



Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data

Weekly News Update

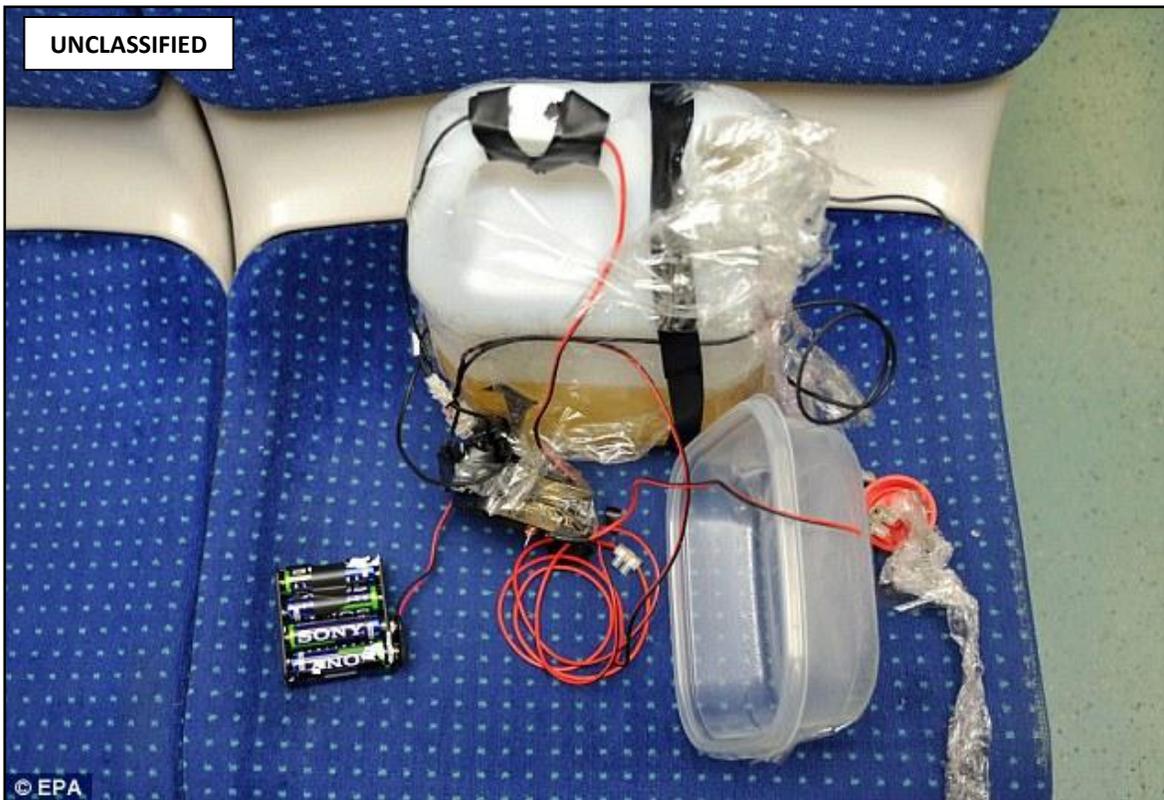
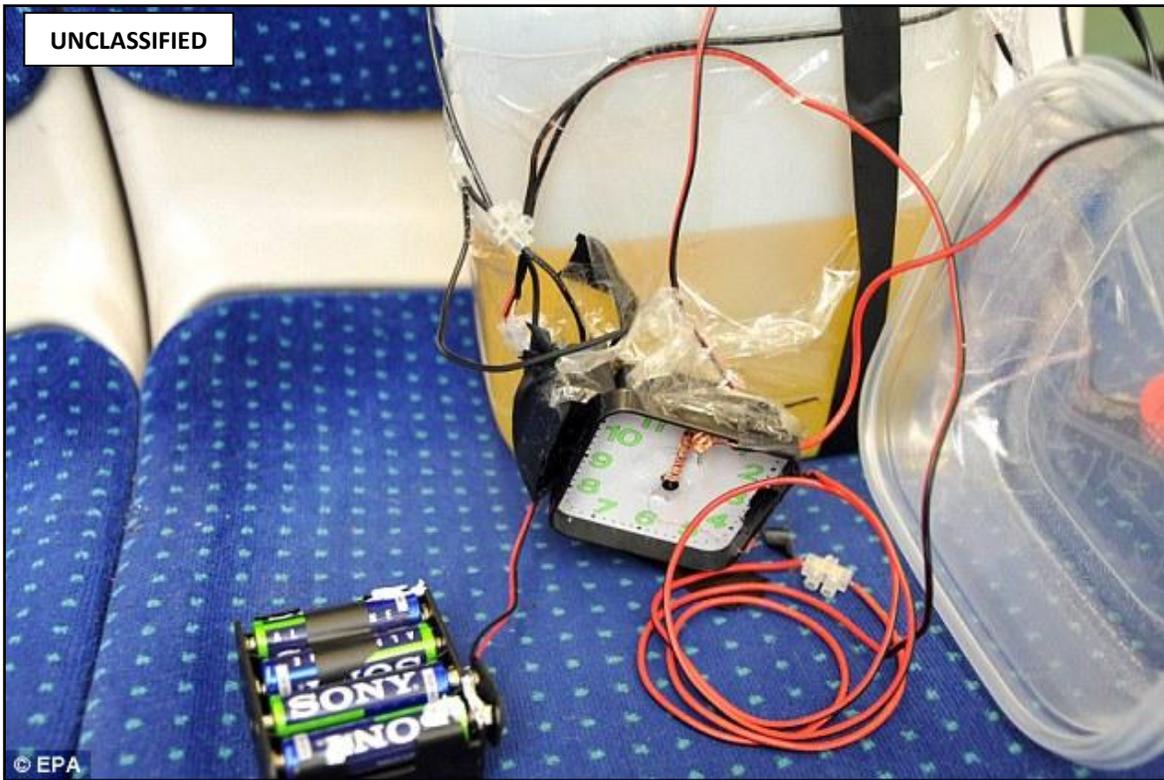
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The RAPID Weekly News Update is a weekly collection of unclassified media and news bulletins focused on noteworthy improvised explosive attacks and trends in the EOD/C-IED community. To subscribe to this weekly publication and/or to receive additional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

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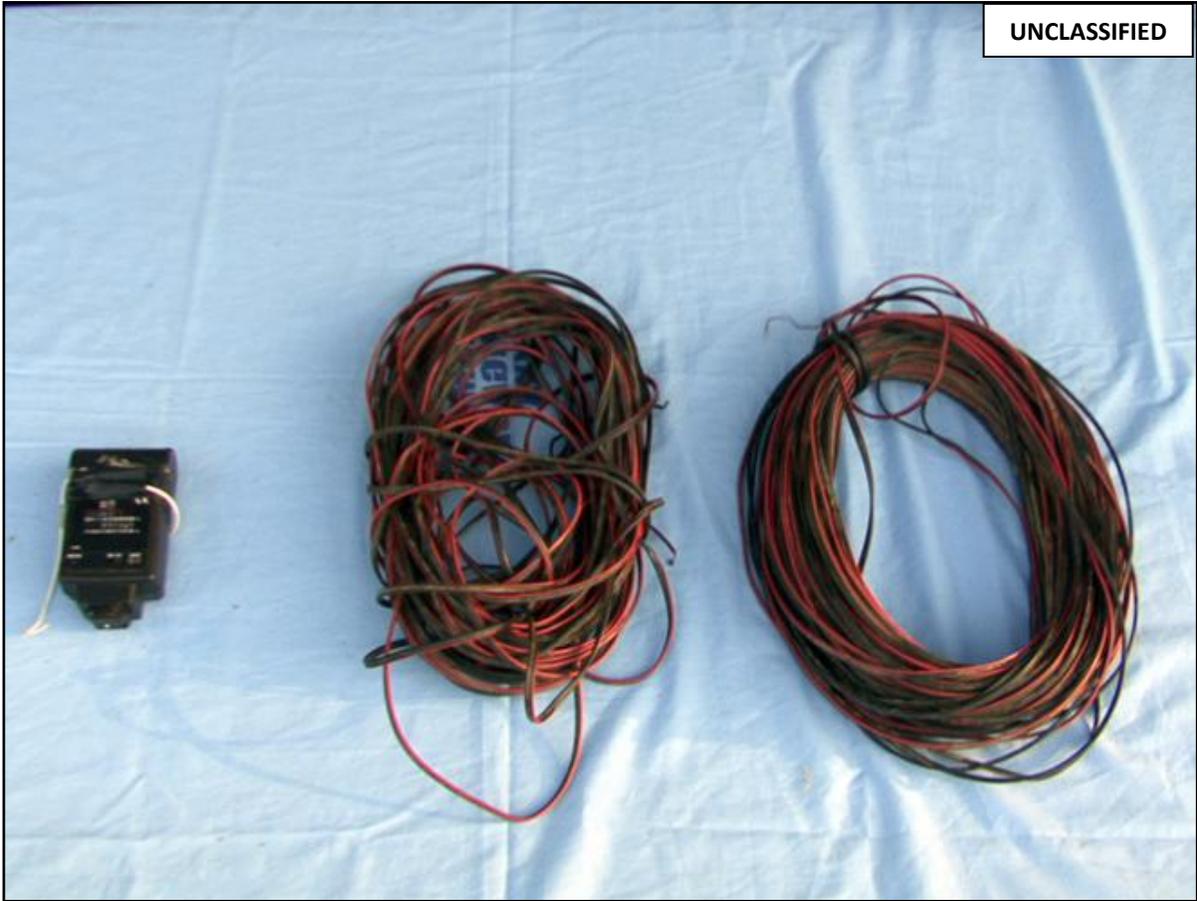
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1. No Easy Answer To Who Lit Fuse In Bomb Attacks

26 February 2012

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/investigation/281590/>

[Jane's Analysis]

Since the bomb blasts earlier this month which struck Bangkok and New Delhi, and a failed attack in the Georgian capital Tbilisi, confusion over events on the ground has been compounded by a predictable war of words between Iran, widely viewed as behind the attacks, and its arch-enemy Israel, the apparent target.

Amid the din of accusation and denial, amplified by camp-followers of both parties, puzzled independent observers have managed to concur on only two aspects of the still unexplained events.

First, the incidents in India and Georgia on Feb 13, and in Thailand the following day, were almost certainly linked in a coordinated plot intended to assassinate Israeli diplomats using "sticky bombs" attached to vehicles by magnets. The fact that the same method was used successfully against Iranian nuclear scientists assassinated in Iran in attacks believed carried by Israeli agents clearly implied an operation intended to be seen as tit-for-tat retaliation.

Second, the operations in all three cities were marked by a startling lack of professionalism. In Bangkok, incompetence veered into a bloody comedy of errors that in any work of spy fiction would have been dismissed as ludicrous. Now celebrated highlights include a premature explosion in a rented house; panicked flight by the apparent bomb makers; bungled bomb attacks on a taxi and a police car that cost one Iranian both of his own legs; and arrests of two accomplices at Suvarnabhumi airport and in Malaysia.

The Valentine's Day fiasco was followed by the discovery of stickers bearing the Koranic term "Sejeal" plastered along a 1.5km stretch of road in central Bangkok as well as in a house rented by one of the apparent Iranian bomb-making team. Another was discovered on a motorcycle believed to be intended for use in one or more attacks. While Thai police initially speculated the stickers marked out a getaway route, security analysts are sceptical they had any operational relevance, suggesting instead some religiously auspicious significance.

While less farcical, the operations in Georgia and India were also marked by remarkable mistakes. In Tbilisi, the would-be assassin attached an explosive device _ later found and disarmed _ not to a diplomatic vehicle but to the car of the Israeli ambassador's Georgian driver. The choice appeared to indicate either a failure of reconnaissance or a last-minute need to settle for a secondary, related target rather than a primary one.

In New Delhi, an Israeli diplomat's wife was actually wounded by a magnetic bomb and the would-be assassin was able to escape. However, he reportedly attached the device to the rear of the vehicle near a tail light rather to its side, significantly lessening the chance of killing his target.

With the Iranian government now seen as the most likely suspect behind the bombings _ and in many quarters already declared guilty _ it is worth fitting these events into the context of what is known about Iranian external intelligence operations. Viewed through this lens, the recent incidents are puzzling in several regards.

Iran is certainly no stranger to foreign assassinations. Indeed, since shortly after the Islamic revolution of 1979, Teheran has been deeply implicated in directing and conducting both assassinations and larger mass-casualty terrorist attacks in Europe, the Middle East and Latin America. Its primary targets have been Iranian dissidents based in Europe perceived as threats to the revolutionary regime.

Both in terms of intelligence gathering and "direct action", external operations are the responsibility of two organisations understood to work either independently or, occasionally, in conjunction. The primary body is the Ministry of Intelligence and National Security (Vezerat e Etela'at va Amnita e Keshvar, or Vevak); the other, the elite Qods Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), the branch of the armed forces that answers directly to Iran's senior-most clerical leadership.

Established in 1984, Vevak is responsible for both internal and external security matters. According to Israeli sources, notably investigative journalist Ronen Bergman, the ministry's external operations are undertaken by its Department 15, which fields operatives working under diplomatic cover in Iranian embassies abroad. But Vevak has also been known to use other state organisations to provide cover, including Iran Air, Iranian Shipping Lines and the Islamic Republic News Agency.

By contrast, the Qods force fulfils an essentially military and paramilitary mission and has been responsible for providing instruction and support to pro-Iranian guerrilla and terrorist groups in countries such as Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, the Palestinian territories and Sudan. Such training is conducted both in facilities inside Iran and abroad: Qods Force personnel have had a long and well documented presence in Lebanon as well as in Iraq during the US occupation.

OFFICIAL ASSASSINATIONS

European police and judicial investigations dating from the 1980s and 1990s _ the heyday of the Islamic Republic's overseas assassination campaign _ indicate that Teheran's direct action operations abroad have often been undertaken by Iranian nationals usually working for Vevak out of embassies or other organisations providing cover, including private businesses.

During the wave of nearly 200 assassinations of dissident exiles, Iranian "diplomats" were expelled from several countries including Germany, Norway and Turkey. In 1997, Iranian Intelligence and Security Minister Ali Fallahian was himself the subject of an arrest warrant issued by German prosecutors after protracted investigations into the gunning down of three Iranian Kurdish exiles in Berlin in September 1992. Those arrested and found guilty of the killings were Vevak operatives whose orders were traced back to Fallahian's desk.

Iran's extensive network of Middle Eastern allies has also permitted the use of proxies for deniable "direct action". Some such operations involved mass-casualty attacks such as the bombing of the Jewish Centre in Buenos Aires in July 1994 which killed 85, wounded several hundred and which was formally linked by Argentinean prosecutors to Latin American-based elements of Lebanese Hezbollah directed from Teheran.

Others have been individual assassinations such as the March 1992 killing of Ehud Sadan, a Israeli security officer at Israel's embassy in Ankara, Turkey, who died when a bomb detonated under his car. The assassination came days after the Israeli killing of Sheikh Abbas Mousavi, secretary-general of Lebanese Hezbollah and was later traced to Iranian-trained Farhan Osman, an operative of Turkish Hezbollah, a notably lethal branch of Iran's external network.

Osman was arrested by Turkish authorities in 2000 and admitted at his trial to carrying out attacks on orders from Teheran.

Against this backdrop, it is puzzling that a state with decades of experience in conducting overseas operations and with access to an extensive network of proxy operatives would find itself abruptly reduced to deploying a team of its own nationals with little evident training or field support given to adorning Bangkok's busy streets with bumper stickers in advance of an attack.

Another puzzling aspect of the Iranian state responsibility alleged by Israel centres on the decision to conduct a coordinated operation more or less simultaneously in three foreign countries. Details of both Iranian and Israeli assassination operations which have emerged in recent years indicate clearly that achieving a successful outcome in a single operation is complex enough and requires careful planning, reconnaissance and execution by skilled operatives with plans for unforeseen contingencies. Not least would be the need for back-up travel documents and possibly an alternative safe house.

Even then success is anything but guaranteed. The bungled attempt by operatives of Israel's external intelligence agency, the Mossad, to kill Khaled Mashal, a senior figure in Palestinian Hamas, in Amman, Jordan in September 1997 illustrates the risks of even meticulously planned operations. After administering a poisoned spray to their intended victim, the two Israeli assassins _ posing as Canadian tourists _ abandoned a get-away car in traffic and were pursued and arrested. Humiliatingly, Israel was obliged to provide Jordanian authorities with an antidote to the poison that saved Mr Mashal's life.

By the same token, a near-simultaneous assassination operation by a single intelligence service against three hard targets in three different countries is almost certainly unprecedented in recent decades. Even assuming a political need for multiple strikes, such a scatter-gun approach is bound to stretch resources in terms of planning and execution and sharply raises the chances of failure, as in Tbilisi, and disastrous blow-back, as in Bangkok.

In short, if the Iranian government was indeed responsible for the recent attacks, it would have been almost setting itself up for a fall in two countries (India and Thailand) with which it shares valuable diplomatic and trade relations and at a time when it has a vital interest in not providing Israel with a pretext for war.

There is arguably only one explanation that might bridge the yawning disconnect between events as they unfolded and Teheran's known capabilities and operational record, and its wider strategic interests. That is that the Islamic Republic's senior-most leadership perceived an overriding political need to display resolve in retaliating swiftly for the killing of its nuclear scientists _ and ordered action in wilful disregard of the operational risks involved.

EXPLOSIVE MOTIVATIONS

Beyond Iran, however, other possible perpetrators of the attacks have been suggested. The favourite of internet conspiracy-theorists and Iranian officials is _ predictably enough _ Israel itself.

According to this interpretation of events, Israel organised a "false flag" operation using Iranian nationals to further isolate Iran and increase international support for an attack against Teheran should a decision be made in favour of a military option to check its nuclear programme.

While colourful, this theory does not stand up to rational analysis. It implies that Israel, a state which goes to extraordinary lengths to protect and defend its citizens, would be willing to target its own diplomats in the pursuit of its wider campaign against Iran.

A second theory centres on the possibility of elements within Iran's security and intelligence establishment acting without sanction _ and thus without access to trained personnel and operational support _ in outsourcing an operation to non-official or semi-official contractors. In a Feb 15 commentary for CNN, Thailand-based security consultant Paul Quaglia, himself a former intelligence official, posited "outsourcing" as a possible explanation for the amateur nature of the events in Bangkok.

The possibility of impatient "hawks" circumventing reluctance at higher levels of the state to retaliate for the assassinations of Iranian scientists cannot be simply dismissed. Iran's intelligence establishment is far from monolithic and almost certainly factionalised. Indeed, in a celebrated case in the late 1990s, a rogue group in Vevak was held responsible by Iranian prosecutors for the murders inside Iran of three dissident writers, a political leader and his wife.

Nevertheless, the sheer level of organisation and number of personnel required for simultaneous attacks in three foreign countries are hardly consistent with a rogue operation. Furthermore, such an operation would carry a high risk of being traced back to those responsible with potentially severe consequences.

A third alternative that merits close attention centres on the Iranian domestic opposition, grouped loosely around the People's Mujahideen Organisation of Iran, or Mujahideen e Khalq (MeK). An Islamic-socialist group founded in 1965 in opposition to the then US-backed shah regime, MeK began an urban guerrilla campaign in the early 1970s and later took part in the Islamic revolution of 1979.

Subsequently, however, MeK broke violently with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's clerical regime and for years operated out of Saddam Hussein's Iraq as an Iraqi-backed conventional military force on the border as well as an underground terrorist network within Iran. MeK has been declared a Foreign Terrorist Organisation by the US government.

Following the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq, MeK's military units were disbanded by the Americans but the organisation has continued to operate clandestinely inside Iran while conducting a public relations campaign from Europe.

The group's network in Iran is generally believed to have provided the US and Israel with intelligence _ notably on Iran's nuclear programme _ as well as with assets for the covert destabilisation of the Islamic regime.

At various levels, there are grounds which might support the theory of an independent MeK operation in Bangkok, New Delhi and Tbilisi.

Strategically, the organisation has ample motive. The successful assassination of Israeli diplomats would at the least serve to further isolate the Iranian government at a critical juncture. At most, it might provide the impetus to push Israel into an attack on Iran that would destabilise or even topple the regime _ a result MeK has no chance of achieving itself.

The attempted assassination of Israel's ambassador to London, Argov Shlomo, by Palestinian terrorists on June 3, 1982, provides solid historical precedent for such a calculation. The attack, which critically

wounded Shlomo (without killing him), provided a convenient justification for the Israeli invasion of Lebanon three days later and the routing of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) forces based there.

Operationally, the hand of MeK or allied opposition elements also provides an explanation for the otherwise puzzling blunders displayed in mid-February. It can be safely assumed that a small number of Iranian opposition elements has been recruited, trained and deployed by Israeli and/or US intelligence services in the covert war against Iran's nuclear programme. However, MeK remains a larger _ and largely uncharted _ group without access to specialised training.

It is also worth noting that for an opposition group to commit poorly trained and supported personnel openly using Iranian travel documents would pose no real risk of blow-back: In the event of failure or fiasco, the simple fact that the operatives were Iranian would serve well enough to implicate the Teheran regime in the eyes of an already sceptical world.

The extent to which the truth behind recent events emerges will depend importantly on investigations currently conducted by the Thai police, who already hold two members of the Iranian team and may soon have access to a third detained in Malaysia.

The willingness of the Islamic Republic to provide proactive assistance in the investigation will also serve as an important reflection of its interest in rebutting Israel's accusations. Two suspected members of the Bangkok-based bomb-making team, Leila Rohani and Norouzi Shayan Ali Akbar, are both back in Iran with their photos and return flight details already made public by the Thai police.

It remains to be seen how aggressively the Thai authorities _ perennially reluctant to be dragged into the maelstrom of Middle Eastern conflict _ will choose to pursue the investigations or request assistance from Teheran. In the final analysis, Thailand has little to gain and possibly much to lose from establishing publicly and with certainty either the innocence or guilt of the Iranian government.

Indeed, the best pointer to the affair's likely outcome is the fate of Atris Hussein, the Lebanese-Swedish businessman with suspected links to Iran-allied Lebanese Hezbollah, whose January arrest was followed by the seizure of four tonnes of explosives he and his associates had amassed in a warehouse on the edge of Bangkok. Mr Hussein is to be charged with possession of restricted substances and may serve a few years in a Thai jail in a case that will soon be quietly forgotten.

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2. US Treasury Targets Taliban IED Facilitator

Friday, 02 March 2012

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2224731&language=en>

The US Treasury Department on Friday sanctioned Afghan national Abdul Samad Achekzai for being as a key facilitator in building roadside bombs for the Taliban.

The Treasurys Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) said it sanctioned Achekzai for "acting for or on behalf of the Taliban," the first such sanction specifically targeting the Talibans improvised explosive decides (IED) manufacturer and support network.

Achekzai allegedly helped recruit Taliban suicide bombers to conduct attacks in 2011 and oversaw IED training of Taliban fighters in western and southern Afghanistan against Coalition Forces and Afghan authorities. The Treasury claims he also was responsible for tasked with IED component procurement and storage, detonator construction and IED training.

"As a key official in the Taliban's IED supply network, Abdul Samad Achekzai is responsible for untold death and suffering. IEDs are the leading cause of casualties among coalition troops and civilians in Afghanistan and we must do everything in our power to expose and disrupt the purveyors of these deadly devices," said Adam Szubin, Director of Treasurys OFAC.

The sanctions freeze all of the US-based assets and property of Achekzai and prohibits any American or US business from engaging in transactions with him.

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3. Secret Army Bomb Jammers Stolen In Afghanistan

Thursday, 01 March 2012

<http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2012/03/bomb-jammers-stolen/>

On Jan. 7, someone strolled into a supply room at Camp Eggers, a coalition base near the U.S. embassy in downtown Kabul, pocketed two sets of car keys and walked out undetected. Sometime over the next 24 hours, the thieves drove away with two black-painted, armored Toyota Land Cruisers belonging to the U.S. Army's 26th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a unit that escorts coalition personnel around Kabul.

The loss of the Land Cruisers is bad enough. But what's really got the Army worried is what was inside the vehicles: two sets of top-secret Duke radio frequency jammers used to block the signals that detonate remote-controlled improvised explosive devices. In a notice posted to the website of the Army's Criminal Investigative Command (and first noted by Military Times), investigators plead for anyone with knowledge of the theft to contact CID offices in and around Kabul.

If the Army suspects who might be responsible, it's not saying. Equally, it's not clear if the bandits were after the Duke equipment specifically, or if the Land Cruisers were the sole target and the jammers were simply bonuses.

Best case scenario: the thieves have no ties to insurgents and no appreciation of the jammers' value ... and the high-tech devices wind up in a scrap heap somewhere.

Worst case: the jammers wind up in the hands of insurgents who then reverse-engineer them to create some kind of counter-counter-measure, thus making already-deadly IEDs even more dangerous.

In either case, the loss is a major embarrassment for the Army, which otherwise has gone to great lengths to protect the secrets of its ultra-costly radio-jamming technology. I should know. I once got booted out of Iraq after writing about the secret devices. (At the time I didn't realize the level of secrecy involved.)

The principle at work in the counter-bomb devices is simple: they emit a powerful radio signal that essentially drowns out other radio signals, including detonation commands. Early jammer models, such as the Warlock (pictured), had a tendency to wipe out everybody's communications for hundreds of yards in all directions. They could even cause remote-controlled drones flying overhead to crash. Newer jammers including the "Duke" model are more selective in their jamming, although they can still kill your cell phone signal if you're close enough. It's the secrets of this selectivity that the Army probably values the most, and which are at risk in the Kabul theft.

That said, radio-command IEDs are not the major bomb threat in most parts of Afghanistan. Rather, most bombs are detonated by pressure-plate triggers or metal command wires, against which jammers are useless.

Moreover, the Duke is not the most modern jamming device; that honor belongs to the CVRJ — the CREW Vehicle Receiver/Jammer. The Duke itself gets updated every couple years. It's now in its "V3" edition.

Which is to say, even in the worst-case scenario, the Army's multi-billion-dollar efforts to defeat IEDs is not entirely compromised by the jammer loss. But that doesn't make the theft any less embarrassing for the world's leading ground force.

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4. Fourteen Killed In Afghanistan Bomb Blasts

Tuesday, 28 February 2012

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/world/14+killed+in+Afghanistan+bomb+blasts+/-/1068/1356024/-/2y2lvwz/-/index.html>

Two separate blasts in southern Afghanistan killed 14 people, including a group of insurgents who were trying to rig an improvised bomb against Afghan and foreign forces, officials said on Tuesday.

In the volatile Nawzad district of Helmand province, a group of seven Taliban militants died while trying to cut a pipe bomb and fit it into a vehicle on Monday, provincial spokesman Daud Ahmadi said.

“The explosive-packed pipe detonated, killing a Taliban commander along with six of his fighters,” he said.

Roadside bombs are the most commonly used weapons by the Taliban, who are leading a 10-year insurgency and are responsible for the bulk of deaths among the US-led coalition and Afghan security forces.

On the same day, seven people, including six women, were killed in an explosion in Nawa district of the same province inside a house used by a local Taliban commander Mullah Manan, a senior security official said.

“We have intelligence that the Taliban commander was making bombs inside the house,” Mohammad Ismail Hotak said.

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5. Taliban Suicide Bomber Kills Nine At Jalalabad Airfield

Monday, 27 February 2012

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/02/taliban_suicide_bomb_34.php

The Taliban claimed credit for a suicide attack outside of a US airbase in eastern Afghanistan that is used to launch drone attacks in Pakistan. Nine people were killed and several more were wounded in today's suicide bombing.

The suicide bomber rammed his car packed with explosives into the main gate at Jalalabad Airfield in Nangarhar province, killing nine Afghans, "to include civilians, security guards and an ANA [Afghan National Army] soldier," the International Security Assistance Force said in a statement condemning the attack. Six civilians, two security guards, and an Afghan soldier were among those killed, according to Pajwhok Afghan News.

The Taliban claimed the attack in a statement that was released on their website, Voice of Jihad.

"A martyr attacker of the Islamic Emirate this morning drove up to the gates of the airport at dawn and slammed his car into the facility as the invading forces were changing from night to morning guard duty, killing a dozen of the US-NATO troops besides blowing a tank with scores of US invaders on board to pieces," the statement said. The Taliban identified the suicide bomber as Mujahid Ahmadullah, who was "resident of Nangarhar province."

The Taliban wildly exaggerate the effects of their attacks and resultant Coalition and Afghan casualties. No US or NATO soldiers were killed in the attack. Four ISAF soldiers were reported to have been wounded in the blast.

Today's attack takes place as Afghans continue to riot over the accidental burning of Korans at Bagram Air Base last week. Four US soldiers have been murdered by Afghan troops since last week; two were Army officers who were gunned down inside the Interior Ministry by an Afghan intelligence sergeant who had attended a madrassa in Pakistan. The other two soldiers were killed by an Afghan soldier while protecting a base in Nangarhar province.

The Taliban have launched several attacks against Jalalabad Airfield in the past. The last major attack took place in November 2011, when a six-man suicide assault team was gunned down while attempting to storm the base. In June 2010, a suicide assault team attempted to penetrate security but was repelled during a firefight with US and Afghan security forces manning the perimeter.

The Peshawar Regional Military Shura, one of the Afghan Taliban's four major commands, directs activities in eastern and northeastern Afghanistan. In 2011, Sheikh Mohammed Aminullah, who in 2009 was placed on the United Nations Sanctions Committee's list of "individuals and entities associated with al Qaeda," was named to lead the Taliban's Peshawar Regional Military Shura.

A Taliban group known as the Tora Bora Military Front operates in Nangarhar and has been behind a series of deadly attacks in the province. The Tora Bora Military Front is led by Anwarul Haq Mujahid, the son of Maulvi Mohammed Yunis Khalis, who was instrumental in welcoming Osama bin Laden to Afghanistan after al Qaeda was ejected from Sudan in 1996. Pakistan detained Mujahid in Peshawar in June 2009. He has since been released and was spotted at the funeral of Awal Gul, who was detained by US forces in 2002 and died at Guantanamo Bay on Feb. 1. Gul was a Taliban commander in Nangarhar province who had allegedly been entrusted by Osama bin Laden with \$100,000 to aid al Qaeda operatives

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fleeing Afghanistan to Pakistan in late 2001. [See LWJ report, Tora Bora Military Front commander speaks at funeral of former Gitmo detainee.]

Nangarhar is a strategic province for both the Taliban and the Coalition. The province borders the Pakistani tribal agency of Khyber. Prior to Pakistan's shutting down the supply route after a deadly clash with US forces last November that killed 24 Pakistani troops, the majority of NATO's supplies passed through Khyber and Nangarhar before reaching Kabul and points beyond.

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6. Bombing Streak: In-Sync Blasts Disrupt Railway Traffic In Sindh

Sunday, 26 February 2012

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/341913/bombing-streak-in-sync-blasts-disrupt-railway-traffic-in-sindh/>

A string of low-intensity bomb explosions damaged railway tracks across Sindh on Saturday, bringing rail traffic to a screeching halt and delaying several trains for up to four hours but causing no casualties.

Four improvised explosive devices were detonated early morning in Hyderabad, six in Benazirabad and three near Kotri railway station in Jamshoro and two in Bin Qasim, Karachi. The first explosion was heard around 6:20 am near the Sehrish Nagar area in Qasimabad which was followed five minutes by another one at the same location.

Around 7.15am, four more blasts wrecked both the tracks near Latifabad. Seventeen express trains, including the non-stop Business Express, remained halted for up to four hours at various railway stations.

The Pakistan Business Train and Pakistan Express, both Karachi bound, were stopped at the Hyderabad railway station. Karachi-bound Tezgam Express was stopped at Mirpur Mathelo, while Punjab-bound Farid Express was stopped at the Sarhad railway station near Ghotki.

Similarly, Karakoram Express, Millat Express and Sukkur Express also experienced delays and were stopped at different railway stations.

Police and railway authorities cordoned off the area and a bomb disposal squad was summoned from Sukkur to clear the tracks. Squad in charge Inspector Tahir told The Express Tribune that all the bombs were of local origin and weighed about five pounds. He added that all the explosives were detonated through remote control.

The Sindhu Desh Liberation Army claimed responsibility for the attack in pamphlets left at the blast sites. The group has been demanding secession of Sindh and to prove their strength, has also conducted similar attacks in the past. SP Zafar Iqbal told The Express Tribune that the pamphlets called upon the people of Sindh to launch an insurgency in the province, similar to the one in Balochistan.

“The attacks mirrored the previous ones aimed at causing only minor damage to show that a force exists,” said SSP Syed Asad Raza Shah.

According to SSP Hyderabad, the Government Officers Residence and Hussainabad police stations will lodge First Information Reports under the Anti-Terrorism Act against miscreants after complaints of the Railway authorities. In Benazirabad, unidentified saboteurs will be nominated at three separate police stations.

Meanwhile, railway rescue services started repairing the railway track and after six hours, rail traffic was restored. The divisional superintendent railways Sukkur, Shaikh Sardar, told The Express Tribune that the railway tracks had been repaired and train service had resumed.

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7. Bomb Blast Kills At Least 23 In Pakistani Tribal Area

Friday, 02 March 2012

http://www.rferl.org/content/bomb_blast_kills_twenty_three/24502617.html

Reports from Pakistan say at least 23 suspected militants have been killed and more than 20 people injured in a suicide bombing in the country's northwest tribal region, near the Afghan border.

Local officials said the attack by a suicide bomber occurred on March 2 in Tirah Bazaar of Khyber agency, a stronghold of the Lashkar-e-Islam militant group, which has ties with the Taliban.

Reports said that the attack was carried out by the militant Tariq Group, a rival to Lashkar-e-Islam.

The death toll could not be verified through independent sources as the areas is off limits to media representatives.

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8. Six Killed As Bomb Targets ANP Rally In Nowshera

Tuesday, 28 February 2012

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\02\28\story_28-2-2012_pg1_1

Six people were killed and 20 wounded when a bomb planted in a motorcycle went off on Monday moments after senior Awami National Party (ANP) leadership left a public meeting in Nowshera.

The bombing took place soon after Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ameer Haider Hot, ANP provincial president Afrasiab Khattak and KP Information Minister Mian Iftikhar left the meeting on a helicopter.

The blast killed six persons and wounded 20 ANP activists and supporters, according to Nowshera police and district administration officials.

However, police officer Muhammad Hussain told AFP that at least seven people were killed and 22 others injured. "The bomb was planted on a motorbike... carried about three to four kilogrammes of explosives, it was detonated using a remote-controlled device."

"It was an attack on the party leadership," Iftikhar Hussain told the media after reaching Peshawar along with other party leaders.

He said that tight security arrangements for the public meeting forced the "desperate terrorists" to explode the planted device and create panic.

"When the perpetrators of the blast did not succeed in attacking the targets, they exploded a remote-controlled device planted in a motorbike to create panic and chaos."

Nowshera District Coordination Officer Ayaz Mandokhel said the motorcycle was parked near the exit gate of the public meeting, adding that the chief minister and other ANP leaders were safe. The injured, including four cops, were rushed to hospitals in Nowshera and Peshawar.

The ANP had organised the public meeting to keep its activists and supporters ready for the next general elections.

Afrasiab Khan Khattak condemned the bombing and announced one-day mourning. National Assembly Speaker Fehmida Mirza Deputy Speaker Faisal Karim Kundi also condemned the bombing and expressed their grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives.

In separate statements, they termed the attack a "barbaric and shameful" act of terrorism. They said that the elements involved in such activities were enemies of humanity and the country. They added that such shameful acts could not deter the government from its firm resolve to fight terrorism. They said those involved in such activities would not be spared and brought to justice.

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Militancy-linked violence has increased in recent days in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa following a lull. Mian Iftikhar said at a press conference that drone attacks by the United States prompted “retaliatory attacks” from the Taliban.

On Friday, three suicide bombers blew themselves up at a police station in Peshawar, killing four officers a day after a car bombing killed 13 people at a bus station on the outskirts of Peshawar.

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9. Primary School Blown Up, Two Bombs Defused In Peshawar, Swabi

Tuesday, 28 February 2012

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2012/02/primary-school-blown-up-two-bombs-defused-in-peshawar-swabi/>

In the wake of new chill of sabotage acts in the shape of bomb blasts across the province, personnel of Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) defused two bombs, while the third one exploded, destroying a school in Peshawar on Tuesday. Pakistan Today learnt through its sources that in the first attempt of sabotage act by unknown miscreants, explosives weighing 15kgs were placed in a bag near Tatara Park in Hayatabad, Peshawar. Sources said an unknown caller had informed police about a bag full of narcotics (Charas) lying open in a park.

When police reached the spot, they found the bag and called the BDS instead of opening the bag. Personnel of BDS found 15kgs of explosives in the bag along with some narcotics. Police sources said the bomb aimed at targeting police personnel by setting up a trap through the information of drugs. On the other hand, well-placed sources said one of the two bombs planted by unknown militants targeting a primary school in Razaar tehsil of district Swabi exploded on Tuesday, resulting in destruction to the institute, while the second bomb was defused by the BDS personnel in time.

Police officials said government primary school in Murad Abad, Swabi, was the target of militants who planted two bombs inside the school building. One of the bombs went off at midnight. Police from a nearby post reached the scene and seized the unexploded bomb and defused it.

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10. Car Bomb Explodes In Baghdad

Wednesday, 29 February 2012

http://alliraqnews.com/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5130:urgent-car-bomb-explodes-in-baghdad&catid=36:security&Itemid=37

Fourteen civilians were killed and wounded when a car bomb exploded in eastern Baghdad on Wednesday.

Security source stated to All Iraq News Agency (AIN) "The car bomb exploded , near roadside in Amen neighborhood of eastern Baghdad, killing three civilians and wounding eleven others."

The source added "The police cordoned the explosion site transporting the dead bodies to the morgue and the wounded people to the hospital for treatment."

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11. Two IEDs Dismantled In Hilla

Tuesday, 28 February 2012

http://alliraqnews.com/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5100:2-ieds-dismantled-in-hilla&catid=36:security&Itemid=37

Security force managed to dismantle two Improvised Explosive Devices in Hamza area of southern Hilla, the capital of Babel province.

Security source mentioned to All Iraq News Agency (AIN) "The force succeeded in dismantling the two IEDs which were emplaced at the highway in Hamza area of southern Hilla city."

The source added "The IEDs were dismantled without material damages."

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12. Two IEDs Explode In Kadhimiyah

Tuesday, 28 February 2012

http://alliraqnews.com/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5072:urgent-2-ieds-explodes-in-kadhimiyah&catid=36:security&Itemid=37

Three civilians were injured when two Improvised Explosive Devices IEDs exploded in Kadhimiyah district of northern Baghdad on Tuesday.

"The first IED exploded, near a gas station in Kadhimiyah district of northern Baghdad, wounding a civilian who works as a taxi driver," security source stated to All Iraq News Agency (AIN).

The source added, "The second IED exploded, near (Abdul Mohsen al-Kazemi) Square, and resulted in injuring a taxi driver and a passenger who was with him on the same vehicle."

"The police patrols hurried to the explosion area and transported the injured people to the hospital for treatment," the source concluded.

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13. Al Nusrah Front Claims Suicide Attack In Syria

Sunday, 26 February 2012

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/02/al_nusrah_front_clai.php

A recently formed jihadist group known as the Al Nusrah Front claimed credit for suicide attacks in the Syrian capital of Damascus as well as in Aleppo. The Al Nusrah Front is one of two Islamist terror groups in Homs to have announced their existence in the past month to battle President Bashir al Assad's regime.

The Al Nusrah Front to Protect the Levant released a 45-minute-long videotape today on the al Qaeda-linked Shumukh al Islam web forum. The video was translated by the SITE Intelligence group.

In the video, Al Nusrah said the "martyrdom-seeking operation" was executed "in revenge for our mother Umm Abdullah - from the city of Homs- against whom the criminals of the regime violated her dignity and threatened to slaughter her son," SITE reported. The suicide bomber was identified as Abu al Bara'a al Shami, who is seen on the tape giving a martyrdom statement.

The video also shows "an excerpt of allegiances, operations, and training of the al-Nusra Front" as well as a fighter "amongst the masses in a public demonstration, advising them to do their prayers and adhere to the rituals of Islam."

The Al Nusrah Front announced the formation of the "Free Ones of the Levant Brigades" in a YouTube video statement that was released on Jan. 23. In the statement, the group claimed an attack on security headquarters in Idlib.

"To all the free people of Syria, we announce the formation of the Free Ones of the Levant Brigades," the statement said, according to a translation obtained by The Long War Journal. "We promise Allah, and then we promise you, that we will be a firm shield and a striking hand to repel the attacks of this criminal Al Asad army with all the might we can muster. We promise to protect the lives of civilians and their possessions from security and the shabihah [pro-government] militia. We are a people who will either gain victory or die."

In addition to the Al Nusrah Front, a second jihadist group has been activated in Homs in the past month. Last week, a group calling itself the Al Baraa Ibn Malik Martyrdom Brigade said it had formed a martyrdom battalion and was prepared to carry out suicide attacks against Syrian forces. The group, which posed in front of a flag belonging to al Qaeda in Iraq, said it was part of the Free Syrian Army, which claims to be secular. The Free Syrian Army has blamed suicide attacks in Syria on Assad's intelligence services. A group known as the Al Baraa Ibn Malik Martyrdom Brigade was created to wage jihad in Iraq in 2005, and merged with al Qaeda in Iraq under the command of Ayman al Zawahiri.

Al Qaeda leader Ayman al Zawahiri has recently urged Muslims inside and outside of Syria to take up arms against the Syrian government. In a statement issued on Feb. 11 and translated by the SITE Intelligence Group, Zawahiri said: "I appeal to every Muslim and every free, honorable one in Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon, to rise to help his brothers in Syria with all what he can, with his life, money, wonders, opinion, and information." Telling Syrians not to trust Turkey, the Arab League, or the West, he exhorted the "lions of the Levant" to "[d]evelop the intention of jihad in the Cause of Allah to establish a state that defends the Muslim countries and seeks to liberate the Golan and continue its jihad until it raises the banners of victory above the usurped hills of Jerusalem."

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Since the end of December, there have already been five suicide bombings in Syria. The Syrian government said that a pair of suicide bombers targeted security headquarters in Damascus on Dec. 23; over 40 people were reported killed and scores more were wounded in the blasts. On Jan. 6, the Syrian government said that a suicide bomber killed 25 people in an attack on security forces in Damascus. And on Feb. 10, a pair of suicide bombers killed 25 people while targeting security headquarters in Aleppo.

Al Qaeda in Iraq already has a strong presence in Syria [see LWJ report, Eastern Syria becoming a new al Qaeda haven]. The Abdullah Azzam Brigades, a regional al Qaeda affiliate, also is known to operate in Syria. Two of its senior leaders, Saudi citizens Saleh al Qarawi and Suleiman Hamad Al Hablain, have been added to the US's list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists since November 2011. The terror group has denied any involvement in the Dec. 23 suicide attack.

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14. Al Qaeda Kills 26 As New Yemeni Leader Is Sworn In

Saturday, 25 February 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/25/us-yemen-idUSTRE81O07120120225>

A suicide bombing claimed by al Qaeda killed at least 26 people outside a presidential palace in southern Yemen on Saturday, hours after the newly-elected president was sworn in and said the battle against the Islamists was a "national duty."

A car was driven at the gates of the building in the port city of Mukalla, Yemen's fourth-largest city, far from the capital Sanaa where Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi was sworn in.

Dozens were injured. The governor of Hadramout province Khalid Saeed al-Dayni said 20 of the dead were soldiers and an investigation was under way to identify the suicide bomber.

Al Qaeda claimed responsibility and said the attack had been carried out by a "Yemeni jihadi," according to text messages sent to Reuters and other media outlets.

"The sound of the explosion was strong and was heard in many parts of the city," a resident of Mukalla said.

"The strength of the explosion shattered glass windowpanes and doors in buildings near the explosion."

Sanaa, the scene of much fighting in recent months between factions of the army supporting protesters and units loyal to the former leader, was relatively quiet.

After taking the oath, Hadi singled out al Qaeda, whose active Arabian Peninsula branch is based in Yemen, as a top priority for his new administration, saying: "Continuing the war against al Qaeda is a national and religious duty."

The former army general was the sole election candidate to replace Ali Abdullah Saleh, who ruled Yemen for three decades with an iron fist but was pushed out by months of street protests sparked by the Arab Spring.

While the protests and bouts of bloody repression by security forces have subsided, Yemen remains mired in mass poverty, unemployment and corruption, rocked by rebellions in the north and south, and threatened by al Qaeda.

Saudi Arabia and the United States long saw Saleh as the main bulwark against al Qaeda in Yemen, which sits on one of the world's main oil shipping routes, but threw their weight behind a power transfer deal as protests against him grew.

Some 42 percent of Yemen's population of 23 million live on less than \$2 per day, fuel and water shortages are chronic and inflation is rampant.

Hadi said in a speech that Yemen must draw a line under a year of protests and violence and turn its attention to economic problems and the job of returning those displaced by the crisis to their homes.

"I stand here at a historic moment ... I look to the Yemeni people and give them thanks. The crisis reached every city and village and house, but Yemen will continue to go forward," Hadi said.

"If we don't deal with challenges practically, then chaos will reign."

Jamal Benomar, U.N. envoy to Yemen, said: "Yemenis want an end to the crisis, and to turn a new page. Now it's time to rebuild, for consensus and concord ... and to bring people into an inclusive political process."

The U.S. ambassador to Yemen, Gerald Feierstein, said: "We are seeing the beginning of a process that I believe will deliver great results over the next two years."

Hadi now has the job of overseeing a two-year political transition that foresees parliamentary elections, a new constitution and a restructuring of the military, in which Saleh's son and nephew still hold power.

An inauguration ceremony is scheduled for Monday. Saleh, who returned to Yemen early on Saturday after seeking treatment in the United States for injuries suffered in an assassination attempt last year, is due to attend.

After the speech, protesters in the southern city of Aden clashed with security forces, killing a soldier, a local security official said. Two soldiers and two protesters were injured, medics added.

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15. Bomb Attack Injures 15 Police Near Turkey Ruling Party HQ

Thursday, 01 March 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/01/us-turkey-explosion-idUSTRE8200EI20120301>

remote control bomb injured 15 police officers and one civilian on Thursday as a police minibus passed close to the Istanbul headquarters of Turkey's ruling AK Party, police said.

Kurdish separatists, far left groups, far right groups and Islamist militants, including al Qaeda, have all carried out bomb attacks in Turkey in the past, but there was no immediate claim of responsibility.

"As a police vehicle carrying 21 officers was passing by, a remote control bomb on a motorcycle exploded. Our teams are carrying out the investigation," Istanbul police chief Huseyin Capkin told reporters.

"I strongly condemn the terrorist attack in Istanbul's Sutluce district. Sadly, 15 police officers and one civilian were injured as a result," Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan told a news conference in Ankara.

"Our struggle against terrorism will continue with the utmost determination," he said.

The bomb exploded on a road junction next to a building site in the Sutluce district of Istanbul, a poor, but developing neighborhood on the banks of the Golden Horn.

"It happened around 9 am.. I was in my shop, and when I heard the explosion I ran out," said Orhan, a local shopkeeper. "People ran to the minibus. There were no flames. The injured were moved to a building nearby and later into the ambulances."

Security guards from nearby offices and passers-by helped moved the wounded to the Independent Industrialists and Businessmen's Association (MUSIAD) building, a conservative business group close to the government whose headquarters are next door to the AK Party building.

"We were afraid the bomb had hit our building because the blast was so loud," MUSIAD spokesman Sadi Dinleyici told CNN Turk. "Windows were broken and the wounded police officers were given first aid in our building."

Fire engines and police vehicles surrounded the area and glass littered the streets as forensic officers in white overalls combed the area for evidence.

"Investigations into the type of bomb and the organization (behind it) are continuing," media quoted Interior Minister Idris Naim Sahin as saying.

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16. Somali Islamist Group Formally Declares Allegiance To Shabaab, Al Qaeda

Saturday, 25 February 2012

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/02/somali_islamist_grou.php?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+LongWarJournalSiteWide+%28The+Long+War+Journal+%28Site-Wide%29%29

A senior Islamist commander and weapons smuggler in northern Somalia who has long been tied to Shabaab has officially declared allegiance to the terror group and al Qaeda.

The merger was confirmed by Shabaab at its official Twitter account, HSM Press Office [Harakat Al Shabaab Al Mujahideen Press Office], as well as with a radio statement by a senior Islamist leader from the semi-autonomous region of Puntland in northern Somalia.

"Following the London Conference, the Mujahideen in Galgala area of Puntland have officially become part of Harakat Al-Shabaab Al Mujahideen," the first tweet from HSM Press Office declared.

"The Mujahideen in Northern #Somalia have now formally pledged allegiance to Sh. Mukhtar Abu Zubeyr, Emir of Harakat Al-Shabaab Al Mujahideen," it continued.

"Apart from reigning over the Golis Mountain range, Mujahideen control several towns/villages surrounding Bosaaso, commercial hub of Puntland," HSM Press Office said.

"The Mujahideen of Somalia now dominate the vast stretch of mountainous terrains of the North as well as the fertile plains of the South," HSM Press Office boasted, while ignoring the fact that Shabaab fighters abandoned the strategic western city of Baidoa to advancing Ethiopian and Somali troops just this week.

HSM Press Office's announcement was paired with a statement from a spokesman for Sheikh Mohammed Said Atom, who leads a large group of Islamist fighters in Puntland. Yasin Khalid Osman 'Yasin Kilwe,' who leads a group of fighters under Atom and serves as his spokesman, said the group "joined" with Shabaab and welcomed the merger with al Qaeda, according to Somalia Report. Osman's statement was broadcast on Al-Andalus, Shabaab's official radio station.

"I swear allegiance and adherence to the Amir of Harakat Shabab al Mujahidin Sheikh Muktar Abu Zubayr," said Osman, who described himself as the "Emir of the mujahidin in Golis mountains." Osman

"I want to praise God for the unity of our Shabaab brothers with al Qaeda fighters," Osman continued, according to Somalia Report. "This is a great victory for the all mujahideen in the world, marking the unity of Muslim jihadists in the world for the first time in recent years. I want to declare today that we are joined with our al Shabaab brothers who are devoted to the Jihad in Somalia. On behalf of the mujahideen fighters in Galgala mountains, I want to confirm to you that we shall obey the orders of the leader of the Shabaab mujahideen, Sheikh Muktar Abu Zubayr who will also be our leader."

Osman also said that for the northern Somali jihadists, "this is the first step toward the start of proper solidarity with all Muslim jihadists in the world."

Atom's pledge of fealty takes place just two weeks after Shabaab announced its official merger with a Qaeda. The two terror groups have been intricately linked for years, and the announcement of the

merger was merely the formal acknowledgment of the ties between the two groups. Several days later, the Muslim Youth Center in Kenya announced its merger with Shabaab and al Qaeda East Africa.

UN Links Atom To Shabaab

Both Shabaab and Atom have previously denied the two were linked, even though Atom is known to have cooperated with the Somali terror group and has espoused its ideology.

But the United Nations has said that Atom and Shabaab have been linked for years. In early 2010, the United Nations identified Atom as "one of the principal suppliers of arms and ammunition for Al Shabaab operations in the Puntland region."

"Atom is aligned with Al Shabaab and may receive instructions from Al Shabaab leader Fu'aad Mohamed Khalaf," the UN report continued. The UN linked Atom to the Feb. 5, 2008, bombing in Bosaso that killed 20 Ethiopian migrant workers and wounded more than 100. Shabaab has declared war on Ethiopia and has attacked Ethiopian troops and interests throughout the country.

Shabaab has successfully carried out terror attacks in the relatively peaceful Somali north in the past. On Oct. 29, 2008, five Shabaab suicide bombers struck four compounds in Somaliland and Puntland, killing 28 and wounding scores. Three suicide car bombers struck the presidential palace, the UN Development Program compound, and the Ethiopian Consulate in the city of Hargeisa in Somaliland. And in Bosaso, two bombers targeted an intelligence facility.

Atom's forces have openly clashed with Puntland security forces in the past. In July and August 2010, Puntland troops claimed to have killed dozens of Atom's forces during heavy fighting in the Galgala Mountains region. Local Puntland officials said Atom's bases in the mountainous region in the province of Sanaag are "like Tora Bora in Afghanistan," the cave complexes and training camps in eastern Afghanistan used by Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda during fighting with US forces in 2002.

More recently, on Feb. 15, one of Atom's spokesmen claimed his forces killed 15 Puntland troops in Sugare north of Bosaso. Atom's brother, Ahmed Saeed Mohamed, was captured by Puntland security forces two days prior in the Golis Mountains.

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17. Boko Haram SVBIED Attacks Christian Church In Jos

Wednesday, 29 February 2012

<http://www.worldmag.com/webextra/19245>

A Sunday morning bombing outside the headquarters of a leading Christian denomination in northern Nigeria exploded what has been a brief season of calm in the Plateau State capital, Jos.

The Nigerian-based terrorist group Boko Haram claimed responsibility for the attack Sunday, which killed four and severely injured at least 38. In a tactic now familiar to victims of Boko Haram, a suicide bomber loaded a vehicle with explosives, and then drove through the security gate of the Church of Christ in the Nations (COCIN) headquarters, which includes offices, a church, and classrooms. The bomber apparently planned to crash the gate and detonate his vehicle inside the sanctuary, where hundreds had gathered for worship. Instead, the car's tire blew and the vehicle hit a motorcycle, detonating only yards away from the church building.

The dead include a woman crushed by the vehicle explosion, a woman who only a week ago relocated to Jos after being displaced by similar attacks on Christians in Yobe State farther north, and an 18-month-old child.

"On exploding, the bomber himself was in pieces," said Mark Lipdo of the Jos-based Stefanos Foundation, who pointed out that the fourth victim killed was a church member initially injured in the attack. Bystanders, seeing him beside the vehicle in the immediate aftermath, presumed that he was another Boko Haram assailant and killed him.

The COCIN headquarters in Jos was among 10 church sites highlighted in a Boko Haram posting on the internet last year that "must be bombed and leveled." The latest suicide bombing was one in a recent string of attacks by the terrorist group on Christian targets in northern and central Nigeria, including a Christmas day bombing of a Catholic church near Abuja that killed 44 people (see "Nowhere to run," March 10).

The Voice of America reported that Christian youths seeking revenge beat to death two Muslim men in Jos the day following the attack, but sources I spoke to in Jos could not confirm those deaths.

The latest attack on Christians in Nigeria comes as lawyers for human rights groups in Washington are preparing a report on the violence to be presented next week to the UN Human Rights Council. The council opened its annual month-long session in Geneva on Monday, where the humanitarian crisis developing in Syria will likely dominate the discussion.

But legal experts assembling the report on Nigeria will argue that the crisis in the West African nation—where radical Islamists have killed about 2,000 Christians in attacks in the last year—also deserves urgent international attention.

"The issue is impunity, as there seems to be no consequence for the violence," said Ann Buwalda, executive director of the Washington-based Jubilee Campaign. "After thousands have been killed, the federal government [in Nigeria] is not doing enough to bring perpetrators to justice."

Nigeria's army and national police force have stepped up security in the north since massive bombings in December and January. But after more than a decade of similar violence, there have been only five convictions of Muslims who have attacked Christians and churches—and those came through federal tax

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courts, according to Buwalda. The Nigerian federal government does not have criminal jurisdiction at the local level. And 12 northern states now have some form of Sharia law and their own Islamic court systems. Those do not grant equal access to Christians to bring charges against Muslim attackers.

Plateau State is part of Nigeria's "Middle Belt," an area where the largely Christian south meets the largely Muslim north. It has been a persistent region of conflict, as Muslim gangs and now Boko Haram have tried to drive out Christians and enforce Islamic law. Now, with Christians in the northern states becoming displaced by the violence and relocating to places like Jos, violence is likely to intensify in the Middle Belt.

"It's heartbreaking to hear of the Yobe Christian woman killed [in Sunday's attack]," said Gregory Treat of Jubilee Campaign, who was part of a situation-assessment team that two weeks ago visited Jos. On Feb. 13 he met with leaders at the COCIN headquarters that came under attack on Sunday. The displaced come from indigenous tribes in the north, said Treat, who have cut themselves off from cultural advantages, property, and their livelihoods to escape attacks by Muslims. But in Jos and elsewhere, they have even less voice in local government, and—as Sunday's violence shows—remain targets for attack.

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18. Three Boko Haram Members Killed In Maiduguri Blast
Friday, 02 March 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/official-3-radical-sect-members-killed-in-bomb-blast-in-nigerias-restive-northeast/2012/03/02/gIQATrnemR_story.html

An army official says radical sect members were killed in a bomb factory blast in Nigeria's northeast.

Lt. Col. Hassan Mohammed said three Boko Haram members died Friday in the blast in a house close to the university in the city of Maiduguri.

An Associated Press reporter saw timers attached to undetonated bombs and tools such as remote controls and oil cans in the debris.

Boko Haram, whose name means "Western education is sacrilege" in the local Hausa language, has carried out a campaign of drive-by killings and bombings, often using homemade bombs.

The group wants to implement strict Shariah law and avenge Muslim killings in Nigeria, a nation almost equally divided between Muslims and Christians.

The group is held responsible for more than 300 deaths this year alone, according to an AP count.

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19. Bomb Defused In Suleija

Wednesday, 29 February 2012

<http://africanheraldexpress.com/blog7/2012/02/29/bomb-defused-in-suleija-as-gunmen-attack-police-headquarter-in-adamawa/>

Confirmed reports indicate that the Nigerian police anti bomb unit defused a bomb at the popular IBB market in Suleija, near Abuja FCT.

The bomb was spotted about 9AM today by some people in the market and they immediately alerted the police. The bomb is home-made and was wrapped in a large cellophane bag.

The police anti bomb unit cleared the market and defused the bomb. As of press time, normal activities have resumed in the market.

In a related development, unidentified gunmen on Tuesday night attacked Demsa Divisional Police Office in Demsa Local Government Area of Adamawa.

The Public Relations Officer in the state, ASP Altine Daniel, confirmed the incident in a telephone interview in Yola.

She said that a corporal and one of the attackers were killed in the incident, adding that no explosive was used.

Demsa attack came after a similar one on Sunday in Shuwa Village of Madagali Local Government Area of the state, where three policemen were killed and one injured.

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20. Bomb Radio Devices 'Sold In Middle East'

Sunday, 26 February 2012

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/crimes/281566/bomb-radio-devices-old-in-middle-east>

Radio devices allegedly used by Iranian suspects to assemble bombs that were found after the Feb 14 Bangkok explosions were made in China and sold in the Middle East, according to a police investigation team.

Such transistors could not be found in Thailand, said a source on the team, who met yesterday at Khlong Tan police station to follow up on progress in the case.

Police found two transistors stuffed with C4 bomb powder at a house rented by the suspects in Soi Pridi Banomyong 31, off Sukhumvit Soi 71.

Police have also concluded that stickers bearing the word "Sejeal" and found throughout the city were also imported.

Police found at least 300 of the stickers at an apartment rented by Iranian suspect Leila Rohani.

They later found the same stickers at various spots in Klong Toey district and suspected they were used to give directions to the bombers.

Police have received the results of forensic tests on two motorcycles believed to have been used by the suspects. They are a blue and grey Yamaha Wave S100 and a black and red Yamaha Mio.

Police yesterday questioned Saisunee Phutpor, a cleaner who worked at the apartment rented by Ms Rohani at Vegas Nasa Tower in Ramkhamhaeng.

She told them had not seen anything irregular nor had she seen anyone visiting Ms Rohani.

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21. Bomb Blast In Yala, No Injury

Wednesday, 29 February 2012

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/security/282168/bomb-attack-in-yala-no-injury>

A bomb went off on the Yala-Betong road at Moo 9 in Yala's Bannang Sata district on Wednesday morning, but no one was hurt in the explosion, police said.

The 5-kg home-made bomb went off shortly after eight soldiers patrolling the road on foot had passed the spot.

Police blamed separatist militants.

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22. One Soldier Killed, Another Injured In Pattani Attack

Friday, 02 March 2012

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/national/One-soldier-killed-another-injured-in-Pattani-bomb-30177147.html>

One soldier was killed and another severely injured on Friday when insurgents ambushed a teacher protection unit in Pattani and detonated a roadside bomb.

Police said the attack happened at 8.30am in Krawa village, Tambon Krawa, Mayo district.

Police said a unit of eight soldiers from the Pattani Taskforce 25 was patrolling the road to ensure safety for the teachers when insurgents detonated a home-made bomb with a mobile phone.

Private Jakkrit Jinarat, 22, was fatally injured and died at Pattani Hospital.

His friend, Private Jirasak Boonruang, 22, was severely injured.

Meanwhile in Pattani's Sai Buri district, a Muslim couple was shot dead in their home late Thursday night, police said.

Police said Malee Jehmu, 54, and his wife, Bungo Jehmu, 51, were killed at their house at 11pm Thursday.

Police quoted eyewitnesses as saying that the couple was sitting in front of their home when two men arrived on a motorcycle and started firing.

The husband was killed in front of the house. His wife fled inside but was also shot.

Police said the couple's son, a defence volunteer for Sai Buri district, was killed by insurgents in 2010.

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23. Borneo Woman Injured In IED Blast

Friday, 02 March 2012

<http://www.theborneopost.com/2012/03/02/woman-hurt-in-homemade-bomb-blast/>

A woman was seriously injured when a box she was carrying, believed to contain a homemade bomb, exploded in front of her house in Lubok China here yesterday.

Earlier, Norasyikin Md Esa, 27, found the box in front of her house in Kampung Ramuan China Besar about 8.40am.

As it was addressed to her brother, Saiful Eszwan, 35, she carried the box while opening the main gate to go to work at a shopping complex in Masjid Tanah where she worked as cashier.

At that juncture, the bomb exploded, injuring Norasyikin in the face and body.

She was warded at the Malacca Hospital where her condition was reported to be stable.

Melaka CID chief ACP Raja Shahrom Raja Abdullah said the homemade bomb contained gasoline and other unidentifiable materials.

He said, initial investigations revealed the bomb was "linked" to Saiful who worked as a cleaning contractor.

"We are investigating the matter from various angles, with the aid of a bomb disposal and forensics units, to derive the motive behind the incident," he said, adding that the case was being investigated under the Firearms Act.

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24. Three Killed In Capital Nepal Bombing
Monday, 27 February 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/Two-dead-in-bomb-blast-near-Nepal-government-offices-Police/articleshow/12054883.cms>

At least three people, including a woman, were killed Monday in a powerful petrol bomb blast in the Nepali capital, media reports said.

More than six people were injured -- five of them critically, Xinhua reported.

Local media reports said the blast took place around 1 p.m. outside the gate of the Nepal Oil Corporation's central office in Babarmahal area, close to the country's seat of government Singhadurbar.

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25. Army Defuses IED In Gandaki

Thursday, 01 March 2012

<http://www.inseconline.org/index.php?type=news&lang=en&id=9694>

A Nepal Army team has defused an IED at Tinghare of Borletar VDC-6 on March 1.

A local Man Bahadur Bhujel first saw the bomb when he had gone to herd his cattle on February 29. He reported about it to the police after finding a wire attached to the device at closer inspection, CDO Baburam Lamichhane informed.

The site used to have an army barrack during the Maoist insurgency which was moved to the district headquarters some eight months ago. It is learnt that the device was used by the army for security of the perimeter.

A bomb disposal team from Nepal Army 3rd Brigade at Khairenitar was mobilized to the site, border area of the land belonging to locals Ram Krishna Ghimire and Badri Paudel while the personnel from Nepal Police are guarding the location.

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26. Improvised Bomb Found At Kalibo Airport

Wednesday, 29 February 2012

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/breaking-news/2012/02/29/improvised-bomb-found-kalibo-airport-208726>

Security forces have found an improvised bomb at the Kalibo International Airport in Kalibo town in Aklan on Tuesday night.

Philippine National Police (PNP) spokesman Agrimero Cruz said the bomb, placed in a LBC pouch, was found by a security officer at the LBC cargo area around 7:45 p.m.

Cruz said elements of the Kalibo International Airport police station, and PNP Aviation Security Group personnel rushed to the scene and recovered the bomb.

He said the bomb was later brought to the nearby compound of the National Irrigation Authority for its safe detonation.

Cruz said the package containing the bomb was consigned to one Michael L. Agravante with given address at Kalawag 3, Isulan, Sultan Kudarat.

Kalibo town is 45 minutes away from the world-famous island of Boracay.

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27. One Soldier Killed, Four Wounded In Landmine Explosion In Compostela Valley

Tuesday, 28 February 2012

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/153139/1-soldier-killed-4-hurt-in-landmine-explosion-in-compostela-valley>

One soldier was killed and four others were wounded in a landmine explosion in a remote village in Compostela Valley Monday afternoon, a military spokesman said.

Major Harold Cabunoc said troops from the Army's 25th Infantry Battalion were conducting security patrols in San Vicente village, Montevista town at around 5:30p.m., when a landmine exploded as their vehicle passed by.

"As soldiers rushed for cover, at least 15 rebels opened fire triggering an intense firefight that lasted several minutes," he said.

The rebels fled with their casualties after receiving "voluminous firers" from the soldiers, he added.

The wounded soldiers who sustained shrapnel and gunshot wounds were evacuated to ComVal Regional Hospital for treatment.

Cabunoc said the use of landmines by the rebels violated the laws of armed conflict and Republic Act No. 9851 (Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes Against Humanity), punishing International Humanitarian Law violations as domestic crimes.

"The use of landmines also violates the agreement signed by both the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front panel, as contained in the Comprehensive Agreement on the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law," he said.

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28. Two Hurt In Cotabato Blast

Thursday, 01 March 2012

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/breaking-news/2012/03/01/2-hurt-cotabato-blast-208977>

Two people were injured when an improvised bomb exploded near a government building in Cotabato City on Thursday night.

Brigadier General Manuel Luis Ochotorena, 6th Infantry Division deputy commander and spokesman, said the bomb went off around 7:42 p.m. along Gutierrez street, specifically between a barter trade area and the Government Service Insurance System building.

Ochotorena said the blast injured Bainot Pasandalan and Lali Pasandalan.

"(The) motive cannot be ascertained as of this report," said Ochotorena, adding that investigators are also still looking into the identities of the perpetrators.

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29. Police Seize 1,000 Bags Of Ammonium Nitrate In Koderma District, Jharkhand
Wednesday, 29 February 2012
<http://news.in.msn.com/national/article.aspx?cp-documentid=5886614>

In a major explosive haul, police seized 1000 bags of ammonium nitrate from Chhatarbar locality in Koderma district.

The explosives were allegedly hidden in a house owned by one Chhotu, Sub-Divisional Police Officer Lallan Das said today.

Getting a tip-off about the huge stock-pile of the explosive, two policemen went to Chhotu posing as customers yesterday.

As soon as he showed the consignment, the police personnel searched his premises and seized the explosives, Das said here.

The recovery followed the recent haul of ammonium nitrate at separate places in Pakur district.

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30. Train Driver Injured In Bomb Blast

02 March 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/Train-driver-injured-in-bomb-blast/articleshow/12104857.cms>

Kosi Express driver R D Rai sustained splinter injuries on his leg when a countrymade bomb was exploded in front of a Hanuman temple near railway running room of Patna Junction close to road over bridge (ROB) at Mithapur under Jakkanpur police station on Thursday morning. Panic prevailed in the entire locality after the explosion.

On getting information, the personnel of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), Government Railway Police (GRP), Patna Junction, and the police team from Jakkanpur police station rushed to the spot and started investigation into the case.

Rai, a native of Barauni, said that the explosion took place at around 6.45 am when he came out of the running room, meant for taking rest for train drivers, and was talking on his cellphone with his family members. "I was talking to my family members with my head down, when I heard an explosion sound nearby and some splinters hit one of my legs," he said and added that he did not see the person who exploded the bomb. The injured train driver was immediately rushed to a local hospital and was discharged after first aid.

SDPO (Sadar) Rashid Zaman said that someone lobbed the bomb from the ROB and escaped. He said that an FIR has been lodged with the Jakkanpur police station in this connection. Jakkanpur police station SHO Bageet Ram said that an FIR has been lodged against unknown persons in this connection. Zaman said that the police found some threads and a piece of paper where the explosion took place. The police are trying to ascertain the identity of the person who threw the bomb, the SHO added.

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31. Colombian Army Seizes Five IEDs In Meta

23 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=auto&tl=en&u=http%3A%2F%2Fdecimatercerabrigada.wordpress.com%2Fauthor%2Fandregoyeneche%2F>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

In carrying out military operations troops Sumapaz Task Force, assigned to the Thirteenth Army Brigade, located in the area of the municipality of Cubarral Totuma Meta department, five improvised explosive devices, apparently belonging to the gang 51 FARC.

The artifacts were located five meters from a main road and is presumed to have been installed with the aim of attacking the police. After finding the material was destroyed in a controlled manner by trained personnel of the Army.

The troops of the Thirteenth Brigade sustained efforts advance registration and military control, in order to neutralize any action by groups outside the law in the jurisdiction, thereby ensuring the peace of the inhabitants.

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32. Colombian Army Seizes IEDs In Caldono, Cauca

02 March 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=auto&tl=en&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.periodicovirtual.com%2Fnoticias%2F2-cauca-popayan-uno%2F3450-impiden-nuevos-atentados-en-caldono.html>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

The army foiled a new terrorist attack by the FARC in Caldono, Cauca, to locate and disable several explosives in an area artisan village of the Plains dela this municipality

In military operations carried out by troops of the Twenty-Ninth were found two gas cylinders loaded with explosives, two launchers, four grenades and four craft called tatucos explosives.

The improvised war material ia to be used for life threatening civilians and troops that are deployed in the town of Caldono strengthening security in the area, the military said in a statement.

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33. Colombian Army Seizes FARC IED Initiator

Wednesday, 29 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cgfm.mil.co%2FCGFMPortal%2Ffaces%2Findex.jsp%3Fid%3D12666>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

Continuing the military offensive by the army in northern Santander, troops of Task Force Vulcano, attached to the second division, succeeded in capturing two of the Mobile Column Explosives Ruiz-Bari of the FARC, at a time when they were about to turn a large area prepared with highly destructive elements.

The capture of terrorists occurred in the village of New Granada, the jurisdiction of El Tarra, as a result of interagency operations undertaken by the Thirty Brigade in coordination with the National Police and the Office, which also allowed to neutralize the perpetrators of attacks against civilians in the February 27, wounding five adults and a minor in the town of El Tarra.

Those captured are accused of murder, also in December last year to second lieutenant Diego Hernandez Vargas and Jesus Antonio Solano soldier, the Special Energy and Roadway Battalion No.10 'Colonel Joseph Concha' National Army.

In operation, the troops found a mined area with improvised explosive devices highly destructive, prepared with concrete and shrapnel, weighing about 30 kilos, activation system control cable and electrical initiation with 50 meters of cable and flash.

According to the provisions so far, those arrested, who were turned over to the competent authority would be responsible for manufacture, install and activate explosive charges in the region.

Finally, according to information obtained by military units, terrorists of the mobile column 'Ruiz-Bari', the FARC maintain a criminal alliance with the Front 'Hector', ELN, to increase the use of explosive devices and mined areas, in the last month has left two children dead and thirteen people in the region of Catatumbo wounded.

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34. FARC Caches Found In Caqueta, Arauca, and Cordoba

Thursday, 01 March 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elmundo.com%2Fportal%2Fnoticias%2Fnacional%2Fhalladas-caletas-de-las-farc-en-caqueta-arauca-y-cordoba.php>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

As a result of a strong offensive being conducted by the Army throughout the country, in the last hours were dismantled three caches of explosives and materials for the production of coca paste in Caquetá, Arauca and Cordoba.

The first incident occurred in rural area of Puerto Rico, Caquetá, where soldiers from Infantry Battalion No.36 "Hunters", assigned to the Twelfth Brigade, found a secret hideout belonging to the mobile column Teofilo Forero Castro ' FARC. There they found 240 kilos of ANFO explosive.

In other developments, in the municipality of Arauca, troops from Mobile Brigade No. 5, establishing the Task Force Chiron placed a cache with 12 kilos of black powder, two kilos of shrapnel, 40 detonators electric cord 29 meters detonating 10 meters of safety fuse, 100 kilos of urea, 10 rolls of tape and 1000 meters of duplex cable.

On the other hand, in Tierralta, Córdoba, members of the Mobile Brigade No. 24, located and destroyed a cache of the FARC, in which hidden inputs for processing coca paste.

On the site were found six gallons of diesel, five gallons of gasoline, a gallon of insecticide, three kilograms of fertilizer per gallon of boric acid, sulfur six kilos and 50 kilos of cement and other materials.

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35. Explosive Device Found On Empty Athens Subway Train

Friday, 02 March 2012

<http://in2eastafrika.net/greek-terror-alert-as-homemade-bomb-is-left-on-subway-by-left-wing-extremists-amid-anger-over-cuts/>

A homemade bomb was left on a Greek subway train by left-wing extremists amid rising public anger over spending cuts.

Police immediately shutdown the station in Athens after a man phoned two television stations and said he had left the explosive.

A previously unknown terror group called the Urban Guerrillas claimed they were responsible for leaving the device on a train.

Today police released pictures of the explosive which was made out of two small gas canisters with about one and a half litres of petrol, a timer, wires and batteries.

The device, which was not activated, was discovered inside a bag by a metro driver on Saturday on his empty train.

It was planted amid public fury over the scale of spending cuts the Greek government are making to secure a second bailout package from the other eurozone members.

The economy has been in recession for the last four years – and GDP shrunk by a staggering seven per cent in the last quarter.

The sheer scale of the cutbacks have sparked massive protests and rioting in Athens as workers lose their jobs and wages are slashed.

It was made out of two small gas canisters with about one and a half litres of petrol, a timer, wires and batteries

Hooded protesters have hurled petrol bombs at police and gas canisters have been left outside tax offices.

The explosive device, which was left on the train at Egaleo station, Athens, was believed to have been viable.

It has been taken to labs for analysis after a controlled explosion was carried out.

A police official said: 'A man placed calls with two Greek TV stations, saying the device was the work of the Urban Guerrillas group and that other hits would follow.

'There has been no such group in the past. It may be a credible threat or a hoax.'

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36. Two Bombs Recovered Near Tbilisi Television Station (video)

Friday, 24 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fpodrobnosti.ua%2Fpodrobnosti%2F2011%2F02%2F24%2F755099.html>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

In Tbilisi, near the television station found two bombs. Improvised explosive devices with hexogen, were established on the territory adjacent to the building of TV Company "Imedi". One of them is found in the parking lot, the second - was inside a metal drum near the main entrance to the building. Further details in the plot.

Zurab Khvistani, a correspondent for TV Company "Imedi": We were all very excited, it was defused. At the moment there is no danger as far as we know it.

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37. Pickens High School Students Arrested For Pipe Bomb
Wednesday, 29 February 2012

<http://www.cbsatlanta.com/story/17050855/pickens-sheriffs-office-student-had-pipe-bomb>

Pickens County Sheriff's deputies arrested two 17-year-old students in connection to a pipe bomb brought to Pickens High School on Wednesday afternoon.

The device was found at the home of a student of Pickens High School, according to reports.

Deputies arrived at the house and identified what appeared to be a pipe bomb, according to reports.

Investigators believe the student did have the device on school property earlier in the day.

One student made the bomb at home and brought it to school to give to the other student, according to reports. That student was planning on taking it home to detonate it on his parent's property.

Authorities arrested both students.

"They could be looking at anywhere from probation, to 5 to 10 years," said Pickens County Sheriff Donnie Craig.

"30 years ago, (this incident) probably would have been handled in the principal's office," said Pickens High School principal Eddie McDonald. "But in the day and time we're in now, you can't take any chances, so anything like this that happens, it's very serious."

The Pickens County Board of Education conducted a thorough search of Pickens High School and deemed it safe for students, faculty, and staff to return to school on Thursday.

The Pickens Sheriff's Office had extra deputies at the school to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

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38. Pipe Bomb Found In Franklin Home

Thursday, 01 March 2012

<http://fox6now.com/2012/03/01/pipe-bomb-found-inside-closet-of-franklin-home/>

Franklin police were called to a home early Thursday to investigate what appeared to be a pipe bomb found in a closet.

The Milwaukee County Bomb Squad was called to the home around 2 a.m. Thursday. The team confirmed the six to eight-inch pipe was a live, electronic explosive device. The device was crimped at both ends and contained explosive powder.

The bomb squad removed the device from the home — and later rendered it safe with multiple explosive charges. The team did so at a remote location.

Police arrested a 20-year-old Franklin man and a 17-year-old Franklin man in a parking lot on West Rawson Avenue for delivery of a controlled substance. Information developed from those arrests led police to obtain a search warrant at the Franklin home where the pipe bomb was discovered.

Police say they recovered a large amount of controlled substances, four guns (two of which were homemade), one pipe bomb and other bomb-making materials in the home.

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