel were killed and eleven others wounded on Tuesday in a remote controlled bomb attack on Chinese engineers in restive district Dera Bugti however guest engineers remained safe, media reported.

Media quoted official sources said the explosives were planted road side which exploded with a big bang when vehicles of Chinese engineers were passing from the area.

As a result, two vehicles were destroyed while five people including personnel of Bugti peace force were killed while a dozen other injured among most of them reported in critical condition.

Sources said that the explosives were detonated through a remote controlled device and the vehicles of Chinese engineers were the main target.

Police and personnel of FC rushed to the site and cordoned off the area. No group has claimed responsibility for the blast till filing of this report. However, police said Baloch militants might be behind this attack.

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

**6. Two Killed, Seven Injured In Bomb Blast (TNW)**

Wednesday, 23 November 2011

<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/23-Nov-2011/Two-killed-7-injured-in-bomb-blast>

Two persons, including a constable, were killed while seven others, including three constables, got seriously injured when an explosive device went off in Par Hoti area early in the morning, sources said.

They said the locals informed police that militants had planted explosive devices in the Government Girls High School, Shahdad Baba, in the limits of Par Hoti Police Station. Sources said the police personnel on duty in the area came to the spot and started searching the explosives at 6:45 am. They said the explosive devices, hidden in a rubbish heap near the school gate, went off killing constable Allah Nawaz, resident of Khairabad, and a passer-by, identified as Tahir Khan, son of Shabir Shah, resident of Shahdand Baba, on the spot. They said constables Atif, resident of Gharo Shah, Jawad, resident of Baghcha Dheri, and Ali Bahadur, resident of Katlang, got seriously injured.

They added that watchman of the school and other persons got seriously injured.

The injured were shifted to District Headquarters Hospital, where their condition was stated to be out of danger. They said the school gate and boundary wall were partially damaged.

The sources further said that the bomb disposal squad officials came to the spot and defused another explosive device at the site. Following the incident, the police launched a search operation, but no arrest was made till the filing of this report. Police registered a case against unidentified militants.

Sources said that militants set up their strongholds in different parts of the city and they started their activities. They said the intensification of militant activities in the district, particularly in the city, created panic among the masses.

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



**7. Man With US Passport Blows Himself Up In Park (ATO)**

Saturday, 19 November 2011

<http://www.arabtimesonline.com/RSS/tabid/69/smId/414/ArticleID/176326/t/Man-with-US-passport-blows-himself-up-in-Pak/Default.aspx>

A suspected militant who blew himself up in southern Pakistan during a raid by security forces was carrying a US and a Pakistani passport, authorities said Saturday.

According to a statement by Pakistan's paramilitary Rangers, the dead man has been identified as Saeed Abdul Salam. He detonated an explosive device Thursday when troops raided his apartment in the port city of Karachi. Post-mortem tests on Salam's body confirmed the man died due to the explosion of a hand grenade, it said, adding "documents used for acts of terrorism were also recovered" from his possession.

The US Embassy could not immediately confirm the development.

The Rangers' statement said Salam had divorced his wife a month ago and was living with four children, who were unharmed. According to Salam's passport, he had traveled to many countries, the statement said.

Karachi is home to around 18 million people and is the capital of Sindh province. Several al-Qaeda and Taleban operatives have been captured or killed there in recent years.

QUETTA, Pakistan: A bomb blast Saturday killed two soldiers and wounded two others in Pakistan's southwestern province of Baluchistan, which borders Afghanistan and Iran, officials said.

The roadside remote controlled bomb hit a vehicle of the paramilitary Frontier Corps in Sui town, some 450 kms (280 miles) southeast of Quetta, the capital of insurgency-hit Baluchistan.

"Two soldiers were killed and two were wounded in the bomb blast," A senior Frontier Corps official told AFP, requesting anonymity.

Another senior government official in Quetta confirmed the incident and casualties, adding that the explosion also destroyed the vehicle.

Baluchistan is beset by Islamist militancy and sectarian violence between majority Sunnis and minority Shiite Muslims.

The province is also rife with a regional insurgency waged by separatists who rose up in 2004 demanding political autonomy and a greater share of profits from the region's wealth of natural resources.

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

**8. Roadside Bomb Hits Militia Vehicle (PTV)**

Sunday, 20 November 2011

<http://presstv.com/detail/211040.html>

At least two people have been killed and three others injured in a bomb explosion in Pakistan's southwestern province of Balochistan, Press TV reports.

Local officials told our correspondent that the incident took place in the remote Jano Beri area of Sui town, some 450 kilometers (280 miles) southeast of the provincial capital Quetta on Saturday, when a vehicle carrying pro-government militiamen went over a remotely-controlled roadside bomb.

Pakistani security forces cordoned off the entire area after the blast and launched a search operation to arrest the perpetrators.

No group has claimed responsibility for the act of violence so far.

Despite the Pakistani government's frequent offensives against militants, known as Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), and their associated groups, they have been able to spread their influence in various regions of the country and kill thousands of people.

Over 35,000 Pakistanis have lost their lives in bombings and other militant attacks since 2007, according to the Associated Press. The violence and militancy has also displaced millions more among the populace.

There has been a surge in the militant attacks since late 2009.

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

9. **Al-Qaeda Commander Blows Himself Up** (TNP)

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/NewsDetail.aspx?ID=26790&title=Khi-bomber-was-Al-Qaeda-commander>

The suicide bomber who blew himself up in Gulistan-e-Johar on Friday morning has been identified as a key commander of Al-Qaeda in Karachi, Geo News reported.

The accused Moid was an Al-Qaeda commander in Karachi, security sources, said. His complete name is Moid Abdusalam Yamani.

He arrived in Karachi one-and-a-half month ago from Waziristan.

Earlier, an alleged suicide bomber blew himself up during the Rangers search operation in Gulistan e Jauhar block 13 on Friday morning.

Sources had said that the bomber was a foreigner and had hired a flat on rent.

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

**10. Peace Committee Leader Killed In Hangu Blast (IHT)**

Thursday, 30 November 2011

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/299993/car-bomb-in-hangu-kills-anti-taliban-militia-leader/>

A remote-controlled blast on Wednesday killed a peace committee leader and injured two others in Hangu district, which is located near the tribal area, police officials told.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Gul Jamal told *The Express Tribune* that the blast took place in a vehicle which belonged to the Darband Peace Committee.

“The leader of the committee, Haji Hasjim was killed while two of the committee’s members were severely injured,” said Jamal.

“The blast took place near a petrol pump in the main market when Hashim started his car in order to reach the agency headquarters.”

Jamal said that militant factions may be responsible for the attack.

Earlier on Tuesday, 14 militants were killed during a security operation in Upper Orakzai Agency.

Clashes took place in the Khadezai and Ali Khel areas of Upper Orakzai Agency when security forces made an advance towards militant sanctuaries.

More than 150 militants have so far been killed during the ongoing security operation with dozens of hideouts destroyed and countless others injured. Casualties cannot be verified independently as the area is not accessible to media.

Security forces had earlier cleared Lower Orakzai in April, however militants maintained sanctuaries and hideouts in parts of Upper Orakzai, including a stronghold in Mamozai. These areas are now being cleared.

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

11. **Bomb Targets Official In Peshawar** (Reuters)

Wednesday, 30 November 2011

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/12/01/us-pakistan-blast-idUSTRE7B00B320111201>

A bomb exploded near the office of a regional government official in the often restive northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar early on Thursday, police officials said, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

A wall of the district coordination officer's building collapsed after the blast, which was heard throughout Peshawar, the last major city on the route to Afghanistan.

Peshawar is also not far from Mohmand, the district where a strike by NATO-led forces at the weekend killed 24 Pakistani soldiers and plunged often uneasy relations between Washington and Islamabad to new lows.

Taliban militants have often launched suicide attacks in and around Peshawar in their campaign to topple the Pakistani government for its support of the U.S.-led war against militancy.

The army has launched a series of offensives against the Pakistani Taliban but have failed to subdue the group, which is close to al Qaeda and is blamed for many of the suicide bombings across Pakistan, an unstable, nuclear-armed U.S. ally.

Pakistani Taliban officials have said the group is holding exploratory peace talks with the Islamabad government. Since the weekend strike in Mohmand, Pakistan has announced it will boycott an international conference on the future of Afghanistan in Germany next week, depriving the talks of a central player in efforts to bring peace to Afghanistan.

Pakistan has labelled that attack as a deliberate act of aggression, although that has been categorically denied by senior U.S. military officials.

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

**12. Iraq Death Toll Down In November (TDS)**

Thursday, 01 December 2011

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2011/Dec-01/155748-iraq-death-toll-down-in-november.ashx#axzz1fOdtNeVS>

The number of Iraqis killed fell sharply in November compared to October, despite a string of bloody attacks late in the month, official figures showed on Thursday.

A total of 187 Iraqis -- 112 civilians, 42 policemen and 33 soldiers -- were killed in attacks in November, according to data compiled by the ministries of interior, defence and health.

A further 325 were wounded -- 120 civilians, 110 police and 95 soldiers.

Additionally, 55 insurgents were killed, and 120 arrested.

The overall death toll for November represented a decline of roughly 27.5 percent from October, when 258 Iraqis were killed.

But the November 2011 death toll was still higher than the corresponding month in 2010, when 171 people were killed.

November 2011 saw a string of deadly days near the end of the month.

Five people were killed in an attack on the home of a Muslim cleric in the central Iraqi city of Samarra on Tuesday.

At least 17 people were killed and more than 50 wounded, among them an Iraqi member of parliament, on Monday in a wave of attacks mainly in and around Baghdad.

On Sunday, bomb and gun attacks killed four people and wounded nine, while the previous day 16 people were killed and 20 wounded in bombings and shootings in Baghdad and Abu Ghraib, about 20 kilometres (12 miles) west of the capital.

Three bombs exploded in the southern port city of Basra on November 24, killing 19 people, including high-ranking army and police officers, and wounding at least 65.

And five people were killed in attacks in the disputed northern Iraq city of Kirkuk on November 22.

Thursday's figures come with just a month to go before all US troops are to leave the country. US President Barack Obama announced on October 21 that all US forces would depart Iraq by year's end.

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

13. **SVBIED Hits Baghdad Green Zone—First Suicide Attack Since 2007** (SFC)

Wednesday, 30 November 2011

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/11/29/MNG21M5O9E.DTL>

An explosion Monday in Baghdad's Green Zone that Iraqi officials at first attributed to a rocket that had landed in a parking lot was in fact a suicide car bomb that detonated at the entrance to the parliament building and killed five people, officials revealed Tuesday.

The admission that a suicide car bomber had penetrated the fortified Green Zone, the first suicide attack there since April 2007, sent a wave of concern across the capital about the abilities, and loyalties, of Iraq's security agencies.

The attack targeted the speaker of parliament, Osama al-Nujaifi, according to al-Nujaifi's spokesman. The speaker was uninjured.

Entry into the Green Zone, where Iraqi government offices and the U.S. Embassy are, is strictly controlled. Vehicles that enter the area are subjected to thorough searches that include a review by dogs trained to discover explosives.

Only people who are carrying high-security can avoid the search. Passengers without such clearances must present other identification and are required to leave the vehicle while it's searched.

Worry about security has been growing in Baghdad as the deadline nears for the complete withdrawal of American troops from Iraq. Fewer than 20,000 Americans remain in the country, and all are expected to be out before Dec. 31.

As the drawdown has continued, violence has risen steadily. More than 100 people have been killed in violence in Baghdad in November; the number for October was 65.

Also Tuesday, Vice President Joe Biden arrived on a surprise trip designed to chart a new relationship between the two countries after all U.S. forces have left the country.

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

14. **Bomb, Gunmen Kill Eighteen As Iraq Marks US Withdrawal** (Reuters)

Thursday, 01 December 2011

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/12/01/us-iraq-violence-idUSTRE7B00HQ20111201>

A car bomb killed 10 people and gunmen executed eight more in Iraq's restive Diyala province Thursday as the government hosted Vice President Joe Biden at a ceremony in Baghdad to mark the departure of American troops.

The bomb tore apart a produce market in the mainly Shi'ite town of Khalis, 80 km (50 miles) north of the capital, leaving the street strewn with vegetables, body parts and blood, hours before Biden hailed the end of the war at the ornate al-Faw Palace in the capital.

"Because of you and the work (that) those of you in uniform have done, we are able to end this war," Biden told an audience of around 300 U.S. and Iraqi troops.

The remaining 13,000 American troops are due to leave Iraq in the next few weeks, nearly nine years after the invasion that toppled Sunni dictator Saddam Hussein.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, who spoke before Biden at a ceremony in one of the last military bases in U.S. hands, said "the withdrawal (of U.S. troops) from all Iraqi lands ... will be considered a historic victory."

Maliki repeatedly referred to the fall of Saddam but did not explicitly thank the United States for ousting him. He thanked President Barack Obama for completing the withdrawal on time and former President George W. Bush for agreeing to it in 2008.

The explosion in Khalis left a three-meter (10-foot) diameter crater and at least ten charred cars and pick-up trucks along with scattered onions, pomegranates and wreckage.

"The vehicle, a Kia pick-up, was parked among the other cars, a normal thing in this market, and it was driven by a young man who left it. And just ten minutes later the car blew up," witness Ibrahim al-Temimi said.

The blast killed 10 and wounded 25, said police Major Ali al-Temimi. A physician at the local hospital confirmed the toll.

About 30 km (19 miles) away in the Sunni town of Buhriz, gunmen stormed three houses belonging to former members of the Sahwa militia, Sunni fighters who helped U.S. and Iraqi forces battle al Qaeda.

The attackers lined up family members against a wall and shot them, army Captain Falih Feras said. Eight people were killed and five others wounded.

"Blood stained the wall behind the victims of the first and the second families. They were not handcuffed or blindfolded and the killers were facing them at the moment they fired," he said.

Khalis and Buhriz are both located in Diyala province, an al Qaeda stronghold just north and east of Baghdad.

The attacks underscored Iraq's fragile security as the United States leaves a rebuilt Iraqi police force and army to cope with a still-lethal al Qaeda-linked Sunni insurgency and Shi'ite militias supported by neighboring Iran.

Biden arrived in Baghdad late Tuesday and in meetings with Maliki and other Iraqi leaders hailed a new phase in relations between the two countries.

In a ceremony at the Umm Qsar naval base in southern Basra province Thursday, U.S. forces lowered the American flag and handed control of the facility to Iraq.

While violence has waned since the height of the sectarian bloodbath unleashed by the invasion, militants still kill scores of people every month. October's civilian death toll of 161 was the highest of the year, according to government figures.



U.S. and Iraqi officials have said attacks may rise as U.S. troops withdraw under terms of a 2008 security pact. Iraqi forces are on high alert for attacks against Shi'ites related to the religious event of Ashura, which commemorates the death of Prophet Mohammad's grandson Hussein at the battle of Kerbala in 680 and defines Shi'ism and its rift with Sunni Islam.

Authorities imposed a curfew on Khalis after the bombing and a police source who asked not to be named said the security operations center for Diyala province sent a special forces unit to take control of the bombing scene. The move highlighted mistrust among Iraqi forces. Officials often accuse security leaders of colluding with militants.

"The (special) forces dismissed the police of Khalis from the scene because ... this area was supposed to be a secure and well protected area," the source said. "And the question is, how did this car come to be in the market?"

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

15. **Bombings Across Iraq** (SB)

Sunday, 27 November 2011

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/11/27/4081870/explosions-kill-11-in-baghdad.html>

Bombs exploding in and around Baghdad Saturday shattered the stillness of a crystalline autumn day as violence continued during the U.S. military withdrawal from Iraq.

By early evening, the death toll had risen to at least 11 from explosions on a highway to the west and in a market for secondhand clothes in the city's center, witnesses and government officials said.

Separately, would-be assassins clearly trying to kill the mayor of a small town north of Baghdad by shooting into his house wounded him and killed a bodyguard.

And the toll from a triple bombing in a market Thursday in the southern city of Basra, initially reported as 19, had reached 25 by Saturday as some gravely wounded victims died. On Friday, the government fired three local police commanders over lax security in the market.

The first bomb Saturday blew into a minibus carrying laborers along a highway in Abu Ghraib, the town made infamous from the prison torture scandal. Seven workers died, and eight people were wounded.

The workers, from a nearby village, had gathered moments before in the clear, cold dawn to wait for work opportunities in a city square.

"I was heading to the square where construction workers assemble and, suddenly, a big explosion occurred, targeting our friends," said Jabbar Talib, a 21-year-old laborer.

Dec. 31 is the deadline for U.S. troops to leave under an agreement negotiated with the Iraqi government.

A farmer, Rafi Ahmed, who heard the blast, described it as a "big explosion that claimed the lives of Iraqi innocents."

Many Iraqis, regardless of the circumstances, blame the U.S. for attacks like these, but interpreting the motives for seemingly senseless bombings in Iraq is an imprecise exercise; groups do not often claim responsibility.

Later Saturday, a bomb detonated in the Bab al-Sharji clothing market near Tahrir Square in central Baghdad, killing four civilians and wounding 25, according to the Interior Ministry.

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

**16. New Wave Of Bombings Raises Toll For Iraqis (NYT)**

Monday, 28 November 2011

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/29/world/middleeast/13-killed-in-car-bomb-attack-outside-baghdad-prison.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/29/world/middleeast/13-killed-in-car-bomb-attack-outside-baghdad-prison.html?_r=2)

A yellow taxi loaded with explosives blew up at the crowded front gates of a prison north of Baghdad on Monday morning, killing at least 13 people, many of them security guards or civilians waiting to visit jailed family members. Related

It was the third attack in less than a week and the latest in a deadly streak that has killed about 50 Iraqis and further highlighted fears of increased insurgent attacks as the United States continues its military withdrawal from Iraq by the end of next month.

Later in the day, inside the fortified heart of Iraq's governing complex, another explosion apparently aimed at assassinating the speaker of Parliament wounded a lawmaker and several security guards.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack at the prison, but the tactics used and the target involved — a suicide bombing in a crowd at a large government compound — suggested the work of the Qaeda affiliate in Iraq.

The American ambassador, James F. Jeffrey, told reporters on Sunday that there was a "good possibility" that the affiliate, Al Qaeda in Iraq, had been responsible for a bombing in the southern city of Basra on Thursday and for deadly explosions in Baghdad on Saturday. Military defeats inflicted by Iraqi and American forces have hobbled the Sunni insurgent group, but it still carries out about 30 attacks across the country every week, military officials have said.

"The Al Qaeda in Iraq organization is still active, particularly in the north, but they strike throughout the country," Mr. Jeffrey said, although he added that security had improved in Iraq over all.

The taxi involved in the attack on Monday pulled up to a security post at the entrance to the al-Hout prison in Taji, about 10 miles north of the capital, around 8 a.m. The entrance was crowded with visitors and security guards heading to work.

"Everything was on fire," said Kadim Mohammed, a security guard who was wounded in the blast. "I saw two dead children."

Security officials said four civilians, four prison employees and five people who had not been identified were killed. At least 28 people were wounded, including several religious pilgrims whose bus, bound for the shrine of Samarra, had been stuck in traffic near the prison entrance.

Separately, two civilians were killed by a bomb attached to their car in the western Baghdad neighborhood of Mansour.

The attack at Parliament appeared aimed at killing the speaker, Osama al Nujaifi, said Iden Helmi, a spokesman for the speaker.

Early reports attributed the blast to a mortar shell fired from afar that had randomly landed in the parking lot outside Parliament. But Mr. Helmi and Iraqi news reports said the explosion occurred after a man in a sport utility vehicle tried to join the security convoy that was waiting to escort Mr. Nujaifi, a Sunni Muslim, home from Parliament. When guards demanded identification from the driver, he backed up, rammed into another car and began arguing with its driver. A bomb then exploded inside the assailant's car, Mr. Helmi said.

"He was intending to assassinate the speaker," Mr. Helmi said. He said the bomber had been driving a car nearly identical to the vehicles in Mr. Nujaifi's convoy and seemed to know when he would leave Parliament.

## UNCLASSIFIED

Security officials would not confirm any of the details provided by Mr. Helmi, but Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki ordered an investigation into the blast, the state-run Iraqiya television network reported.

An attempted bombing steps outside Parliament would represent a serious security breach inside one of the capital's most heavily guarded sectors, raising questions about the competence — or complicity — of security forces. Parliament sits inside the Green Zone, the locked-down expanse along the Tigris River that houses many Iraqi government buildings and the American Embassy.

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

**17. Suicide Car Bomb Kills 19 At Iraqi Prison (BBC)**

Monday, 28 November 2011

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-15914937>

A suicide car bomber has killed 19 people at a prison gate near Baghdad, Iraqi officials say.

They say at least 22 people were injured in the attack in the town of Taji, some 25km (15 miles) north of the capital.

The casualties reportedly include security guards, prison staff and police officers.

It was not immediately clear if the early morning attack was part of a prison escape attempt.

The attacker detonated the bomb at about 08:00 local time (05:00 GMT) at the main entrance to the Hout prison, officials say.

The blast happened as many prison employees were on their way to start their shifts at the jail.

"There was smoke and fire all around the place. I saw bodies of four policemen on the ground and scattered flesh," police officer Hisham Ahmed was quoted as saying by the Associated Press news agency.

"Women were among the wounded," he added.

Police had to fire into the air to disperse the crowds of onlookers after the explosion, fearing a second blast.

It was a third major attack in Iraq in the past five days.

On Saturday, at least 15 people died and more than 20 were injured in a series of bomb explosions in and around Baghdad.

Two days earlier, bomb blasts in the southern city of Basra left at least 19 people dead and 65 injured.

Violence in Iraq has declined from its peak in 2006-2007, but regular attacks by militants have raised concerns over whether the planned withdrawal of US troops - due to be completed by the end of this year - will lead to a worsening of the security situation.

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

**18. Five Dead In Mogadishu Suicide Bomb Attack (VS)**

Tuesday, 29 November 2011

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Five+dead+Mogadishu+military+bomb+blast+officials/5786754/story.html>

Five people died in a blast Wednesday including a suicide bomber after he detonated an explosive device at the gates of a military base in the Somali capital, officials and witnesses said.

“The suicide bomber tried to enter the compound but guards stopped him, when he then detonated his bomb, killing three people on the spot including himself,” said Farah Barre, a government security official.

“Two more people died soon after from their wounds,” he said, adding the attack on Wednesday morning took place at Villa Baidoa, a government military base near the busy K4 roundabout in central Mogadishu.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, the latest in a string of blasts including roadside bombs and grenade explosions that have rocked Mogadishu in recent weeks.

The war-torn city has seen an increase in such attacks since Al-Qaeda-linked Shebab rebels abandoned fixed positions there in August and switched to guerrilla tactics against the Western-backed government.

Witnesses said the bomber had tried to disguise himself as a government soldier to gain access into the compound.

“I saw a man dressed in military uniform trying to enter the gate but he was stopped, and then minutes later I heard the huge blast,” said Ahmed Mahmud, who was drinking tea on the street nearby.

“I saw four bodies being carried away, and the bits of the body of the bomber were scattered around.”

Last month a Shebab suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden truck, killing at least 82 and wounding many more, the bloodiest such attack in the group’s history.

The hardline insurgents control large parts of southern Somalia but are facing increasing pressure from regional armies and government forces.

Kenyan troops are battling the rebels in the far south, Ethiopia forces are in the south and west, while Ugandan and Burundian soldiers in the African Union force in Mogadishu are supporting government efforts.

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

**19. Explosion In Hospital Injures Seven In Mogadishu (AA)**

Monday, 28 November 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201111281498.html>

At least seven people, including young babies and elders were wounded in an explosion in a mother and children Banadir hospital in Mogadishu, the lawless capital of Somalia, witnesses said on Monday.

The blast went off inside the upper floor of the mother and children hospital about 10:30 a.m local time in Mogadishu, which shook windows of the building.

Many of the injuries were young sick babies and elders who have been lying on the beds in the hospital as patients and debris of the building were seen scattered in the area after the explosion, according nurses and witnesses.

The explosion is believed to be from a remote controlled mine, reportedly targeted the hospital. Those injured, some of them serious, were admitted to hospitals in Mogadishu.

One of the security officials of Banadir hospital, who requested not to be named, told Shabelle media, that the security forces seized after hours of search operations at least suspected and handed to the Somali government security agency to face investigations about the overnight blast in MCH hospital in Mogadishu.

There is no yet any word from the administration of Banadir hospital in Mogadishu about the overnight blast.

No one has far claimed the responsibility for the attack, but this is the latest series of attacks which raises the fear level of Somalis in the capital, just as residents started returning to their homes after Al shabaab retreated.

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

**20. Bomb Blast Hits Govt Army Vehicle In Mogadishu (AA)**

Friday, 25 November 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201111250350.html>

A road side bomb blast was targeted to Somali government military convoy near the main Bakaro market in the lawless capital, Mogadishu, witnesses said on Friday.

Local residents who saw the road side explosions hit the convoy of government troops near a Bakaro market intersection told Shabelle media that the blast struck one of the Somali government military personal vehicles passing the on the road, causing a number of injures sustained by the targeted soldiers .

Residents described a large explosion has hit convoy carrying Somali government troops, and the blast was huge and caused a light in the sky followed by a heavy explosion.

Contradictory reports from the explosion said, many Somali government troops have been conducting overnight land mine clearing operations at the Bakaro market junction, but TFG did not immediately comment on the blast

Some Government Troop officials confirmed that one of their military personal struck the blast, but declined to talk about their exact casualties.

Right now there are no details of fatalities or wounded of the land mine blast in Mogadishu on Friday morning.

No one has so far claimed responsibility for the attack, but some government officials are accusing Al-shabab of being the frequent road side explosions in the capital.

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



**21. Suspected Al-Shabbab Bomb Blast In Mogadishu Kills Eleven (BNO)**

Wednesday, 23 November 2011

<http://channel6news.com/2011/11/suspected-al-shabaab-bomb-blast-in-mogadishu-kills-11/>

Eleven people were killed on Tuesday when a bomb blast rocked the capital of Somalia, local media reported on Wednesday. Several others were injured.

The attack happened in the Wadajir district of southern Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. The Mareeg news website reported that the explosive device was placed on the road which leads to Jazir village.

Officials confirmed that at least eleven people, all believed to be civilians, were killed in the explosion. An unknown number of other people were wounded in the attack, which Wadajir District Commissioner Ahmed Hassan Ado - who forms part of the Somali transitional federal government - blamed on the Somali rebel group al-Shabaab.

Al-Shabaab is the militant wing of the Somali Council of Islamic Courts which took over most of southern Somalia in the second half of 2006. Despite efforts from the Somali and Ethiopian governments, the group has continued its violent insurgency in southern and central Somalia.

Somalia has been without an effective government since Mohamed Siad Barre was overthrown two decades ago.

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

**22. Boko Haram Kills Four Policemen In Yobe Attacks (TNO)**

Monday, 28 November 2011

<http://www.thenationonline.net/2011/index.php/news/27814-boko-haram-kills-four-policemen-in-yobe-attacks.html>

Churches, homes and the police headquarters in Gaidam, a small town in Yobe State, were set ablaze in a wave of night time gun and bomb attacks by Boko Haram, the police said yesterday.

Boko Haram (Western education is sin) has claimed responsibility for dozens of shootings and attacks with improvised explosive devices.

“The Gaidam divisional police headquarters and a bank were bombed on Saturday evening by Boko Haram and fire was exchanged into the night between police and Boko Haram members,” a police spokesman was quoted by Reuters as saying.

“Four policemen were killed, 20 wounded, eight churches and 20 market stalls as well as Geidam council secretariat are completely destroyed.”

Gaidam is located less than 20km from Governor Ibrahim Gaidam’s hometown, Bukarti.

An eyewitness told our reporter that the gunmen invaded Gaidam town at about quarter to 6pm, heavily armed. They asked scared residents, especially the youths, to join them to ensure a successful Jihad on the “enemies of Islam” promising that no innocent person would be harmed during the offensive that lasted three hours.

There are conflicting facts as to the number of casualties in the attack. Two people are also believed to have been killed.

Yobe State Secretary of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Mr Peter Ogwuche said: “I am able to gather from various church members that fled the town to Damaturu, the state capital, this morning (yesterday) that about five churches were destroyed, so far”.

Another eyewitness said no policeman was seen on the street throughout the period of the attack until around 9pm when some soldiers who were deployed from Damaturu later showed up in the town at the time the sect members had left.

A young man, who pleaded for anonymity, said his mother’s home and shop located opposite the Magistrate’s Court, Geidam was among the shops burnt by the attackers. “I place a call to my mum only to hear a man answering the call and warning me never to call that line again. That signalled to me that my mum might be in trouble. I later learnt that they managed to escape and by now they should be on their way out of the town”.

Another source simply identified as Fatima, who spoke to our correspondent on the telephone, said by yesterday morning, “virtually all the Christians, especially the Igbo, were leaving the town in large numbers; some on foot. The town is upside down”.

Police Commissioner Suleimon Lawal’s phone kept ringing without response. It was learnt that the CP had accompanied the DIG ‘B’ in charge of Operation, Alhaji Audu Abubakar Karasuwa, to Gaidam to see things for himself.

The Gaidam attack is the second major onslaught of the Boko Haram in Yobe State. Three weeks ago, the sect’s members launched co-ordinated attacks that claimed well over 65 persons’ lives.

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

23. **Blast Kills Kenyan Soldier Near Somali Border** (VOA)

Thursday, 24 November 2011

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/east/Blast-Kills-Kenyan-Soldier-Near-Somali-Border-134452653.html>

The Kenyan military says one soldier was killed and several others wounded Thursday when their truck drove over an explosive device, near Kenya's borders with Somalia and Ethiopia.

A statement from spokesman Emmanuel Chirchir said the explosion happened as the soldiers were on patrol in the town of Mandera. He said five seriously wounded soldiers were airlifted to the town of Garissa for treatment, but one died of his wounds.

Chirchir said 13 troops were on board the truck. Earlier media reports said as many as 11 soldiers were wounded.

The blast was the latest of several grenade and roadside bomb attacks in Kenya since Kenyan troops entered Somalia to hunt down the militant group al-Shabab.

On Tuesday, a roadside bomb exploded in the Wadajir district of southern Mogadishu, killing 10 people.

Al-Shabab has been fighting since 2008 to topple Somalia's weak central government. The group is believed to have ties to al-Qaida, and is considered a terrorist organization by the U.S. government.

Kenya has blamed the Islamic insurgents for a string of kidnappings of foreigners on Kenyan soil.

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

**24. Explosives Found In Eastgate (TL)**

Tuesday, 29 November 2011

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2011/11/29/explosives-found-in-eastgate>

The Eastgate mall in Bedfordview was evacuated yesterday after a shop owner received a letter that there was a bomb in the centre.

Tenants and customers were told to leave the mall, one of the largest in Gauteng, at about midday.

Police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Katlego Mogale said mall management called the police in Bedfordview at 11am about a "suspicious case".

Members of the dog and explosives unit went to the mall and a dog sniffed out the explosives in a briefcase. The briefcase was apparently on the ground floor near the Bellagio jewellery store.

The bomb disposal unit deactivated the device and a "controlled explosion" took place in the basement. They did a "sweep" and declared the area safe, Mogale said. Shops reopened at about 4pm.

Late last night, Mogale was still awaiting to hear from the bomb disposal unit whether the device was in fact a bomb.

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

**25. Bombing At Hotel Wedding In Southern Philippines (WP)**

Monday, 28 November 2011

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia-pacific/powerful-hotel-blast-kills-3-wounds-27-in-southern-philippines-officials-say/2011/11/27/gIQAUXmG3N\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia-pacific/powerful-hotel-blast-kills-3-wounds-27-in-southern-philippines-officials-say/2011/11/27/gIQAUXmG3N_story.html)

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/99011/blast-hits-maguindanao-on-2nd-anniversary-of-massacre>

Suspected Islamic militants detonated a powerful bomb that killed at least three people and wounded 27 others in a budget hotel packed with wedding guests in the southern Philippines, officials said Monday.

Investigators believe the blast and ensuing fire that gutted the two-story Atilano Pension House in downtown Zamboanga City late Sunday was a terrorist strike and that it was not linked to the wedding, city police director Edwin de Ocampo said.

Still, many of the victims were from a group of more than 20 people who occupied six of the hotel's 35 rooms for a planned ceremony Monday. The tragedy forced the wedding to be postponed, Zamboanga Mayor Celso Lobregat said.

"We should not show that we're panicking because that is what these troublemakers relish to see," Lobregat told The Associated Press by telephone. "We have good leads. We will get all of them."

The blast was believed to be one of two simultaneous bombings planned by al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants. The other would have been on nearby Basilan island, where two explosives were separately found and safely defused by authorities in Isabela city on Sunday, de Ocampo said.

The hotel blast, caused by about 22 pounds (10 kilograms) of TNT powder, was one of the most high-profile bombings this year blamed on the Abu Sayyaf, which has been weakened by years of battle setbacks.

The blast was so powerful it caused much of the second floor to collapse, blew off the hotel roof and shattered glass panes and windows from nearby buildings, Zamboanga city Mayor Celso Lobregat said.

Two of the wounded were in serious condition and more than a dozen others remained confined in a hospital, he said.

Zamboanga city, a predominantly Christian trading hub 540 miles (860 kilometers) south of Manila, is located in a volatile region long troubled by a decades-long Muslim insurgency, extortion gangs and kidnap for ransom syndicates.

The blast occurred in room 226 on the second floor of the hotel, instantly killing two people staying in two adjacent rooms, which were devastated by the blast. A third body was found Monday on the ground floor, pinned by the cement slabs that collapsed from above, Lobregat said.

De Ocampo said investigators were trying to determine how the TNT bomb was detonated, adding its design resembled those used by the Abu Sayyaf in past attacks on Basilan island, the group's birthplace.

Police Senior Inspector Cesar Memoracion said his local bomb squad recently informed the hotel owner to be on guard for a possible bomb attack, citing intelligence, which did not identify the source of the threat.

In January 2000, the hotel was rocked by a blast that killed three suspected Muslim militants assembling a bomb in a room, officials said.

The Abu Sayyaf was founded on Basilan in the early 1990s as an offshoot of a violent Muslim insurgency that has been raging for decades. U.S.-backed offensives have weakened the group, which is blacklisted by Washington as a terrorist organization, but it remains a key security threat.

UNCLASSIFIED

It has about 380 armed fighters and survives mostly on extortion and kidnappings for ransom. Abu Sayyaf militants are believed to be holding an American, an Indian, a Malaysian and a Japanese convert to Islam, along with a number of Filipino hostages in Basilan and nearby Jolo island.

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

26. **Bomb Explodes As Philippines Marks Massacre Anniversary** (Reuters)

Wednesday, 23 November 2011

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/23/us-philippines-massacre-idUSTRE7AM0FY20111123>

A crude bomb exploded on Wednesday near a memorial for 58 victims of the Philippines' worst election-related violence hours before the start of a rally to commemorate the attack two years ago, police said.

Two bombs were found and safely disarmed near the massacre site in Ampatuan town, in the southern largely Muslim province of Maguindanao, said provincial police chief Marcelo Pintac, adding that no one was hurt and the blast caused minor damage.

The bomb was aimed at scaring people away from the commemoration of the 2009 ambush on an election-campaign convoy, he said.

"It was meant to disrupt the activity," Pintac said of the blast.

The other two devices, one made out of an artillery shell and the other from a mortar bomb, were left where they would be easily found, he said.

Among those who attended the ceremony was provincial governor Esmael Mangudadatu, who lost his wife and several relatives in the attack. Thirty-three media people were also killed.

The convoy was traveling on a mountain road to witness Mangudadatu's wife filing her husband's papers for a May 2010 election when gunmen struck. Victims were taken down a dirt road and shot and buried in mass graves. Some were buried in their vehicles.

Mangudadatu was standing against a powerful political clan run by the Ampatuan family.

The government has filed murder charges against 196 people, including former provincial governor Andal Ampatuan and his four sons. About 80 people have been arrested but only 64 are on trial, including the primary suspect who is one of the sons, Andal "Unsay" Ampatuan.

The U.S. ambassador to the Philippines, Harry Thomas, said people around the world were closely watching the legal proceedings into the "appalling act of violence."

"The prosecution of this case is seen ... as demonstrative of the Philippines' commitment to upholding the rule of law and protecting human rights," Thomas said in a statement.

Those attending the commemoration lit candles and released white balloons and doves. They called on the government to take steps to resolve the case quickly.

The Ampatuans ruled Maguindanao for nearly a decade and were supporters of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Friday, Arroyo and the elder Andal Ampatuan were charged with electoral sabotage in connection with accusations of rigging 2007 Senate elections in Maguindanao to favor Arroyo's allies. Both denied the accusations and moved, through their lawyers, to dismiss the cases.

Arroyo, a two-term president from 2001 to 2010, was arrested last Friday on charges of electoral fraud.

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

**27. Bomb Attempt Targets Protestant Church (ER)**

Monday, 28 November 2011

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/28112011-nepal-bomb-attempt-targets-protestant-church/>

Security forces have defused a “powerful” bomb packed inside a sack and placed at the entrance of a Protestant church in central Kathmandu.

The bomb, which was in a cloth bag and stuffed in a white plastic sack, was discovered yesterday outside the Navajiwani Church, which belongs to the Assemblies of God grouping of churches at around 6pm by the janitor Arjun Magar.

“The sack was left just outside the gate. I became suspicious when I saw another bag inside, so I called the church elders who called the police,” he said.

Police cordoned off the area in Kupondole district before making the bomb safe with a series of controlled explosions.

An army bomb disposal expert later said three high-powered devices were found in the sack and would have caused extensive damage if they had gone off.

Suman Gurung, the church pastor, said people in the area had a lucky escape and that security for services and Church activities in the future would be stepped up.

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

Security has become a major concern for Christians in Kathmandu this week following a bomb attack on the United Mission to Nepal, a Christian NGO, on November 22.

Earlier yesterday, Pastor Gurung, along with several other Christian clergymen in south Kathmandu including two Catholic parish priests, met with police to discuss the security situation.

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



**28. Blast Hits Imphal Ahead of PM Visit, One Killed (TOI)**

Thursday, 01 December 2011

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-12-01/india/30462901\\_1\\_kcp-imphal-west-imphal-east](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-12-01/india/30462901_1_kcp-imphal-west-imphal-east)

A powerful bomb exploded at the palace compound on Wednesday morning, tearing a rickshaw-puller asunder and wounding four bystanders, sending the SPG here to oversee security arrangements for Prime Minister [Manmohan Singh](#) and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi's visit on December 3 into a tizzy.

"The dead rickshawpuller, Mohammed Kora (51) of Irong Umang village in Thoubal district, was paid by rebels to carry the explosives laden packet inside the crowded Sangai Tourism Festival venue," said SSP (Imphal East) Clay Khongsai. The blast took place close to the high-security entrance to the venue.

Security in the twin capital districts of Imphal West and Imphal East - which have witnessed frequent explosions in the past few weeks - has been bolstered.

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

**29. Assam Railway Blast Kills Two ULFA Militants (RN)**

Monday, 21 November 2011

<http://www.rediff.com/news/report/assam-two-ulfa-terrorists-killed-while-planting-bomb/20111121.htm>

Two militants belonging to the proscribed United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) --anti-talks faction -- were killed in an explosion when they were trying to plant a bomb on the Railway track between Bhoju and Charangaram railways stations of the Northeast Frontier Railway under Sonai sub-division in Sivasagar district of Assam on Monday morning.

The police said that the two ULFA ultras who were trying to plant an explosive device on the track probably to trigger explosion under Up Brahmaputra Mail running between New-Delhi and Dibrugarh (Upper Assam). The train was scheduled cross the track after some time.

The Army and police launched a combing operation in the area following the blast. The area is close to inter-state boundary with Nagaland. Police said some ULFA militants were taking refuge in Mon district of Nagaland bordering Sivasagar district of Assam with intention to strike terror within Assam especially on and around November 28, which is observed as 'Black Day' by the ULFA .

It was on this day in 1990, the Army launched counter-insurgency operation against the ULFA in Assam for the first time.

Significantly, the police recovered another improvised explosive device hidden in the backyard of a villager on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Police and the Army operating under Unified Command have geared up vigil in Assam apprehending attempts by ULFA to strike terror on and around the 'Black Day' on November 28.

Security sources informed that the ULFA anti-talks faction is trying to recruit cadres as well as procure arms and ammunition with the help of Naga rebel group National Socialist Council of Nagaland - Khaplang which has a strong base in Myanmar.

With cooperation from the NSCN-K rebels, the ULFA anti-talks faction led by fugitive Paresh Barua has been able to use Tirap and Changlang areas of Arunachal Pradesh as a passage between its base in Myanmar forests and Eastern Assam districts bordering Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

Paresh Barua's strong opposition to the peace talks between the government and pro-talks ULFA faction led by its Chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa has posed challenge for success of the peace process given that the Barua faction has tried hard to gain fresh foothold in Assam especially in Upper Assam districts Sivasagar, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia .

In view of intelligence inputs that Barua has found shelter somewhere in China and has been shuttling between China and his Myanmar base, Assam government expects the Cental government to bring the matter to the notice of Beijing [ Images ]. However, Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi [ Images ] said that there was nothing new in Barua travelling to China, he said the fugitive ULFA commander in chief was fighting his last battle.

**30. Bomb Blast Injures Four Soldiers In Compostela Valley (PS)**

Saturday, 19 November 2011

<http://www.philstar.com/Article.aspx?articleId=749943>

An improvised bomb believed planted by leftist rebels exploded in the southern Philippines early today wounding four government soldiers, the military said.

Troops from the army's 25th Infantry Battalion were conducting patrol at Kalinugan, Casoon village, Monkayo town, in Mindanao's Compostela Valley province when they were hitting by a makeshift landmine around 2:30 a.m. Saturday, said Lieutenant Colonel Lyndon Paniza, spokesperson of the army's 10th Infantry Division.

"Four soldiers sustained shrapnel wounds and immediately evacuated to the regional military hospital in Davao City while pursuit operation against the rebels continue," Lieutenant Colonel Paniza said.

The military official condemned the recent incident as the New People's Army's persistent defiance of the internal ban in the use of pressure-activated explosives as stipulated in the Geneva Convention.

The 4,000-strong NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, is fighting a 42-year leftist insurgency in 60 Philippine provinces.

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

**31. DOD Holds First HME Conference To Defeat IEDs (ABC)**

Friday, 18 November 2011

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2011/11/dod-holds-first-homemade-explosives-conference-to-defeat-ieds/>

This week, the Department of Defense's Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization convened its first Homemade Explosives Conference, to brainstorm ideas on how to defeat improvised explosive devices — the number one killer of U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The conference invited members of government, academia, and the fertilizer industry, to come up with feasible solutions to stop the diversion of fertilizer into homemade explosives, or HME.

“These IEDs are increasingly comprised of fertilizer-based homemade explosives as their primary explosive component,” JIEDDO Director Lt. Gen. Michael D. Barbero said Tuesday in his opening remarks of the three day conference in Crystal City, Virginia.

According to Barbero, more than 80 percent of the IEDs in Afghanistan — which cause 90 percent of the casualties there — have HME as the main charge. The majority of HME is easily derived from calcium ammonium nitrate fertilizer, he said.

“Explosives can be made from a range of fertilizers, but it is far too easy to turn calcium ammonium nitrate into a bomb and it is the bomb-maker's product of choice — by far,” Barbero said.

Despite a countrywide ban on its importation, CAN continues to be smuggled into Afghanistan.

The problem for officials and manufacturers is that CAN fertilizer is legal to produce, produced by manufacturers around the world, and only a statistically insignificant amount is needed to produce an IED.

Less than 1 percent of 18-20 million tons of CAN fertilizer manufactured per year is diverted for misuse in IEDs, according to Dr. Johannes Reuvers, chairman of Fertilizer Europe, who was present at the conference.

In addition, CAN fertilizer is used by Afghan farmers to grow food and other crops, making destruction or seizure unfeasible. Also, any changes to its composition that reduces its effectiveness or desirability as a fertilizer, or increases its cost to the manufacturer or the customer would not be feasible either.

“While the U.S. government and our allied partners are unified in this fight against IEDs, this effort requires the brain trust of academia and the cooperation and expertise of our industry partners to have a positive impact on this threat.

“We need your help, which is why we have invited you here today,” Barbero told conference attendees, which included 13 academics, 16 subject matter experts, 20 domestic and international fertilizer industry representatives, and 7 international government representatives.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the attendees broke into four working groups, and discussed solutions. On Thursday, each group presented their solutions.

Short term solutions included making CAN fertilizer harder to convert into an HME, more easily detectable, and easier to track. Longer term solutions included the development of other types of fertilizers.

JIEDDO Deputy Director of Rapid Acquisition and Technology Mitchell Howell said JIEDDO was looking for solutions it could immediately begin testing and implementing. He said the conference was initially planned for January or February, but Barbero had wanted it sped up to November.

“This is the first step. It's time to pull the trigger and get on with it,” Howell said on Thursday. Howell said JIEDDO's policy group would review the working groups' recommendations on December 2 and issue a broad area

UNCLASSIFIED

announcement in mid-January. In addition, Howell said, an HME task force will be formed and led by a two-star general.

“We’re losing life, limb and eyesight everyday,” Howell said.

Since Oct. 7, 2001, IEDs have killed over 3,000 and wounded over 30,000 U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan combined. According to Barbero, there are 400 to 500 IED events per month in Iraq, and more than 1,500 events per month in Afghanistan.

“Increases in our dismounted operations — or foot patrols — pose a new set of challenges for our counter-IED fight in Afghanistan. The number of IED incidents against dismounted troops has increased 98 percent since last year,” Barbero said. “The significant growth of homemade explosives in Afghanistan has become our greatest concern.”

However, Barbero said the threat from IEDs was not confined to Iraq or Afghanistan, but is a global threat.

Since 2009, the number of worldwide IED events has doubled, he said. Outside of Iraq and Afghanistan, Colombia has seen the greatest number of IED events, followed by Pakistan, India, the United States and Russia.

“More than 500 IED attacks occur outside of Iraq and Afghanistan on a monthly basis,” he said.

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

**32. Two Eleven Year-Olds, Teen Arrested For Making, Detonating IEDs (WJLA)**

Wednesday, 16 November 2011

<http://www.wjla.com/articles/2011/11/two-11-year-olds-teen-arrested-for-making-detonating-ieds-69256.html>

A 19-year-old man and two 11-year-old juveniles have been arrested and charged with making and detonating IEDs (improvised explosive devices) in Chesapeake Beach, Maryland.

Deputy State Fire Marshals say that on the evening of November 8, Brandon W. Kitchen, 19, of Chesapeake Beach manufactured and detonated an IED in the presence of one of the 11-year-old juveniles.

Later that evening, the juvenile made and detonated a replica IED with another 11-year-old juvenile.

Kitchen was charged with Manufacture, Possession, and Use of a Destructive Device and two counts of Reckless Endangerment.

The two juveniles, also of Chesapeake Beach, were charged with Manufacture, Possession, and Use of a Destructive Device.

The penalty for the Manufacture, Possession, and Use of a Destructive Device is 25 years imprisonment and/or \$250,000 in fines. Reckless Endangerment carries a penalty of five years and/or \$5,000 in fines.

The two juveniles were released to the care and custody of their parents.

Kitchen was served with a warrant and is currently being held at the Calvert County Detention Center on a \$10,000 bond, according to a statement from the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

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

**33. Federal, State Officials Investigating Bomb Explosion (SJ)**

Sunday, 21 November 2011

<http://www.newbernsj.com/articles/explosion-102235-front-loop.html>

Agents of the FBI, SBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are investigating a bomb explosion that occurred early Sunday on the front porch of a home on the 2100 block of Perrytown Loop Road.

The woman living at the residence was not injured but the home did sustain minor damage, according to investigators.

On Monday morning, the front door to the residence was boarded up with plywood and the ceiling of the foyer over the porch was also boarded. In the front yard was an ADT security services sign.

Detectives have interviewed one person of interest and say they have at least two more they would like to talk with.

Jim Gilbert, who lives on Perrytown Loop Road about five houses away from the one that was bombed, said the explosion woke him early Sunday morning and he looked at the clock and saw it was 3 a.m.

“It was a real loud bang,” Gilbert said Monday morning as he sat on his bike in front of the house, “but because there are hunters and people shooting fireworks here, I didn’t expect it was anything more than that.”

It wasn’t until Gilbert and his family were going to church that he saw all the law enforcement officers at the home.

“With the world situation and terrorists, I didn’t know what to make of it,” Gilbert said. “I’d like to think it was a random thing. I hope it was.”

When Gilbert looked out his window after the explosion woke him, he said he did not see anything.

“Normally this is a real quiet area,” he said. “It was a shock when all of us heard it was a bomb. We figured it was a water heater or propane container that exploded. But for someone to purposely put a bomb — even if it was a prank or someone trying to break in — I never expected that.”

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

**34. New York Police Arrest 'Lone Wolf' Bomb Plot Suspect (LAT)**

Sunday, 20 November 2011

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-new-york-terror-20111121.0,1815595.story>

A U.S. citizen who learned bomb-making on the Internet and considered changing his name to Osama out of loyalty to Osama bin Laden has been arrested on charges of plotting to blow up post offices and police cars and to kill U.S. troops returning from Afghanistan and Iraq, authorities said Sunday.

Jose Pimentel, 27, a Dominican-born convert to Islam, was on the verge of testing his homemade explosives in a mailbox when he was arrested Saturday in a Manhattan apartment, New York Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly said.

"We had to act quickly yesterday because he was in fact putting this bomb together," Kelly said at a City Hall news conference with Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and the Manhattan district attorney, Cyrus Vance Jr. "It would have been not appropriate for us to let him walk out the door with that bomb."

Bloomberg described Pimentel as "a total lone wolf" not working in conjunction with anyone else or with terrorist groups abroad, despite his devotion to Al Qaeda. "He was not part of a larger conspiracy."

After an arraignment late Sunday, Pimentel, wearing a black T-shirt and wire-rimmed glasses, was ordered held without bail until his next court appearance Nov. 25.

It was at least the 14th plot against New York that authorities say they have foiled since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, but Pimentel appeared to have come closer than many to being in position to carry out an assault. According to prosecutors, Pimentel told police he had begun "shaving the match heads and drilling holes in the pipes" to insert the bomb parts, and he was "one hour away" from finishing.

Pimentel had been under surveillance for two years, and the five-page criminal complaint from the district attorney's office indicated that he was being closely followed in recent weeks as he shopped at Home Depot, 99-cent stores and elsewhere for the goods to build bombs.

With the help of a confidential informant, police said, they had video of Pimentel working on the devices, which were made of small clocks, nails to provide shrapnel, batteries, Christmas lights serving as electronic circuits, and wires.

Pimentel allegedly followed instructions taken from the online pro-Al Qaeda magazine Inspire, specifically from an article titled "Make a bomb in the kitchen of your mom."

He was motivated by anger over the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Bloomberg and Kelly said. His extremism grew to the point "where he made even some like-minded friends nervous," Kelly said.

According to the complaint, he had considered traveling to Yemen to train in jihad, or holy war; talked with associates about changing his name to Osama Hussein to honor Osama bin Laden and former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein; and discussed killing U.S. troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. He also talked about bombing police cars and post offices.

Eventually, his behavior "morphed from simply talking about such acts to action, namely, bomb-building," Kelly said.

Pimentel appeared to have been spurred to action by U.S. forces' Sept. 30 killing of American-born cleric Anwar Awlaki in Yemen. Awlaki was a prominent voice for Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, an affiliate of Al Qaeda.

Awlaki's death "really set him off," Kelly said of Pimentel, who prosecutors say maintained a website, <http://www.trueislam1.com>, which expounds on jihad and praises Bin Laden, Awlaki and Aafia Siddiqui, who was convicted in New York last year of trying to kill Americans.



UNCLASSIFIED

A post by M. Yusaf — apparently Pimentel — derides the "Arab Spring," in which Tunisia, Egypt and Libya ousted longtime rulers. "We cannot be fooled by the propaganda of Western nations that try to deceive us by telling us that separation of church and state is the 'modern' and more civilized way of life," he writes.

The website also thanks a mysterious "sister" who told him of the blogging software that would enable him to spread his message.

An attorney representing Pimentel, Joseph Zablocki, said after Sunday's arraignment that the online postings showed Pimentel was not trying to hide anything.

But Kelly said Pimentel had plans to test his homemade bombs' effectiveness by putting them into mailboxes and hoped to "get the most bang for the buck" by attacking a high-profile target such as New York City.

Pimentel faces five charges, including conspiracy, criminal possession of a weapon and soliciting or providing support for an act of terrorism.

At the news conference, officials displayed a close-up photograph of Pimentel wearing a black short-sleeve shirt and apparently working on a bomb. They also played a video to demonstrate what one of his bombs might have done had it been detonated. It showed a sedan exploding, its doors flying off and flames shooting from its interior.

At the apartment building in Manhattan's Hamilton Heights neighborhood where Pimentel lived, a man described as his uncle and speaking Spanish said Pimentel spent a lot of time in his room with the door shut. Nobody knew what he was doing in there, the man told the local ABC affiliate, WABC.

Neighbors said that Pimentel spent a lot of time standing on the street smoking cigarettes because he was not allowed to smoke inside, and that he kept mainly to himself.

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

**35. Man Accused Of Making Explosives Pleads Guilty To Reduced Charge (MP)**

Friday, 18 November 2011

<http://mentor.patch.com/articles/man-accused-of-making-explosives-pleads-guilty-to-reduced-charge>

The man accused of making explosives, including a small pipe bomb, at Queensdale Apartments pleaded guilty to a charge of attempted unlawful possession of a dangerous ordnance Thursday in Mentor Municipal Court.

While Stephen Bull could still face up to nine months in jail when he is sentenced, that is still much less time than he would have faced had he been convicted of his original charges.

Bull, 21, was arraigned on felony charges of illegal manufacturing of explosives and unlawful possession of a dangerous ordnance earlier this week.

However, Mentor City Prosecutor Lisa Klammer agreed to a plea deal that let Bull plead guilty to the reduced charge. He also pleaded guilty to a drug paraphernalia charge because police found a glass pipe while searching his apartment.

Bull, who is a first-time offender, was not sentenced Thursday. Instead, he'll undergo a psychiatric evaluation first, according to Mentor Municipal Court records.

Police came to Bull's apartment last week when they received reports of an explosion on his apartment's balcony. The explosion did not damage any property or hurt anyone but it did create a lot of smoke.

Bull admitted to causing the explosion by igniting aluminum powder and potassium per chlorate inside a plastic container on the balcony of his apartment, Mentor Police Lt. Ken Zbiegien said.

When police searched Bull's apartment and his car, they found a pipe bomb in his trunk and more materials used to make explosives.

As part of the plea agreement, police can destroy the pipe bomb and other explosive ingredients they confiscated from Bull.

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

**36. Counter-IED Market In Decline (DW)**

Friday, 02 December 2011

[http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=21748:counter-ied-market-in-decline-report&catid=50:Land&Itemid=105](http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=21748:counter-ied-market-in-decline-report&catid=50:Land&Itemid=105)

The global counter-IED market this year is worth US\$6.4 billion, but the market will decline from unusually high levels of spending, a new report says. However, robust demand is still expected over the next decade as insurgents and terrorists continue to plant improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Visiongain earlier reported global spending on counter-IED systems as amounting to US\$7.7 billion in 2009. Its latest report, *The Counter-IED Market 2011-2021: Systems and Technologies for Force Protection*, says that even in the era of defence spending cuts, countries are still looking to acquire counter-IED systems to address this persistent menace.

Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) have proven to be an effective and increasingly preferred weapon by insurgents, primarily in Iraq and later in Afghanistan, along with many other places in the world. Many of the world's leading armed forces have responded by spending heavily on equipment that will protect against IEDs, such as mine-resistant vehicles, jammers that block radio signals meant to detonate IEDs, detection and disposal systems, and robots and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). While demand has peaked in recent years, spending on counter-IED spending remains significant. IEDs, being cheap and relatively easy to make with widely available material are expected to remain a threat in future conflicts.

The US remains the main spender on counter-IED systems, although its share will decline slightly, albeit it will still be the leading market over the next decade. A number of countries in Europe remain key markets and there are there are countries in Asia and the Middle East seen to significantly increase spending on counter-IED systems over the decade.

Due to the threat of IEDs, the global market for armoured and counter IED vehicles is following a similar trend to the counter-IED market. Earlier this year a study estimated the value of the armoured and counter IED vehicle market as amounting to US\$25.1 billion this year. The market is expected to decline as global operations in Afghanistan and Iraq come to an end, and will reach US\$24.1 billion by 2021. The cumulative market value for armoured vehicles and counter IED vehicles between now and then is estimated at US\$265 billion.

The demand for armoured vehicles in Africa is expected to be strong in the forecast period, driven by the discovery of new mineral and oil resources, and territorial and ethnic disputes. However, the small defence budget of countries in the region will result in a small market share of 4.1%.

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

37. **Dagestan—The Most Dangerous Place In Europe** (BBC)

Wednesday, 23 November 2011

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-15824831>

Once it was Chechnya, today it is the republic of Dagestan on the Caspian Sea that is the most explosive place in Russia - and in Europe. There are bomb attacks almost daily, shootouts between police and militants, tales of torture and of people going missing.

Two armed men in camouflage holding Kalashnikov rifles enter the shop and tell the customers to leave. The terrified cashier stumbles past as one of the men puts a bomb on the counter and sets the timer.

He does not bother emptying the till, he just walks out of the door.

Seconds later, the shop is filled with smoke.

Attacks like this one caught on supermarket security cameras - in which Islamic fighters punish shops that sell alcohol - have become routine events in Dagestan's capital, Makhachkala.

The owners typically get a warning first, often delivered by text message, or on a USB memory stick thrown through car windows, or into a letterbox.

If they ignore it, there may be a bomb or a shootout or the owners may agree to pay protection money.

"The fighters like to portray themselves as so devout," says a lieutenant colonel in the anti-terrorism police, who I will call Bashir.

"But many are just cynical criminals running protection rackets."

I met Bashir at a football match, watching the Cameroonian striker Samuel Eto'o - reportedly the world's best-paid footballer - play for Anzhi Makhachkala.

The atmosphere inside the stadium was relaxed, even joyful, with old men munching sunflower seeds and children waving flags, despite the heavy security outside.

After the game, a smiling Eto'o told me he was proud to play in Dagestan - but he does not spend much time here, heading straight back to the safety of Moscow after every match.

Puritanism

In the centre of Makhachkala, there are armed police on almost every corner.

Bashir drives me past a place where two car bombs recently killed a policeman and a young girl and wounded 60 police and passers-by.

"When our guys rushed to the scene of the first explosion, a blast about 12 times more powerful went off," he adds.

"It was a trap. They wanted to get as many of us as possible."

He asks me not to use his real name, or to photograph his face. Government officials and policemen are the main targets of the increasingly ruthless Islamic insurgents.

Many officers are too scared to go on to the street in their uniform. Police who have to stop and search cars often wear masks.

But unlike some of his colleagues, Bashir seems to want to understand why so many young Dagestanis have joined the rebels and gone into hiding - known here as "going into the forest".

At the university, I watch him lecture students about the dangers of fundamentalist websites. He tells them a cautionary tale about a young medical student who made some so-called friends online, and who later forced him to plant a car bomb.

Bashir is joined by an imam, who urges moderation and compliance with Russian law. "If a man only gets secular education he will be heartless - if he only gets religious education he'll be a fanatic," the imam says.

Most Muslims in Dagestan are Sufi but younger people are increasingly drawn to the Salafi branch of Islam, which is less mystical, more puritanical and, crucially, outside the control of the state.

This is seen by the interior ministry as a problem, as I discover in the village of Sovietskoye, three hours south of Makhachkala.

Said Gereikhanov, the young imam at the village mosque, tells me about a day last May, when dozens of Salafi mosque-goers were detained and beaten by police.

Plain-clothed security officers burst into the mosque in muddy boots, during Friday prayers, and told everyone to leave, he says. Outside, they found themselves surrounded by masked men with guns, and the whole congregation of 150 people, including 15 school boys, was taken to a police station in a neighbouring town.

Police then summoned the headmaster of the village secondary school, Sadikullah Akhmedov. Said says he was shocked by the brutal treatment of the teenagers - and by Mr Akhmedov's failure to intercede on their behalf.

He shows me photographs of bruised bodies and young men with half of their beards shaved off.

On the night of 9 July, two months after the arrests at the mosque, there was a more serious incident - one which sent shock waves through Russia. Mr Akhmedov was gunned down in his own sitting room by unknown assailants.

At the school nobody is keen to talk about it. The headmaster's distraught widow, Djeramat, tells me she has no idea why her husband was killed.

But Said, the imam, says Mr Akhmedov banned the hijab in school and treated girls wearing them as if they "were armed with weapons".

Said believes only the radical fighters could be responsible. He adds wearily: "You can't deliver justice through murders. They just make things worse. This war has already been going on for 20 years."  
Persuasion

Like Bashir, Rizvan Kurbanov, Dagestan's deputy premier and the man in charge of police and security, is keen to reach out to disaffected youth.

Clutching his iPad, Mr Kurbanov shows me his Facebook account. He says when more than 20 terrorist internet sites are putting pressure on Dagestan, the government has to reclaim cyberspace and use social networks to stop young people from being seduced by online jihadists.

President Dmitry Medvedev visited Dagestan in 2009, days after a sniper killed the republic's interior minister

"No place on earth is safe from terrorism. Today the Caucasus, Dagestan included, is of heightened interest to terrorist organisations and they try to spread unrest here," he says.

An energetic man with a mop of grey hair, he chairs a new commission to persuade fighters to lay down their arms and go back to their families.

"The commission is like a bridge between a person who's lost his way, who's been duped and is in the woods, and society. He can walk across this bridge, say I've done this and that, please forgive me."

This feels like a new approach in the North Caucasus where strong-hand tactics and repression have long been the rule, with the full backing of the Kremlin.

In neighbouring Chechnya, forces loyal to President Ramzan Kadyrov have been accused of burning down the houses of suspected militants, leaving their families homeless.

Mr Kurbanov, on the other hand, urges parents to track down wayward sons and bring them round a table where they can appeal for clemency.

So far though the commission has only dealt with minor figures in the insurgency and government's leniency only goes so far, Mr Kurbanov says.

"Those who don't understand, the ones I call non-people - because like animals they just crave blood and want to fight - they will be dealt with briefly by the necessary power agencies."

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

**38. One Militant Killed, Another Wounded In Shop Bomb Attempt In Dagestan (RN)**

Sunday, 27 November 2011

<http://en.ria.ru/russia/20111127/169072037.html>

One militant was killed and another wounded in an attempt to plant a bomb near a shop in the town of Buinaksk in the volatile Russian North Caucasus Republic of Dagestan, the republican interior ministry reported on Sunday.

The bomb went off when two unidentified persons tried to plant an explosive device early on Sunday near a commercial shop in Chaikovsky Street.

"The explosion was equal to 100 grams of TNT. As a result of the explosion, one of the criminals died of wounds on the scene while the other was taken to hospital. Their identities are being established. The shop was slightly damaged. The sum of the damage is being determined," the ministry said.

The police seized a TT pistol with cartridges, a knife and bomb fragments at the scene, the ministry said.

More than a decade after the end of a federal war against separatists in Russia's North Caucasus republic of Chechnya, Russian security forces continue to fight militants in other regions in the area, who stage frequent attacks on security forces, police and civilians.

Terrorist attacks and shootouts with police have become commonplace in the mostly-Muslim republic of Dagestan.

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

**39. Authorities Search For Detonator From Malta Blast (TOM)**

Friday, 18 November 2011

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20111118/local/Search-for-detonator.394431>

Explosives experts are piecing together minute bits of debris collected from the van which blew up on Wednesday morning in a busy Hamrun street.

Sources said it was too early to determine what sort of bomb it was. However, despite the fact that it devastated the red Fiat Fiorino it was in and damaged nearby property as far as 70 metres away, the sources said the capacity of the bomb was not extraordinary.

Explosives experts also pointed to the fact that there was no significant burning in the van, indicating that it might have been TNT or dynamite – which would indicate a level of sophistication on the part of those who fabricated it.

The car's owner, Keith Galea, a former prison inmate who was released a few days ago, has been questioned by the police but is not being considered a suspect at this stage. However, the police are looking into several possibilities including that the bomb was inside the van.

Mr Galea left the vehicle only a few minutes before the explosion took place shortly after 9.30 a.m. He had parked in front of a disused garage in Canon Bonnici Street, a few doors up from where his parents live.

When questioned he said he did not know that there was anything at the back of the van, sources said. He insisted that his car, including the back door, had been locked.

Explosives experts are searching for any remains of a detonating device which would have had to be used with the explosive. A mechanical or electrical fault in this device could possibly have triggered the bomb at the wrong time. At the same time, the use of a remote trigger is not being excluded.

The process to determine what type of explosive was used could take long because “there are thousands of different explosive materials which could have been used”.

Debris from the wreck went flying in all directions, with pieces of the car ending up as far away as the entrance of a school 70 metres away. Three people passing by were slightly injured. The story would have been very different had the bomb gone off earlier when children would have been making their way to school.

The blast was heard from as far as Birkirkara. Window panes were shattered but a van parked next to the vehicle that exploded only had a shattered windscreen.

Most of the houses had repaired their damaged window panes by yesterday morning and there was little to show that there had been an explosion there the day before.

Forensic expert Anthony Abela Medici, backed by several years of experience in the field, argued that it must have been a bomb with highly explosive material.

Judging by footage and photographs he had seen on the media, since he is not involved in the case, Dr Abela Medici agreed it looked like it was “very unlikely” to have been planted in a few minutes.

This indicates, he said, that it was either being transported or else the person who placed it got the timing wrong.

Such a bomb would have to be manufactured by experienced people, especially because high-explosive material and the detonators to set it off are not so easily available.

Dr Abela Medici said this explosion reminded him of a similar car bomb that killed Emanuel Micallef in December 1969 in Paola. That time, however, the bomb was connected to the engine and went off when the ignition was switched on.

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



**40. Army Discovers FARC Landmine Cache Hidden In Cans Of Tuna (CR)**

Friday, 25 November 2011

<http://www.colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/20701-farc-landmines-found-in-southwest-colombia.html>

The Colombian Army has discovered a cache of 78 landmines belonging to FARC's Southern Bloc packed into cans of tuna and sardines, Colombian newspaper El Espectador reported on Friday.

According to the army's official report, the explosives - comprising ammonium nitrate, shrapnel and glass - were ready to be deployed to guerrillas in FARC's 32nd Squadron, in the southwestern department of Putamaya.

The army's Explosives and Demolitions Group (EXDE) made the discovery during a counter-insurgency operation in Putamaya, and destroyed the weapons in a controlled manner.

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