



## Weekly News Update

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



A police officer secures the scene of a roadside bomb blast that hit a minibus carrying Shia pilgrims in Baghdad, Iraq.  
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1. [Attack: Helmand] **North Wales Soldier Survives Taliban IED Explosion** (Daily Post)

Saturday, 12 November 2011

<http://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/2011/11/12/north-wales-soldier-survives-taliban-ied-explosion-55578-29762623/>

A soldier was almost killed when his armoured vehicle ran over a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal James Hatton, 26, from Llanfairpwll, Anglesey, and his two comrades in the Welsh Cavalry were on a routine patrol in Nahr-e-Saraj, Helmand when their Scimitar Mk2 was hit by an explosion.

The trio from 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards (QDG) survived the strike by a large improvised explosive device (IED) thanks to improved armour, which meant their vehicle withstood the blast.

The impact, which they described as feeling like a car crash, left the men shocked and stunned – but to their relief they escaped relatively unscathed.

Despite his brush with death L/Cpl Hatton is looking forward to getting back to the frontline.

He said: “After that experience the regiment’s confidence in the new fleet has really grown. I’m looking forward to getting back onto the ground with the rest of the troop.

“I was also very impressed with the speed of the recovery crew in isolating the area and recovering the vehicle. It’s a big thank you from our crew to them.”

Vehicle commander Lieutenant Peter Gordon-Finlayson recalled the dramatic moment when the Scimitar struck the IED.

Lt Gordon-Finlayson 26, from Marlborough, Wiltshire, said: “It felt like a car crash, and it took me a few moments to take it all in.

“But the training soon kicked in for all of us. After checking that I and the crew were unharmed, it only took about 30 seconds for the jokes and banter to start, which helped to alleviate the stress of what had just happened.

“But I’ve got to say that all credit must go to the Scimitar. It really is thanks to the vehicle that we all walked away without a scratch.”

He added: “The Taliban are afraid of the Scimitar 2, and are too afraid to take us on head-to-head. When we arrive in an area the insurgents leave.”

Trooper Robert Griffiths, 23, from Swansea, is the Scimitar’s driver. He said the crew were in high spirits on returning to camp, but appreciated that their survival was due to the vehicle, which has been in service for just over two months.

“I’m massively impressed with the amount of protection the upgraded armour provided,” he said. “It was obviously a shock, but I’ve never had such a buzz in my life.”

The three soldiers are members of the QDG’s B Squadron and part of the regiment’s second deployment to Afghanistan. They deployed to Helmand Province in September for what will be a six-month tour.

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2. [Attack: Laghman] **Roadside Bomb In Eastern Afghanistan Kills 8, Including A Woman And Child** (VOA)  
Saturday, 12 November 2011  
<http://blogs.voanews.com/breaking-news/2011/11/12/bomb-blast-in-eastern-afghanistan-kills-8/>

A roadside bomb in the northeastern Afghan province of Laghman hit a civilian car Saturday, killing at least eight people, including a woman and a child.

A spokesman for the provincial governor said the explosion destroyed the vehicle.

Commander of NATO-led forces, General John Allen, joined Afghan President Hamid Karzai in condemning the incident in the Ali Angar district. Allen said “this is another example of the insurgency's absolute lack of respect for human life.”

In western Herat province, at least five people were wounded when a bomb attached to a bicycle went off. NATO said one of its service members died following a bomb blast in southern Afghanistan. It provided no other information.

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3. [Attack: Faryab] **Bomb Strapped To Donkey Kills 2, Including A Police Officer** (AFP)

Wednesday, 16 November 2011

<http://www.theprovince.com/news/canada-in-afghanistan/Donkey%20bomb%20blast%20kills/5717880/story.html>

A bomb strapped to a donkey blew up in northern Afghanistan on Tuesday, killing a police officer and a civilian and wounding 16 people, officials said.

The bomb went off in a market in Ghormach district, Faryab province. Although donkey bombs are rare in Afghanistan, they are occasionally used by insurgents as a way of getting close to targets.

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4. [Security] **Toughest Cop Vows To Bury His Taliban Attackers In Bomb Crater** (Guardian)  
Thursday, 10 November 2011  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/nov/10/pakistan-toughest-cop-bury-taliban?newsfeed=true>

If the lucky really have nine lives, then Chaudhry Aslam Khan, Karachi's toughest policeman, is fast running out of his.

One morning in September, Aslam was sleeping when powerful shockwaves rippled through his house. Falling out of bed, he discovered that a Taliban suicide bomber had rammed a van into his front gate, with devastating consequences.

The blast sheared off the entire front of his palatial home. Windows were shattered across Defence, one of the city's most pricey neighbourhoods. And eight people lay dead: policemen, house guards and a mother and child who had been strolling to school.

Stepping through the rubble and blood, Aslam, who had survived eight previous attempts on his life, helped load the dead and injured into ambulances. (Miraculously, his own family was largely unhurt.) Then he turned to face the media with an extraordinary message of defiance.

"I will bury the attackers right here," he told the cameras, pointing to the two-metre-deep bomb crater, and vowing to launch his own "jihad" against his assailants. "I didn't know the terrorists were such cowards. Why don't they attack me in the open?" Then, sleepless and smeared in dust, he turned on his heel and went back to work.

Crime-fighting in Karachi, a sprawling seaside metropolis racked by a witch's brew of violence – ethnic, political, religious, criminal – has never been easy. So far this year, more than 400 people have died in shootings linked to a political power struggle. A surge in Taliban violence pumped the death toll further.

Few know the dark streets as well as Aslam, a grizzled police veteran of 27 years' experience. Profane, chain-smoking and usually armed with a Glock pistol, he has earned a controversial reputation as Karachi's version of Dirty Harry – the cop who will do whatever it takes to keep the peace.

He has fought on the frontline of the tangled conflicts that have bedevilled Pakistan's commercial capital since the 1980s. He cut his teeth during the vicious street warfare of the 1990s, when police and soldiers fought street battles with militants from the Muttahida Qaumi Movement, a powerful party.

Later, Aslam turned his guns on the city's mobsters: racketeers, extortionists and kidnappers, several of whom perished in murky circumstances after being apprehended by Aslam's men.

Last year, they killed Rehman Dakait, a legendary Baloch gangster, in self defence in what was described as a shootout on the city limits. The dead man's relatives have another version: that he was arrested, tortured and shot in cold blood – circumstances Pakistanis euphemistically refer to as an "encounter". It was not the first such accusation against Aslam: he spent 18 months in jail in 2006 after being accused of killing an innocent man; a superior court later cleared him.

Working from an unmarked compound with military-style defences, Aslam roams Karachi at night in an armoured jeep. Protection comes from a team of heavily armed officers, many of whom resemble the gangsters they are pursuing: like their boss, they do not wear uniforms.

He typically works through the night because, he says, "that's when the criminals are out and about". He is proud of his gunslinging reputation. He has earned 45m rupees (£325,000) in government rewards over the years, he says, producing copies of the cheques to prove it.

That has made him prey as well as hunter: he has been shot five times during eight assassination attempts, he says. But, he added, God is behind him. "I've seen so much that nothing scares me," he said. "As a Muslim, my faith tells everyone has to die one day. I'm not afraid of it."

Although flamboyant, Aslam is by no means unique among Pakistani police. A 2008 report by the International Crisis Group said they had "a well-deserved reputation for corruption, high-handedness and abuse of human rights".

Officers retort that they are under-resourced (Karachi has 26,000 officers for perhaps 18 million people) and labour under a sickly criminal justice system with a conviction rate of 5-10%.

And, in a city where crime, politics and ethnicity are inter-connected, police suffer from massive interference: even junior appointments are controlled by politicians who pressure officers to go easy on their favourite gangsters. "It's a totally politicised force," admitted Sharifuddin Memon, an adviser to the provincial home minister.

Surging Taliban violence, however, has upped the ante dramatically, spilling from the tribal belt along the Afghan border into Pakistan's largest city. Last November, a giant suicide bomb ripped through a police headquarters; in May, militants launched an audacious commando assault on a sensitive navy base.

After September's attack on Aslam, a Taliban spokesman named five senior officers on its hit list. Since then, senior officers have taken new measures to outrun the suicide bombers: bulletproof cars, moving office without warning, sending out decoy convoys.

Still, few doubt the Taliban will strike again. "We are worried," said Raja Umer Khattab, a senior officer who recently erected a six-metre-high wall around his home.

The militant violence has also bred tensions with the wider community. Aslam's neighbours in Defence have launched a court petition to force him to move to another area.

"Our police are not like the English ones: when you see them, it means trouble," said Sami Mustafa, principal of an expensive private school across the street, pointing to classroom windows that had been shattered. "It would be no big loss if he moves."

The petition has elicited a furious reaction. "People should think about the work we do," said Khattab. "If our children are being targeted, it is because we are protecting those people."

Aslam, meanwhile, is back on the beat, unbowed by the threats from militants or neighbours. "I will fight till the last drop of my blood," he said, pulling on a fresh cigarette. "When these people are killing children, I think it is right for us to kill them. They shouldn't even be called Muslims."

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5. [Trend] **LRH Becomes World's Top Hospital In Treating Blast Victims** (Pakistan Observer)

Friday, 18 November 2011

<http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=124348>

Dr Rahim Jan Afridi, Medical Superintendent (MS) Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) said that we have treated more than 4000 bomb blast victims, during the last two and a half years which is record for a teaching hospital not only in Pakistan but throughout the world.

Almost century old, LRH, which stands tall and distinctive in comparison with other public sector hospitals for provision of medical cover to ailing humanity, has also attained a new distinction of becoming the World's top hospital in terms of handling mass emergencies and treating maximum number of bomb blast victims.

LRH was established in 1924 for providing medical cover to the limited population of Peshawar, presently the 1544 bedded Pakistan's largest hospital extends treatment to patients from the whole Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, FATA and even Afghanistan.

Dr Afridi said that LRH tops lists of hospitals around the world in meeting emergencies does not have any official certification, but the assertion has been made on basis of figures of bomb blasts in the region and number of injured treated at the LRH during the last few years.

He said that the entire staff of the hospital including doctors, nurses and paramedics is working round the clock because we are always on call as emergency can occur any time.

Dr. Rahim Jan informed that LRH has limited resources, but still it is extending treatment to the blast victims free of cost. When a blast injured is admitted in LRH, he gets the treatment including medical tests like C.T scan, ultrasound, blood test, major operation, medicine free of cost. The average cost of a bomb victim is estimated at around Rs. 30,000 to 35,000, he added. While in some cases of seriously injured, the treatment charges runs in hundreds of thousands of rupees.

He said the government is also providing due attention to provision of proper treatment to the victims of terrorism related incidents and in this connection construction of a mass casualty having 200-bed facility is in progress. The new casualty, expected to complete in a year, will provide all relevant treatment facilities at one place through latest equipment.

Dr Rahim said that the entire staff of the hospital including doctors, nurses and paramedics is working round the clock because we are always on call as emergency can occur any time.

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6. [Attack: Balochistan] **Bomb Fixed To A Motorcycle Hurts Three In Dera Murad Jamali** (Dawn)  
Saturday, 12 November 2011  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/11/12/bomb-blast-hurts-three-in-dera-murad-jamali.html>

A would-be suicide bomber was killed when his suicide vest exploded near an Imambargah in Hazara town of Quetta on Saturday while a convoy of Frontier Corps narrowly escaped a remote controlled bomb attack in the outskirts of provincial metropolis.

According to police sources, a suspected militant who was heading towards Imambargah Baqir located near Kirani Road of Hazara town, skidded and a huge blast occurred that rocked entire locality. As a result, the suspected terrorist was killed and his body parts scattered around the area. Luckily, no other person was hurt in the blast.

“It was a suicide blast as bomber was heading towards Imambargah to target it when his suicide vest exploded prematurely,” DIG police Quetta Hamid Shakeel told reporters.

Another police official seeking anonymity said the accused wanted to plant explosives to Imambargah when these went off. “The upper portion of the accused body has not been distorted,” he added.

Police and other law enforcement agencies rushed to the site soon after the incident and cordoned off the area.

Sources said the body parts of alleged suicide bomber were gathered and he was identified as Pervez Elahi, a resident of Dera Murad Jamali.

Bomb Disposal Squad sources said about 3 Kg explosives were used in the blast adding, that no material such as ball bearing, often used in suicide blast, were found in the vest.

Police and other law enforcement agencies were investigation the incident.

In another incident, a convoy of Frontier Corps Balochistan narrowly escaped a bomb attack at Mian Gundi area, in the outskirts of Quetta.

Sources said miscreants had planted explosives along the road which were detonated through a remote controlled device when FC convoy was passing through. No loss of life was reported except minor damage to a vehicle.

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7. [Attack: Shabqadar] **One Policeman Killed In Shabqadar When Bomb Exploded Near Check Point** (The Nation)

Saturday, 12 November 2011

<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/12-Nov-2011/One-policeman-killed-another-injured-in-Shabqadar-blast>

A policeman was killed and another injured in a bomb blast near security check posts here in Shabqadar on Saturday.

According to police, unknown miscreants had planted a bomb near a check post at Saro Police Station in Dando Pul area of Tehsil Shabqadar which went off with a big bang.

As a result of explosion a policeman was killed on the spot while another sustained critical injuries.

The body and the injured were shifted to Shabqadar hospital where according to hospital sources condition of the injured cop was serious.

The security forces took the entire area in its cordon soon after the blast and started search operation but no arrest could be made.

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8. [Attack: Peshawar] **Bomb Planted In Donkey Cart With Remote Control Detonation Kills 6 In Northwest Pakistan** (AP)

Sunday, 13 November 2011

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/11/13/4050923/official-says-bomb-kills-6-in.html#ixzz1e517brsk>

A local government official says a bomb blast has killed six people in a remote town in northwest Pakistan.

The official, Ahmed Jan, says two members of an anti-Taliban militia are among those killed in the Sunday bombing.

He says the explosives were planted in a donkey cart left unattended in a market at Mastak town, some 75 miles (120 kilometers) northwest of the city of Peshawar. He says it was a remote-controlled blast apparently targeting the militia.

Militants from the Taliban in Pakistan often target militias allied with the government in its drive against militancy.

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9. [Attack: Khyber] **Six Dead In Khyber By Remote Control Roadside Bomb** (The Nation)

Thursday, 17 November 2011

<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/17-Nov-2011/Six-dead--in-Khyber--bomb-blast>

An active volunteer of a peace committee was killed along with his five other family members including mother, wife, son and a daughter in a remote-controlled bomb blast in Tirah Valley of Khyber Agency on Wednesday. The volunteer of Koki Khel area was killed along with his family members as the planted explosive device went off in Sporee tehsil Jamrud, official and local sources informed.

Sources said Hasan Khel was travelling in a vehicle with his family when their vehicle was hit by the roadside bomb. All five died on the spot.

The vehicle's driver, identified as Adnan, also lost his life in the blast, the sources said. Two other persons whose identification could not be ascertained also sustained injuries and were shifted to a health centre for treatment. The vehicle was completely destroyed in the blast.

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10. [Attack: Karachi] **Three Militants Kill Themselves When They Set Off Explosives On Their Motorcycle When The Police Stop Them, Two Police Officials Were Also Killed** (DAWN)

Wednesday, 16 November 2011

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/11/16/bomb-blast-at-sea-view-kills-one-in-karachi-dawnnews.html>

A bomb blast blew up a white colour Suzuki Bolan near Salt n Pepper Village restaurant at Sea View and killed three militants and two police official on Wednesday, DawnNews reported.

Another police official got injured in the blast.

According to the Sindh Home Minister Manzoor Wasan the suicide bombers, riding a white Suzuki Bolan, blew themselves up on being stopped for the routine search by the police.

The home minister, who reached at the blast site without delay, said the security had been increased in the area specially around the Abdullah Shah Ghazi Shrine amid fear of further terrorist attacks after the blast.

He announced Rs 2 million compensation for the family of deceased police personnel while Rs 500,000 for the wounded.

Manzoor Wasan also announced to give jobs to sons of affected police personnel.

He also appreciated the police personnel for showing courage to stop the suspects.

The Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Qaim Ali Shah said the event was a cowardly act of terrorism which had been foiled by the police with great courage.

The Sindh CM was talking to media at the site of incident near Seaview in Defence Housing Authority.

He told a questioner that the police has found a suicidal vest and a Kalashnikov from the site of blast.

He said that the concerned police officials have been directed to present their report about the incident.

He said the initial reports have indicated that the suspects were travelling in a vehicle and when they saw policemen approaching them, they blew themselves up.

However investigations were underway and it was premature to give any final statement about the incident, the Sindh CM added.

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11. [Attack: Charsadda] **Bomb Blast Destroys Health Unit In Charsadda** (Express Tribune)  
Friday, 18 November 2011  
<http://tribune.com.pk/story/293766/bomb-blast-health-unit-destroyed-in-charsadda/>

A Basic Health Unit (BHU) was partially destroyed as a bomb planted on the outer walls of the building went off in the Shabqadar area of Charsadda District in the small hours of Thursday. However, there were no deaths or injuries, police said.

Station House Officer (SHO) Janzada confirmed the incident and added that it took place in the Jan Banda village. “The militants placed the bomb near the gate, which exploded around 2am,” he explained.

The Shabqadar area is located near the Mohmand tribal belt and has been the centre of terrorist activities following a military operation in the agency.

The same BHU was blown up two years ago. However, this time the remaining rooms and the walls were destroyed, said Janzada.

Last week a policeman was killed and another injured when a remote control bomb exploded at a police checkpoint in Shabqadar.

The areas close to the tribal region have often been targeted by militants, where more than 90 people were killed in twin suicide attacks on the Frontier Constabulary in Shabqadar, most of whom were fresh recruits.

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12. [Attack: Baghdad] **Roadside Bomb Strikes Bus, Injures 13 Iranians** (Press TV)  
Sunday, 13 November 2011  
<http://presstv.com/detail/209902.html>

Thirteen Iranian pilgrims have been injured in a bomb explosion in Baghdad's northwestern Kadhimiya district.

The roadside bomb which targeted a bus carrying pilgrims resulted in the injury of 20 people-- 13 of whom were Iranian.

Daily bombing attacks, roadside bombs, and shootings have been rampant in Iraq since the US-led invasion of the country in 2003.

Earlier this month, three other Iranian pilgrims were killed in a bomb explosion near Samarra in Iraq's northern Salahuddin Province.

On October 5, a terrorist bomb attack on a bus carrying Iranian pilgrims in the central Iraqi town of Taji, north of Baghdad, left four people wounded.

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13. [Attack: Baghdad] **Car Bomb Kills Four** (UKPA)

Thursday, 17 November 2011

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ukpress/article/ALeqM5i-D\\_O1PWZ2e35IsUPbErkS2vAM5A?docId=N0702751321521990623A](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ukpress/article/ALeqM5i-D_O1PWZ2e35IsUPbErkS2vAM5A?docId=N0702751321521990623A)

Four people have died in a car bomb explosion next to an Iraqi military patrol south of Baghdad.

The military patrol was travelling in the town of Mahmoudiya when a parked car bomb exploded near it, killing two soldiers and two civilians, police said

Eight other people were wounded in the attack.

Mahmoudiya is located about 20 miles south of Baghdad.

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14. [Attack: Tikrit] **High Ranking Army Officer Assassinated In Tikrit** (Aswat Al-Iraq)  
Sunday, 13 November 2011  
[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article\\_page&id=145578&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145578&l=1)

A high-ranking Iraqi Army officer has been assassinated in Tikrit, the center of north-central Iraq's Salah al-Din Province on Sunday, according to a Salahal-Din Police Operations source.

"An explosive charge blew up against the motorcade of the Assistant Commander of the Iraqi Army's 4th Battalion, Col. Shahin Adid in al-Hajjaj village, 20 km to the north of Tikrit, killing him on the spot and seriously wounding his bodyguard," the police source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

The police source said the security forces began investigations in the details of the incident, imposing a cordon on the venue of the attack.

Tikrit, the center of Salah al-Din Province, is 175 km to the north of Baghdad.

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15. [Attack: Baghdad] **2 Persons Killed, 7 Injured In 3 Baghdad Blasts** (Aswat Al-Iraq)  
Sunday, 13 November 2011  
[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article\\_page&id=145581&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145581&l=1)

An Iraqi soldier and a civilian have been killed and 7 others injured in 3 security incidents in Baghdad over the past 24 hours, according to a security source.

"An explosive charge blew up on Sunday morning in Baghdad's Tarmiya area, wounding 5 civilians," the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

In another incident, the security source said that an "Iraqi Army element has been killed and 2 others injured by unknown gunmen, who attacked an Iraqi Army patrol in northern Baghdad's Raghba-Khatoun district, adding that the attackers have escaped to an unknown destination.

In a third incident, an explosive charge, stuck under a civilian car, blew off late Saturday night in southern Baghdad's Jadiriya district, killing its driver and seriously wounding a passerby man.

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16. [Attack: Baghdad] **4 Civilians Injured In Blast East Of Baghdad** (Aswat Al-Iraq)

Monday, 14 November 2011

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article\\_page&id=145595&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145595&l=1)

Four Iraqi civilians have been injured in an explosive charge blast east of Baghdad on Monday, a security source reported.

"An explosive charge, planted on the roadside in one of a main road, leading to east Baghdad's al-Sadr city, has blown up early on Monday, wounding 4 civilians and causing damage to a number of vehicles, parked close to the venue of the blast," the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

He said the police forces have cordoned the venue of the blast and drove the wounded persons to a nearby hospital.

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17. [Attack: Samarra] **Governor Escapes Roadside Bomb Blas** (Aswat Al-Iraq)

Wednesday, 16 November 2011

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article\\_page&id=145646&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145646&l=1)

Four cops and two civilians wounded today by a bomb blast directed against police patrol mid of Samarra', police sources said here.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the wounded were rushed to nearby hospital.

The security forces began their investigations, according to the sources.

No other details were given.

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18. [Attack: Samarra] **Sahwa Leader Killed In Diyala** (LH/CU/AKnews)  
Tuesday, 15 November 2011  
<http://www.aknews.com/en/aknews/3/272576/>

Bashir Azzawi, a leader of the Sahwa, or Awakening Forces, was killed in his house in the village of Albu Mohammed, north of Baquba, today.

The attackers allegedly wore army uniforms and claimed to have an arrest warrant for Azzawi.

Abdul-Jabbar Obeidi, a local official, confirmed the death of Azzawi and suspected al-Qaeda to be behind the attack.

Obeidi warned civilians and officials again to be aware of insurgents pretending to belong to the security forces.

It was not the first assassination attempt on Azzawi. Last year, Azzawi survived the attack of a suicide bomber at a funeral, that left 40 people dead or injured.

Leaders of the Sahwa, a military force that was formed in 2006 to fight the al-Qaeda insurgency and later incorporated in the Iraqi security forces, have increasingly become a target of insurgents.

Last week, two people died and five others were injured when an improvised explosive device detonated at a house of a Sahwa leader in Baghdad's Taji neighborhood.

In late September, five members of the family of a former Sahwa leader were killed, six others were injured, when insurgents stormed their house in a rural area outside Baghdad and opened fire.

Diyala province is suffering from insurgents who still have a strong position in the province. Its capital Baquba, 55 km northeast of Baghdad, is one of the most restless Iraqi cities, destabilized by regular bombing, armed attacks and abduction. In 2007, the terrorist organization al-Qaeda declared Baquba to be the capital of the "Islamic State of Iraq". The attacks of the militant group left thousands of deaths among Iraqi civilians and military personnel.

Recently, the Iraqi Interior Ministry approved to hire approved to hire 1,000 recent graduates to serve at checkpoints in Diyala province in order to fight illiteracy among its security personnel. The government assumed that insurgents can enter the province because security guards are unable to read passports.

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19. [Attack: Falluja] **Five civilians killed, three injured in Falluja** (Aswat Al-Iraq)

Friday, 18 November 2011

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article\\_page&id=145647&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145647&l=1)

Five civilians killed and three injured from one family in bomb blast around the residence of a cop in Saqlawiya, north of Falluja, security sources said here today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that an armed group implanted a number of bombs around the house, 22 km north of Falluja city.

The explosion resulted in killing five civilians and injuring three from the same family, while the cop himself was not at home.

The blast resulted in material damages in the house and nearby houses.

Saqlawiya lies 22 km north of Falluja, Anbar province.

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20. [Attack: Nigeria] **Bomb Blast In South Sudan Refugee Camp** (All Africa)  
Tuesday, 15 November 2011  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201111150452.html>

Borno State Governor, Alhaji Kashim Shettima, was welcomed back to the state from Abuja where he won the legal battle against his election by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) with a bomb explosion believed to be aimed at putting the shine off his celebration.

The explosive device which was suspected to be by Boko Haram went off in Maiduguri, Borno State capital about the time the governor's motorcade was expected to arrive the area. The state police Commissioner, Simeon Midenda, said the blast came from a canister thrown at a police patrol vehicle "but did not affect neither the targeted vehicle nor any person around."

Midenda, who spoke on phone to journalists said "we have taken serious security measure that led to frustrating the attempted attack at our vehicle and we can assure all members of the state that we are on top of the situation."

ThisDay gathered that barely 40 minutes after the Governor's motorcade had begun to inch towards the city from the Maiduguri International Airport where he arrived the state from Abuja at about 3.30pm, an explosion was heard at about 1km ahead of the governor's convoy which sent residents that had filed out to cheer him to scamper for safety.

it is believed that the heavy presence of security along the route that the governor was to pass might have frustrated the plan of the bombers to hit at the governor and they instead decided to throw the bomb at one of the patrol vehicles stationed on the road.

The governor who arrived moment later, did not let the bomb incident take the shine off his celebration as he waved to the crowds who had to come out on hearing the siren from his motorcade.

Shettima later told newsmen shortly after arriving government house Maiduguri that his government will continue to toe the path of peace and negotiation, and called on those in opposition to take the path of honour by withdrawing their swords of political hostility and join him in running the state.

He said though the victory was a thing of joy to him and his party, but he said "honestly we do not even enjoy the luxury of a protracted legal tussle in Borno taking into cognizance the developmental challenges and the insurgency facing us in the state."

"So I wish to once again implore on members of the opposition to shelve their swords and come and join hands with us for the greater glory of Borno".

Governor Shettima called on the people of the state to join him in administering the state most especially as the petition induced-distraction was over, adding that he does not claim the monopoly of knowledge and with all sense of humility he is calling on all and sundry to join hands with his government as "Borno is for all of us and it is our duty to see that we catapult the state to the highest level of development; for our people have suffered more than enough and it now behoves on all of us to ensure that their sufferings are alleviated."

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21. [Attack: Sudan] **Bomb Blast In South Sudan Refugee Camp** (Al Arabiya)  
friday, 11 November 2011  
<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/11/11/176606.html>

A refugee camp in South Sudan's Unity state was bombed on Thursday, increasing tensions across the border.

According to Reuters there was a sound of a large explosion in the Yida refugee camp, which left a crater about two meters wide (6.6 feet) in size, an unexploded bomb wedged in the side of a school building and a white aircraft flying north. Witnesses said three explosions followed.

The camp houses 20,000 refugees from the Juba Mountains region of South Kordofan, a state north of the border which has been under constant fighting between rebels and Sudan's army since June.

"They don't want any life in Juba Mountains and now they are expanding the war to South Sudan Republic, I don't know why," said Yousif Ismail, a refugee from the Juba Mountains.

South Sudan gained independence in July after voting for secession in a January referendum. This was the culmination of a 2005 peace deal that ended decades of war between north and south.

Since South Sudan's independence violence along the border has strained ties between the South Sudan and Sudan, with each side accusing the other of backing rebel groups on their sides of the border.

"We are escaping from there for security and safety but we are still followed by that criminal man who is wanted by the ICC," said Ismail, referring to Sudan President al-Bashir.

Fighting has broken out in Sudan's Blue Nile state this year. Blue Nile and South Kordofan are home to tens of thousands of fighters who sided with the south during the war but were left in Sudan when South Sudan seceded, analysts say.

Last week, Khartoum submitted its second complaint to the U.N. Security Council, accusing South Sudan of supplying anti-aircraft and anti-tank missiles, ammunition, landmines and mortars to the insurgents.

But a teacher at the camp disputes what Sudan is saying and accuses Bashir as being behind the bombing.

The two countries have yet to agree on how much the new nation will pay to use Sudan's oil pipelines and other facilities, which South Sudan depends on to export crude. They also dispute control of the Abyei region.

Some 2 million people died in the north-south civil war, waged for all but a few years since 1955 over religion, ideology, ethnicity and oil.

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22. [Attack: Nigeria] **Explosion Injures Five In Bauchi** (Next)

Saturday, 12 November 2011

[http://234next.com/csp/cms/sites/Next/Home/5747556-146/explosion\\_injures\\_five\\_in\\_bauchi\\_.csp](http://234next.com/csp/cms/sites/Next/Home/5747556-146/explosion_injures_five_in_bauchi_.csp)

Five persons were injured in Bauchi on Friday night when an explosive device was detonated by an unsuspecting woman in an unoccupied building.

The incidence occurred in Wunti Dada, a suburb of Bauchi metropolis when the woman, Mrs Helen Ishaku, and her two year-old son, Goodluck, entered the house to retrieve a broom.

Doctors at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Teaching Hospital Bauchi, where three of the victims were treated, said that their condition was stable.

One of the patients, Ishaku, said she stepped on something she could not describe at the site of the blast, adding that it went off and injured her.

Ishaku said ``We had gone to the house to collect the broom we borrowed people renovating it earlier in the day. We checked the toilet side.

``When we did not see the broom, I told the other four people who were with us that we should leave. It is like my body was trying to respond to something.

``Immediately I took a step from the side of the toilet, my left leg hit something I cannot describe. In a twinkle of an eye, something loud went off. I just saw myself on the ground with blood on my legs and face.

She added that following the commotion, she was left helpless until a student, Ali Ibrahim, came around.

Mrs Rita Solomon, a nine month old pregnant woman, who was also slightly injured, but not on admission in the hospital, said that she and her three year-old son, Prince Solomon, were hit by the blast outside their house close to the building.

"I was outside with my son when I heard a loud bang and before I knew it, we were all on the ground, with the hand of my son bleeding profusely."

She said that for the past three days, the house, which was unoccupied for long, had been under renovation, and that they did not know who owned the house.

Bauchi State Police Command's Public Relations Officer, Mohammed Barau, confirmed the incident.

"There was a blast in Wunti Dada area of Bauchi on Friday night. It was a surface blast that did not cause serious damages and there was no loss of lives, except that some people were injured.

"The explosives are the type used in breaking rocks. No arrests have been made but we have commenced investigations on the matter."

The situation in major parts of the city, including the central market, was calm while people went about their normal businesses.

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23. [Attack: Kazakhstan] **Attacks Kills 3, Policeman Killed By Suicide Bomber** (BBC)  
Sunday, 12 November 2011  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-15705308>

A suspected Islamist militant has killed seven people in the city of Taraz in southern Kazakhstan - one of the worst attacks the country has seen.

The man shot dead four members of the security forces and two civilians before blowing himself up, killing another police officer, say officials.

The attack is the latest of several this year.

It is likely to raise concerns that the militant threat is growing in Kazakhstan.

The killings began when the attacker shot dead two members of the security forces who were following him, say prosecutors.

He then raided a gun shop, killing an employee and a passer-by, before hijacking a car and shooting dead two police officers who were chasing him, said a spokesman for the prosecutor-general's office.

As the police tried to disarm the man, he detonated explosives killing himself and one officer.

At least three other police were injured during the rampage.

The prosecutor's office described the 34-year old attacker as "a follower of jihadism," saying he was named Kariyev.

A criminal investigation has been ordered into the killings.

"We never thought that this kind of thing could happen here," a resident of Taraz told the Reuters news agency.

Recent attacks

The assault is highly unusual for Kazakhstan, but follows a handful of bomb attacks in recent months.

Two bombs were detonated in the western city of Atyrau in October, but only the bomber was killed.

A previously unknown Islamist militant group, Jund al-Khilafah (Soldiers of the Caliphate), said it was responsible for that attack.

Two people were injured in May when a suicide bomber attacked a regional security building in the northern city of Aktobe.

At the time that attack was blamed on an organised crime group.

Until this year, oil-rich Kazakhstan had not experienced any of the militant activity seen in some of its Central Asia neighbours.

However, following recent activity blamed on militants, the government introduced a new law to try to tighten its control over radical religious groups.

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24. [Attack: Egypt] **Fire At Sinai Gas Pipeline Contained After Bombing 2 Days Ago** (All Africa)  
Friday, 11 November 2011  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201111111364.html>

The fire that erupted at a gas pipeline in Arish is completely under control, said North Sinai Governor Abdel-Wahab Mabrouk.

Inspecting the blast scene on Thursday 10/11/2011, Mabrouk said the explosion was carried out with the same method of past attacks in the area.

The attackers have dug one meter and a half under the ground and attached their explosives to the gas pipeline that links the Nagah and Midan stations, he said. No casualties were reported, he noted.

Masked gunmen blew up in the wee hours of Thursday the main Egyptian gas pipeline in Arish carrying natural gas to homes, the industrial area in central Sinai and abroad.

This is the seventh time in the past nine months this pipeline is set ablaze. On the other hand, Al-Arish public prosecution started investigations into the gas pipeline blast.

The prosecution decided to dispatch bomb experts to inspect the location and send samples to the criminal lab to determine the type of explosives used.

A team from the Petroleum Ministry was formed to evaluate the damage caused by the explosion.

Meanwhile, an official at Gasco, the gas company operating the pipeline, said main stations have been completely secured by the Armed Forces.

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25. [Attack: Philippines] **Blast At Shopping Mall That Killed 8 Was Caused By Bomb With C4 And Not An Exploding Cooking Gas Cylinder** (Reuters)

Sunday, 13 November 2011

[http://www.dnaindia.com/world/report\\_philippine-blast-caused-by-bomb-police-sources\\_1611877](http://www.dnaindia.com/world/report_philippine-blast-caused-by-bomb-police-sources_1611877)

An explosion which killed eight people and wounded 70 in a shopping mall in the Philippine capital Manila on Monday was caused by a bomb, police sources said.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said traces of C4 plastic explosives were found at the location. The bomb appeared to have been left near a cellphone repair shop at the bottom of an escalator, they said.

Police initially said the blast was caused by an exploding cooking gas cylinder, but later ruled out that theory.

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26. [Security: Thailand] **Why Is The Us Bureau Of ATF Giving Bomb Training To Thai Police?** (Time)  
 Monday, 14 November 2011  
<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2098979,00.html>

The homemade bomb is hidden in a bag slung over the seat of a motorbike. When it explodes, it shatters the windows of a nearby car, peppers the driver's door with shrapnel — mainly bolts and washers — and leaves the motorbike a charred and twisted wreck. "That'll make for a bad day," says Byron San Marco, a special agent with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). "And that was not a tremendous amount of explosive either."

San Marco and his ATF team will blow up two more vehicles with improvised explosive devices (IEDs) at the Tactical Training Center at Cha-am, a U.S.-funded law-enforcement academy about a two-hour drive from Bangkok, before putting two dozen Thai police officers through postblast training. The officers must sift through the wreckage to discover what caused the explosions and collect evidence to track down the bomber. (Read about protests turning violent in downtown Bangkok.)

Some of the officers are already grimly familiar with IEDs. They serve in a part of the world where bomb attacks are common: the three Muslim-majority provinces in southern Thailand where an eight-year war between government forces and insurgents has killed nearly 5,000 people. On Oct. 25, the day before the ATF training began, two dozen bombs went off in and around the capital of Yala province, killing three people and injuring 49. A week later, a series of explosions in Yala and neighboring Narathiwat province killed six people and injured 13, including five police officers. In the month of October alone, there were 58 IED incidents across southern Thailand, almost three times last year's monthly average, according to Anthony Davis, a Bangkok-based security analyst.

This dramatic escalation has barely been registered in the faraway capital of Bangkok, but the ATF and other law-enforcement agencies around the world are taking notice. "The IED has evolved into the weapon of choice for insurgent, terrorist and even criminal networks throughout the world," the Australian Bomb Data Centre (ABDC), a part of the Australian Federal Police, said in a recent statement. The center was set up in 1978, but found new purpose after the 2002 Bali bombings, which killed 202 people, including 88 Australians. It now has 14 analysts who monitor IED attacks globally, sharing technical information with five other bomb-data centers in Asia and dozens of similar facilities worldwide. "We've built a network to defeat a network," says ABDC director Phil Winter.

IEDs are usually associated with Iraq and Afghanistan, which, along with Pakistan, account for about half of the 1,000 or so attacks that occur monthly worldwide, according to the ABDC. But because Thailand's bombs are concentrated in a smaller area — the country's three southern provinces combined are smaller than Connecticut — the impact on daily life can be just as devastating. In 2010, the proportion of IED attacks causing casualties was higher in Thailand (54%) than in Iraq (30%) or Afghanistan (21%), according to the TRITON global terrorism database operated by counter-IED specialists Allen-Vanguard Ltd. and the Pentagon's Joint IED Defeat Organization.

There are several reason for this lethality. Some 30,000 government troops, as well as thousands of armed police and paramilitary soldiers, are deployed across southern Thailand, a lush region of rubber plantations, jungle-clad hills and deserted beaches. But the insurgents hold sway over most of this territory, which means they are able to detonate their bombs almost anywhere, usually by remote control. This allows them to target passing military patrols with greater accuracy and cause more casualties. It doesn't help that security forces usually travel in pickup trucks and on motorbikes — not armor-plated vehicles — leaving them vulnerable to even relatively small bombs.

Also, while their IEDs remain fairly rudimentary, Thailand's militants have developed a tactical adroitness that baffles security forces. Davis said the insurgents routinely used a primary IED to lure forces to an area before setting off an even larger secondary bomb. This year, they began exploding three or more bombs in succession. In June, for example, a rubber tapper in Yala province stepped on a homemade mine that nearly ripped his leg off. Three hours later, a large land mine exploded while a local official and his security detail were driving to the blast site, killing the official and one other person. An hour later, a bomb-disposal officer stepped on a land mine while following the wire that triggered the second blast. "Insurgent ingenuity and technical skill have combined to produce a constantly shifting kaleidoscope of tactics, techniques and types of IEDS, permitting militant cells either to stay one step ahead of countermeasures or adapt rapidly to meet them," Davis said in Jane's Intelligence Review.

This is why, back at the ATF training site in Cha-am, special agent Todd Jones has buried a fake secondary bomb — a simple pressure plate attached to a siren — near the motorbike-bomb site. "We teach them to look for secondary devices before they do anything else," says Jones, who is based at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Ga. The trainees separate into three teams. With small flags, two members of the first team slowly mark a path toward the wreckage. "We train them to collect anything and everything the bomber brought," says San Marco. "If he delivered the device in a box and that blew up, you want 100% of the box. It may contain DNA, a bar code, a fingerprint." The bike bomb was detonated by a cell phone, which San Marco hopes the trainees will figure out by identifying its SIM card or casing fragments.

The trainees work with quiet purpose. For many, it doesn't feel like a drill. "I've seen many incidents like this, particularly motorcycle bombs," says Lieut. Colonel Suvarn Maneechot, a detective based in southern Thailand who has lost many colleagues and friends to IED blasts. "We need more training like this to stay one step ahead of the bad guys." Suddenly, a cry goes out — his fellow officers have unearthed the secondary explosive without setting it off. They give themselves a brief round of applause. In Thailand, any victory against an IED — even a fake one — is worth celebrating.

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27. [Attack: Philippines] **Bomb Blast Consisting Of 60 Millimeter Mortar Cancels Cotabato Concert** (Business World)

Sunday, 13 November 2011

<http://www.bworldonline.com/content.php?section=Nation&title=Bomb-blast-cancels-Cotabato-concert&id=41543>

A bomb explosion cut short a rock concert in Cotabato City at the weekend but no one was killed or injured in the incident, police said.

Supt. Roberto T. Badian, the city police chief, said in a radio interview yesterday that a bomb made from a 60-millimeter (mm) mortar blasted in a public rest room at the backstage at around 9:30 p.m.

Police immediately canceled the show and cordoned off the crime scene, he said.

Last Saturday's incident was not new for Cotabato City. In early September, a bomb exploded on a roadside of the national highway on the same day Local Government Secretary Jesse M. Robredo was in the city for a forum. In the same month, the Philippine National Police revealed a plan of al Qaeda-linked militant groups to blow up establishments and churches in the city.

On Oct. 28, police officer Jose Gomez was hurt while approaching a suspected bomb on a roadside near Cafe Florencio. The bomb was also made of 60-mm mortar.

Last Tuesday, an improvised bomb exploded near the gate of University of Southern Mindanao at around 8 p.m., while five bombs planted in different public places were defused by the police the following day. All were made from 81-mm mortars. No one was killed or injured in the incidents.

Last Wednesday, another bomb was recovered near a gasoline station in Isulan town, Sultan Kudarat. It was made from a 60-mm mortar.

Regional Police Director Felicisimo V. Khu said his office is verifying intelligence reports that Basit Usman, a bomb expert connected with Jemaah Islamiyah, could be behind the series of bombing incidents.

No one has claimed responsibility for last Saturday's blast although the police are looking into the possibility that the blast could be related to the band showdown. Terrorism has also been considered as a possible motive.

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28. [Attack: Myanmar] **Bomb Kills 10 Including 9 Orphaned Children, Wounds 27 In Northern Myanmar**  
(Reuters)

Monday, 14 November 2011

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/14/us-myanmar-violence-idUSTRE7AD0R120111114>

At least 10 people were killed and 27 wounded from a bomb blast in the capital of Myanmar's northern Kachin State bordering China, local sources said on Monday.

The blast took place late evening Sunday in the city of Myitkyinar and caused a blaze at three houses. Those killed included nine orphaned students and a child, local residents told Reuters.

"A study group was taking place at the time of the bombing, that was why the number of casualties was high," a resident told Reuters, requesting anonymity.

It was not immediately known why the orphan homes were targeted, or who was behind the bombing.

Monday's official newspapers did not report the incident, but said a bomb went off and another was defused in Myitkyinar Saturday, and there were no injuries.

Kachin state is one of Myanmar's most dangerous regions, plagued by decades of conflict between ethnic separatists and government troops.

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29. [Attack: India] **Bomb At Trash Dump Leaves Woman Dead** (PTI)

Monday, 14 November 2011

[http://zeenews.india.com/news/west-bengal/bomb-blast-leaves-woman-dead\\_741707.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/west-bengal/bomb-blast-leaves-woman-dead_741707.html)

A woman was killed when a bomb kept in a garbage dump went off in Sainthia town in Birbhum district on Monday.

The blast took place near a Trinamool Congress office in ward three of the town, police said.

The 60-year-old victim was identified as Bhusani Das. Soon after the incident, Trinamool Congress and CPI(M) workers blocked roads in the ward.

Rapid Action Force has been deployed as a precautionary measure.

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30. [Attack: Nigeria] **Bomb Planted In Can Of Mineral Drink Explodes At Bulumkutu Roundabout In Maiduguri** (Next)

Tuesday, 15 November 2011

[http://234next.com/csp/cms/sites/Next/Home/5747772-146/bomb\\_blast\\_hits\\_bulumkutu\\_roundabout\\_in.csp](http://234next.com/csp/cms/sites/Next/Home/5747772-146/bomb_blast_hits_bulumkutu_roundabout_in.csp)

An improvised bomb exploded near the University of Southern Mindanao in the town of Kabacan, North Cotabato at around 7 p.m. Tuesday, authorities said.

No casualties were reported as of posting.

Officials of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team responded to the area and recovered another improvised explosive device (IED) approximately 3 meters away from the blast site.

The device was made from 2 9-volt batteries, a cellphone with a circuit diagram, a tail fin of a cartridge 81mm mortar round and one complete IED secondary device with a cartridge of an 81mm mortar round as its main charge.

Meanwhile, another IED was recovered in front of a bakeshop in Kabacan National Highway at around 5 a.m. Wednesday.

A bomb disposal team defused the bomb.

Authorities have to yet to identify the motive of the planted bomb as well as the type of IED used.

In the town of Isulan, Sultan Kudarat, an IED was also recovered at a gas station around 11 a.m.

The IED, which was made from a 60mm mortar round, was defused by authorities.

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31. [Security: California, US] **Man Sentenced To Five Years For Storing Explosives In His Yard** (KPCC)  
Tuesday, 15 November 2011  
<http://www.scp.org/news/2011/11/15/29890/man-sentenced-five-years-storing-explosives-his-ya/>

A federal court has sentenced a Reseda man to the longest prison term ever handed down in a hazardous materials case.

Firefighters' response to an explosion in Edward Wyman's backyard set off this case a couple of years ago. The burning materials included so much ammunition that the first responders had to wear bulletproof vests, the US Attorney's office said in a statement.

Investigators found thousands of rounds of corroded ammo, lead-contaminated waste from shooting ranges and hundreds of pounds of old gunpowder, among other suspicious stuff. Reportedly, Wyman didn't have permits to store any of it. In April, a jury convicted him of illegal storage of toxic and explosive hazardous wastes, a felony.

That same panel added that 64-year-old Wyman had knowingly placed others in danger of death or serious injury. A federal judge in Los Angeles sentenced him to five years in prison. US Attorney for LA Andre Birotte said the penalty demonstrates the serious nature of federal environmental crimes.

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32. [Attack: Lebanon] **Bomb Explodes In South Lebanon Hotel Frequented By UN Peacekeepers** (AP)

Wednesday, 16 November 2011

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/bomb-explodes-in-south-lebanon-hotel-frequent-ed-by-un-peacekeepers-no-casualties/2011/11/16/gIQAA2dzPN\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/bomb-explodes-in-south-lebanon-hotel-frequent-ed-by-un-peacekeepers-no-casualties/2011/11/16/gIQAA2dzPN_story.html)

A bomb exploded Wednesday at a hotel frequented by U.N. staffers in southern Lebanon, causing damage but no casualties, a Lebanese security official said.

The official said the blast tore through the pub at the Queen Elissa Hotel in the port city of Tyre early in the morning. Rubble littered the pavement outside the hotel, and part of the ground floor was badly damaged by the blast.

Another explosion minutes later damaged a liquor store in the city, also causing no casualties. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

The official estimated the hotel bomb weighed about 7 pounds (3 kilograms), and said a sample had been sent to Beirut to determine the type of explosives used.

Andrea Tenenti, a spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping force known as UNIFIL, said in a statement that “there are no indications whatsoever that UNIFIL was targeted by the explosion.”

He said that two U.N. staff members were in the hotel but were not harmed, and that two U.N. vehicles were damaged. An investigation was under way, he said.

Tyre is a predominantly Muslim city and serving alcohol is common at hotels and restaurants.

There have been several attacks against U.N. peacekeepers in Lebanon in the past, most recently in July, when a roadside bomb blew up next to a U.N. convoy carrying French peacekeepers in southern Lebanon, wounding at least five people.

U.N. peacekeepers have been deployed in southern Lebanon since 1978 to monitor the border with Israel. The force was boosted to almost 12,000 troops after Israel and Hezbollah fought a war in 2006.

Under the U.N. resolution that ended the fighting, the mission is monitoring a zone south of the Litani River where Hezbollah is banned from keeping weapons.

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33. [Attack: Kenya] **Remote Control Roadside Bomb Destroys Kenya Police Car In Refugee Camp** (Reuters)  
Tuesday, 15 November 2011  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/15/us-kenya-somalia-blast-idUSTRE7AE1AG20111115>

A remote-controlled bomb blew up a police vehicle escorting a U.N. convoy in Kenya's Dadaab refugee camp near the border with Somalia on Tuesday, the second such incident in the camp this month.

A U.N. driver said the blast ripped through the back of the police jeep moments after the column of ten vehicles had left Hagadera, one of three camps in the sprawling complex, wounding two private security guards and two police officers.

Two refugees from the camp were arrested in connection with the attack, police spokesman Eric Kiraithe said in a statement.

Kenya has been plagued by a wave of attacks since it sent hundreds of soldiers into neighboring Somalia last month to crush the al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab militant group.

"The police car was at the front of the convoy. As we drove out of Hagadera we saw an explosion at the rear end of the landcruiser," said the driver who declined to be named.

"My car was third in the convoy," he said.

Abukar Mohamed, a local bus driver, said the blast took place a few hundred meters from the bus park where he was at the time, and sent people scrambling for shelter.

"I then ran to the site of the blast. The two G4S security guards were seriously wounded, they were bleeding all over. The two policemen had minor injuries," he said.

Witnesses said the attack left a two-meter crater in the sand track.

Dadaab, located about 100 km (60 miles) from the Somali border, was set up in 1991 to house Somalis fleeing violence in their country. The camp's population has swollen to more than 460,000 people this year because of famine in the lawless country.

#### SPATE OF ATTACKS

Two Spanish aid workers were kidnapped from Dadaab, the world's largest refugee camp, and taken into Somalia last month, victims of a rash of abductions of Westerners in Kenya that spurred the country to deploy forces across the border.

Banditry is common around the camp but targeted bomb attacks are rare.

Tuesday's attack underscored the mounting threats facing aid workers and refugees in the camp.

The U.N.'s refugee agency, UNHCR, has already cut back its aid operations to essential services, namely distribution of food, water and health care in the camps where cholera has broken out.

"This kind of act will not deter the police force from performing its duty, of offering security and ensuring our country is protected against any evil characters, bandits or militias from Somalia," Leo Nyongesa, the police commander of North Eastern province, told Reuters.

Kenya, the region's biggest economy, is the latest country in a string of foreign powers to try and stabilize the Horn of Africa country that has been mired in violence for two decades.

Analysts warn Kenya's incursion risks dragging it into a broader regional conflict.

Somalia's al Shabaab militants have vowed to bring the "flames of war" across the frontier in retaliation. Security experts have also voiced concerns the rebels would increasingly turn to softer targets, such as tourists and aid workers.

Another Kenyan police truck escorting U.N. vehicles hit a land mine in the same area earlier this month, but the explosive failed to detonate.

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34. [Tech: US] **DoD Looks To Unconventional Methods In Fight Against IEDs** (Defense Systems)  
Tuesday, 15 November 2011  
<http://defensesystems.com/blogs/inside-dod/2011/11/jieddo-intelligence-robots-counter-ied-threat.aspx>

Improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, have been the bane of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan: lethal, difficult to detect and all too common.

As the defining weapon of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, IEDs killed 9,137 coalition troops, Afghan troops and civilians in Afghanistan in 2010, and 10,256 coalition troops, Iraqi troops and civilians in Iraq in 2010, according to the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization's 2010 annual report. They're also spreading beyond southwest Asia, averaging 260 IED events per month outside of Iraq and Afghanistan, according to the report.

To deal with the daunting threat, JIEDDO is getting creative in the methods it's employing to defeat IEDs, including the use of specialized intelligence focusing on IED source materials, and also robots being developed in conjunction with the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

As many as 80 percent of IEDs in Afghanistan are made from ammonium nitrate originating from Pakistani fertilizer plants, said Army Lt. Gen. Michael Barbero, JIEDDO program executive officer. At a Land Warfare Institute briefing Nov. 10 in Arlington, Va., Barbero pushed for better intelligence that hones in on how the materials are getting from the plants in Pakistan into the hands of terrorists.

That increased focus on intelligence is proving fruitful already, but there's still much progress that must be made, he said.

"From these two legally operating factories in Pakistan, we know where they are producing, we know who their distributors are -- and we are getting great support from them," he said. "What we don't understand is how this ammonium nitrate gets from the factories to these insurgents. That's the greatest intelligence gap we have." With that information, the military can track financial data -- and can enlist in the Treasury and State departments to help, Barbero said.

DOD also is looking at another avenue of attack: robotic tools that can help dismounted troops investigate more safely. JIEDDO recently coordinated with NIST on a three-week testing exercise in which the performance of the six robots JIEDDO tested, and that of more than 80 that were previously tested at the same site by the Homeland Security Department.

"The intended outcome is to establish a baseline for performance in standard robotics functions," Matt Way, program integrator, who oversaw the event for JIEDDO, said in a media release. "Ultimately, these exercises will reduce performance risk in theater."

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35. [Tech: US] **Army May Put 'Ghosts' In Humvees, MRAPs To Foil Roadside Bombs** (National Defense)  
Thursday, 17 November 2011  
<http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/blog/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=591>

After a decade of war, the improvised explosive device has proven to be a tough weapon to defeat. Despite numerous counter-IED efforts, it is still the leading killer of U.S. Troops in Afghanistan.

But what if the enemy was detonating roadside bombs underneath vehicles with nobody in them? That is the idea soldiers have begun experimenting with in the desert just north of the Mexico border. The "Ghost Ship" concept allows soldiers to remotely control a ground vehicle to act as a decoy for those behind it.

Imagine an Army convoy traveling a dangerous route known to be a hotspot for IEDs. When the lead vehicle reaches a certain point, insurgents detonate the bomb. But not a soul is hurt, because the target is an unmanned Ghost Ship being driven by a soldier in the back seat of another vehicle farther back in the pack.

"The concept is outstanding," Spc. Jose Garcia told National Defense this week at the site of the Army's second Network Integration Evaluation. Soldiers here are evaluating dozens of devices to ensure that they can "talk" to each other within the Army's battle network.

A soldier remotely drives the decoy with a steering wheel, brake and gas pedal. Cameras and monitors provide a 360-degree view of the vehicle's surroundings.

Soldiers have been driving unmanned Humvees outfitted with the system, but it can be installed on other ground assets, including the mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles.

"It would be a great advantage [against] the IED threat to put a remote vehicle as the lead vehicle," Pfc. Antonio DeAnda said. "It could take the blast and we could recover the vehicle."

Homemade bombs are a ubiquitous problem for U.S. troops. DeAnda struggled to give a rough estimate of the number of IED blasts he encountered during a 15-month deployment to Iraq. After a few seconds trying to remember, he admitted that there were too many to recall. "Countless," he said.

Insurgents in Iraq would place IEDs behind guardrails and poles at bends in the highways, exactly the type of situation the Ghost Ship could exploit, DeAnda said.

Soldiers have trained on this system for more than a month. They have discovered that it can also be used for reconnaissance and other situations that require stand-off distances.

"We're very proficient with it," Garcia said. Soldiers are quickly becoming comfortable driving the Ghost Ship at speeds topping 30 mph. "If you could paint a perfect picture, we'll get this thing to go up to convoy speed," he added.

That perfect picture also would include more cameras and the ability to zoom in on certain situations, Garcia added.

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36. [Attack: Nigeria] **Twin-Explosion Causes Panic In Abuja** (This Day)

Wednesday, 17 November 2011

<http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/twin-explosion-causes-panic-in-abuja/102996/>

Pandemonium broke out Wednesday in Abuja, following explosions in two filling stations, which sent panic across the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), as many scampered for safety thinking they were bomb blasts.

The first explosion occurred in ASCON filling station, along Ademola Adetokunbo Crescent, Wuse II, while the second took place along Muhammadu Buhari Way in Garki 2, Abuja.

According to an eyewitness account at the Wuse II scene, a petrol tanker caught fire when it was due to discharge its product at the station. Though the driver quickly disengaged the head of the truck from the tank, fire engulfed the station, leading to the explosion of the tank.

In a similar incident at Garki, about 150 meters from the FCT police command headquarters; a tanker also caught fire during the discharge of petroleum products at the AP filling station at about 5.30 p.m.

THISDAY gathered that one person was seriously injured in the incident, while two cars and three fuel tankers were destroyed.

Confirming the two fire incidents, which many mistook for bomb blast, FCT Police Command Spokes-person, Jimoh Moshood, said no casualty was recorded.

Explaining further, Moshood said but for the quick intervention of the Police, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Fire Service personnel, and other relevant agencies, the two fire incidents would have recorded high rate of casualties.

Speaking on the incidents, NEMA Spokesperson, Yau Shuaibu, said contrary to speculations that they were bomb blasts, they were just mere coincidental fuel fire outbreaks.

He, therefore, called on Abuja residents to go about their lawful businesses without fear of bomb blasts.

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37. [Security: Maryland, US] **Two Maryland 11-Year-Olds, Teen Arrested For Making And 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.

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38. [Attack: Malta] **Search For Detonator Used With High Explosive Car Bomb On 11/16/2011** (Times of Malta)

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.

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