



Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data

Weekly News Update

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23 December 2011

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



Six IEDs were discovered at three locations in Bangkok on 16 Dec 11
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Boko Haram Names Churches To Be Bombed Over Christmas Weekend

Wednesday, 21 December 2011

<http://tribune.com.ng/index.php/front-page-news/33141-boko-haram-plots-against-southern-churches-can-cries-out-5-killed-in-fresh-kaduna-attack>

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Enugu State chapter, has raised the alarm over the alleged plan by the Boko Haram sect to bomb some churches in the South-East, South-South and South-West geo-political zones during the upcoming Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Making this known at a press conference in Enugu on Tuesday was the General Superintendent of Assemblies of God Nigeria and chairman, CAN, Enugu State, Reverend Paul Emeka.

Reverend Emeka said that members of the religious sect had already named some churches they were planning to bomb, adding that the bottom line was that they were targeting large churches, cathedral where they intend to kill many people and get satisfied.

“I decided to call you because of the recent development we are having, especially the threats by members of the sect, Boko Haram. They are threatening everybody that there will be fire, death, chaos, troubles in the Christmas season and I feel that it is my responsibility to add my voice to all the voices that are already speaking against the activities and cautioning Christians on security measures. I must say that no matter what they plan, Nigerians will celebrate this Christmas in peace and in security. For that, I gained the strength from the Lord to say to Nigerians Happy Christmas.”

“As we have watched closely and carefully, we see members of the Boko Haram killing Nigerians with impunity, especially in the northern part of Nigeria. Not only killing, they [also] harass and embarrass the Nigerian government. It begins to look as if they are now the government and the rest of us are in the defensive.”

According to him, “we are now at their mercy so that whatever they say is what we do. And the worst of it all is that not just killing, but they are speaking as if there is no government in Nigeria. They have come to intimidate both the leaders and the subjects. They are intimidating all of us and if anybody tells us that the government is not intimidated, I will say that the government is intimidated. I must tell us that we must be cautious but not to be subjected to fear which they want to put into us because God is the owner of Nigeria”.

He used the opportunity to call on the Federal Government to try as much as it could to make all the armed forces, including the police, to beef up security on the nation’s roads in the communities and other places so that the Boko Haram members would be disappointed.

“Let them give special training to the police. The state governments should be involved too. Let them not be ashamed of involving foreign people. America is ready to help us. Israel will be ready to help us and the people around will be ready to help us. Let us not be proud to say well, inviting the foreigners means that Nigeria is not able. We say globalisation is all about networking. We help each other in area where we are weak. The local government areas and the church must do something,” he added.

He also advised churches to put up their mini security outfits. “Let the churches engage anti-bomb squad. First and foremost is prayer. There is nothing prayers cannot do.”

On oil subsidy, he said that the government was saying the right thing while the people were also right in the argument, adding that “I am yet to fully study it. I have to study it and come up with a position. I do not take position on an issue I have not fully understood. The best thing I believe should be done is for both sides to come together and do a good mathematics with a view to coming out with a solution to fight poverty.”

Meanwhile, five people were killed by unknown gunmen in southern Kaduna on Tuesday. Reports said the killers invaded Angwan-rami village in Kaura Local Government Area of the state, near Kagoro town, at night and killed the men said to be members of a vigilance group.

DSP Aminu Lawan, who is the police spokesman in Kaduna, said that there was actually an attack resulting in the killing of five persons in the village, adding that investigations had started into the midnight raid.

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Update On Pakistan's Ammonium Nitrate Supply

Friday, 16 December 2011

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/307331/fertiliser-or-bomb-fatima-group-says-its-product-within-accepted-standards/>

The sole manufacturer of ammonium nitrate in Pakistan is cooperating with the US in taking measures to control its smuggling to Afghanistan where they admit, militants might be using it to make bombs, a top official of the company told The Express Tribune.

Fatima Group, which owns two companies producing the fertiliser, calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN), has been in talks with the US administration for the past couple of months, said chairman Arif Habib.

“We have already stopped supply to dealers in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa to address US concerns,” he said. “But let me assure you, they haven’t asked us to stop manufacturing.”

The group’s companies Fatima Fertilizer and Pak-Arab Fertilizer together produce 600,000 tons of CAN annually, enough to make over 20 million improvised explosive devices (IEDs), according to estimates.

Ammonium nitrate was used in the bomb that blew up a government building in 1995 in Oklahoma city which resulted in 168 fatalities and then in the Bali bombings in 2002.

Chemical composition of CAN is 26% nitrogen, 13% nitrate, 13% ammonical, 10% calcium among others. CAN is often used as a substitute for ammonium nitrate, a fertiliser, according to Pak-Arab Fertilizer’s website.

Habib, a well-known Pakistani investor, said that there is the possibility that CAN may be used in making IEDs but so can a lot of other chemicals. Under US directives, the company has already changed the packing of the bags containing the fertiliser so it can be easily identified at the border, he said.

“Pakistan accounts for just 0.1% of the world’s total production of ammonium nitrate,” he said. “There are a lot of other countries in the region producing higher intensity ammonium nitrate like Iran and Uzbekistan.”

The company has also changed the colour of CAN grain on US insistence, he said. “We have sent them the samples. Now we are just waiting for them to approve the new colour as part of measures to curb its smuggling.”

The US Congress has passed a bill linking \$700 million in aid to Pakistan with measures to stop smuggling of ammonium nitrate.

The decision has already started to take its toll on the manufacturer as its stock price has dropped 8.8% to Rs21.5 since Monday as investors fear the government may impose restrictions on the company. However, analysts say the chance of any ban is minimal.

Lakson Investments research head Hamad Aslam said the government cannot afford to cut ammonium nitrate sales. “Sales of CAN have been going up continuously especially due to urea shortage,” he added.

Pakistan’s annual demand for urea stands seven million tons while it is producing around 5.5 million, he said.

“CAN is the only fertiliser that can be used as an alternate of urea. This is a need of our agriculture.”

Fatima's CEO Fawab Mukhtar said that economic cost of not producing CAN in the country is greater than stoppage of US aid. "If we don't produce it then we would have to spend \$2.5 billion on import of fertiliser."

CAN is the most suitable fertiliser for water-starved areas like Bahawalpur, he said. "It is wrong to single out us and Pakistan. This fertiliser is produced all across Europe and even in the US. It was used in the Oklahoma bombing and it took them 15 years for legislation in this regard, and it is still being manufactured there."

Lakson Investments' Aslam said that the probability of government restrictions on production are low but investors have their fingers crossed. "Pakistan is always a special case. World Bank will finance coal-fired power plants everywhere except Pakistan. So anything can happen here," he added.

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1. General Dynamics Doubles Down On Blast-Resistant Military Vehicles

Tuesday, 20 December 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/defcon-hill/industry/200587-general-dynamics-doubles-down-on-blast-resistant-military-vehicles>

General Dynamics (GD) announced Tuesday it has completed its \$360 million acquisition of blast-resistant vehicle builder Force Protection.

The move makes the South Carolina-based combat truck manufacturer a part of General Dynamics Land Systems.

Acquiring the up-and-coming company will make GD a major player among the firms that build vehicles with the blast-resistant design standards that the U.S. and allied militaries have been seeking since makeshift bombs began plaguing the Iraq war effort.

A list of U.S. Army and Marine Corps combat truck companies, for instance, are seeking vehicles with the very kinds of bomb-resistant features found on Force Protection vehicles.

Lawmakers have been major proponents of, and check-writers for, several kinds of bomb-hardened combat vehicles the military has bought over the last four years.

"These vehicles are designed specifically for reconnaissance and urban operations and to protect their occupants from landmines, hostile fire and improvised explosive devices," according to a GD statement. "The company has delivered more than 3,000 vehicles under the U.S. military's MRAP vehicle program, and also provides its vehicles to foreign customers including the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence.

"Together with General Dynamics Land Systems' portfolio of wheeled tactical and combat vehicles and main battle tanks, this acquisition expands our ability to deliver vehicles that are core to our customer's force structure and their ability to fulfill their missions," Mark Roualet, president of General Dynamics Land Systems, said in the statement. "This strengthens our ability to upgrade and modernize our vehicles to meet our customers' evolving needs."

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2 Insurgents Resorting To Use Of Children

Wednesday, 21 December 2011

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/insurgents-resorting-to-use-of-children-20111221-1p58m.html>

Insurgents in Oruzgan Province are under such pressure from coalition forces that some are resorting to using children to assemble and transport improvised explosive devices (IEDs), Australia's troop commander in Afghanistan says.

Lieutenant Colonel Chris Smith, commanding officer of the Mentoring Task Force (MTF-3), said the province was mostly under government control but there were hardcore insurgent groups, each numbering at most a few dozen, in some areas.

He said the constant pressure meant those groups were now centred around the production and placement of IEDs.

Advertisement: Story continues below

"To protect themselves, because it has become so hard to bring in materials, to construct devices, to emplace them without being discovered, they have actually been forced to use children to do the manufacture of the devices, to move the devices, so that it doesn't come into contact with adult males," he said in a telephone interview from Afghanistan.

"Their job is very difficult now and they are doing extreme things to make sure they are not discovered.

"They thought we wouldn't be looking there and to some extent they were right. It's something we only recently discovered in one location."

Lieut Col Smith's 700-strong task group, built around the Townsville-based 2nd Battalion (2RAR), is responsible for training the Afghan National Army (ANA) 4th Brigade up to a standard where it can take responsibility for province security.

He said the quality of individual ANA soldiers and units varied but they had definitely improved overall.

"The key part now is embedding in their minds a tempo of operations, a rate of work that is sufficient to keep the insurgents away from an area or to keep control of an area," he said.

"The worst extreme would be a group that just sits behind their walls and does nothing."

What the Australian mentors are aiming for is a level of ANA activity in which patrols are conducted daily and most nights, with an actual purpose.

"While that seems simple and obvious, it's a level of sophistication that isn't innate and is actually quite difficult to pass on," he said.

"This is a matter of confidence. What we have seen is a tremendous growth in confidence. That is probably the most important thing at the moment as we start to draw closer to transition."

When it comes to firefights with insurgents, Australian and Afghan troops invariably prevail. For that reason, insurgents make extensive use of IEDs, which still inflict significant casualties.

"If every time an insurgent comes into contact, not just with coalition forces but the Afghan security forces, the police and the ANA, he comes out second best, it makes sense he will use a method that would

expose him less to that but he can still achieve some effect. The IED is the perfect way," Lieut Col Smith said.

One indication of improving security is ease of movement through the province.

"We can move along most of the main routes now with relative impunity. Certainly locals can. They are not targeted," he said.

"A lot of the ANA vehicles are soft-skinned (unarmoured) and they are able to drive around regularly through the AO (area of operations) without IED strikes."

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3. Roadside Bomb Kills Four Civilians

Thursday, 15 December 2011

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j9deM-r1FD74lbwGq840N3qTwN4g?docId=CNG.1c73b71a8b1e330524e29ceb1114fc5e.4d1>

A roadside bomb killed four civilians in Afghanistan's southwestern province of Farah Thursday, the provincial police chief said.

"A civilian vehicle hit a roadside bomb planted by terrorists in Parchaman district today, resulting in the death of four of our countrymen and injuring eight others," said Sayed Mohammad Roshandel.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, but roadside bombs are frequently planted by Taliban-led insurgents fighting a decade-long war against NATO-led foreign troops and Afghan government forces.

There are around 140,000 international troops, mainly from the United States, in Afghanistan helping government forces combat the insurgency.

The United Nations said the number of civilians killed in violence in Afghanistan rose by 15 per cent in the first six months of this year to 1,462, with insurgents blamed for 80 percent of the killings.

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4 Five Polish Troops Killed By Roadside Bomb

Wednesday, 21 December 2011

<http://www.news1130.com/news/world/article/312534--poland-says-5-nato-troops-killed-by-roadside-bomb-in-afghanistan-were-oles>

A roadside bomb shattered an armoured vehicle in a NATO convoy in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing five Polish soldiers — the deadliest single attack on Poland's military in the war-torn country.

Polish spokesman Jacek Sonta said in Warsaw that the soldiers were headed to Rawza, in eastern Ghazni province, when their vehicle struck the bomb.

The Taliban immediately claimed responsibility for the attack in a text message to journalists. Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said "a Polish tank" was blown up and all its occupants were killed.

AP Television News footage from the scene showed wreckage of what seemed to be a U.S.-made Cougar armoured terrain transport vehicle. The blast appeared to have broken the 19-ton vehicle into three large pieces, which lay scattered around a crater not far from some village homes.

Mohamad Ali Ahmadi, deputy governor of Ghazni province, said that Polish soldiers were attending a morning meeting in the Rawza district of Ghazni city, about 77 miles (125 kilometres) southwest of the capital Kabul. One of their vehicles was destroyed by a roadside bomb, he said.

Poland is in the process of withdrawing some 100 out of the 2,600 troops it has in Afghanistan.

So far this year, 532 NATO service members have been killed in Afghanistan. The attack on the Polish convoy brings the number of NATO troops killed in December to 16.

Also in the east, Afghan police said they shot dead on Wednesday a would-be suicide bomber before he was able to attack a police station.

Youqib Khan, deputy police chief in Khost province, said policemen identified the would-be bomber in front of a bank next to the police station in Khost city and killed him before he could detonate his explosives vest. A search operation was under way because police fear the attacker, who was wearing a vest packed with explosives, might not have been working alone, he said.

Also Wednesday, an Afghan military spokesman said the country's armed forces now number 180,000 troops, a significant step toward having enough troops to replace departing coalition forces.

Defence Ministry spokesman Mohammad Zahir Azimi said the troop numbers increased by more than 40,000 in 2011. This brings the military closer to the goal of having 195,000 Afghan troops by next October.

"Once we achieve that, then we will start discussing an agreement with international community to expand to 240,000 soldiers," Azimi said. "And once we have reached that, the Afghan National Army will be able to take control of internal and external security in all of Afghanistan."

The expansion of the army and police is a critical element in NATO's exit strategy from Afghanistan.

Coalition forces, which started their drawdown this year, are already handing over responsibility for security to the Afghan army and police in selected regions. The process will run through 2014 when international forces are to end their combat role.

Azimi noted that troops are continuing to leave the Afghan military and that the attrition rate remains high, at about two per cent a month. This makes it necessary to recruit and train large numbers of men just to keep up the army's strength levels.

Attrition includes all service members leaving the security forces, including those who have completed their terms of service or left due to medical or other reasons, losses in combat and desertions.

Critics have said some of the men deserting the security forces — often with their weapons — are defecting to the Taliban and providing the insurgents with trained new fighters.

Azimi attributed the losses mainly to the problems the men face when they are based far from their homes and families in regions in the east and south, where the insurgency has been the most active.

In an unrelated development, The U.S. Army said that eight U.S. soldiers were charged in connection with the Oct. 3 death of a fellow soldier in southern Afghanistan's Kandahar province.

Pvt. Danny Chen, a 19-year-old from New York, N.Y., was found in a guard tower at Combat Outpost Palace with what the Army described as "an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound." Chen was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

In a statement, the military said the eight soldiers from Chen's company faced charges ranging from dereliction of duty, assault, negligent homicide and involuntary manslaughter.

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5. Three Children Injured In Girls' School Explosion

Monday, 19 December 2011

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/308627/militancy-in-khyber-agency-three-children-injured-in-girls-school-explosion/>

Three children were injured when militants blew up a government-run girls high school in Khyber agency's Jamrud area on Sunday.

According to sources, militants placed a bomb at the back of a school in Malik Khan Wali Sikandar Kalay. As a result, four rooms and the outer portion of the school were completely destroyed. The watchman Baaz Muhammad, whose house is located near the school, told The Express Tribune he was guarding the front gate of the school when the massive explosion took place. "There was dust everywhere, when I ran towards my house I saw that the roof had collapsed, three of my children were injured," he said.

Noor Khan Afridi, a resident of the area, said that the explosion took place around 1:30pm. When he ran outside on hearing the blast, he saw that the building was destroyed. Baaz Muhammad said that apart from the four rooms, there were two other rooms that were partially destroyed.

Eight-year-old student Ghazala told The Express Tribune that if the government re-constructs the school she would continue to study there. "Otherwise, I will have to take admission somewhere else," she said, "because I want to continue my education".

When contacted, local education officer Hashim Khan Afridi said that most of the schools in Khyber Agency which had been targeted were located in Bara, but that the number was steadily on the rise, reaching 61 in total with Sunday's attack.

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6. Bomb Blast Injures Eight In NW Pakistan

Wednesday, 21 December 2011

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/217026.html>

At least eight people have been injured in a bomb blast in northwestern Peshawar city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan, Press TV reports.

Officials said that a bomb exploded in a car near Nasir Mohmand hospital on Daora road of Sheikhabad area of Peshawar late Wednesday.

Two children were among the injured, a Press TV correspondent reported.

Security forces cordoned off the area and transferred the injured people to a local hospital.

After the blast, four shops caught fire and were completely destroyed. Two buildings were also destroyed while others nearby buildings, three motorcycles and two cars were also damaged in the blast.

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7. Child Among Four Hurt In Hangu Clinic Blast

Thursday, 22 December 2011

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/12/23/child-among-four-hurt-in-hangu-clinic-blast-2.html>

Four persons, including a girl child, were injured in a remote controlled bomb blast at the private clinic of a lady doctor in Hangu city on Thursday.

The main gate, waiting rooms and boundary wall of the clinic were badly damaged in the explosion. The lady doctor remained unhurt in the blast, however, her assistant received injuries.

Police said that the remote controlled device had been planted at the gate of the clinic and it exploded when several patients were waiting for their turn for medical checkup. The clinic is situated in Bahadar Garhi area of Hangu city.

The injured child, Sayam, who had come to the clinic for treatment, was in serious condition, doctors said. The other people, who suffered injuries from the splinters of the gate, were identified as paramedic Khayal Mohammad, Abdul Lateef and Naeem Shah. "All the three injured are in their teens," sources said. They were being treated at the district headquarters hospital by the surgeons of Médecins Sans Frontières, which had its own operation theatre and emergency room inside the building.

The bomb disposal squad said that the device could be approximately two kilograms heavy because its blast was very huge and jolted the surrounding houses and buildings.

Security in the region was beefed up to avoid any untoward incident owing to the daylong visit of Chief of Army Staff Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani to Kohat and Orakzai Agency on Thursday.

In Peshawar, a bomb blast destroyed a portion of a house owned by a tribesman at Saadat Town in Rasheed Garhi area on Thursday morning, police said.

According to police the explosive device was planted beside the house of Saadat Khan Mohmand, who has shifted from Mohmanad Agency and dealing in property business.

An official of Yakatoot police station said that the complainant avoided to nominate anyone in the case and said that he had not enmity with anyone. Quoting the complainant, police said that his family had got no threats and he was unable to blame anyone for the blast.

An official of the bomb disposal unit said that about 800 grams explosives, packed in a canister, were used in the blast.

He said it was a time bomb but it seemed that the device exploded before its time and people remained unhurt.

About the Wednesday's blast in Nasir Mohmand Surgical Hospital in Gulbahar, the official said that experts found no proof about use of explosives in it. It was surely a gas explosion, he said.

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8. Three Pakistani Soldiers Killed In Explosion

Friday, 17 December 2011

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/12/17/three-pakistani-soldiers-killed-in-explosion-officials.html>

Three Pakistani soldiers were killed on Saturday after a bomb planted on a roadside exploded in a northwestern tribal area, security officials said.

The blast took place at Katararai village in restive Kurram tribal district bordering Afghanistan where Pakistani army and paramilitary forces have launched an operation against Taliban militants.

“Three security personnel including a lieutenant have embraced martyrdom and one other was wounded in an IED (improvised explosive device) blast,” a senior security official told AFP.

Local intelligence officials suspect the involvement of Taliban militants in the attack.

Pakistan has for years battled homegrown insurgents in the tribal belt that borders Afghanistan.

More than 3,000 soldiers have died but Pakistan has resisted US pressure to do more to eliminate havens used by Afghan insurgents.

On Thursday, the US Senate voted to freeze roughly \$700 million in aid to Pakistan pending assurances from Islamabad on taking steps to thwart militants who use improvised explosive devices (IEDs) against US-led forces in Afghanistan.

Pakistan angrily criticised the move, the latest rift in a fraying alliance that has been in deep crisis since air strikes by US-led forces killed 24 Pakistani soldiers last month.

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9. Police Arrest Taliban Leader, Recover Explosives

Saturday, 17 December 2011

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\12\17\story_17-12-2011_pg12_2

KARACHI: The city police's specialised unit Friday claimed to have arrested six suspects, including the leader of the Taliban associated group known as Al-Mukhtar, and recovered a huge cache of arms and explosives from their possession.

The arrested suspects included ringleader Asghar alias Omar, while five of his accomplices were identified as Zahid alias Osama, Abid, Usman alias Hamza, Shakir and Ali Akbar.

According to Anti-Extremist Cell (AEC) of the Crime Investigation Department (CID), the suspects were involved in at least eight cases of terror activities in the city, including the attack on the rummy club in which 22 people lost their lives, while another 50 were wounded when a powerful bomb blast occurred on April, this year.

The AEC also claimed to have recovered 50 kilogrammes of explosive material, three hand grenades, 10 mini rocket grenades, three time/remote control bombs, five kilogrammes of ball bearings and nut bolts, 20 feet detonating wire, four remote control detonating switches, five kilogrammes locally made bomb, a time remote control switch, 30 litre hydrogen peroxide, five kalashnikovs, a TT pistol and over one hundred ammunitions.

Speaking at a press conference, SSP Chaudhry Aslam said that the group was active in the city against wine shops, gambling dens and cinemas, and it had attacked several wine shops and gambling dens in different parts of the city.

He said that the arrested men belonged to Al-Mukhtar group, linked to Al-Badar Mansoor group. He said that AEC team arrested them when they were planning to carry out more terror activities in the metropolis.

Earlier, CID (Operations) arrested the group's alleged member Mustafa Rahman Orakzai alias Yaqoob Commando after an encounter on Super Highway.

According to SSP Aslam, group leader Asghar is the expert of making bombs and had got training of bomb making in Miran Shah, Waziristan. He said all the bombs used in the terror activities in Karachi were made by him.

The SSP said the accused were planning to carry out attack on the exhibition being held in Korangi and had also planned to target the owner of the rummy club over refusal of the extortion money while they also made a plan to attack all the wine shops, gambling dens and cinemas in Karachi.

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10. Sixty-Three Killed In Baghdad As Political Crisis Worsens

Thursday, 22 December 2011

http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2011/12/63_killed_in_baghdad_as_politi.php

Terrorists launched a series of attacks in Baghdad today, killing at least 63 people and wounding scores more. The attacks were coordinated across the Iraqi capital. The suicide attack was likely carried out by al Qaeda in Iraq or Ansar al Islam (Ansar al Sunnah), as both groups use this tactic. [From *The New York Times*](#):

A wave of coordinated explosions ripped across Baghdad early on Thursday, killing at least 63 people, wounding more than 180 and jolting a country already unsettled by a deepening political crisis and the absence of American troops.

Using car bombs and improvised explosives, insurgents attacked markets, grocery stores, schools and government buildings in a dozen neighborhoods in the central and eastern parts of the capital.

The attacks were the most significant violence in Iraq since the last American troops pulled out of the country earlier this week. So far, the withdrawal and the bitter fighting between Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki, a Shiite, and his political foes in Parliament have not been accompanied by a rise in violence. But Thursday's attacks raised the specter that the crisis inside the government could spill into the streets.

The attacks came a day after Mr. Maliki threatened to abandon an American-backed power-sharing government created a year ago. The prime minister's words at a televised news conference on Wednesday threw a fragile democracy into further turmoil after the departure of American troops, potentially tarnishing what has been cast as a major foreign policy achievement for President Obama.

See the Institute for the Study of War's [analysis on the impact of the US withdrawal on the political situation in Iraq](#). I concur with Ramzy Mardani that "the U.S. military's presence still served a peacekeeping and pacifying role in Iraq," and their "premature removal" has removed a crucial buffer from Iraq's fractious political process. More from the ISW report:

In northern Iraq, U.S. troops had deterred potential physical confrontation between Arab and Kurdish forces over disputed territories. However, the U.S. presence had more importantly provided a psychological effect that helped stabilize and bound Iraqi political discourse within expected behavior.

Their premature removal from the political space has altered the manner in which Iraq's actors interact with and behave towards one another. Hence, the withdrawal and subsequent turmoil could have profound consequences for Iraq.

The worst-case scenario would be a true civil war in Iraq, in which established military, police, and government institutions fracture along political/sectarian lines and battle each other (I'm of the opinion that Iraq was in the midst of a violent insurgency from 2004-2008, not a civil war). This is by no means guaranteed; Iraq's political actors still have time to step back from the brink and repair the rift.

In the short term, the current political crisis in Iraq only gives more space to Sunni terror groups such as al Qaeda, Ansar al Islam, and the Iranian-backed Shia terror groups such as the Asaib al Haq, Hezbollah Brigades, and Muqtada al Sadr's Promised Day Brigade. Iran also benefits, as the political crisis allows it to wield more influence with the Shia political parties and terror groups.

If Maliki continues his crackdown on Sunni politicians, the Sunni leaders who have backed the government, including the Awakening movements in Anbar, Salahadin, Ninewa, and Diyala, will be hard-pressed to keep their forces from rejoining the insurgency. Without a doubt, al Qaeda in Iraq and Ansar al Islam are using the current crisis to hone their message that Maliki is an Iranian agent and to portray themselves as the true defenders of the Sunnis.

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11. Boko Haram Confirms Members' Death In Explosion At Maiduguri HME Lab

Monday, 19 December 2011

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2011/12/we-lost-3-members-many-still-ready-to-die-boko-haram/>

The Boko Haram sect has, yesterday, confirmed that three of its members were killed by their own bombs in Saturday's explosion in Shuwari, Maiduguri.

Spokesman of the group, Mallam Abul Qaqa, made the confirmation in a telephone conference with newsmen in Maiduguri

"We have hundreds of members that are willing to sacrifice their lives in this crusade; the unfortunate incident of Saturday will not discourage us; if anything, it will encourage us to strategise and diversify our techniques because we are not afraid of death," Qaqa said.

The Joint Task Force (JTF) on Operation Restore Order had told newsmen on Saturday that three suspected members of the group died in an early morning explosion at Shuwari in Maiduguri.

Lt. Col. Hassan Ifijeh, the Public Relations Officer of the JTF told newsmen that large quantities of unused Improvised Explosive Devices, AK 47 rifles, ammunitions and other vital items were recovered from the scene of the blast.

He said that three unidentified mutilated bodies of suspected Boko Haram militants suspected to be running the illegal bomb making factory were also found.

The Boko Haram spokesman said "hundreds of our members were killed in 2009, but we remain resolute."

He claimed that his men had repelled alleged attempt by security agencies to arrest some members of the group after cordoning off a house at Karkasara area of Kano.

He also claimed that the group set its men free by killing the security operatives.

Meanwhile, Mallam Abubakar Shekau, the "spiritual head" of the group has threatened to unleash mayhem on Kano unless urgent steps were taken by the authorities to stop the arrest of the group's members.

Shekau said in an e-mail statement to journalists in Maiduguri yesterday that the group would "launch endless attacks on Kano following arbitrary arrest and persecution of its members".

He claimed that the group had sent open letters to some prominent people including the Emir of Kano, Alhaji Ado Bayero, Gov. Rabi'u Kwankwaso, Alhaji Aminu Alhassan Dantata and Khalifa and Sheikh Isiaka Rabi'u. Shekau said the group had warned on the increasing arrest of its members but the situation had continued in spite of the complaints.

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12. Police Refute Planned Bombing Of Jos

Monday, 19 December 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201112191597.html>

The Police in Plateau State have debunked allegations of plans by some unidentified groups to bomb some public places in Jos and its environs during the Christmas and New Year festivities.

The Commissioner of Police, Plateau State Command, Mr. Emmanuel Ayeni, told journalists in Jos yesterday that the rumour to that effect was baseless and unsubstantiated.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) learnt that a text being circulated within Jos metropolis had listed some worship centres and government buildings as targets of bomb explosions during Christmas, a rumour that has instilled fears into the minds of some residents, many of whom are already travelling outside the state for fear of possible explosions during the festivities.

"Some people indulge in the act of spreading rumours on security issue in the state. This trend can create panic and unnecessary tension among members of the public.

"The police are urging members of the public to refrain from rumour mongering and should always confirm all issues from the appropriate authority before spreading them," Ayeni said.

The police commissioner warned that the command would not hesitate to arrest those who were fond of peddling rumours with the aim of causing confusion.

Ayeni said that the state government had restricted operations of beer parlours, drinking joints and hotels that sold alcohol to 10pm as part of the initiative to checkmate the trend of bomb explosions.

"This is a security strategy to check the activities of the criminals who use such places to plan their criminal operations," he said.

Relevant Links

He advised parents to warn their children and ward from firing fireworks, reminding them that the ban on it was still in force.

According to him, the police and other security agencies will arrest and prosecute any person who flouts the order, no matter how highly placed.

Ayeni also said that the command had discovered that most of the commercial motorcyclists operating in the state did not register their motorcycles, pointing out that their operations were aiding criminal activities.

"From now on, anybody who uses an unregistered motorcycle will be arrested and prosecuted because the intelligence report available to us shows that most of the crimes being committed in Plateau State are done with unregistered motorcycles," he said.

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13. Security Forces Foil Attempt To Bomb Kaduna Bridge

Monday, 19 December 2011

<http://tribune.com.ng/index.php/front-page-news/32972-how-security-forces-foiled-attempt-to-bomb-kaduna-bridge-3-arrested-over-kaduna-blast>

Emerging details indicated, at the weekend, that a combined team of the State Security Service (SSS), the Nigeria Police and the Army recently foiled an attempt to bomb some installations of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) under the Kaduna bridge.

Information at the disposal of the Nigerian Tribune's sources revealed that some groups, whose intent was to embarrass the Federal Government, attempted to blow up the Kaduna bridge, which carries some installations of the NNPC and the Pipeline Products Management Company (PPMC).

According to sources, those behind the dastardly act had imported what was described as heavy duty bombs and strategically placed them under the bridge.

It was further learnt that the perpetrators, however, recruited some youths who did not know how to detonate the heavy objects.

"There was actually an attempt to blow up the Kaduna bridge recently," said a source who revealed that some persons who were behind the act were arrested and that they confessed to being confused on how to detonate the object.

A source said: "There was an earlier attempt to bomb a NNPC pipeline which runs under the Kaduna bridge recently. The object was discovered by the SSS and the police bomb unit was called in. Those so far arrested confessed that they could not handle the type of the bomb and that it was too sophisticated for them to detonate.

"Military experts were then invited from Abuja and they were able to remove the object. The government has been made to understand that the aim of the attack was to cripple supply of petroleum products to Kaduna Refinery since the bridge would have collapsed. Supply of Petroleum products to the north would also have been affected to the extent that the government would be discredited."

Sources also said that three persons had so far been arrested in connection with last week's mystery blast in Kaduna, whose origin is still being investigated.

While some victims of the blast described it as bomb, authorities are not clear yet as to whether the blast emanated from some other equipment.

"Three young men have been arrested on the Kaduna blast and they are being quizzed by the operatives," a source said.

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14. Police Discover Boko Haram Bomb Factory In Kano

<http://thewillnigeria.com/breaking/11309-Boko-Haram-Police-Uncovers-Bomb-Factory-Kano-After-Gun-Fight.html>

The Kano State Police Command got a huge break Saturday after its Special Forces raided three residences which had been under surveillance having been tipped off that the properties were residences of members of the Boko Haram sect.

In one of the raids in Kano metropolis, policemen met stiff resistance and after a gunfight with members of the sect uncovered a mini bomb factory, arms, chemicals and activated IEDs.

In all, the Kano State Police Commissioner, Mr. Ibrahim Idris told correspondents that fourteen (14) members of the radical Islamic terrorists were detained, four sect members killed, while 3 police officers died from gunshots.

The policemen were killed at Darmanawa Quarters, Ungwan Uku in Kano metropolis.

Idris further told reporters that the police recovered three vehicles, seven rifles, comprising four AK47s and shot guns including one G3 rifle as well as nine magazines and 1,125 live ammunitions of different calibers. The arms were found in a black Honda Accord sedan with Lagos tag no: FF 479 APP.

He further revealed that one of the recovered vehicles was laden with explosives, meant for a planned attack, which he said the police stopped with the raid.

Idris narrated how a raid of the residence of one Mohammed Ali at Darnamawa Quarters led to the discovery of one Honda sedan packed with one gallon containing 50 litres of petrol and 50 kg cylinders well prepared for suicide bombing mission.

“Investigation has so far shown that all the suspects so far arrested or being declared wanted are non natives of the state. They are strangers who have made their states inhabitable and have fled to Kano to abuse its hospitality.

“These incidences that occurred in the last few days and the support demonstrated by the indigenes of this state have shown that they have neither sympathetic nor affiliated with this group of individuals.

“We appreciate the concern shown by members of the various communities by giving us information and showing visible anger by the attacks they made on the suspects during their arrest,” Idris stated.

Detailing how the police arrested 14 suspected members of the sect with the help of their host community, Idris explained that during the operation that lasted for several hours because of the exchange of gunfire, four members of Boko Haram were shot dead.

In another development, one police officer was critically wounded in an attack allegedly launched by the dreaded Islamic Sect between 7 and 8 o'clock on Saturday evening.

The incident occurred when a team of police officers, acting on a tipoff, invaded a suspected hideout of Boko Haram at Ungwan-Uku, Kano to dislodge and detain sect members believed to have hatched a plan to attack security formations within the state.

The raid came barely two days after sect members attacked an Air Force Academy along Kano-Katsina Road where three Air Force personnel were killed.

The sect in a statement Saturday had promised to unleash serial attacks on prime targets in Kano.

THEWILL correspondent gathered that the police later intercepted a vehicle packed with several GSM handsets and a two-way communications radio at Gwale Quarters. The four occupants of the vehicle, in a bid to evade arrest, allegedly shot sporadically into the air and fled, leaving their vehicle behind.

The threats of more attacks on security personnel and formations in Kano have forced the police to issue a red alert and several counter terror measures being strictly enforced.

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15. Blast Kills Policeman, Injures Two In Northern Kenya

Monday, 19 December 2011

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/Blast+kills+policeman+injures+2+in+northern+Kenya/-/1056/1292200/-/xtkd63z/-/index.html>

At least one policeman was killed and two others seriously injured following a landmine explosion at the Hagadera refugee camp in northern Kenya on Monday.

Regional police commander Leo Nyongesa said the midday explosion occurred as the security officers were patrolling the Dadaab refugee camp in a Land Cruiser vehicle.

"I can confirm that one policeman was killed, two others injured after their Land Cruiser which they were patrolling the area in ran over an explosive that was planted on the road in Daadab complex," Nyongesa told Xinhua by telephone from Garissa.

Nyongesa said the two seriously injured policemen will be airlifted to Nairobi for specialized treatment.

He said they have launched investigations to establish the motive behind the attack and arrest the attackers believed to be sympathizers of Al-Shabaab, which is linked to Al-Qaeda blamed for a series of abductions on the Kenyan soil.

The incident comes barely a week after an administration police officer was killed and three others seriously injured in Ifo 2 refugee camp in Dadaab district after explosives planted under an acacia tree where the officer escorting a UNHCR convoy usually had a rest exploded.

Nyongesa said the police were on high alert over the incident and more reinforcements have been sent in the areas where both incidents occurred, Kenyan security personnel patrolling the Somalia border have been hit with a series of explosion attacks since Kenya sent its troops to fight Al-Shabaab inside Somalia in mid-October.

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Security forces at the border points are grappling with threats posed by the insurgents who have been laying landmines mainly targeting police and soldiers patrolling the border.

Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Dadaab districts of northern Kenya are among the regions targeted by Al-Shabaab fighters.

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16. North Sulawesi Governor Receives Christmas Bomb Threats

Friday, 23 December 2011

<http://www.asiaone.com/News/AsiaOne+News/Asia/Story/A1Story20111223-317863.html>

North Sulawesi Governor Sinyo Harry Sarundajang says he has received many text messages on suicide bomb threats to take place during Christmas celebrations at several churches in the province.

Senders of the text messages said at least six suicide bombers would target several churches in Manado and Bitung, he told tempo.co on Thursday night.

Sarundajang said people should not worry about the threats, but called on them to remain alert.

He had also asked the police to work in cooperation with church officials to provide safety during the Christmas celebrations.

North Sulawesi Police chief Brig.Gen. Carlo Brix Tewu said that he would deploy two police officers to guard each church in the predominantly Christian province.

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17 Bomb Found Near 2005 Blast Spot

Tuesday, 20 December 2011

http://www.menafn.com/qn_news_story.asp?storyid={8f50154f-303a-4335-849b-92e1fc5de2e3}

[Please copy/paste the link above into your browser to read the full article]

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UNCLASSIFIED

18. Crude Bomb Found In Agra

Sunday, 18 December 2011

<http://www.aajkhabar.com/en/news/688612/688612.html>

A crude bomb was recovered from a roadside eating joint in the Taj city, police said Sunday.

The bomb was found in a roadside dhaba in Terhi Bagia area late Saturday and was defused Sunday morning.

The bomb disposal squad had kept the bomb in an iron drum filled with water in a forest area for the night.

The dhaba staff told the police that two youngsters had come to eat and left a bag behind. After they could not trace them, they called the police.

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19. Cops Keen To Recruit Indian Dogs

Monday, 19 December 2011

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-12-19/allahabad/30533528_1_dog-squads-mongrel-chhattisgarh-police

Every dog has a day, and the able ones make it to the dog squads. The sniffer dogs play a vital role in detecting Improvised Explosive Devices (IED). Taking a cue from the Chhattisgarh police, which, detected 26 IEDs last year with the help of Mongrel breed dogs, the district police have given a report to the Criminal investigation Department (CID) on the advantages of 'recruiting' Mongrel dogs (Indian dogs) in dog squads.

If the CID approves the report, then the district police will forward it to the state police.

ADG, state police headquarters, Allahabad, Sul Khan Singh told TOI: "The Chhattisgarh police have provided us the details and benefits of the local Mongrel dogs in IED detection. Another advantage is that unlike the high maintenance and training costs of dogs like Alsatian, Labrador and Doberman, the Mongrel dogs can be maintained and trained at lesser costs."

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20. Improvised Bomb Found At ARMM Regional Governor's Office

Tuesday, 20 December 2011

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/242199/news/regions/improvised-bomb-recovered-at-armm-regional-governor-s-office>

Hours after former Anak-Mindanao Rep. Mujiv Hataman took oath as the newly appointed officer-in-charge of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), an improvised bomb was found at the ARMM's Office of the Regional Governor (ORC) in Cotabato City.

Police reports indicate that about 8:20 p.m. on Monday, the Cotabato City Police Office (CCPO) Explosives Ordinance Disposal Team (EODT) received information from a concerned citizen that an explosion occurred inside the ORC compound in Cotabato City.

Upon receipt of the report, the EODT went to the area and recovered two ammunitions of 81 mm mortar, three batteries, and one cellular phone. There was no sign of any explosion.

The recovered items are now in the custody of the CCPO-EODT for proper disposal.

Previously, blasts have occurred in Cotabato City while the Palace fought for the legality of appointing ARMM OICs.

Hataman took his oath of office before President Benigno Aquino III Monday afternoon. He was instructed to make sure that the reforms Aquino wants in the ARMM are implemented, noting that it was the government's goal when it postponed this year's election in the ARMM.

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21. Bomb Blast Kills Civilian, Hurts Six Soldiers

Monday, 19 December 2011

<http://www.siamdailynews.com/world-news/asia-news/2011/12/19/bomb-blast-kills-civilian-hurts-6-soldiers-in-southern-philippines/>

[Please copy/paste the link above into your browser to read the full article]

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22. Bomb Blast Rocks School; Police Link Case to OICs

Wednesday, 21 December 2011

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/114733/bomb-blast-rocks-school-cops-link-case-to-oics>

A bomb exploded on Monday and another was found on the venue of a fashion show inside the compound of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao here, according to police.

No one was hurt in the explosion. The discovery of the second bomb created a commotion at the Shariff Kabunsuan Cultural Center, where a fashion show featuring Moro creations was being held.

Supt. Danny Reyes, city police chief, said the bomb exploded at Sero Elementary School on Sinsuat Avenue past 8 p.m., about the same time when the second bomb was found at the cultural center about a kilometer from where the first bomb went off.

Bomb experts defused the second bomb, which was found under an airconditioning unit of the cultural center.

Col. Dorotheo Jose Jalandoni, commander of the 7th Marine Battalion Landing Team, said the second bomb was made of an 81-mm mortar shell with a mobile phone as a trigger mechanism. Jalandoni said the suspects who planted the bomb apparently failed to detonate it on time.

Reyes said police suspect the explosion and bomb find could be related to celebrations in connection with the appointment of officers in charge in the ARMM.

President Aquino on Monday swore into office former party-list Rep. Mujiv Hataman as OIC governor of ARMM and several other OIC officials of the impoverished but resource-rich region.

“We are looking at all the angles,” said Reyes.

Hataman has been appointed amid a pending case in the Supreme Court, which recently issued a temporary restraining order that would have stopped the postponement of the elections if the decision had come on time. The TRO also prevented Malacañang from appointing OICs.

Malacañang has filed a motion for reconsideration of the Supreme Court ruling, which is still pending.

Hataman was picked from a list prepared by a Palace screening committee that included other powerful ARMM politicians.

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23 Violence Kills Two, Injures Dozens

Monday, 19 December 2011

<http://www.siamdailynews.com/world-news/asia-news/2011/12/19/bangladeshi-violence-kills-2-injures-dozens/>

[Please copy/paste the link above into your browser to read the full article]

See also: <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/police-crude-bomb-kills-bangladesh-15181932#.TvTiLHrDuAg>

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24. Child Hurt In Motijheel Blast, Bombs Seized

Wednesday, 21 December 2011

<http://bdnews24.com/details.php?id=214260&cid=2>

A street-child was injured while playing with homemade bombs at Motijheel in the capital on Wednesday.

Police later recovered 12 'live' bombs from the area.

"The child went to collect leftover pots from an abandoned building. There, he was injured as one of the homemade bombs exploded. Police later recovered 12 bombs from there," Motijheel Police Station OC Tofazzal Hossain told bdnews24.com.

The child is currently under treatment at a local clinic, he added but could not name the boy.

On Sunday, a few homemade bomb explosions reportedly took place in front of BNP headquarters in Naya Paltan. One person was killed in a blast incident in the capital. The explosions continued on Monday across the capital.

Meanwhile, police had seized a large amount of explosives used for fireworks from the city's Shankhari Bazaar on Monday.

"We've been noticing for some days that cocktails, bomb-like things, made of fireworks materials, are being used for mugging and other criminal offences. So, we raided and seized the materials," Kotwali police sub-inspector Mohammad Shamsuddin had said.

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25. Bomb Blast At Yangon University Kills One, Injures One

Wednesday, 21 December 2011

<http://www.siamdailynews.com/world-news/asia-news/2011/12/21/bomb-blast-in-yangon-university-kills-one-injures-one/>

[Please copy/paste the link above into your browser to read the full article]

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26. Pipe Bomb Discovered And Detonated

Tuesday, 13 December 2011

<http://www.wytv.com/mostpopular/story/Pipe-Bomb-Found-by-Resident-Detonated-by-Bomb/ohQX85sXYkinOtqYKiqR9A.csp>

The Youngstown Bomb Squad detonated a pipe bomb found by a resident on an island near Pointview Boat Launch Monday.

According to Milton Township police, the two-inch-thick PVC pipe was 14 inches long, filled with gunpowder and capped at both ends with a short fuse before being disposed of on the shore line.

After the resident found the bomb, they brought it to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources ranger station on Mahoning Avenue. It was detonated on the Lake Milton shore.

Police are asking that anyone with information as to who may have manufactured the bomb or placed it on the island call Milton police or message the department's Facebook site.

Police recommend that if anyone sees a similar device to not touch it or move, to keep a safe distance away from it and to call police.

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27. Police Investigate Bottle Bomb Blast

Monday, 19 December 2011

<http://www.wdtn.com/dpp/news/local/springfield/police-investigate-bottle-bomb-blast>

An investigation is underway in Springfield after someone set off a bottle bomb at a home.

It happened Sunday night on the porch of a house along Beatrice Street.

The woman living there said neighbors heard the explosion, but she and her kids were sleeping when it happened.

She made the discovery when returning from the grocery store this afternoon.

No one was hurt.

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28. IED And Meth Found In Noble County Home

Thursday, 22 December 2011

<http://www.wane.com/dpp/news/crime/ied-meth-found-in-noble-county-home>

An Albion couple could face more than the meth charges they were put in jail for Wednesday, since police also found what is suspected to be an improvised explosive device (IED) during a search of their home.

According to the Noble County Sheriff's Department, around 12:30 p.m., officers with the IMAGE Drug Task Force, the Noble County Special Operations Group and Northeast Indiana SWAT all showed up at 610 E. Seneca Street, Lot #38 in Albion with a search warrant for the home.

During the search, police said they found meth manufacturing supplies, meth precursors, paraphernalia and small amounts of meth and marijuana along with what is suspected to be an IED.

In addition to the items found in the home, police also found several one-pot meth labs in a wooded area near the home.

Michael Shawn Ray Godbey, 33 and Crissy Ann Godbey, 31 were both charged with possession of two or more precursors with the intent to manufacture within 1,000 feet of public housing, possession of methamphetamine within a 1,000 feet of public housing and possession of paraphernalia.

Further charges may be pending after the Indiana State Police examine the suspected IED.

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29. Forty Killed, Over 100 Injured In Damascus Suicide Attack

Friday, 23 December 2011

<http://www.allvoices.com/contributed-news/11156716/content/89170912-30-killed-and-55-injured-as-two-suicide-bombers-attack-security-service-bases-in-damascus>

On Friday, Syrian state television said that two suicide bombers have blown up their car-bombs outside security service buildings in Damascus. The blasts were followed by a shooting spree. 44 people were killed and over 100 were wounded, according to some reports.

Syrian State television claimed that initial investigations indicated that al Qaeda was behind the attacks.

According to Alarabiya TV, witnesses told alarabiya TV the bombers struck in the Kfar Suseh neighborhood of the city. A car tried to ram its way into a state security compound, while another car exploded in front of a security service building in the same area.

The attack came a day after the first group of the Arab League mission arrived in Damascus, which will be checking whether Syria is implementing a peace plan to halt months of unrest after a fierce government crackdown on protests.

According to Syrian opposition groups say the government is only allowing Arab team monitors as a stalling tactic to prevent a new round of international sanctions. Opposition groups have called for nationwide protests following midday prayers on Friday using the slogan "Protocol of death, a license to kill," referring to the Arab League plan signed by Syria last week.

Earlier Thursday, a human rights group said that more than 6,200 people including hundreds of children have died in Syria's crackdown on an anti-government revolt. The highest death toll is reported in the city of Homs.

The Al Qaeda network is blamed for the attacks.

According to the Syrian Revolution Council said 14 people were killed as security forces continue with its crackdown against protesters and dissents in the country.

The United States strongly condemned two blasts that hit Syria's capital Friday, saying they should not be allowed to obstruct an Arab League plan aimed at ending a bloody nine-month crackdown against anti-government protests. France, meanwhile, said it did not know who was behind two the deadly suicide bombings in Syria, but accused President Bashar al-Assad's regime of trying to hide its own brutal tactics from foreign observers, Alarabiya website reported.

Hezbollah said the US was behind the bombing attacks in Damascus and Baghdad and claimed Washington was operating on behalf of the "Zionist interest", while Syrian opposition website believes Assad's regime was behind the explosions to present itself as the victim of al-Qaeda.

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30, **Italian Tax Agency Receives Second Letter Bomb**

Thursday, 15 December 2011

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/12/15/us-italy-letterbomb-idUSTRE7BE1MC20111215>

A second letter bomb was discovered on Thursday at the Italian tax collection office where a similar device blew off part of the finger of the agency's director general last week, police said.

The latest bomb was intercepted before being delivered, and did not explode. An Italian anarchist group called the Informal Anarchist Federation claimed responsibility for last week's attack, and for a separate letter bomb sent to Josef Ackermann, chief executive of Deutsche Bank, two days earlier.

"The envelope aroused suspicion because black powder was leaking out of it," an Italian police spokesman said, concerning the latest incident.

"Bomb disposal experts tested the powder to see if it was explosive, and it was," he added.

A similar device blew off part of the finger of Marco Cuccagna, the director general of the agency, on Dec 9. The office, called Equitalia, collects overdue fines and taxes.

The same anarchist group claimed responsibility for two parcel bomb attacks against the Swiss and Chilean embassies in Italy just before Christmas last year, which injured two people. They also said they were behind a device that injured two people in the offices of a Swiss nuclear lobby group in March.

Prime Minister Mario Monti condemned the latest attempted attack as a "criminal act" against Italian institutions.

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31. **Belconnen Mall Explosion**

Saturday, 17 December 2011

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/belconnen-mall-explosion/2396445.aspx>

Two men have been treated for burns and fragment injuries following an explosion in the food court of the Westfield Belconnen Mall.

Witnesses report the blast occurred at about 1pm near Donut King, breaking glass and producing a cloud of smoke.

ACT Policing have cordoned off the area following the incident, which Sergeant Steve Booth said was caused by cap gun ammunition.

Sergeant Booth said a 30-year-old man was in the food court when the bag of cap gun ammunition he was carrying was detonated.

Sergeant Booth said ACT Policing could not confirm the reason for the detonation, but would be continuing their investigations to ensure it was not "untoward or malicious".

"It's certainly unusual," he said.

"We will be conducting a full investigation into the matter to determine exactly why this has happened and if there is any reasonable cause for it."

One witness, Simon, said the explosion happened within two metres of the Donut King store.

"I just wanted to get my kids out of there," Simon said.

"We were sitting down about five metres away when the explosion happened - it sounded like a chandelier dropping.

"It wasn't a huge bang but afterward there was a man lying down with blood on his stomach and chest.

"I'm not sure what it was. If it had been a larger explosion, it would have injured a lot of people."

ACT Emergency Services confirmed that one man has been treated by paramedics for burns and fragment injuries before being transported to Calvary Hospital in a stable condition.

A second man has been treated for fragment injuries to his face.

Four more patients are being assessed by intensive care paramedics.

Some witnesses speculated the incident was the result of a gas bottle detonating, while others blamed a "homemade confetti bomb".

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32. Bombs Laid At Three Spots In East Bangkok

Friday, 16 December 2011

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/271103/bombs-laid-at-3-spots-in-east-bangkok>

Home-made bombs were found and disposed of at three spots in Lat Krabang area in eastern Bangkok early Friday morning after the arrest of a suspect in the GLO bombs case, reports said.

Bomb disposal units examine an explosive device in Soi Lat Krabang 13 on Dec 16, 2011. (Photos by Kosol Nakachol)

Deputy Prime Minister Chalerm Yubamrung, Pol Gen Prieuwan Damapong, the police chief, and Pol Maj-Gen Wichai Sangprapai, deputy metropolitan police chief, went to inspect the three locations after the bombs were noticed about 4am.

At the first spot a home-made bomb was placed by the wall of the Bangkok Bank's Sukhumvit 77 branch (Prawet) in Soi Lat Krabang 20.

At the second spot, two bombs were found at the mouth of Soi Kanchanaphisek 39.

At the third spot, three other bombs was found at a U-turn under a bridge across Khlong Nong Prue opposite Suvarnabhumi market in Soi Lat Krabang 13.

All of the bombs, similar to the ones found earlier in front of the Government Lottery Office (GLO), had been disposed of, police said.

Pol Gen Prieuwan said that about 3am Metropolitan and Special Branch police arrested a man suspected to have laid a number of bombs in front of the GLO head office on Ratchadamnern Road last week.

The suspect, during the course of investigation, revealed that more bombs had been placed at the three spots, prompting police and bomb disposal units to rush to the scenes.

Mr Chalerm is to hold a press conference on this matter at the Metropolitan Police headquarters this morning.

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33. Explosives Discovered In Dicle

Saturday, 17 December 2011

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=tr&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.olay.com.tr%2Fhaber%2Fguncel%2Fdiclede-90-kg-patlatici-bulundu-90444.html>

TRANSLATION:

In a written statement Diyarbakir Governorate, Dicle district gendarmerie station hauling, logistics and material needs with the Gendarmerie Public Security commando team carried out inspections teams, reportedly has been detected at the roadside explosive.

The statement, experts were dispatched to the scene, two oil cans placed in the outbreak and 35 kilograms of the substance to be on the ground containing about 90 kilograms of explosive bombs weighing type A 4 fixation mechanism is specified.

Explosives at the scene where a bomb disposal expert teams recorded statement, he said:

'Blowing up explosives in a controlled manner during a depth of 1.5 meters, 4 meters wide, the pit was formed. Loss of life and property without any opportunity for a great disaster was prevented at the last moment. '

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34. Authorities Discover PKK Pipe Bomb

<http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=auto&tl=en&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.posta.com.tr%2Fturkiye%2FHaberDetay%2FPKK+li+sirt+cantasinda+bombayla+yakalandi.htm%3FArticleID%3D100570>

TRANSLATION:

Izmir ', the Anti-Terrorism Branch operation organized by teams, military units in the area of dense, tubular backpack bomb attack was in preparation for the 17-year-BG, was arrested.

Terrorist organization PKK 's hidden structure of the city of KCK 's 'regional youth officer' out of prison in about a month ago reported that the BG's.

Military and police facilities in the city's bomb attack on the knowledge of the preparation on the Izmir Police Headquarters Anti-Terror Branch initiated the study teams. Since the work of the intelligence Menemen Asarlık'ta County youth residing in the region who are responsible for KCK'nın BG's, were found to be in preparation for the attack.

BG is followed step by step, the police, military and police establishments belonging to the Bornova where intensive Rumi district at the time they began the operation. Intervention of the police, unable to neutralize the bomb brought a sudden raid BG, was taken into custody. BG on the grounds that a minor, were delivered to Children's Branch directorate teams. BG's, bomb security forces during the transition from planned to blast off putting or facilities in the region that was claimed to be.

Pirate enters the prison about a month ago to participate in demonstrations released the BG's, learned bomb making in this order may be specified. Participating in demonstrations and Molotov cocktail attacks pirate be in BG's with a record of transactions will be referred to the Judicial Court declared then ..

Izmir, where the troops are busy in the region, type of pipe bomb in a backpack at the time of preparation for the attack was captured PKK members reported 17-year-BG, were relocated from the courthouse and removed from the court after police arrested query.

Izmir, who was arrested after being caught BG's backpack bomb, the police were involved in bomb attacks to 2. BG's sent to prison, Bornova, a district police officer had left beside their car bomb exploded near the police station and again, but which was destroyed by explosive device placed at the last moment was claimed to be the difference.

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35. Explosive Device Found In Galway

Thursday, 22 December 2011

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/breaking/2011/1222/breaking39.html>

An improvised explosive device has today been made safe in Co Galway.

The device was discovered at a house in Clonboo near the Galway/Mayo border at about 1.35pm this afternoon.

An Army bomb disposal team made the device safe and removed it to a secure military base for further examination.

The scene was declared safe at 2.35pm.

This was the 235th explosive ordnance disposal callout of 2011 and the 54th viable improvised explosive device made safe by bomb disposal teams this year.

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