



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-tsolutions.com> using your government (.mil or .gov) email account.



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1. Special Interest: Colombia's New Counterinsurgency Plan (STRATFOR)

Thursday, 29 March 2012

http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/colombias-new-counterinsurgency-plan?utm_source=freelist-f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20120329&utm_term=sweekly&utm_content=title&elq=a3465b2093a1499b96bb54c74e841f3b

Colombian security forces attacked a camp belonging to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) on March 26 in Vistahermosa, Meta department, killing 36 members of the guerrilla group and capturing three. The operation, which Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said resulted in the deaths of more FARC members than any other single strike in the 50-year-long conflict between the Colombian government and Marxist guerrilla groups, came shortly after a similar action in Arauca state in which 33 FARC members were killed and 12 were captured.

The operations were launched as part of an aggressive new Colombian counterinsurgency strategy dubbed Operation Espada de Honor ("Sword of Honor"), created in response to the increasing violent activity by the country's guerrilla groups. The plan expands the list of targets for security forces and the locations where they will engage guerrillas, with the goal of crippling the FARC both militarily and financially.

Espada de Honor is the latest of several plans by the Colombian government to combat militancy in the country. To fully understand the plan and its implications, it is helpful to examine the nature of Colombia's guerrilla groups, previous government counterinsurgency strategies and how the FARC has reacted to them.

Limitations to Colombian Security

Colombia's central government has never been able to control all of its territory. The Magdalena River Valley represents the heart of the country, where -- along with the cities of Bogota, Medellin and Cali -- most of the country's population lives. It is isolated from the rest of the country by Andes mountain ranges on either side. Outside the heartland is a combination of jungles, mountains and plains, largely uninhabited with limited infrastructure development.

Even with U.S. military aid, the logistical challenges involved in projecting power into Colombia's hinterlands make extended deployments unsustainable. Military operations outside the core have never been able to establish the security conditions needed to permit effective law enforcement on a large scale or for a significant period of time. The Colombian state is thus largely absent from the hinterlands, and the economic inequality in these regions is severe, giving rise to criminal organizations and insurgent groups.

This would not be a point of contention if not for the fact that the regions outside Colombia's core are rich in extractive resources such as oil, gold, precious stones, and rare earth elements -- as well as marijuana, coca and opium poppies. The state and insurgent and criminal groups are in competition for these resources, and the state is trying to secure the regions, regardless of limitations. Because the government lacks the resources to properly address the underlying issues of lack of development and inequality, eliminating insurgent groups is almost impossible. Instead, the government must concentrate on inhibiting their ability to operate and attempt to secure its interests as it seeks ways to improve conditions in the countryside.

Colombia has been in conflict since its creation as a republic in 1819. In the past 50 years, the conflict has centered on Marxist insurgencies and the cocaine trade. Each new government plan to deal with these insurgencies has evolved from previous plans, though since the late 1990s, its strategies have been increasingly based on U.S. counterinsurgency doctrine.

Plan Colombia

In the late 1990s, President Andres Pastrana attempted to peacefully resolve the conflict with the FARC. Under Plan Colombia, Pastrana asked the United States, Europe and others for aid, both to combat the FARC and other insurgent groups and to address poverty and the lack of development in Colombia, issues he considered the underlying causes of the insurgency. This was intended to be coupled with peace negotiations in a demilitarized zone in San Vicente del Caguan, Caqueta department.

However, the plan that was actually implemented in 2000 focused much more on drug eradication and counterinsurgency than on development.

Nearly 80 percent of counterinsurgency funding, all of which came from the United States (which has spent nearly \$7 billion in Colombia since 2000), went to the Colombian military and police, while developmental aid from other countries never fully materialized. Peace talks failed, the military moved into the demilitarized zone and the conflict escalated. Security operations were focused on the southern and eastern areas of Colombia, which were considered strongholds of the FARC and, not coincidentally, two of the main coca-producing regions in Colombia.

Plan Patriota

In late 2003, President Alvaro Uribe began to implement a counterinsurgency strategy titled Plan Patriota ("Plan Patriot"), a second phase of Plan Colombia. Uribe felt that in order to truly defeat the FARC, the military needed to take the fight to the guerrillas. Under the plan, the military would target high-value FARC leaders, drive the guerrillas out of strongholds in southern and eastern Colombia and hand control over the territory to civilian leadership. Along with this, the Colombians began a top-to-bottom overhaul of their military with support from the United States.

The tactics used during Plan Patriota were consistent. First, intelligence was gathered on locations of FARC camps and leaders. After the targets were acquired, fixed-wing attack aircraft and helicopters would bomb the targets to soften defenses, disorient the defenders, and kill as many guerrillas as possible before special operations forces swept through the target area in order to capture or kill remaining combatants and collect any intelligence. Computers, thumb drives, cell phones and other documents were collected in these operations. This intelligence led to more successful operations against the FARC and its supporters.

The plan successfully reduced the FARC's capabilities and membership. There were about 16,000 murders in 2008, down from nearly 30,000 in 2002, and the FARC's membership was reduced from about 17,000 to 9,000. The FARC also was driven away from traditional base camps closer to coca and cocaine production sites and forced to look for new routes and base camps. The successes of Plan Patriota laid the foundation for the tactics used in Operation Espada de Honor.

Plan Rebirth

The success of Plan Patriota did not destroy the FARC, but it did force the group to change how it operated. In late 2008 after realizing it could not succeed in direct confrontations with Colombian security forces, FARC leadership devised Plan Rebirth. Under the plan, the group retreated to its traditional strongholds, decentralized its leadership and formed into smaller units. The group also changed tactics accordingly, relying more on hit-and-run ambushes, improvised explosive devices and small, mobile sniper teams that allowed the guerrillas to strike government forces without engaging them directly in conventional combat.

The FARC's target set also changed to focus more on strategically valuable, less-secure linear infrastructure such as transportation and oil pipeline networks. The group's reasoning was twofold: First, it could use the threat of these attacks to extort "revolutionary taxes" from companies operating in the area. Second, because the government relies on energy and resource extraction for economic growth, these attacks could give the FARC leverage in any future negotiations. The tactic appears to be somewhat successful; Emerald Energy has shut down operations in the San Vicente del Caguan region in the past year, and others, including Occidental Petroleum Corporation, are threatening to do the same unless security improves. Nevertheless, foreign direct investment continues to increase, giving the Colombian government more targets to protect and more reason to attempt to control the FARC.

Operation Espada de Honor

Operation Espada de Honor, then, is an attempt by the Colombian government to aggressively counter the FARC and other hostile organizations in areas where the groups and Colombia's economic interests overlap. The end goal is to reduce the "capacity" of the group by 50 percent over the next two years and limit its ability to attack the state or its interests.

The new strategy will continue to target the group's leadership but also expand its focus to eliminate 15 of the FARC's 67 fronts that represent its most powerful economic and military forces. According to Colombian newspaper El Espectador, the 52 remaining fronts are no longer in direct contact with FARC leadership, operating as criminal gangs and making agreements with everyone, including former enemies. Colombian armed forces commander Gen. Alejandro Navas recently estimated the FARC's current membership at between 8,000 and 9,000, although the true number is difficult to discern.

The operation will continue to focus on the FARC's traditional southern and eastern strongholds as well as the Catatumbo region and the departments of Arauca, Cauca, Valle, Narino, Tolima, Putumayo and Vichada. The military will also improve its intelligence capabilities through the creation of a joint fusion center among all branches of the armed forces and national police and increase the size of the army by 5,000 troops and the National Police by 20,000.

Notably, though the FARC is currently the primary target, the operation also changes how the state combats what it calls bandas criminales, or "bacrim" -- criminal groups with roots in the United Defense Front (AUC) paramilitary organization. Traditionally, the military has dealt with guerrilla insurgencies by groups such as the FARC and ELN, while the National Police has dealt with bacrim with support from the navy. In the announcement for Espada de Honor, it was mentioned that the military would now be leading the fight against the criminal organizations as well.

Implications

Operation Espada de Honor is less about a major strategic shift in the war against insurgency and crime than it is an admission by the Santos government that the end of the violence in Colombia is not around the corner. The government has put aside the goal of completely defeating the FARC and other groups, instead focusing on strategically defending its interests by disrupting the enemy through tactical offensives.

Just as the United States has learned in Vietnam and Afghanistan, insurgencies are very difficult to completely stamp out. Certainly, an armed victory over the FARC, or even a negotiated settlement, will not be the end of armed criminal groups in Colombia. The geographic limitations, severe inequality and cocaine trade all create the conditions in which Colombia will continue to struggle to control its territory. The new importance of the military in the fight against the insurgencies makes it clear that the government was never able to establish effective control over the outer areas of the country. Without this control, the regions where the conflict rages cannot begin to solve the underlying problems of inequality and lack of development.

In the short term, the expansion of targets and locations will increase the likelihood of violence. The operations could also reduce the amount of cocaine coming out of Colombia as the government endeavors to cut the FARC's funding and the targeted organizations try to hunker down and survive. Over time, the operation could lead to a further decentralization of the FARC as more leaders are captured or killed, including mid-level leaders. Rank-and-file members could decide to desert in order to survive the onslaught. This dynamic would create even more violence as remaining FARC members fight with organized-crime groups and drug traffickers for control over the highly lucrative territory. It is the monopolization of control by one group or another, including the government, that reduces the threat.

However, it is important to remember that this escalation in the conflict does not mean these competing gangs pose the same existential threat to the state as a large Marxist insurgency with 20,000 fighters does. But as long as there is a market for cocaine and the extractive resources found in Colombia, insurgencies and criminal groups will have the means and motivation to continue the conflict.

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2. Italy: Suicide Attack Plot Thwarted In Afghanistan

Tuesday, 27 March 2012

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/afghanistan/story/2012-03-27/afghanistan-plot-italy/53808290/1>

The Italian military says it has thwarted plans for suicide bombings against its forces and local authorities in Afghanistan.

Col. Vincenzo Lauro, spokesman for the Italian contingent in the NATO force in Afghanistan, says 10 Afghan suspects were arrested Sunday by Afghan security forces following months of Italian intelligence work.

Lauro spoke with the Associated Press by phone Tuesday night from Italian headquarters in the Afghan city of Herat.

Lauro says authorities seized explosives meant for car bombs as well as vests and belts packed with explosives for suicide attacks. He says the suspects were believed to be "ready" to attack in various areas.

A mortar attack against an Italian outpost in Afghanistan on Saturday killed an Italian soldier and wounded five others.

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3. Appx. 5,000 Landmines Seized In Kandahar

Sunday, 25 March 2012

<http://www.khaama.com/around-5000-landmines-seized-in-kandahar-province-919>

According to a press release released by provincial governor media office in southern Kandahar province, Afghan border protection police forces seized around 5,000 improvised explosive device from Shorabak district in this province.

The source further added, the explosives were loaded on two vehicles and were seized following an ambush by Afghan border protection police forces at Zala in Shorabak district.

Afghan security forces also seized 2,000 kilograms of explosives which were loaded on the two vehicles, the statement added.

Kandahar provincial governor media office following the press release also added, the drivers of the two vehicles were killed following armed clashes with the Afghan border protection police forces.

Shorabak district is considered to be one of the volatile regions which is located in south-western region of Kandahar province and is bordering the neighboring Pakistan. Militants are frequently going to Pakistan and coming to Afghanistan from this district.

Anti-government armed militant groups yet to comment regarding the report.

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4. Weapons And Explosives Seized In Helmand

Monday, 26 March 2012

<http://www.khaama.com/weapons-and-explosives-seized-in-afghanistan-923>

According to a statement released by International Security Assistance Force on Sunday evening, a combined Afghan and coalition security force discovered a weapons cache during routine operations in Marjah district, Helmand province.

The force discovered numerous bags of ammonium nitrate for use in improvised explosive devices. The total weight of ammonium nitrate was approximately 4,500 pounds (2,045 kilograms). A small amount of the cache was confiscated to be analyzed and the rest was destroyed on site.

The statement further added, in Musa Qal'ah district, Helmand province, a combined Afghan and coalition security force discovered multiple improvised explosive devices in an abandoned compound. The first IED was discovered near a doorway and a subsequent search revealed four additional IEDs totaling 25 pounds (11 kilograms) of explosive material. An explosive ordnance disposal team was called to the scene and destroyed all the IEDs in-place.

In a separate operation a combined Afghan and coalition security force discovered multiple IEDs during routine operations in Dilah wa Khoshamand district, Paktika province, the statement added.

Acting on tips from civilians, the combined patrol discovered six IEDs consisting of 95 pounds (43 kilograms) of home-made explosives. The combined patrol conducted controlled detonations on all of the devices, destroying them in-place.

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5. NATO Destroys IED Factory In Helmand

Wednesday, 21 March 2012

<http://www.khaama.com/nato-destroy-explosive-device-making-factory-in-helmand-892>

According to a press release issued by International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, a coalition bomber conducted a precision airstrike destroying an improvised explosive device-making facility in Sangin district, Helmand province on Monday, March 19.

The source further added, the facility was used by insurgents to build bombs and coordinate IED attacks in the area.

Following the strike, a coalition security force conducted a patrol confirming the building and IED-making materials were destroyed. The patrol also confirmed that there were no damages to any neighboring compounds and no civilian casualties were reported, ISAF added.

In a separate military operation at Lashkargah city of southern Helmand province, Afghan and coalition security forces recovered a narcotics and weapons cache in Lashkar Gar district, Helmand province, March 20.

According to ISAF, the cache consisted of 44 pounds (20 kilograms) of hashish, some opium harvesting tools, two rifles and a grenade. All of the items were confiscated by the PRC to be destroyed.

In Nahr-e Saraj district, Helmand province, a combined Afghan and coalition security force discovered multiple improvised explosive devices during routine operations, Sunday, March 18. The team first discovered a motorcycle packed with explosives and on a subsequent search of the area found four additional IEDs. All of the explosive materials were confiscated to be destroyed.

ISAF also added, Afghan security forces supported by coalition forces, discovered a large explosives and IED-manufacturing cache during an operation in Deh Yak district, Ghazni province on Sunday. The Afghan force found hidden in a garden four IEDs consisting of 187 pounds (85 kilograms) of explosives, 10 anti-tank mines, 66 pounds (30 kilograms) of homemade explosives and 10 fuses for anti-person mines. All of the materials were confiscated by the PRC for disposal.

Anti-government armed militant groups yet to comment regarding the operations.

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6. Explosive Devices Found By Afghan Police

Monday, 26 March 2012

<http://www.skynews.com.au/world/article.aspx?id=732830&vld=>

Afghan police in the southern province of Kandahar have seized at least 17 tonnes of explosives insurgents were planning to use for improvised explosive devices, a senior officer says.

About 5000 packets of explosives weighing three to 10 kilograms each, with 200 fuses and two more tonnes of explosive materials, were found on Friday, border police chief Tafseer Khan Khogyani said.

The shipment was coming from Quetta, where the Taliban leadership council is based, he said, and two drivers were killed in the operation.

Improvised explosive devices are the deadliest weapon used by the insurgents in Afghanistan, who have been fighting the government of President Hamid Karzai and his Western allies for a decade.

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7. Four Afghans Held, Explosives Seized

Friday, 23 March 2012

<http://www.dawn.com/2012/03/24/4-afghans-held-arms-seized.html>

Four Afghan nationals were arrested and a large quantity of explosives and ammunition were seized in Kuchlak area late on Friday night, police said.

The DIG (operations) Quetta, Qazi Wahid, said that Kuchlak police intercepted a Quetta-bound wagon and seized during its checking three boxes of explosives, 145 mines, 204 remote control systems, 51 remote-controlled bombs, 3,000 metres of original fuse and other items.

He said four Afghan nationals, who carried the ammunition, were taken into custody. They were identified as Abdullah, Amir Mohammad, Sher Alam and Abdul Bari.

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8. Suicide Bomb Kills Five In Pakistan's Khyber Agency

Friday, 23 March 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-17491831>

At least five people have been killed in a suicide bomb attack in a volatile tribal area of north-west Pakistan.

Friday's attack occurred in the remote Tirah valley in the Khyber tribal district, an area that has seen clashes between rival militant groups.

Most of the dead are thought to be from the Lashkar-e-Islam militant group. Its spokesman blamed the Taliban.

It comes three weeks after a similar attack on the group by Taliban militants left at least 20 dead.

"A suicide bomber blew himself up outside a Lashkar-e-Islam mosque," police spokesman Bakhtiyar Khan told the Agence France-Presse news agency.

But it is unclear exactly how many of the dead were militants. One report says three were militants and two were passers-by; another report says all those killed belonged to the Lashkar-e-Islam militant group.

None of the reports can be independently confirmed as there is no media access to the area.

Khyber has been a sanctuary for the hardline Lashkar-e-Islam, which fights other religious groups in the area, and security forces have conducted operations in the area for years.

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9. Suicide Attack Kills Thirteen In Pakistan's Khyber Agency

Saturday, 24 March 2012

<http://www.sify.com/news/suicide-attack-kills-13-people-in-pakistan-s-khyber-agency-news-international-mdyoalgghji.html>

A suicide blast has killed 13 people and injured 10 others in at a centre of banned outfit Lashkar-e-Islam in Tirah Valley in Pakistan.

The blast took place in the Akkakhel area of Bara in Khyber Agency.

The News quoted spokesperson of LI Abu Rashid Lashkari as saying that the bomber was heading towards Dars Mosque where the Friday congregation was being offered. He was intercepted by the LI men who asked him to stop.

The LI men later opened fire and killed him on the spot. However, the explosive material wrapped around his body detonated with a big bang, killing 11 LI extremists and two pedestrians on the spot.

However, official sources confirmed five casualties and seven wounded at the LI centre. Meanwhile, Tehreek-e-Taliban's Tariq Group has claimed responsibility for the blast. Its spokesman Muhammad in phone call claimed that 25 fighters of the LI had been killed in the attack. The LI centre was run by Yar Wali Khan, nephew of LI head Mangal Bagh. The fate of Yar Wali Khan was still unclear till last reports.
Ads By Google

The blast ripped through Dars-cum-Madrassa of Lashkar-e-Islam in Bara tehsil.

The identity of the suicide bomber is not known so far.

There have been a series of conflicts between the Taliban and the Lashkar-e-Islam in the tribal areas in struggle for influence in these areas.

Last month dozens of Lashkar-e-Islam fighters were killed in a suicide blast that took place in front of a mosque after Friday prayer in the neighbouring tribal area of Kurram Agency.

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10. One Injured In Police Van Attack

Monday, 26 March 2012

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\03\26\story_26-3-2012_pg7_22

Unidentified men on Sunday attacked a police mobile van by detonating an improvised explosive device in the outskirts of the city.

According to police, the mobile squad of the Mathani Police Station, led by Additional SHO Gohar Khan was on a routine patrolling when it was targeted near Arbab checkpost with a remote controlled bomb.

The explosion created terror among the residents. There were reports that a policeman was injured in the blast. The police van was also damaged. Police rushed to the spot and started a search operation.

It may be recalled that SP Abdul Kalam Khan was killed in Peshtakara near Mathani in a suicide explosion a few days ago.

Mathani is still a restive area despite several crackdowns against terrorists while the residents have demanded the government increase patrolling to counter militancy in the area.

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11. Terrorists Destroy Gas Pipeline In Peshawar

Wednesday, 28 March 2012

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/356384/gas-pipeline-blown-up-in-peshawar/>

Unknown men blew up a gas pipeline on Ring Road within the jurisdiction of the Bana Marhi police station in Peshawar on Wednesday morning.

Police said that the main supply line of natural gas which connects Hyatabad to the city was blown up by unknown terrorists.

“A low intensity bomb had been attached to the line which exploded, creating a hole in the pipeline,” said local SHO Bashirdad while talking to The Express Tribune.

He added that the device was of at least one kilogram intensity and the main purpose of the blast was to create panic.

The SHO said that there was no loss of life in the explosion.

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12. Bomb Hidden Inside Radio Kills Two

Saturday, 24 March 2012

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\03\24\story_24-3-2012_pg1_2

Intelligence officials say a bomb hidden inside a radio exploded on a military base in Wana, killing a paramilitary soldier and his 10-year-old son.

The officials say the soldier and his son were listening to the Asia Cup cricket final between Pakistan and Bangladesh on Thursday night when the bomb went off. Three other children were wounded.

The attack occurred at a base in Wana, the main town in the South Waziristan tribal area, a key Pakistani Taliban stronghold. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity on Friday because they were not authorised to talk to reporters.

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13. Two Boko Haram Members Dies In Kano Bomb Factory

Sunday, 25 March 2012

<http://tribune.com.ng/sun/news/6806-boko-haram-2-members-die-in-kano-bomb-factory--as-jtf-rescues-5-wives-13-children>

No fewer than two members of the dreaded Boko Haram sect died in the early hours of Saturday in Kano, when a car rigged with bomb exploded killing the sect's members while others sustained varying degrees of injury.

The incident, which occurred at a bomb factory in Sabongiwa-Gandu, on the outskirts of Kano metropolis, happened when men of the Joint Military Task Force (JTF) attacked the factory.

Speaking at the scene of the incident, Brigade Commander and chairman of the JTF, Brigadier-General Ilyasu Abbah, said it would have been another disaster in Kano if the sect had been able to use what they had assembled on innocent people in the state.

He stated that the JTF rescued five wives and 13 children of the sect's members, noting that the sect's members detonated the car bomb to prevent arrest and kill the soldiers.

He also informed that the sect had been planning to bomb the state again.

According to him, the JTF came around 12 midnight to effect the arrest of these sect members, but on getting there, they saw that there was no way for them to escape, they decided to detonate the car bomb, purposely to kill the soldiers.

However, the bomb detonated and killed two members of the sect while others sustained injury, but ran away.

The JTF's chairman further confirmed that in the gun battle that ensued with the sect, two soldiers sustained wounds in the encounter.

Speaking in the same vein, the Director of State Security Service (SSS), Itam Bassey, corroborated the statement of Brigadier-Gen Abbah, that the security operatives had been trailing the Boko Haram members for a long time.

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14. Authorities Foil Attempt To Blow Up Bridge On Damascus-Daraa Hwy
Sunday, 25 March 2012
<http://www.sana.sy/eng/337/2012/03/25/408174.htm>

The competent authorities and the Engineering Units foiled an attempt to blow up al-Najih Bridge on Damascus-Daraa Highway which serves a number of surrounding areas and villages.

A source at Daraa Province told SANA reporter that members of the engineering units put out six barrels filled with a large amount of explosives set to be blown up by remote control.

According to the source, an armed terrorist group has put the explosive devices under the bridge connected with 1,5km long cable.

The source pointed out that the terrorists aim at halting the traffic movement and the work of the citizens through targeting the highway.

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15. VBIED Recovered In Aleppo, IED Factory Discovered In Idleb
Saturday, 24 March 2012

<http://www.champress.net/index.php?q=en/Article/view/116076>

The authorities seized a pick up car carrying three bath cylinder-shaped water tank heaters loaded with a huge amount of explosives in al-Sakhour neighborhood near al-Qaqa' Mosque in Aleppo.

SANA reporter was informed that the explosives were dismantled with no problems reported.

A source from the province told SANA reporter that the authorities found a factory for making improvised explosive devices in Sarmin town including hundreds of explosive devices of different yields that are prepared for detonations.

The source added that vaults and tunnels were discovered in the town that were used by the terrorist in carrying out their criminal acts against citizens and law enforcement members.

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16. Kazakh Prosecutor Says Almaty Bomb Plot Foiled

Wednesday, 28 March 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/28/kazakhstan-plot-idUSL6E8ES2B120120328>

Kazakhstan's prosecutor-general said on Wednesday that security services had foiled a plot organised by an associate of fugitive billionaire Mukhtar Ablyazov to bomb the commercial capital of the oil-producing Central Asian state.

The prosecutor-general's office said in a statement that Ablyazov's personal bodyguard, Alexander Pavlov, had planned to coordinate a series of explosions on March 24 in parks and near administrative buildings in Almaty, Kazakhstan's largest city.

Locksley Ryan, a London-based spokesman for Ablyazov, said the information about the plot was "nonsense".

Ablyazov, the former chairman of Kazakh bank BTA who is accused of embezzling at least \$5 billion from the bank, is an outspoken opponent of veteran President Nursultan Nazarbayev and was granted political asylum in Britain last year after fleeing his home country.

Ablyazov's current whereabouts are not known. He is believed to have left Britain after being sentenced to 22 months in jail for contempt of court in a case last month that was expected to be a sideshow to the fraud case launched by his former bank.

BTA is pursuing assets it says Ablyazov stole from the bank. The 48-year-old has said the charges against him are designed to rob him of his assets and silence him as an opponent of Nazarbayev.

The prosecutor-general's office said Pavlov had left Kazakhstan in 2009. Already the subject of a separate criminal case, Pavlov had recently been allocated \$25,000 to organise the attacks, it said, without specifying the source of the finance.

It said several people, whom it did not identify, had been detained and were giving confessions. It said the main goal of the plot was to scare the population and sow instability.

The prosecutor's office said its main suspects had also made attempts to contact representatives of "radical religious groups" with the aim of carrying out joint attacks.

Kazakh authorities have arrested several prominent opposition activists in the aftermath of December violence in the town of Zhanaozen, where at least 14 people were killed and police used live rounds during a riot involving sacked oilmen.

Central Asia's largest economy and oil producer, Kazakhstan had not witnessed the outbursts of Islamist militancy seen in other parts of former Soviet Central Asia until a series of shootouts and bombings last year.

In November, a lone militant killed seven people during running battles with police in the southern city of Taraz, and a month earlier a hitherto unknown group claimed responsibility for two bomb explosions in the western oil city of Atyrau.

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17. Explosive Device Found Near Gaza Security Fence

Monday, 26 March 2012

<http://ifaynsh.wordpress.com/2012/03/26/explosive-device-defused-near-gaza-security-fence/>

Today, during an IDF activity along the security fence in the central Gaza Strip, IDF sappers defused an explosive device planted near the security fence.

Explosive device found near Gaza security fence today

Explosive device found near Gaza security fence today

This incident proves, yet again, that terror organizations, headed by Hamas, use the area adjacent to the security fence in order to carry out terror attacks against Israeli citizens and IDF soldiers. The explosive device was placed under the cover of fog at the end of last week. IDF soldiers' alertness prevented the attack.

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18. Caretaker Finds Bag Of Explosives At School In Pozega

Tuesday, 27 March 2012

http://www.croatiantimes.com/news/General_News/2012-03-27/26003/Caretaker_finds_bag_of_explosives_at_primary_school

The caretaker of a primary school in the eastern Croatian city of Pozega found yesterday (Mon) near the school building a bag containing a hand grenade, antipersonnel mines and two fragmentation ammunitions, reported website net.hr.

According to police, the bag with the explosive devices was removed by the anti-bomb squad and they say they have no leads as to who would have left the bag near the school within reach of children.

The bag of explosives was found by the caretaker at around 5pm after he was cleaning up around the building of Pozega primary school. Police have appealed to the public for any information about the incident.

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19. Divers Clear Explosives From Macedonia Lake

Friday, 23 March 2012

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hSnyVk5uS-Mij-MGgkx35LAIFVoA?docId=CNG.2d6759eff536b6eb55a2c85cdccd9516.271>

Special teams of divers have cleared some four tonnes of explosives from Lake Ohrid in southwestern Macedonia, a protected UNESCO World Heritage site, the MIA news agency said Thursday.

"There were unexploded mines, bombs and different munitions for the Balkans wars in the 1900s, World War I and World War II... that posed a potential danger to the population," the interior ministry said in a statement quoted by MIA.

The 358-square-kilometre (138-square-mile) lake is the deepest in the Balkans at 288 metres (945 feet). It straddles the border between Macedonia and Albania and has a unique ecosystem with more than 200 endemic species.

According to Ekrem Zendeli, an environmental protection official, some 23,000 square metres of the lake have been cleared of explosives since the start of the operation in 2007.

Over the years around 20 tonnes of explosives had been taken from the lake, Macedonia's main tourist attraction.

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20. Two Bombs Found Near Primary School

Wednesday, 28 March 2012

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/9617029.Two_bombs_found_near_primary_school/?ref=nt

Two bombs have been discovered on a building site close to a primary school near Didcot — the second discovery of explosives in two months.

Thames Valley Police spokesman Rebecca Webber said officers were alerted at 8.21am today.

They were called to the Chestnut Fields site being developed by David Wilson Homes following reports that an unexploded World War Two bomb had been found.

It is close to Chilton Primary School in Downside.

Ms Webber added: "Officers attended and two devices have been found, both about 15ins long.

"Contractors on the site have stopped working and the MoD bomb disposal team have been called in to carry out a controlled explosion on the devices.

"The neighbourhood team are on site at the moment, and nowhere nearby has needed to be evacuated."

Last month<<Feb>> pupils at the primary school heard a loud bang when experts detonated an unexploded bomb.

Headteacher at Chilton Primary Sandra North told parents in a letter that the school was never in any danger.

The MoD said the bomb found was an RAF practice bomb.

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21. Bomb Discovered In Lancaster

Wednesday, 28 March 2012

<http://www.lancasterguardian.co.uk/news/lancaster-and-district-news/update-bomb-discovered-in-lancaster-1-4394136>

Access to Meeting House Lane, Wheatfield Street and Middle Street was restricted by a police cordon at around 1.50pm while police investigated reports that an unexploded mortar shell was found by a building surveyor in the attic of a house in Meeting House Lane.

Lancaster railway station was closed from the city centre, and roadblocks were put in place, causing long tailbacks on the city's one way system.

A member of staff from the Robert Gillow pub, in Meeting House Lane, said that initially the cordon was extended to the junction with King Street, but was then moved up to the Post Office, on the corner of Fenton Street.

She added: "There were quite a few irate pedestrians trying to get up Meeting House Lane, but then the police allowed access around the back of the castle."

The roads were re-opened just after 4pm, after police confirmed the device posed no threat.

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22. Twenty Kg. TNT Bomb Defused on Caucasus Hwy

Sunday, 25 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.izvestiaur.ru%2Fnews%2Fview%2F5192601.html>

The sappers defused an improvised explosive device with capacity of 20 kilograms of TNT, found near the federal highway "Caucasus" in the territory of Kabardino-Balkaria, writes Vzglyad.ru .

"At the 438th kilometer of the federal highway" Caucasus ", 16 kilometers from the city of Chegem, a distance of 200 meters in the field of law enforcement officers found an improvised explosive device with capacity of 20 kilograms of TNT," - the press service of Ministry of Interior in the CBD.

The bomb was a metal pipe length 122 cm and a diameter of 31 cm, filled with explosives based on ammonium nitrate and aluminum powder. She also was packed with striking elements in the form of chopped reinforcement. As an electric detonator is used, presumably in industrial production.

"Given the danger of transporting an explosive device was destroyed in place by a surface-charge" - the press-service.

An investigation and take steps to arrest the organizers of the terrorist attack was being prepared.

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23. IED Attack In Ingushetia Contained Seven Kg. TNT

Saturday, 24 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.itar-tass.com%2Fc9%2F374246.html>

In Ingushetia, in the town of Malgobek, worked planted on a roadside improvised explosive device at a time when a patrol car drove past. There were three police officers. Injured in an explosion there. This was reported by law enforcement bodies.

The incident occurred today at about 3:00 GMT on the street Industry, the source said. Improvised explosive device, according to available data, it was packed with striking elements - pieces of rebar, bolts. Its capacity was about 7 kg of TNT.

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24. IED Attack In Dagestan

Wednesday, 28 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%2Fnews.rufox.ru%2Ftexts%2F2012%2F03%2F28%2F231228.htm>

By Wednesday morning in the yard a businessman who lives in the village on the outskirts of Dagestan Bavgay Kizilyurt, unknown threw a homemade explosive device. This was stated by the businessman to the police, reports RIA "Dagestan ", citing the press service of the republican Interior Ministry.

"March 28 around 4:50 an unknown person threw into the yard of his house unknown explosive device of low power. The blast smashed a pane of glass homeownership, "- said the agency.

Of the people in the explosion no one was hurt. On this fact the collected material.

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25. Explosive Device Goes Off At Ministry Building

Saturday, 24 March 2012

http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcgi/w_articles_wsite1_1_24/03/2012_434556

A homemade explosive mechanism consisting of gas canisters exploded at a building of the Internal Affairs Ministry in Athens in the early hours of Saturday.

The bomb caused some minor damage at the entrance of the building on Ilioupoleos Avenue, south of the center. Noone was injured.

Police specialists have collected the remains of the explosive mechanism to conduct a thorough investigation.

Noone has claimed responsibility for the attack as yet.

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26. Iraq's Ominous Trendline Of Violence

Monday, 26 March 2012

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Backchannels/2012/0326/Iraq-s-ominous-trendline-of-violence>

Attacks in three Iraqi cities last week killed 46 citizens, with the targets Shiite pilgrims and government security forces. The Islamic State of Iraq, a Sunni insurgent group that has styled itself as a local Al Qaeda affiliate, claimed responsibility. Given the targets and methods deployed, that's probably true.

Iraqi security officials said they weren't surprised by the attacks. An Arab League meeting is scheduled to begin in Baghdad tomorrow – the first in Iraq's capital since Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1991 – and forces have been on alert against insurgent efforts to embarrass the Shiite-dominated government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

That anticipation did little to save the lives of this week's victims. More than \$1 billion has been spent sprucing up Baghdad ahead of the meeting, and the country's government has been getting the word out that Iraq has put its war in its rear-view mirror and the country, as the saying goes, is open for business. But violence has been steadily rising.

The reason why is due to the same problem that the US-led occupation authority had in coming to grips with terror-style attacks at the height of the war in the country between 2004 and 2008: Lots of Iraqis were passively supportive, because they resented the new order, resented the presence of foreign troops, or simply feared retaliation.

The great success of the US "surge" in Iraq was creating conditions that made Iraqis more likely to inform upon a neighbor who, say, suddenly had a strange influx of guests and a lot of banging and welding sounds coming from his garage. Former insurgents were put on the government payroll (financed by the US) when the Sons of Iraq was formed to act as a Sunni counterinsurgency. Promises were made that they'd be integrated into the police or the Army, and that a pluralistic Iraq would emerge that would protect Sunnis from being lorded over by the country's newly empowered Shiite majority.

But in the past few years, Mr. Maliki has accrued more and more power. The Sons of Iraq, also known as the "Sahwa," or "Awakening," have been financially cut off by Maliki's government. And since the US military departed the country at the end of 2011, Maliki has been moving against Sunni politicians.

Sunni Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi is currently in self-imposed exile in autonomous Kurdistan, dodging what he says is a politically motivated warrant for his arrest on terrorism charges. One of Mr. Hashemi's bodyguards, Amir Sarbut Zaidan al-Batawi, died in Iraqi custody. His body was released to his family last week. Human Rights Watch on Friday called for an investigation into Mr. Batawi's death.

"The statements we heard and photos we saw indicate that Iraqi security officers may have tortured Amir Sarbut Zaidan al-Batawi to death while he was in their custody," Joe Stork, the group's deputy Middle East director, was quoted in the statement as saying. The Iraqi government insisted that Batawi died of a natural ailment and that he had refused treatment.

Whatever the exact circumstances may have been, his death – the latest in a string of events alienating Sunni Arabs from the predominately Shiite government of Iraq – has stoked already soaring sectarian mistrust. The more alienated Sunnis feel as a community, the more likely it is that people will take up arms again.

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Becca Wasser, a researcher at the International Strategic Studies Institute, has tracked violence in Iraq for the past year. What she's found is a surge in deadly attacks. She writes there were at least 204 bombings in the country from Dec. 19 to March 18 this year, a 70 percent increase over the same period last year, when there were 120. In January, there were 81 bombings, up from 45 in January 2011.

"We're not arguing the US military should have stayed in Iraq – far from it," Wasser writes. "What the figures do show, along with the information on bombing targets, is that insurgent groups in Iraq are adapting to the new status quo, and that the security and political situation in Iraq remains tenuous."

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27. FBI Warrant: Iraqi's Roadside Bomb Diagrams Were Crude, But Workable

Tuesday, 27 March 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/fbi-warrant-iraqis-roadside-bomb-diagrams-were-crude-but-workable/2012/03/27/gIQAfYYgeS_story.html

An Iraqi refugee who later pleaded guilty to 23 terrorism-related charges drew multiple diagrams of roadside bombs he used in Iraq between 2003 and 2006, and investigators concluded that explosives built to the specifications in the drawings would have worked, the FBI said in two search warrant applications.

FBI Special Agent Richard Glenn said 30-year-old Waad Ramadan Alwan drew diagrams of four types of roadside explosives with the intent of passing them along to someone he thought was involved with Al-Qaida in his home country.

The search warrants, approved last May and obtained by The Associated Press on Tuesday as a public record, provide details of recorded conversations between 24-year-old Mohanad Shareef Hammadi, Alwan and a confidential informant from late 2009 through early summer 2011 in Bowling Green.

Hammadi faces 12 charges, including perjury and attempting to send material support to a known terrorist organization. His trial is scheduled for July 30. Alwan pleaded guilty and is to be sentenced Oct. 2.

Prosecutors sought the warrants to search an apartment Alwan and Hammadi shared in Bowling Green, about 115 miles south of Louisville. The warrant does not reveal what agents found in the apartment.

Prosecutors say Hammadi lied to gain refugee status and enter the United States. Prosecutors said Alwan took part in insurgent activities in Iraq, including planting improvised explosive devices targeting U.S. troops.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Louisville, which is prosecuting the case, declined to comment on the details of the warrant.

An FBI informant, whose identity remains secret, met with Alwan for nearly 18 months and Hammadi for about five months.

During multiple conversations in 2010 and 2011, Alwan discussed planting roadside bombs to destroy American vehicles and talked about losing fellow insurgents when the devices malfunctioned, including one that went off "and cut him to pieces." When the confidential informant told Alwan that the "Hajj," a fictional terrorist leader created for the investigation, wanted pictures, Glenn wrote that Alwan quickly complied.

"Yes, that's easy," Alwan said. "The ones that I know I will make them for him and I will tell him these are the ones."

Alwan told the informant that roadside bombs could be filled with "anything lethal could be stuffed in it, such as ball bearings, nails, gravel and whatever item that kills," according to the warrants. Glenn also quoted Alwan as discussing how insurgents used the Senao brand of wireless telephone to trigger the roadside bombs, but eventually stopped because U.S. troops figured out how to disable the explosives before any damage could be done.

“We used to program it but they were able to penetrate the number,” Glenn quoted Alwan as saying.

The affidavits also reveal that the two men used computers to talk with family, friends and insurgents in Iraq. Hammadi told the informant he has been in touch with someone in Iraq in March 2011 who knew how to use cocoa in an explosive mixture and told the informant how the device would work.

“I was there observing them while they were working on it,” Glenn quoted Hammadi as saying.

Hammadi told the informant he went to a website to view speeches given by insurgents.

The warrants recount some previously released information about how the men wanted to gather explosives, guns and cash and have them sent to Iraq. Alwan asked for sniper rifles and talked about how he used them against U.S. troops, Glenn wrote.

“Alwan later explained that he was also very good with a sniper rifle and that his ‘lunch and dinner would be an American,’ an apparent reference to his repeated attacks on U.S. troops,” Glenn wrote.

Alwan talked about his insurgent activities in Iraq, including attacks on American soldiers, and said he couldn’t return because “I am wanted there.”

“He then added, ‘I didn’t come here for America. I came here to get a passport and go back to Turkey, Saudi or wherever I want’,” Glenn wrote.

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28. Suicide Bomber Killed, Seven Wanted Men Detained In Mosul

Monday, 26 March 2012

http://en.aswatiraq.info/%28S%28s1dk3k55c2g3lo45smngfk45%29%29/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=147640&l=1

An army force on Monday killed a suicide bomber and arrested seven wanted men in two separate operations in Mosul, a source from the Ninewa Operations Command said.

"A force from the 2nd division of the Ninewa Operations Command waged a security operation in al-Sahel al-Aysar regions in Mosul, where they arrested seven wanted men and found 82 explosive charges and seven guns," the source said in a statement received by Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

"Another force managed to seize an oil tanker before smuggling it from the province," he added.

"The force killed a bomb wearing an explosive belt strapped to his body before detonating it at a checkpoint in east of Mosul," the source noted.

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29. Bomb Rocks Baghdad Ahead Of Iraq Summit

Tuesday, 27 March 2012

<http://www.cnn.com/2012/03/27/world/meast/iraq-arab-summit/>

A car bomb killed a police officer and wounded two others in western Baghdad on Tuesday, police said, despite tight security ahead of this week's Arab League summit in the Iraqi capital.

An Interior Ministry official said the bomber blew himself up at a checkpoint in the western neighborhood of Ghazaliya.

The attack took place amid unprecedented security in the Iraqi capital, which is slated to host an Arab League summit on Thursday for the first time since 1990. The gathering tests Iraq's ability to provide critical organization and security in the country where deadly violence remains a weekly norm.

In the city of Falluja, west of Baghdad, hundreds of people joined tribal and religious leaders to welcome the Arab leaders and call on them to pressure Iraq's government for reforms.

Residents of the Sunni Muslim city said they want Iraq's Shiite-dominated government to establish a sectarian balance in government institutions, particularly the army and police, and to stop the "politicization" of the judiciary system.

Falluja was the scene of pitched battles with U.S. troops in the years after the American-led invasion of Iraq, and protesters there called on arriving Arab leaders to press their Iraqi counterparts to grant amnesty to former guerrillas who did not take part in attacks on civilians. They also warned against what they said was Iranian interference in the country.

"We call on the Arab leaders to stop the betrayal of the Sunni people in Iraq and to stop Iraq from falling into Iran's grip," said one of the protesters, Riyadh Ali.

The demonstrators carried Iraqi and Arab League flags, and many of them were wearing hats with the Arab League logo. One banner read, "Anbar tribes welcome the Arab leaders in Baghdad and we call on them to carry out their duties toward Iraq and Iraqis."

They also called on the Arab leaders to take steps to bring an end to the year-long crackdown on opposition in Syria and to remember what they called the original Arab issue: the decades-old conflict between the Palestinians and Israel.

The leaders of all other Arab League countries except Syria, which has been suspended from the group over the clampdown, are expected to attend the summit. On Monday, Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari described the summit as "the most important event for Iraq."

"It is a recognition of the new Iraq that emerged since 2003 by its new leaders, its new constitution, its new policies, its new political system at the heart of the Middle East," Zebari said.

The preparations have led to a virtual lockdown in Baghdad, with most of its central arteries cut off to vehicle traffic. Cars are being thoroughly inspected at checkpoints, causing hours-long delays. The traffic jams and additional security measures are keeping most people indoors, and many who still need to get to their jobs are making their way on foot.

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But similar checkpoints did not stop a round of bombings last week that killed 45 people and wounded hundreds on the ninth anniversary of the U.S. invasion. The Islamic State of Iraq, an umbrella group that includes al Qaeda in Iraq, claimed responsibility for the attacks in Baghdad and other provinces.

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30. Cop Killed, Two Wounded In Explosion In South Fallujah

Saturday, 24 March 2012

http://en.aswataliraq.info/%28S%28s1dk3k55c2g3lo45smngfk45%29%29/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=147607&l=1

A cop was killed and two wounded in a bomb explosion south of Falluja, police sources said today.

The sources told Aswat al-Iraq that the explosion targeted a police patrol to the south of the city.

Search of the area was made fearing other explosives directed against the police and civilians alike.

Falluja lies 60 km west of Ramadi, the center of Anbar province which is situated 110 km west of the capital, Baghdad.

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31. Suicide Bomber Attacks Police Checkpoint In Ramadi

Wednesday, 21 March 2012

http://en.aswataliraq.info/%28S%28s1dk3k55c2g3lo45smngfk45%29%29/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=147567&l=1

A suicide bomber with an explosive belt strapped to his chest blew himself up near a police checkpoint in Hasiba area, eastern Ramadi, but left no casualties, a local police source in al-Anbar province said.

“The bomber was approaching the checkpoint until policemen there warned him. He kept advancing and then detonated himself before he reached the checkpoint. He died instantly,” the source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

“The explosion left no casualties amongst civilians or policemen. The body was taken to a morgue to identify the bomber,” he added.

Ramadi, the capital city of the predominantly Sunni province of al-Anbar, is located 110 km west of Baghdad.

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32. Explosive Injures Woman In Cuautitlan Izcalli

Friday, 23 March 2012

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.jornada.unam.mx%2F2012%2F03%2F23%2Ffestados%2F037n1est

A self-contained explosives allegedly an invitation to an act of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) yesterday caused injury to hands and face at a woman outside her home at number 20 Calle Capricorn, fractionation Valley the Finance Committee reported the PRI municipal president in Cuautitlan Izcalli, State of Mexico, Javier Nunez.

"If you hear loud invitation, click on the logo of the PRI," was read a message written on the envelope, which when handled exploded in the hands of Maria Hernandez, who lost two nails, burned part of the hair and suffered minor burns. The attack occurred yesterday around 11 am, said Nunez, who came to the victim the Attorney General to file a criminal complaint.

Nunez explained that the envelope contained a false invitation committee in Cuautitlan Izcalli PRI to attend a rally. It also required the Attorney General of the State of Mexico (PGJEM) investigate immediately and expressed concern that similar attacks occur.

Maria Hernandez clarified that the PRI is not militant, but I called because the envelope bore the tricolor logo, a photo of the leader and his signature. Nunez lamented that "a few days before the season starts (in the second half of May), unscrupulous people have started a dirty war to intimidate not only the PRI militants, but to all citizens," he said.

Ministerial agents said the explosion was similar to that of a small firecracker.

Meanwhile, former mayors of Ecatepec, Jose Luis Gutierrez Cureño, and Tlalnepantla, Rubén Mendoza Ayala, applied for registration as a candidate of the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD) to be candidates in those boundaries.

Gutierrez ruled Cureño Ecatepec in the 2006-2009 triennium, while Mendoza Ayala, who has played in the PRI and National Action Party (PAN), was mayor of Tlalnepantla from 2000 to 2003. By entering, said he did not think joining the Aztec sun.

In Querétaro, the PRI candidate for nomination for mayor of El Marques, Eduardo Curiel said unknown threatened to stop the fight. In San Juan del Rio, Gerardo Sanchez, formerly of the State Attorney General and the local MP Fabian Pineda dispute the PRI nomination for mayor.

Guadalajara, Jal., March 22. The Citizens Movement candidate for governor, Enrique Alfaro Ramirez blamed his opponent PRI, Jorge Sandoval Diaz Aristotle, of being "in cahoots" with the "de facto leader" of the Democratic Revolution Party in Texas, Raul Padilla Lopez, to orchestrate a dirty war against him.

He said call him a "danger to Jalisco" and link it with Gerardo Flores, The Tattooed, suspected of the murder of six people-five students and the father of one of them carried out last December in the building of the Student Federation of Guadalajara .

Alfaro Ramirez Sandoval Aristotle demanded "that is consistent and if it calls for no dirty war, not from their offices to prepare attacks on our bid."

Alfaro said that proof of the dirty war of Aristotle and Padilla López Sandoval is the photograph taken with a cell phone of a poster where he appears next to the tattooed, who died in February. "In my life I saw The Tattooed" he said.

The former rector of the University of Guadalajara, Raul Padilla, called the allegations "frivolous" and said Alfaro will not intervene in the electoral process. In turn, the PAN candidate for governor, Fernando Guzman, considered "painful" left the conflict in Punjab.

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33. Suspect Arrested For Possession Of Explosives

Saturday, 24 March 2012

<http://www.4029tv.com/r/30753249/detail.html>

Johnson Police say one person has been arrested after a homemade bomb exploded on the porch of a home on Essex Drive.

They confirmed 18-year-old Austin Thrasher, of Springdale, was booked in connection to the explosion.

Investigators found an improvised explosive device described as a "bottle bomb," which is made of a mixture of chemicals in a plastic bottle. According to a news release from the police, the only injuries reported were nausea from the fumes created by the chemical reaction in the bottle.

Thrasher is being held at the Washington County Detention Center for criminal possession of explosives, disorderly conduct and harassment.

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34. Police Examining Shipment Path Of Delhi Terror Bomb Parts

Thursday, 22 March 2012

<http://www.jpost.com/International/Article.aspx?id=262884>

Forensic tests are believed to have revealed that some of the components used to make the “sticky bomb” that was planted on an Israeli Embassy car on February 13 and wounded the defense attaché’s wife may not have been locally procured.

This was the first time that such a bomb with a magnetic base, similar to the one which exploded in Bangkok on February 14, was used in a terrorist attack in India which has seen numerous incidents of terror bombings. Investigators are looking into the possibility that the source of the material for the two bomb was the same.

Related:

Since security at Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport, as at all airports in India, is very high and all baggage is screened, it is unlikely that any of the three Iranians – Houshang Afshar Irani, Syed Ali Mahdiansadr and Mohammadreza Abolghasemi – who have been named as responsible for the attack, carried it on them when they entered India in early January. The bomb is said to have been planted on the car by Iranian citizens.

In view of the possibility that the material for the bomb was brought in from abroad, most possibly from Iran, a source said investigators are exploring whether “the diplomatic route” could have been used. Diplomatic pouches or bags are neither screened nor inspected, as per international protocol.

They are addressed to the embassy concerned and are collected by embassy officials.

“If this proves to be true, it would lead to a massive row. A lot of explaining would have to be done by the recipient embassy,” the source said.

Given the sensitive nature of the issue, this particular aspect of the investigation and findings are being kept under wraps.

While Irani took a flight out of Delhi to Malaysia, and from there a connecting flight to Iran, hours after the bombing, his two accomplices, it now transpires, left the city two days before the attack. Open warrants have been secured against them and Interpol’s assistance has been sought by way of issuing Red Corner notices.

Meanwhile, the body of evidence indicating Iranian involvement in the bombing continues to grow by the day.

Delhi Police, during further searches at the residence of Syed Mohammed Ahmad Kazmi, the Indian journalist arrested for allegedly providing logistical support to the bombers, has found an Iranian SIM card. It was used to store 15 telephone numbers of contacts in Iran to whom he made several calls from his cellphone.

Police are also trying to unravel the source of cash remittances to Kazmi’s and his wife’s bank accounts from Iran.

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A team of investigators is scheduled to leave for Thailand where they will compare notes with Bangkok Police and also question the Iranians who have been arrested for planning similar bombings targeting Israeli Embassy personnel there. Investigators hope this will help them tie up loose ends and establish a larger conspiracy.

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35. Government To Halt Execution Of Punjab Conspirator

Wednesday, 28 March 2012

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/india-halt-execution-of-punjab-bomb-conspirator>

The Indian government should halt the hanging of Balwant Singh Rajoana, who has been on death row since August 2007 for the assassination of Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh.

(New York) - The Indian government should halt the hanging of Balwant Singh Rajoana, who has been on death row since August 2007 for the assassination of Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh, Human Rights Watch said today. On March 27, 2012, a court in Chandigarh, Punjab refused a request for a stay of execution and ordered that the hanging proceed on March 31.

On August 31, 2005, Beant Singh and others were killed by a suicide bomber in Chandigarh. Rajoana admitted being part of the conspiracy, and has refused to appeal his conviction and death sentence, saying that he does not regret the killing.

"The death penalty is always wrong and the Indian government should immediately stop this execution," said Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "Beyond that, executing Rajoana would merely continue the cycle of killing and retribution between the Sikh community and the Indian state that has long divided communities."

The killing of Beant Singh occurred in the context of abuses by government security forces and Sikh militants during a secessionist insurgency in Punjab that began in the 1980s. The militants sought to avenge the 1984 massacres of Sikhs after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards. The bodyguards in turn were avenging the government assault on the Sikh Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab. Although capital punishment remains legal in India and the courts frequently impose the death sentence, no execution has occurred for more than seven years. If Rajoana is executed, he will be the second person sent to the gallows since 1995. The last person executed was Dhananjay Chatterjee, who was convicted in a rape and murder case of a child and hanged in Kolkata in August 2004.

Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal has said that all legal aspects of the case will need to be examined before his government can consider an execution. The last hanging in Punjab was in 1989.

A number of appeals have been filed against the Rajoana execution. The petition seeking deferment of the hanging was filed by the superintendent of Patiala central jail, saying that although Rajoana had not appealed his conviction, his fellow accused have challenged their convictions and those appeals are still pending.

Human Rights Watch opposes the death penalty in all circumstances as an inherently irreversible, inhumane punishment. A majority of countries in the world have abolished the practice.

"The Indian government has rightly not carried out executions for nearly a decade," Ganguly said. "It should now officially declare a moratorium, commute all existing death sentences, and then abolish the death penalty for all crimes."

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36. Nepal Army Defuses Bomb In Ramgram

Sunday, 25 March 2012

<http://www.inseconline.org/index.php?type=news&lang=en&id=9791>

A squad of the Nepal Army has defused a bomb found nearby Bypass Road in Ramgram Municipality on March 25.

Locals, who were terrified after they noticed the bomb in front of Bal Govinda Petrol Pump, had immediately informed police.

Parasi based Bajra Dal Battalion of NA arrived in the site and disposed the bomb in the morning, police said.

According to locals, a pamphlet of Madhesh Mukti Tiger was recovered from the incident site.

Police said that investigation of the incident is underway.

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37. 'Explosives Dump' Discovered In Bhatkal, Bangalore

Friday, 23 March 2012

<http://daily.bhaskar.com/article/BAN-explosives-dump-in-bhatkal-sends-cops-into-tizzy-3007550.html>

Sleuths of the Bangalore Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the Delhi Police Special Cell on Thursday conducted a joint search operation at Bhatkal, a port town in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka, to find out a major 'stockpile of explosives', including RDX. They claim that a huge quantity of explosive materials is dumped in an unidentified house in the town which can be used to launch terror strikes in different parts of the country.

According to media reports, the search operation was conducted with four suspected terrorists, but the police could not find the tinderbox till the last evening. The four terror suspects include Tadiyandavide Nasir, prime accused in the July 25, 2008, Bangalore serial blasts, and three unidentified accused in the Delhi Police custody.

The explosives stockpiled at Bhatkal have been used in carrying out blasts at Delhi High Court last year and Chinnaswamy Stadium in 2010, the police claimed. They further say that the dump has also been used in several other terror attacks throughout the country.

Supposedly, Nasir disclosed the details to the city police regarding dump that still lies in the Bhatkal house. But he could not eventually lead the police to the house on Thursday, mentioning that he couldn't remember how it was as it was dark when he visited the site.

A report in a leading daily has quoted an unidentified source as saying: "Either Nasir is playing foul or is confused. He claims he visited the house with a few others in the early hours and took away a consignment of explosives."

The other suspect, who is allegedly involved in the Delhi High Court blast, also failed to trace the house.

The police fear that the explosives have been hidden in Bhatkal by alleged terror masterminds Yasin Bhatkal and his brother Riyaz Bhatkal.

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38. West Bengal Police Recover Landmine And Explosives

Tuesday, 27 March 2012

<http://www.newstrackindia.com/newsdetails/2012/03/27/137-West-Bengal-Police-recover-landmine-and-explosives-.html>

West Bengal Police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel have reportedly recovered a landmine and a large quantities of explosives in Madhabpur, a Maoist hotbed in the Jhargram region of the state's Paschimi Medinipur District.

A flashgun and a charger have also been retrieved, police sources said.

The landmine had five kilograms of explosives that could have been used to trigger off a high intensity blast.

Despite strong measures initiated by the government to crush the Maoist insurgency, it has gripped nearly a third of the country in its violent tentacles, spreading into the interiors of 20 of India's 28 states.

The guerrilla war, waged mostly from the forests of central and eastern India by the Communist Party of India-Maoist, now poses the country's biggest internal security threat, say analysts.

The prime victims of the atrocities and the fear mongering spread by the Maoists as part of a violent, ideology-driven struggle for rights and development of the marginalized families are the innocent rural villagers and tribals.

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39. Explosives, Ammunition Meant For Maoists Seized In Jharkhand

Friday, 23 March 2012

<http://www.newstrackindia.com/newsdetails/2012/03/23/147-Explosives-ammunition-meant-for-Maoists-seized-in-Jharkhand-.html>

Police in Jharkhand's Gumla District on Friday arrested three men with large quantities of explosives, detonators, arms and ammunitions which was to be sold to the Maoists in the state.

Speaking to Mediapersons, Superintendent of Police, Gumla District Jatin Narwal said: "We have recovered four weapons from these three accused. We have also recovered ammunition, 30 gelatin sticks, 100 kilograms ammonium nitrate and 130 detonators. This way we have recovered quite a good amount of explosives and arms and ammunitions".

Narwal added that three accused were under the radar of the authorities for some time and were planning to sell these explosives to the Maoists.

The Maoist insurgency has gripped nearly a third of the country in its violent tentacles, spreading into the interiors of 20 of India's 28 states.

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40. Explosives Recovered In Sukajan

Saturday, 24 March 2012

<http://www.nagalandpost.com/ChannelNews/Regional/RegionalNews.aspx?news=TkVXUzEwMDAxNTYwNg%3D%3D-p7l%2BHaoFOCQ%3D>

Bokajan police assisted by paramilitary at Sukajan locality, 160 detonators, 45 gelatin sticks and 10 meters fuse wire used in improvised explosive devices including time devices were seized Friday from a bus bound for Mokokchung from Dimapur.

Police also recovered connecting devices used in ignition of explosives from another bus bound for Wokha district terminating at Dimapur, from Khakti township in Assam-Nagaland border hours after the first recovery.

In both the recovery, police could not arrest any persons. However, police have detained the driver and the cleaner of both the bus.

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41. Suspected Indian Mujahidin Terrorist Held With Explosives, Detonator In Delhi

Wednesday, 28 March 2012

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/suspected-im-terrorist-held-with-explosives-detonator-in-delhi/1/179803.html>

A suspected Indian Mujahideen terrorist was arrested from north-east Delhi with one kg explosives and a detonator, police said on Wednesday.

Assadullah Rehman alias Dilkash (20) was apprehended from Chandu Nagar in Karawal Nagar locality on Tuesday on a tip off, a senior police official said.

Dilkash, who hails from Darbhanga in Bihar, had allegedly escaped in November last year from the arms factory run by Indian Mujahideen in west Delhi's Nangloi before the police crackdown during which a number of suspected terrorists were nabbed.

The official said Dilkash had told police that he had recently taken on rent a premises at Chandu Nagar from where investigators allegedly recovered one kg of explosive powder, a detonator, a timer and a mobile phone.

"He came in contact with Mohd Kafeel Ahmad, the motivator and ideologue of Indian Mujahideen, who was arrested earlier. He was motivated by Ahmad to join Indian Mujahideen. In February 2011, Ahmad introduced him to Yasin Bhatkal who further motivated him," the official said.

In April last year, the official said, on instructions from Bhatkal, he reached Delhi and was taken to the factory at Meer Vihar in Nangloi which was later busted by police.

There he learnt to work on the lathe machine and assisted Mohd Irshad and Bhatkal in allegedly manufacturing pistols and other arms and ammunition. "He became a trusted aide of Bhatkal," the official claimed.

After the arrests of Indian Mujahideen operatives in November last, Bhatkal directed Dilkash to leave the factory premises along with whatever explosives and other material he could lay his hands on.

"Bhatkal further told him that he should leave Delhi immediately for a safer place and then later on he should come back to Delhi and arrange for a premises," the official said.

As instructed, the official said, Dilkash fled from the factory and took explosives and other material and hid it safely.

"He then went to Mumbai. He got a job in a construction site at Ambi Valley, near Khandala Ghat. He worked there as a supervisor for around two months. However, since Bhatkal had desired that he acquire expertise on lathe machine for manufacturing of arms and ammunition, he shifted to Kurla where he started working in a lathe factory.

"In mid February 2012, he left Mumbai and went to Nepal and then came to Delhi. Dilkash disclosed that he completed his schooling in 2010 from Darbhanga," the official said.

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42. One Dead, Two Hurt In Indian Kashmir Blast

Thursday, 22 March 2012

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/353607/one-dead-25-hurt-in-indian-kashmir-blast-police/>

A suspected rebel died and 25 by-standers were injured in Indian Kashmir on Thursday when explosives that he was carrying in his car detonated by accident, police said.

The blast occurred on a busy main road in the town of Bijbehara, 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital.

"The driver of the car was killed when explosives he was carrying in his car went off," a police officer who declined to be named told AFP.

Several of the wounded were taken to hospital, one of whom was seriously injured, he said.

Militant groups in Muslim-majority Kashmir have fought against New Delhi's rule for more than 20 years, killing security men and civilians in the highly militarised Himalayan region.

Violence has dropped sharply in Kashmir since India and Pakistan, which each hold part of the Himalayan region but claim it in full, started a peace process in 2004.

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43. Maoist Bomb Kills 12, Contained 40 Kg. Explosives

Wednesday, 28 March 2012

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/channels/nation/others/bomb-had-40-kg-explosives-275>

The 12 deceased killed in Gadchiroli Naxal attack were from the 192 Battalion.

The bus was part of a fleet of the CRPF vehicles that were en route to a civic action programme in Gatta village.

CRPF officials said that the container bomb had around 40 kg of explosives in it. Two copters were rushed to the spot immediately. Of the 28 injured, the condition of eight is critical and they have been sent to a hospital in Nagpur. The rest are recuperating at a local hospital in Gadchiroli.

Around 10 tribals, who were found running away from the spot, have been detained for questioning.

“Our men spotted some people running and apprehended them. They claim to be tribals. But there were no farms or houses nearby, and we find their being at the spot at noon, when the heat is harsh, very suspicious. We have not yet arrested anyone but are making inquiries,” he said.

Six CRPF companies with 70 personnel each have been dispatched to the nearby jungles for search operations.

“We hold civic action programmes regularly in villages to develop ties with the villagers. We listen to their grievances and offer them help like holding medical camps, giving sewing machines to widows, etc. We also organise sports events. This event was being conducted on Tuesday and I was also supposed to visit the village. The word about the event had spread and we think the Naxals were preparing to attack us ever since they found out about it,” Commandant Samyal said.

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44. IED Disrupts Graduation Rites In Cotabato

Tuesday, 27 March 2012

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/regions/03/27/12/ied-disrupts-grad-rites-cotabato>

An improvised explosive device (IED) disrupted the graduation rites of students of a college in Cotabato City Tuesday morning.

The IED was discovered beside the student government building of Cotabato City State Polytechnic College at around 7 a.m. The building was located near a gymnasium where graduation rites were supposed to be held.

The ceremony pushed through after the Army's explosive ordnance disposal team disrupted the IED, which was made out of a 9 mm ammunition with a cellphone triggering device. The cellphone, however, had no sim card or battery.

Cotabato City Police chief Senior Superintendent Danny Reyes said the motive for the planting of the IED was simply to disrupt the graduation rites and sow fear among the students. Reyes suspects that the group behind the planting of IED is against the new administration of the college.

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45. Report: 141 FARC Members Killed In 2012

Tuesday, 27 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%2Fnoticias.aollatino.com%2F2012%2F03%2F27%2Freportan-la-muerte-de-141-integrantes-de-las-farc-en-2012%2F>

The Ministry of Defense of Colombia reported Tuesday the death of 141 members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) between January and March 2012 in different regions of the Andean country.

"So far this year, the security forces has discharged to 141 members of the FARC guerrillas captured at 264 and 217 have voluntarily demobilized" said a Defense Ministry statement.

The death toll included the deaths of 32 guerrillas on Monday in the southern province of Meta, in the operation Armageddon, which jointly conducted the Army, Navy, Air Force and National Police.

Defense Minister Juan Carlos Pinzón, congratulated the troops for the blow to the FARC, warned that the operation is still in development, and stated that no member of the security forces have been injured.

Authorities seized in the area "a machine gun, 31 guns and 8 grenades, as well as several laptops. Those captured two men and three women, were turned over to the authorities for prosecution."

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46. Authorities Seize FARC IEDs in Caqueta

Monday, 26 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.rcnradio.com%2Fnoticias%2Feditor%2Fincautan-49-artefactos-explosivos-en-san-145301>

Troops of Task Force Algeciras, which limits forward operations of the departments of Huila and Caquetá, found in rural San Vicente, two caches with explosives.

According to press reports of the military unit, the first explosives were found in the area of El Coreguaje the municipality of San Vicente, where the soldiers industry Ground Combat Battalion 134, located a cache belonging to the mobile column Teofilo Forero Castro 'of the FARC, and found 32 anti-personnel mines.

While in a second operation, members of the Ground Combat Battalion 9 'Panches', held in the municipality of San Vicente, found a cache with 17 explosive devices, a set of field glasses, eight assault teams manufacturing craft, 18 pairs of black sweatshirts, six scarves and 27 pairs of underwear for women, elements belonging to the same guerrilla column.

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47. FARC Explosives Seized In Antioquia

Tuesday, 20 March 2012

http://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?hl=en&ie=UTF8&prev=t&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=auto&tl=en&u=http://www.septimadivision.mil.co/%3Fidcategoria%3D323545&usg=ALkJrhgZqJa3PjBs4IE73vE3bI57XSAiFA

In an exchange of fire with terrorists of the Finance Committee of the Front 36 of FARC, in which there were no casualties, topas Artillery Battalion No. 4 Colonel Jorge Eduardo Sanchez, assigned to the Fourth Brigade, found an abundant explosive materials abandoned by the guerrillas.

The incident took place in El Briceño Roblal Township, north of the department of Antioquia, when developing the tactical mission, Operation Falcon, generate an exchange of gunfire between the troops carried out a safety and eradication and narco-terrorists leaving six abandoned mines activation pressure, seven improvised explosive devices cell activation frequency and 60 kilos of powder mixed with shrapnel.

With this explosive material, the terrorists of the FARC intended to prejudice the civil and military population, once breaking Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

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48. Three Colombian Students Die In Homemade Bomb Explosion

Monday, 26 March 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/23058-3-colombian-students-die-in-homemade-bomb-explosion.html>

Three Colombian university students have died in a bomb making accident, reported local media Sunday.

Oscar Arcos, Daniel Andres Garzon, and another person identified as Zaida died in an explosion in a Bogota apartment Sunday.

According to reports, police said the three were killed in a homemade bomb making accident.

Local media quoted Bogota Metropolitan Police Commander Luis Eduardo Martinez as saying, "The three youths who died appear to have been making explosives and drinking alcohol."

Local press also said the police found propaganda material belonging to various Colombian guerrilla groups including Colombia's largest the FARC.

Reports said another unnamed youth was greatly wounded and a total of ten people were treated for shrapnel wounds and hearing damage.

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