



*Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data*

## Weekly News Update

Volume 2, Issue 11

16 March 2012

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. Roadside Bomb Injures Top Official In North Afghanistan

Thursday, 8 March 2012

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/230653.html>

A senior official and his two bodyguards have been injured after their car was struck by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan's northern province of Kunduz, Press TV reports.

The incident took place at around 3:30 p.m. local time (1100 GMT) on Thursday in the provincial capital Kunduz, located 250 kilometers (155 miles) north of the country's capital Kabul, when a remote-control bomb went off as the vehicle carrying the head of Kunduz Provincial Council Mawlawi Khosh Mohammad was passing by.

Law enforcement forces cordoned off the area after the incident, and shifted the injured to a local hospital to receive treatment.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, and an investigation into the incident is underway.

Roadside bombs and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are by far the most lethal weapon Taliban militants use against Afghan forces, foreign troops, and civilians.

The homemade explosives accounted for half of the about 1,500 civilian deaths in the first six months of last year, according to the United Nations.

Insecurity continues to rise across Afghanistan despite the presence of some 130,000 US-led forces in the war-torn country.

The United Nations announced on February 4 that 2011 was the deadliest on record for Afghan civilians. The death toll rose eight percent compared to the year before and was roughly double the figure for 2007.

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## 2. Roadside Bomb In Southern Afghanistan Kills Eight As Panetta Visits

Wednesday, 14 March 2012

[http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world\\_now/2012/03/roadside-bomb-in-southern-afghanistan-kills-8-as-panetta-visits.html](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world_now/2012/03/roadside-bomb-in-southern-afghanistan-kills-8-as-panetta-visits.html)

A powerful roadside bomb incinerated a minivan in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province Wednesday, killing eight civilians on a day that U.S. Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta was paying an unannounced visit.

The midday blast took place in Marja district, where a major anti-narcotics campaign is underway. The provincial governor, Ghulab Mangal, said insurgents were planting more and more improvised explosive devices in an effort to stymie the anti-poppy-cultivation drive.

Afghanistan's drug trade is centered in Helmand, and narcotics trafficking is a significant source of revenue for the Taliban. Mangal, who met with Panetta, said he had asked the U.S. defense chief for help with counter-narcotics efforts and with securing the Afghan-Pakistani border.

Bombs insurgents are planting on Helmand roads are becoming more powerful. Officials said those killed in Wednesday's explosion were so badly mangled that their bodies were unrecognizable. The blast came a week after six British troops were killed by a massive bomb in Helmand, the worst single loss of life for the British military contingent in nearly six years.

At almost the same time, another deadly attack occurred in neighboring Kandahar province, where a bomb planted on a motorbike was detonated as a convoy carrying Afghan intelligence officers passed by. One of the officers of the National Directorate for Security was killed and three others were injured, said Mohammad Javed Faisal, a provincial spokesman. The explosion, on a busy street, also wounded a civilian passerby, he said.

A day earlier in Kandahar province, insurgents had attacked a government delegation visiting Panjwayi district outside Kandahar city, where 16 civilians, nine of them children, were killed in a shooting rampage that officials said was carried out by a U.S. Army sergeant who had walked away from his nearby base. The soldier is in military custody, and Panetta has said he could face the death penalty if found guilty by military courts.

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### 3. Car Bomb Attack On Camp Bastion As US Defense Secretary Arrives

Wednesday, 14 March 2012

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2114951/BREAKING-NEWS-Vehicle-exploded-Camp-Bastion-runway-time-U-S-Defence-Secretary-arrived.html>

U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta was the apparent target of a suicide bomber at Britain's main base in Afghanistan today.

An Afghan civilian apparently stole a truck from a British soldier after injuring the soldier in a struggle, then drove onto a runway at Camp Bastion where Mr Panetta was landing.

The man crashed into a ditch, then seems to have set himself on fire and fought with NATO troops, who managed to tackle him and put out the fire.

The incident has raised disturbing questions over security at the base, just days after a rogue U.S. soldiers killed 16 civilians and weeks after American troops were caught burning Korans.

The driver, a local male civilian employed at the base, is being treated at Camp Bastion's hospital for his injuries, a spokesman at the base said.

He started his apparent attack by taking a truck from a British soldier, who suffered a broken pelvis while trying to stop the hijacker.

'I did it': Video footage shows moment U.S. soldier put down gun and surrendered after killing 16 Afghan civilians

The man then drove to the runway at around the same time as Mr Panetta was landing in an Air Force aeroplane.

After his truck crashed, he jumped out of the vehicle and appeared to be on fire - although, contrary to earlier reports, the car did not blow up, nor was there any sign of explosives on board.

'For reasons that are totally unknown to us at this time, our personnel discovered that he was ablaze,' Pentagon spokesman George Little said.

Mr Little added: 'Base personnel put the fire out and he was immediately treated for burn injuries and is still being treated. He sustained considerable burn wounds.'

Mr Panetta and his entourage were unharmed, although their plane was diverted to another runway to unload - and Pentagon officials said they had no evidence that the timing of the apparent attack was linked to the Defense Secretary's visit.

'We don't have any indication right now that this was meant as a threat to the secretary', said a spokesman. 'As a fact we don't have any indication that the driver knew who was coming in on that aircraft.'

A Camp Bastion spokesman added: 'Procedures were put in place to account for the whereabouts of all military and civilian personnel and, to achieve this, movement within Camp Bastion was restricted.'

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Former U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney cancelled a Canadian speaking appearance because of security concerns sparked by demonstrations during a visit he made to Vancouver last year.

Mr Cheney was scheduled to talk about his experiences in office and the current American political situation at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on April 24.

But Ryan Ruppert of Spectre Live Corp. said on Monday that Mr Cheney and his daughter Elizabeth had cancelled through their agent.

'After speaking with their security advisers, they changed their mind on coming to the event,' Mr Ruppert said. He added they had 'decided it was better for their personal safety they stay out of Canada.'

Last September 26, Mr Cheney was forced to stay holed up in the Vancouver Club for seven hours before it was deemed safe for him to leave. Demonstrators blocked the entrances and at one point scuffled with police.

Critics of Mr Cheney take issue with his endorsement of water boarding and sleep deprivation against detainees while serving in former President George W. Bush's administration.

Bastion is home to a large contingent of U.S. troops as well as UK forces.

The blast came as Mr Panetta meet with troops, commanders and Afghan government officials.

In a highly unusual move, earlier today around 200 U.S. Marines were told to leave their weapons outside a tent where U.S. Defence Secretary Leon Panetta was set to give a talk.

Officials said the order was because there were two dozen unarmed Afghan soldiers in attendance and everyone should be treated the same.

They also denied it was related to Sunday's shooting.

'You've got one of the most important people in the world in the room,' Maj. Gen. Mark Gurganus told reporters at Camp Leatherneck. 'This is not a big deal.'

The move was unusual as in combat zones marines are usually instructed to have their weapons within close range.

One military official in Washington told NBC 'it sends the wrong message' that marines can't be trusted in the presence of the Secretary of Defense.

Mr Panetta's visit was planned months ago, long before the weekend slaughter by a rogue U.S. soldier that claimed the lives of 16 villagers, including women and children.

It also comes on the same day it emerged the U.S. soldier who massacred 16 Afghan civilians was caught on surveillance video – showing him walking up to his base, laying down his weapon and raising his arms in surrender.

An Afghan official said that the U.S. showed Afghan authorities the surveillance video to prove that only one perpetrator was involved in the Sunday shootings, an account which has been disputed.



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The trip propels Mr Panetta into the centre of escalating anti-American anger and sets the stage for some difficult discussions with Afghan leaders.

Mr Panetta, who has said the rogue soldier could face the death penalty, told Afghan officials that recent violence will not deter the United States from carrying out its mission in Afghanistan.

The trip is the first significant visit from a U.S. dignitary since the killings, which many had worried would spark another wave of deadly riots like those that followed the burning of Korans at a U.S. base last month.

Nearly a week of violent demonstrations and attacks left more than 30 dead, including six U.S. soldiers killed apparent reprisal attacks. Six British soldiers also died last week when their armoured vehicle was blown up

Military commanders have yet to release their final investigation on the Koran burnings, which U.S. officials say was a mistake.

Five U.S. service members could face disciplinary action in connection with the incident.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today expressed deep sadness at the 'shocking incident' and said the UN expects that an investigation will rapidly establish the facts, that those responsible will be held accountable, and that the public will be kept informed.

'When it comes to the protection of civilian populations, I have been very vocal here and all around the world, not only in Afghanistan,' Ban told a group of reporters.

'We will continue to urge all authorities and military personnel who are engaging in these operations to pay extreme and utmost care to protect the civilian population.'

Panetta's two-day visit is scheduled to include meetings with President Hamid Karzai, Afghan defence officials and provincial leaders, as well as routine discussions with his commanders on the ground. The sessions are likely to touch on America's planned withdrawal of about 22,000 troops by autumn, including as many as 10,000 Marines from Helmand Province.

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#### 4. Death Toll Rises In Funeral Bomb Attack

Monday 12 March 2012

[http://www.businessghana.com/portal/news/index.php?op=getNews&news\\_cat\\_id=1&id=161916](http://www.businessghana.com/portal/news/index.php?op=getNews&news_cat_id=1&id=161916)

The death toll from the suicide bomb attack at a funeral service in Peshawar, Pakistan, rose to 16 people, police said Monday.

The attack the previous day in the city's Badbher area also wounded dozens more, Dawn newspaper reported. Peshawar is the capital of the northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The report said Khudil Khan, deputy speaker of the provincial assembly, appeared to be the target of the attack. He had, however, left the scene at the time of the attack.

Police said the funeral was being held for the wife of a member of the local peace committee. A police official said the bomber likely lived in the same area and decided to attack when funeral prayers were being offered, Dawn reported.

Five people died and 10 more were wounded last month in an explosion at a political rally in the province and the Pakistani Taliban, which is different from the Afghan Taliban, claimed responsibility.

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5. Peshawar Police Recover VBIED With 40 Kg. Explosives

Monday, 12 March 2012

<http://www.citizenside.com/en/photos/politics/2012-03-12/56314/peshawar-police-recovers-a-car-with-40kg-of-explosives-in-pakistan.html>

The Bomb Disposal Squad defused 40kg of explosives in an abandoned car parked at Ring Road in Peshawar on March 12, 2012.

Station House Officer Chamkani Bashirdad told The Express Tribune that police reached the site on a tip-off and called the Bomb Disposal Squad.

However, he could not determine what the target of the potential attack was.

The car, bearing registration number IDJ-2398, was laden with remote-controlled explosives. A mobile phone was also connected to the explosive device.

A suicide bomber struck a funeral the previous week on the outskirts of Peshawar, killing 15 mourners and injuring scores more.

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6. Taliban Claim Responsibility For Funeral Blast; 16 Dead

Monday, 12 March 2012

<http://ph.news.yahoo.com/taliban-claim-responsibility-pakistan-suicide-blast-16-dead-040003128.html>

A suicide bomber blew himself up at a funeral in the suburban Badbher area (northwest Pakistan), killing 16 people and injuring 33 others on Sunday.

A senior police official said Advocate Khushdil Khan, Deputy Speaker of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, appeared to be the target of the attack. The blast took place immediately after he had left the place.

According to western news agencies, the Darra Adamkhel faction of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan claimed responsibility for attack. Taliban spokesman Mohammad Afridi said the politician was the target because he had set up a militia to battle against the Taliban.

"These militias are the front lines for the Pakistan army," the spokesman said.

Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (Investigation) Umer Riaz told Dawn that parts of the bomber's body had been found at the blast site.

Bomb disposal personnel said that 8 to 10kg of explosives had been used in the blast and ball-bearings, batteries and cables of the suicide vest had been found at the site.

Capital City Police Officer Syed Imtiaz Altaf said it was a suicide attack.

Another police officer said the funeral was for the wife of Imdad Khan, a member of the local peace committee.

He said the bomber possibly lived in the locality and reached the place when funeral prayers were being offered.

Those killed in the attack were identified as Zarshad, Khalid Dad, Mir Ahmed, Farman Ali, Khan Shah, Kamran, Raees Khan, Hameed Khan, Syed Afridi, Sana-ur-Rehman, Ahmed Khan, Shahbaz, Iftikhar, Raheemshah, Ameen Khan and Raees Khan.

The deputy speaker said he had escaped miraculously. "I believe in Almighty Allah and am not afraid of attackers. Hundreds of our party men have rendered sacrifices for the sake of the soil," he said. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has announced a compensation of Rs300,000 for family of each deceased and Rs100,000 for family of each injured.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Barrister Masood Kausar and Chief Minister Amir Haider Khan Hoti condemned the killing of innocent people. They said terrorists could not put pressure on the government with such inhuman and barbaric acts.

Agencies add: "We are devastated," said Zahir Khan, 32, weeping while lying in a hospital bed. His elder brother Raees Khan died in the attack. He said they were chatting when the bomb went off. "I never knew I was going to lose my brother forever."

"Why did you murder my brother? He was so beautiful," he said.

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"This morning we had our breakfast together. My mother will not survive if I show her his body. We lifted the coffin and headed towards the graveyard after the prayers when a huge blast was heard," Saddam Hussain, 21, described the carnage.

"There were body parts and blood stains. People were crying for help. There was no doctor and no ambulance. People who had come to attend the funeral, put the casualties in their cars and rushed to hospital. I myself put one wounded man in a car heading to the hospital. How is attacking a funeral Islamic in any way?" Asfandyar Wali Khan, head of the ANP, told reporters in Islamabad.

"I say that these people aren't followers of Islam," he added. "I don't even consider them human."

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## 7. Security Man Killed In Mohamand IED Blast

Sunday, 11 March 2012

<http://www.dawn.com/2012/03/12/security-man-killed-in-mohmand-ied-blast-2.html>

A security man was killed when an improvised explosive device went off in Baizai tehsil of Mohmand tribal region on Sunday, officials said.

They said that security personnel were fetching water from a spring in Wali Kor area of Baizai when one of them stepped on the explosive device, planted along the track. A security man was killed while his other companions remained unhurt in the blast, they added.

A spokesman for Mohmand Taliban talked to local journalists by telephone from an undisclosed location and claimed responsibility for the blast.

In Khyber Agency, two persons including a security man were killed and two children received injuries in different incidents in Bara tehsil on Sunday.

Sources said that headless body of a kidnapped official of Frontier Corps was found in Alamgudar area of Bara. They said that the deceased identified as Jameel Khattak was kidnapped by militants after he got injured during a clash with them.

His beheaded body was thrown on a road at the night and it was found on Sunday morning.

In Jamrud, unidentified persons shot dead a tribesman near Shahkas locality. Sources said that Amir Jan, a resident of Bara, along with another person was coming to Jamrud on a motorcycle when he was intercepted by two gunmen, also riding a motorcycle.

The assailants made their escape good after getting him off from the motorcycle and killing him on the spot. Reason behind the killing could not be known, however, sources said that the deceased was member of a banned group from Bara.

Meanwhile, two children were injured when a mortar shell fell on the house of Janas Khan in Akkakhel area of Bara. The injured children were shifted to ICRC hospital in Peshawar.

Also, security forces handed over bodies of six suspected militants to the local political administration. The bodies were later handed over to their relatives at Levies Centre in Bara.

The six suspected militants included four Afghan nationals and two local tribesmen identified as Jalil Jan Shalobar and Othmankhel Akkakhel. Security forces on Saturday claimed to have killed 36 militants during an operation in Alamgudar area of Bara. Four army men including a lieutenant were also killed in the daylong operation.

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8. Jewelry Attack Kills Eight, 13 Dead Across Iraq

Monday, 12 March 2012

[http://reliefweb.int/node/482157?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+ReliefwebUpdates+%28ReliefWeb+-+Latest+Updates%29](http://reliefweb.int/node/482157?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ReliefwebUpdates+%28ReliefWeb+-+Latest+Updates%29)

Gunmen killed eight people in an attack on a jewellery shop on Monday, one of several attacks in and around Baghdad that left at least 13 people dead, most of them police officers, officials said.

The attack on the shop, in the Urr neighbourhood of north Baghdad, left eight people dead, the interior ministry said on its website, including the two owners of the shop and four members of the security forces.

A medical official said nine people were killed and 14 wounded in the attack. Among the people hurt were five police, four soldiers and two wounded.

Gunmen also carried out two separate attacks in Tarmiyah, a town 45 kilometres (30 miles) north of Baghdad that was once a stronghold of Sunni insurgents and Al-Qaeda, a police officer there said.

"Three policemen were killed in an attack carried out after midnight by unknown gunmen on the municipal headquarters" in Tarmiyah, First Lieutenant Uday Sarhan told AFP, adding that the attack lasted half an hour.

Gunmen also attacked a police patrol in Tarmiyah early on Monday morning, not far from the first attack, killing two more policemen, Sarhan said.

The interior ministry official confirmed the death toll of five in Tarmiyah, without giving further details.

Monday's violence comes a day after security officials said gunmen using silencers killed the Tarmiyah town mayor's bodyguards and four of the victim's female relatives.

Violence in Iraq has declined since its peak in 2006 and 2007 but attacks are still common. According to official figures, 150 people were killed in February.

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9. Fourteen Killed In Bomb Attacks In Iraq

Tuesday, 13 March 2012

<http://www.thenewstribes.com/2012/03/13/14-killed-in-bomb-attacks-in-iraq/#.T2DaQXmwWss>

At least 14 people were killed and several others injured in bomb attacks across Iraqi capital Baghdad, media reported on Tuesday.

The report stated that militants struck first in a pre-dawn raid Monday in the city of Tarmiyah, 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of Baghdad, where police said gunmen in at least two cars attacked the local mayor's office. Three policemen were killed, police and health officials said. The mayor was not in his office at the time.

A half hour later and a few miles (kilometers) away, gunmen targeted a police patrol in a drive-by shooting. Two policemen were killed, officials said.

A few hours later, two carloads of robbers armed with grenades and guns killed nine people and wounded 14 in a coordinated strike on an eastern Baghdad gold market, city police said. The militants simultaneously attacked jewelry stores and a nearby checkpoint.

Police said the gunmen stole gold and cash after the late-morning heist, which the insurgents pulled off despite a gunfight with nearby security forces. Al-Baydhani said one of the gunmen was arrested but the rest escaped.

It is to be mentioned here that almost 26,000 forces — including more than 4,000 from Iraq's north and south — are expected to be deployed on International airport, on main highways, at hotels and around the already-heavily fortified Green Zone in Baghdad to protect heads of state and economic and foreign ministers from among the 22 League nations that are attending the Annual Arab League summit.

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10. Weapons Cache Seized In Ramadi

Monday, 12 March 2012

[http://alliraqnews.com/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=5942:qrf-seize-wns-caches-in-ramadi&catid=36:security&Itemid=37](http://alliraqnews.com/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5942:qrf-seize-wns-caches-in-ramadi&catid=36:security&Itemid=37)

The Quick Response Force QRF managed to seize a weapons cache in southern Ramadi the capital of Anbar province.

Security source stated to All Iraq News Agency AIN on Monday "The forces managed to seize a weapons cache in Habaniya area of southern Ramadi city."

The source added "The weapons cache comprises nine mortar shells and three big various rockets."

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11. Controlled Detonation Of Car Bomb In Salah-il-Din

Saturday, 10 March 2012

[http://alliraqnews.com/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=5802:car-bomb-detonated-under-control-southern-salah-il-din-&catid=36:security&Itemid=37](http://alliraqnews.com/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5802:car-bomb-detonated-under-control-southern-salah-il-din-&catid=36:security&Itemid=37)

Security force detonated a car bomb under control southern Salah-il-Din province.

Security source reported to All Iraq News Agency AIN on Saturday "Police force discovered and detonated a car bomb loaded with bombs and explosive materials set for detonation on the roadside between Samara and Balad district of southern Salah-il-Din."

"The detonation process was controlled by the police elements and did not cause any casualties or damage," the source concluded.

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## 12. Syria Mines Turkish Border

Sunday, 11 March 2012

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/03/11/2688765/syria-mines-turkish-border.html>

The Syrian military in the past month planted a band of anti-personnel mines along stretches of the border with Turkey, where last year more than 10,000 Syrian refugees fled the Assad regime's crackdown on the "Arab Spring" uprising, Syrian witnesses said.

After a family of five was reportedly injured severely in a new minefield last month, Syrian civilians, operating with primitive means - an ax, a rope and the guidance of a volunteer who had mine-clearing training in military service - unearthed hundreds of those mines and reopened the way to safety, volunteers said.

The mines were Russian made PMN-2 pressure mines. They consist of a green plastic casing and a black cruciform-like pressure plate, which detonates the charge inside. They were laid about a foot apart in two bands that were set about two feet apart, just three or four yards from the fence that marks the border with Turkey, according to the volunteer who directed the mine-clearing operation.

Tall and slight of frame, the volunteer, 28, who called himself Rajol al Hadidi, ("Iron Man"), left Syria one week ago carrying more than a dozen mines. He crossed into Turkey to seek the advice of military defectors in the Free Syrian Army on how to defuse the mines.

"I know 10 sorts of mines - anti-personnel mines and anti-tank mines, but not this one," he said. "We didn't know what explosive material was contained in it, but we thought it would create a crater of 3 or 4 meters," he said.

But they were not able to advise him. In a meeting about a half mile from the Syrian border, Hadidi allowed a McClatchy reporter to photograph one mine - still fused - that he had removed from the new minefield.

Some mine experts consulted by McClatchy said there is no way to defuse the PMN-2 other than to detonate it with a small explosive charge. British expert Andy Smith said the PMN-2 is one of the most common mines in the world, costing as little as \$10 each.

Smith said PMN-2s usually maim and dismember, but rarely kill unless victims cannot get to medical facilities within hours. He said Syria most likely has a stockpile of the mines, provided by Russia or the former Soviet Union. Turkish mine experts said the Soviet-built mines have never been in the Turkish inventory.

Hadidi said he removed the first mine, using a technique he had learned in the military - placing the blade of an ax in front of the mine, attaching a 70-foot rope, and tugging at the ax to ease the mine out of the ground. When he saw that moving the mine did not detonate it, he trained four other civilian volunteers in mine removal, and together they lifted an estimated 300 mines, he said.

The Syrian military had planted the mines in early to mid-February in olive groves for more than a mile along the border near Jisr al Shughur, Hadidi said. It was through this area that at least 10,000 residents of the town fled to Turkey last year, fearing an all-out onslaught by the government of President Bashar al Assad.

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Mines were also planted about 12 miles to the north, in Guvecci, according to Syrian army defector Tamar Fizo, who witnessed the mine-laying. This was a secondary crossing point for refugees fleeing Assad's Syria into Turkey, but is no more.

"We saw soldiers getting off trucks or armored cars and planting mines 20 meters (70 feet) from the border," he said. The night after the minefield was laid, a wild boar detonated one and died, he said.

In 1980, Hafez al Assad, father of the current president, targeted Jisr al Shughur for a devastating crackdown to demonstrate that the secular Baath party, which has ruled Syria for decades, would not tolerate a political role for the Muslim Brotherhood. . (He made a similar and much better-known assault in 1982 against the city of Hama.) That's according to Ghawzan Issa, one of the elected representatives of the Jisr diaspora now housed in Turkish government refugee camps.

Syria and Turkey mined their common border during the Cold War, but starting several years ago both began to remove mines as part of a drive by Turkey to improve relations with its neighbors. There were reports in November of the Syrian army laying mines along the Turkish and Lebanese borders, and injuries have been reported among refugees fleeing to Lebanon.

Several months ago, the Associated Press quoted an unidentified Syrian official as saying the aim of the mines being laid then was to prevent armed insurgents from crossing into Syria.

Mustafa Haid, a Syrian anti-government activist familiar with the mining issue, said the mines were intended to prevent refugees from escaping. The drive to flee Syria has taken on new drama after the military's destruction last week of a section of Homs, where armed insurgents had taken control, and a new drive against villages near Jebel Al Zawieh, in the vicinity of Idlib, in northern Syria, which began on Saturday.

In Guvecci and many other towns along the border, bombing of the villages around Idlib could be heard from about midnight until 10 a.m. Sunday morning, Fizo and other villagers said. "This was clearly done in advance of the Idlib operation in order to try and prevent Syrians from fleeing to Turkey," Haid said.

Although 235 Syrians escaped into Turkey Thursday night and early Friday, relatively few managed to cross the border Friday or Saturday night, anti-government activists said.

Hadidi said that the military informed those residents of Jisr who hadn't already fled that if they needed to go to the border area to tend their fields, they should approach the military first. He said it was the report of severe injuries to a family of five, from the village of Salma, near Latakia, about two weeks ago, that led him to volunteer to remove the mines. They died trying to cross near the village of Al Hamboushieh, near Bdaama, according to locals..

"You could see the disturbed earth. They were somewhat exposed," Hadidi said.

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## 13. Explosives Discovered In Cities Hint At PKK's Bloody Plans For Nevruz

Thursday, 08 March 2012

<http://www.todayszaman.com/news-273731-explosives-discovered-in-cities-hint-at-pkks-bloody-plans-for-nevruz.html>

Large amounts of explosives have been found across Turkish cities over the past few days, which the police say were being stored for use in violent attacks staged by the terrorist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) during this year's annual spring festival of Nevruz, mainly celebrated by Kurds in Turkey, which occurs in the latter half of March.

Intelligence reports have long been suggesting that the PKK is planning bloody attacks during Nevruz, which is celebrated by at least 100,000 people on the streets of Diyarbakır alone. There are also celebrations in other southeastern cities. İstanbul counterterrorism police units on Wednesday, who were excavating two sites in İstanbul in search of explosives as part of an investigation into the Kurdish Communities Union (KCK) found 15 kilograms of plastic explosives. The KCK is an umbrella organization for the PKK and other affiliated groups. Excavations are still under way in search of more explosives. Also earlier in the week, police discovered nearly five kilograms of explosives in the Başakşehir district of İstanbul, also found during a dig carried out as part of the probe into the KCK. On Thursday, 21 individuals in Diyarbakır were detained on suspicion of membership in the KCK, including the deputy mayor of the city's Yenışehir district.

The recent operations have clearly exposed the extent of bloodshed the PKK planned for Nevruz this year. Police in Diyarbakır have long been monitoring the "self-defense units," the name the PKK gives to its urban militants assigned the task of organizing violent demonstrations in the urban centers of the mainly Kurdish-dominated Southeast and eastern cities with majority Kurdish populations. One individual was captured as he was surveying a target site in February. The PKK, which failed to stage violent demonstrations at the scale it aimed for on Feb. 15 -- the anniversary of the capture of PKK chief Abdullah Öcalan by Turkish security forces in 1997 -- intelligence experts believe, does not wield the influence it has among the southeastern public and lacks the ability it previously had in organizational displays of power in the form of major demonstrations.

This is why it had to assign about 200 of its own militants, trained in the terrorist group's camps in the Kandil Mountains of northern Iraq, the task of going to urban centers to provoke demonstrations. Roughly 60 people have so far been captured by police after the exposure of the PKK's plans by Turkish security forces.

Police sources have said that the PKK, which recently suffered its greatest losses ever in clashes with Turkish security forces, has declared the year 2012, the year of revival and Serhilden, the Kurdish word for uprising. Nevruz, a two or three-day spring festival that usually starts around March 18, was chosen as the beginning for the PKK's planned activities for the year. The PKK, frustrated with the low attendance rate at the illegal demonstrations it tried to stage on Feb. 15 and the refusal of many local storekeepers to shut down their business for the day in protest of Öcalan's capture, will aggressively stage violent attacks, according to intelligence reports. Only about 500 people, at an event organized by Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) deputies, gathered on Feb 15. to protest the capture of Öcalan and his current conditions of imprisonment.

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Information obtained from the 60 “self-defense units” militants indicate that the PKK wanted to provoke aggression by Turkish security forces on the locals, or, fire on crowds with long-range rifles if it fails to provoke security units during the demonstrations, and use the possible deaths as propaganda against the Turkish state.

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14. Sixteen Year-Old Injures Self In Explosion

Monday, 12 March 2012

<http://www.todayszaman.com/news-274014-16-year-old-injures-self-in-explosion.html>

A homemade bomb targeting the police exploded in the hands of a 16-year-old bomber in Adana over the weekend.

A group had gathered outside the Dağlıoğlu Police Station in Adana's Seyhan district, shouting slogans sympathetic to the terrorist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) organization and throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails at the police standing outside the station.

R.A., 16, had planned on throwing a homemade bomb at the riot and terrorism police teams.

But the bomb instead went off in his hands. R.A. lost four fingers in the explosion and was taken by police to Adana State Hospital, where he continues to receive treatment for his injuries.

In comments to the Anatolia news agency, R.A. said a man named Vedat T. handed him the homemade bomb and told him to throw the explosive at the police.

After the explosion, R.A said, "All of my friends abandoned me and left," adding: "I will tell the public prosecutor and police all that I know. I very much regret what I did. From now on I will give up bombs; I will not throw the smallest stone."

Police arrested Vedat T. on the grounds of allegedly targeting police with explosives in seven unauthorized demonstrations in the Dağlıoğlu, Gülbahçesi, Ova and Barbaros neighborhoods. Police learned Vedat T. had been detained seven times and released pending trial.

The involvement of minors in terrorist attacks is not new in Turkey.

Last July a homemade bomb exploded in the hand of a 17-year-old boy following a failed effort to lob the bomb in the direction of police.

Researcher and author Mustafa Yakutcan told Today's Zaman in November 2011 that the PKK has been using minors in its attacks in recent years.

"The PKK can no longer move freely on Turkish soil, it cannot organize bomb attacks as successfully as it could in previous years and it doesn't have many chances to train and motivate its bombers in Turkey because the TSK doesn't allow it do so with its operations and measures against the organization in the eastern and southeastern parts of Turkey. The terrorist organization, therefore, has begun to use children and inexperienced bombers in its attacks," he said.

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15. Two Killed In Yemen Explosion

Monday, 12 March 2012

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/world/two-killed-in-yemen-explosion-1.1253733>

Two men were killed in southern Yemen when a bomb they planned to use in an attack on government forces exploded accidentally late on Saturday, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

Yemeni security forces, fighting a growing Islamist insurgency in the south, said they had detained four Somali men suspected of belonging to the al-Shabaab militant group near the site of the explosion. There was no indication they were linked to the bomb plot, the statement said.

The al-Qaeda-allied Somali group had sent 300 armed men to fight alongside the Yemen-based wing of the militant network, it said. The four Somalis were captured on the road between the southern provinces of Lahej and Abyan.

The two men killed in the botched bomb plot were identified by the ministry as Yasser and Muneef al-Hawi. The statement said they were killed in the Madiyah district of Abyan province, where militants have seized control of territory.

“The bodies of the two were ripped apart in the explosion, which happened before they were able to execute their attack,” the ministry said in the statement posted on its website.

It gave no further details on whether the men were associated with al-Qaeda.

US drone attacks killed at least 25 al-Qaeda-linked fighters on Saturday in southern Yemen, where militants have expanded their operations during a year of unrest that ousted former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Saturday's operation was the biggest since Yemen's President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi took office last month vowing to fight al-Qaeda.

Thirty-four al-Qaeda militants were killed in a Yemeni air force raid on Friday in al-Bayda, the governor of the southern province was cited as saying by the defence ministry on Sunday. The death toll had previously been put at 20 militants.

The governor said two Pakistanis, two Saudi nationals, and one Syrian and one Iraqi were among the dead. Four of the men killed were senior militant commanders, he said, without giving further details of their identity.

Residents of the town of Jaar said planes bombarded the mountainous area of Jebel Khanfar, which overlooks the militant-held town, late on Sunday. It was not clear whether the planes were Yemeni or American, nor if there were any casualties.

Ansar al-Sharia, an al-Qaeda-linked militant group based in southern Yemen, has exploited a year of anti-government protests that have severely weakened central government control over parts of the country to seize several towns in the south, notably in Abyan province.

The United States and Saudi Arabia, Yemen's neighbour and the world's biggest oil exporter, are concerned about al-Qaeda's expansion in Yemen where it has regrouped.

In the oil-producing province of Maarib, a pipeline already idled by an attack last year was targeted again, the interior ministry said on its website, adding it had identified those behind the incident.

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16. Four Killed In Suicide Attack In Yemen

Tuesday, 13 March 2012

[http://articles.cnn.com/2012-03-13/middleeast/world\\_meast\\_yemen-violence\\_1\\_qaeda-drone-strike-senior-al?\\_s=PM:MIDDLEEAST](http://articles.cnn.com/2012-03-13/middleeast/world_meast_yemen-violence_1_qaeda-drone-strike-senior-al?_s=PM:MIDDLEEAST)

Four soldiers in Yemen were killed and seven others injured Tuesday morning when a suicide bomber attacked a checkpoint in the province of al-Baitha, two security officials said.

The attacker used a car bomb, and the explosion was heard more than eight miles away, the security officials said.

After the blast, clashes erupted near the site of the explosion, and a suspected U.S. drone strike killed four alleged al Qaeda militants, including senior al Qaeda operative Nasser al-Thafri, officials said.

"This province was safe until last month. If this continues, residents will have to evacuate their homes. Our children are not safe here anymore with both the al Qaeda and American attacks in al-Baitha," resident Jaber al-Muraisi said.

Last Friday, 34 suspected al Qaeda fighters were killed in a U.S. drone strike in al-Baitha. The governor of the province confirmed the death tolls, adding that only four of the dead were senior al Qaeda operatives.

U.S. military officials did not comment on that attack. U.S. officials rarely discuss the drone program, though privately they have said covert strikes using drones are legal and an effective tactic in the fight against extremists.

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17. Kenya Cops Nab Four Over Bus Blasts

Monday, 12 March 2012

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/kenya-cops-nab-4-over-bus-blasts-1.1254583>

A lawyer says Kenyan police have arrested a man and three teenagers over a weekend explosion at a bus stop that killed six people.

Mbugua Mureithi said on Monday that police arrested Sylvester Opiyo and three teens on Sunday. Opiyo turned himself in to police in December after authorities said he was wanted. He was then released without charge.

Mureithi said police are arresting “the usual suspects” and it was unclear what evidence linked Opiyo to the attack.

Police did not answer calls seeking comment.

The police have said they are investigating whether the Saturday night grenade attack was linked to Somalia's al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab militia. Al-Shabab sympathizers have carried out several attacks since Kenyan troops moved into Somalia in October.

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18. Bus Station Blasts In Kenyan Capital Kill Four

Saturday, 10 March 2012

[http://articles.boston.com/2012-03-10/news/31143500\\_1\\_blasts-three-grenades-attacks](http://articles.boston.com/2012-03-10/news/31143500_1_blasts-three-grenades-attacks)

A grenade attack at one of the main bus stations in Kenya's capital killed at least four people and wounded 40 others Saturday, officials said, in the latest bloodshed blamed on sympathizers of Somalia's al-Qaida-linked insurgency.

Witnesses reported that people in a moving car hurled three grenades at the outdoor terminal, police spokesman Charles Owino said. Government minister Esther Murugi, who spoke after visiting Nairobi's main hospital where the wounded were brought, said six needed emergency surgery. Earlier, a Red Cross official said 12 people were in critical condition.

The blasts are the latest in a string of small arms, bomb and grenade attacks that have killed scores of people since Kenya sent troops across the border into neighboring Somalia in October. The incursion followed a string of attacks by Somali gunmen on Kenyan soil. Somalia's al-Qaida-linked insurgency vowed revenge and incited sympathizers to carry out attacks in Kenya.

"The more you attack us, the more we will become aggressive," Owino said.

Witness Ruben Otsembo was filling up his motorcycle at a nearby gas station when a man covered in blood ran up shouting about an explosion and bodies, and then collapsed and died in front of him. Another man, who was wounded in the arms and legs while he was buying a bus ticket, said he heard two explosions.

"It was the second one that got me," said Frederick Shikutu, 36, as he was being loaded into an ambulance.

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## 19. Shabaab Suicide Bomber Attacks Presidential Palace In Mogadishu

Wednesday, 14 March 2012

[http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/03/shabaab\\_suicide\\_bomb\\_4.php](http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/03/shabaab_suicide_bomb_4.php)

A Shabaab suicide bomber killed at least five people in a suicide attack inside the presidential palace compound in the Somali capital of Mogadishu today.

Shabaab claimed credit for the suicide attack, which took place at the gate of the home of the speaker of parliament, which is also inside the compound. Somali officials said that four people were killed and 10 were wounded in the attack. Shabaab, in statements released on its Twitter account, HSM Press Office (or Harakat Al-Shabaab Al Mujahideen), claimed that 16 people were killed.

"The highly exceptional operation took place inside the #TFG compound while apostate officials were holding a meeting there," Shabaab stated in one tweet, referring to the Transitional Federal Government. "At least 16 confirmed dead so far, incl. senior officials, intelligence personnel, & TFG militia. Death toll is still rising," the group said in another.

Shabaab claimed the attack was carried out to take revenge "for the defilement & desecration" of Korans.

"Martyrdom Operation is a just retribution for the defilement & desecration of the Holy Qur'an that was sanctioned by AMISOM & TFG 3 days ago," Shabaab said on Twitter.

Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, a Shabaab spokesman, told Reuters that the terror group carried out the attack and that similar operations would take place in the capital.

"What a victory, inside the so-called presidential palace, more explosions and bombers will follow," Musab said.

Shabaab was able to penetrate security at the presidential compound one other time, in August 2010. The suicide bomber was killed after getting through the first gate.

In the past, Shabaab has shown it can penetrate security at the heavily protected areas in the capital and carry out deadly attacks. On Dec. 3, 2009, a Shabaab suicide bomber dressed as a woman detonated his vest at a graduation ceremony for medical students at a hotel in Mogadishu and killed 19 people, including the ministers of health, education, and higher education, and two reporters. Somalia's minister of sports was wounded in the attack, and died on Feb. 12.

On Sept. 17, 2009, Shabaab suicide bombers penetrated security at an African Union base in Mogadishu and killed 21 people, including the deputy African Union commander and 16 other peacekeepers. Sheikh Indha'adde, a top Somali defense official and former ally of Shabaab and Hizbul Islam, is reported to have provided intelligence to the suicide bombers that allowed them to carry out the attack.

Shabaab and its predecessor, the Islamic Courts Union, have carried out more than 30 suicide attacks in Somalia since they sought to control the country in 2006 (the Islamic Courts Union was ousted from power a few months later, in an invasion by Ethiopian forces in December 2006). At least two of those suicide attacks were carried out by American citizens.

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Shabaab has also executed a suicide attack outside Somalia's borders: the July 11, 2010 double suicide attack in Kampala, Uganda, that killed 74 people. It was carried out by a suicide cell called the Saleh ali Nabhan Brigade, which is named after the al Qaeda leader who served as Shabaab's military commander before he was killed in a US special operations raid in September 2009.

Shabaab and its Kenyan branch, the Muslim Youth Center, formally joined al Qaeda in February. The east African terror groups were closely tied to al Qaeda for years prior, however; Shabaab leaders had openly proclaimed their allegiance to al Qaeda long before the official merger.

Today's attack takes place as the African Union Mission in Somalia, or AMISOM, is pressing the terror group on three fronts. Ethiopian troops have advanced from the west, seizing the cities of Baidoa and Beledweyne over the past several months. Shabaab and Ethiopian forces clashed near the town of Luuq in the west last weekend; both sides claimed a major victory, but casualties on either side have been unconfirmed. The African Union stated that Ethiopian forces would withdraw from Baidoa and Beledweyne in April, and will be replaced by 2,500 peacekeepers from Burundi, Uganda, and Djibouti.

Burundian and Ugandan forces have taken control of Mogadishu after Shabaab abandoned much of the city last summer, and are slowly pressing westward to Afgoye, a Shabaab stronghold just 15 miles outside of the capital.

In the south, Kenyan forces are slowly moving northward toward the Shabaab strongholds of Afmadow and the port city of Kismayo. Kenyan troops have been fighting in Somalia since mid-October, and have only advanced to about 40 miles inside the country.

Shabaab still controls other major towns and cities along the coast between Kismayo and Mogadishu, including Jilib, Baraawe, and Merca.

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## 20. SVBIED Kills 10 At Catholic Church In Nigeria

Sunday, 11 March 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/explosion-hits-catholic-church-in-central-nigeria-town-where-thousands-killed-in-past-violence/2012/03/11/gIQAr8Xs4R\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/explosion-hits-catholic-church-in-central-nigeria-town-where-thousands-killed-in-past-violence/2012/03/11/gIQAr8Xs4R_story.html)

A suicide car bomber attacked a Catholic church Sunday in the middle of Mass, killing at least 10 people in the blast and the retaliatory violence that followed after the latest assault targeting a church in a central Nigerian city plagued by unrest, officials said.

The bomb detonated as worshippers attended the final Mass of the day at St. Finbar's Catholic Church in Jos, a city where thousands have died in the last decade in religious and ethnic violence. Security at the gate of the church's compound stopped the suspicious car and the bomber detonated his explosives during an altercation that followed, Plateau state spokesman Pam Ayuba said.

The blast damaged the church's roof, blew out its windows and destroyed a portion of the fence surrounding the church's compound, Ayuba said.

"He destroyed so many things," the spokesman said.

The bombing sparked retaliatory violence in Jos later Sunday, with angry youths burning down homes and soldiers guarding the city opening fire in neighborhoods, witnesses said. Ayuba said at least 10 people died in the bombing, though others said the number of dead included those killed in retaliatory attacks. Soldiers also were wounded in the blast.

No group immediately claimed responsibility though the city has been targeted in the past by a radical Islamist sect known as Boko Haram. The sect claimed a series of bombings in Jos on Christmas Eve in 2010 that killed as many as 80 people. The sect also claimed a similar church bombing on Feb. 26 on the main headquarters of the Church of Christ that killed three people and wounded 38 others.

The sect, which speaks to journalists through telephone conference calls at times of its choosing, could not be immediately reached for comment Sunday.

Jos and surrounding Plateau state have been torn apart in recent years by violence pitting its different ethnic groups and major religions — Christianity and Islam — against each other. Human Rights Watch says at least 1,000 people were killed in communal clashes around Jos in 2010.

The violence, though fractured across religious lines, often has more to do with local politics, economics and rights to grazing lands. Muslims in the city also say they are locked out of lucrative jobs in the region as the Christian-led state government doesn't recognize them as citizens.

The Catholic church attack also comes after a failed raid Thursday by British and Nigerian commandos left a Briton and an Italian hostage dead in Nigeria's far northwest. British officials have blamed a splinter cell of Boko Haram for the attack, something a spokesman for the group has denied.

However, the attack has opened a new front on Nigeria's ongoing struggle with terrorism, showing any region across the nation's Muslim north can be attacked — and anyone, including foreigners, could be targeted.

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Meanwhile Sunday, police said two separate attacks in northeast Nigeria blamed on the sect killed two people. One attack happened at a paramilitary police base in the town of Bama in Borno state, while the other happened during the day in Maiduguri, the sect's spiritual home, authorities said.

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21. Eleven Cartons Of Explosives Intercepted At MMIA

Friday, 09 March 2012

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2012/03/11-cartons-of-explosives-intercepted-at-mmia/>

Security agencies at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport ( MMIA) under the aegis of the Nigeria Customs Service(NCS), Murtala Muhammed International Airport ( MMIA), Command Friday intercepted eleven cartons of explosives weighing 95 kilogrammes which were allegedly smuggled into the country.

The eleven cartons of explosives labeled catridge powder devices and chargers were flown in from South Africa since February 24, 2012, but vigilant personnel at the Nigeria Aviation Company Limited (NAHCO), warehouse alerted security agencies, when they observed that the importer wanted to smuggle them out of the cargo terminal without declaring the items, even as the relevant duty on the items were not been paid to government.

Speaking on the seizure, the Customs Area Controller, MMIA Command, Mr Charles Eporwei Edike, while parading the suspect, before journalists affirmed that the importer, who claimed that he is a miner in Kaduna State brought in the explosives into Nigeria concealed in pallets made of other goods without disclosing to the relevant authorities the content.

Mr. Edike further explained that it was those vigilant security agents at the terminal that discovered that the goods were undeclared explosives that were concealed along other goods that notified the Customs authorities as well as other relevant agencies including the Nigeria Police to carry out tests on the items, which were found to be prohibited explosives.

The Customs Area Controllers also gave the name of the consignee as Miero Marble Granite and Stones Limited in Kaduna State, with one Mr Michael Awara Ernest as the representative to collect the explosives at the cargo terminal.

The Customs boss added that the name of the manufacturer ( consigner ) of the explosives as Nobleteq Arms and Ammunition Gateway Industrial Park in Centurion, South Africa.

The Customs boss added hat the explosives and the suspects have been adequately handed over to the police and other security agencies for proper investigations in order to ascertaining the motive for the importation of such items into the country.

He however assured that the long arm of the law would be meted out on operators who do not abide by government rules and regulations, affirming that it was wrong and criminal for anybody to import and want to clear any prohibited goods out of the airport without proper documentation and payment of the prescribed duties.

He said : “There was no documentation and duty paid. The explosives were concealed in a pallet with other items. Even, the law does not permit that any consignment is released without physical examination, which must be done after the relevant payments has been done. In this case the explosives were almost released until the vigilance of our officials led to the discovery”

“What has happened is an absolute prohibition, the importer needed a permit and user certificate and police permit, but all these he did not secure, yet embarked on the criminal way to smuggle out the explosives. We want to warn that no agent should have access to any consignment until relevant payments including government duty are paid”

“In this case the consignee only paid handling charges; rather he evaded customs duty, which should have been paid first” he added.

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## 22. Spate Of Attacks On LeT Agenda?

Monday, 12 March 2012

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/channels/nation/north/spate-attacks-let-agenda-445>

Investigations into the recent smashing of a Lashkar-e-Tayyaba module by intelligence agencies has revealed that there is a growing concern among the top hierarchy of terror outfits about the sudden drop in militant activities in India, particularly in the Kashmir Valley and other major cities.

Interestingly, sources claim, that frustration was now creeping into the LeT top brass and they are now more determined than ever to carryout a 'big strike'.

In fact, these instructions have come directly from none other than Hafiz Mohammed Saeed, founder of the Jamaat-ud-Dawa and a key LeT ideologue. Highly-placed intelligence sources said Saeed has categorically told Abu Hamza, the operational chief of LeT in India to launch a spate of attacks in important Indian cities.

Hamza has also been told to prepare a separate blueprint for increasing violence in Kashmir during the coming summer season.

The three LeT militants arrested recently from Delhi and Hazaribagh in Jharkhand have revealed that they were in contact with Hamza and were receiving instruction directly from him.

According to one of the Lashkar operative Ehtesham Malik, who even visited Pakistan for training in assembling explosives, disclosed during questioning that Hamza had told him that LeT was under tremendous pressure from Saeed and Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence to increase militant activities in India.

Though Hamza is known to be extremely secretive in his operations but he once told Malik that he had already set up several modules and sleeper cells across India. These modules, intelligence sources claim, have now been set up in smaller Indian cities to avoid suspicion.

"That is what explains why this particular module had set up a base in Hazaribagh. Though the explosives had been procured locally from a middleman in Hazaribagh only, so far we have not found any direct evidence of linking these militants with Naxal outfits of Jharkhand," a top intelligence official said.

This particular module was to target the cloth market at Chandni Chowk and then the main branch of the State Bank of India in Srinagar.

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23. No Check On Import Of Ammonium Nitrate

Tuesday, 06 March 2012

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-03-06/hyderabad/31126964\\_1\\_ammonium-nitrate-explosive-material-lakh-tonnes](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-03-06/hyderabad/31126964_1_ammonium-nitrate-explosive-material-lakh-tonnes)

For the last three days, a huge consignment of 26,701 metric tonnes of ammonium nitrate was being unloaded at the Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT). The highly explosive material reached here in a vessel 'Atlantik Confidence' from Russia on March 1 and was presently hauled at EQ7 berth. Even as the importers are preparing to sell the material to retailers, there is no monitoring as to where the consignment is headed to. The material, apart from being used in manufacture of fertilizers, can be put to lethal purposes by anti-social elements.

It may be recalled Maoists hijacked a truck carrying 16 tonnes of ammonium nitrate on May 20, 2010, in the Bastar region in Chhattisgarh when it was on its way to Raipur from Visakhapatnam. Till today, there was no trace of the missing truck. Likewise, 16 trucks carrying gelatine sticks went 'missing' in the Maoist heartland of Chhattisgarh. Despite the government's moves to regulate the import of the material, large quantities of ammonium nitrate makes its way to Vizag with scant regard for stipulated norms on its storage and transportation. It is estimated that nearly three lakh tonnes of nitrate would be imported this fiscal year, which is higher than last year's 2.8 lakh tonnes and 2.6 lakh tonnes in 2009-10.

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24. Explosives Recovered By Koraput Police

Tuesday, 13 March 2012

<http://orissadiary.com/CurrentNews.asp?id=32525>

The bomb disposal squad of Koraput district police diffused land mines. Police today recovered two steel container (25 liter each), Gelatin (Explosive Gel) 58 packets of 125 grams each, cordex wire 1000 meters in the forms of series of knots, Electronic detonator 04 no's and flexible wire 50 meters.

On getting specific input regarding planting of land mines on Machkund- Lamtaput road, IIC Machkund along with troops of 130 BN BSF carried out road sanitization and recovered Two land mines planted underneath a culvert near village Matamput 7 Kilometers from Machkund towards Lamtaput.

Recovering the deadly explosives, forces averted major mishappening in the area as these land mines would have been used to target forces said the superintendent of Police Avinash Kumar in a press meet at Koraput today.

The local Naxal commander Suryam of Karim nagar district and his group suspectedly involved in this desire Mr Avinash Kumar said. Santosh Malla, ASP, Operation, Asish Singh, ASP, Koraput, Akhilesh pratap Singh, SDPO, Malkangiri, Jagannath rao, SDPO, Laxmipur were presented in the Press meet.

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25. Hunt On For Maoists In Tribal Areas

Wednesday, 14 March 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/Hunt-on-for-Maoists-in-tribal-areas/articleshow/12255927.cms>

After the recent Maoist violence at Onukudelli in neighbouring Koraput district of Orissa, security forces launched a massive combing operations in search of the rebels by deploying two choppers. The security forces were deployed in large numbers from both the states in Matchkund and Bonda tribal areas on Tuesday.

The naxalites torched a BSNL exchange and panel board at the mobile tower at Onukudelli village in the early hours of Sunday. The security forces unearthed a Maoist dump at Mattamput on Matchkund-Lamataput main road on Monday. The dump included 20 kgs of explosives, detonators and gelatine sticks. The two choppers which transported a large number of forces to the forests hovered in the skies in the Paderu area for almost 30 minutes. Top officials of BSF, CRPF and Andhra police conducted aerial survey on the border.

Earlier, GK Veedhi police arrested a member of Galikonda area committee Gemmeli Balaraju at G Addaraveedhi on Monday. Balaraju of Boddamanupakalu was involved in the two murder cases of Majji Madhava Rao, a forest ranger, at Lankapakalu and Pangi Das, a police informer, at GK Veedhi.

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26. Huge Cache Of Explosives Seized From Cracker Unit Near Kozhencherry

Wednesday, 14 March 2012

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/states/kerala/article2994885.ece>

The Aranmula police have seized as much as 1,000 kg explosives from an illegal cracker unit operating from a rented house at Naranganam near Kozhencherry on Tuesday midnight.

The police raid on the rented house was on the basis of a telephonic tip-off received by the Sub-Inspector, B. Vinodkumar, on Tuesday.

The police raid party led by the SI reached the spot around Tuesday midnight and broke open the door to enter the house.

According to Mr Vinodkumar, the huge quantity of explosives, that include highly explosive potassium nitrate and potassium chlorate, were found stocked in bags inside all the rooms of the house. Even the explosive materials were found to have been callously dumped inside the toilet rooms attached to the house, he said.

The police have registered a case under the Explosives Act against Krishnankutty alias Ayroor Mani, a pyrotechnic expert, who had been running the illegal cracker unit there.

The Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad from Pathanamthitta reached the spot and took the explosives into custody for its safe disposal. The explosives were disposed inside a granite quarry, later, on Wednesday afternoon, police said.

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27. Arms And Explosives Seized From Naxal Hideout

Tuesday, 13 March 2012

<http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/arms-and-explosive-seized-from-naxal-hideout/974348.html>

The CRPF and police personnel today seized a haul of arms and ammunitions from a Naxalite hideout in Kumbhi jungle of Bihar's Gaya district, police said. Acting on a tip off, a joint team of the CRPF jawans and local police raided the hideout and seized three country-made bombs, four drum bombs, 17 cartridges and a haul of explosives, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Vinay Kumar said. The Naxalites managed to escape before the raid by security forces, he said.

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28. Crude Bomb Recovered At Haflong

Sunday, 11 March 2012

<http://www.assamtimes.org/hot-news/6208.html>

Acting on a tip off, the Haflong police recovered one crude bomb and 10 nos live cartages of SBBL gun from a resident of New Kunjung in Haflong on Sarurday at about 8.30 PM.

Though few persons were picked up for interrogation but the police remain restrained from disclosing any thing right now for the interest of proper investigation.

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29. IRB Jawans Escape Twin Blasts In Palamu

Wednesday, 14 March 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ranchi/IRB-jawans-escape-twin-blasts-in-Palamu/articleshow/12256682.cms>

Jawans of Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) had a providential escape on Tuesday when Maoists triggered two simultaneous landmine blasts at Tailyadeeh Mor in Chhaterpur of Palamu district.

Additional superintendent of police (operations) Ronald Hansda said the simultaneous landmine blasts at 12.45pm badly damaged the front portion (engine) of the vehicle, in which more than six jawans of IRB were on way to Devnar. "The occupants of the vehicle remained unhurt and their weapons too were intact. The landmine blasts created a six feet crater on the road. The jawans of IRB were on way to Devnar where an encounter had taken place between security forces and the Maoists at 9.45am. The jawans were part of the reinforcement team to take on the Maoists at Devnar," the ASP said.

Just before the blast, some of the IRB jawans, who were also on way to Devnar as part of reinforcement team, however, passed through the spot safely on seven to eight motorcycles.

Ronald said, "A total of 25 jawans of IRB were going to Devnar from Naudeeha on bikes and vehicle when these landmine explosions took place." The encounter at Devnar was intermittent and lasted for over two hours.

"The Naxalites taking advantage of the area retreated. Some pools of blood had been spotted suggesting injuries in the rebel camp. At Devnar grenades were lobbed by the security forces," said CRPF commandant R K Dagar. He, however, could not give the exact number of grenades used by the CRPF.

Palamu IG Deepak Verma expressed surprise as to why the forces used vehicle while going for reinforcement 7-8 km away. "It was a sheer luck that there was no casualty of cops. I would look into the matter," said Verma. However Verma lauded the brave fight of the jawans forcing the rebels to beat a retreat. Sources said the Devnar encounter was actually a trap but the rebels failed to succeed in their plan.

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30. IED Explodes In Tapaz, Capiz; One Child Killed

Monday, 12 March 2012

<http://www.groundreport.com/Business/Philippines-Rebel-IED-blows-up-on-assembly-kills-k/2944809>

A child was killed and another wounded and in serious condition when an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded in Tapaz, Capiz the blast happened at about 4:30 Sunday afternoon.

A PNP EOD post blast forensic investigation found, "The explosion was caused by the lapses while assembling of the IED by alleged new people's army rebels." a media statement released from the Philippine Army's 3rd infantry division on Panay Island said.

Police are also verifying eyewitness reports, "At least two unidentified NPA rebels - assembling the bomb," were also seriously wounded during the explosion based on statements of locals in the area.

Captain Reylan Java, spokesman of the Army's 3rd Infantry (Spearhead) Division, identified the victims as Rodelyn Aguirre, 6 years old and her 5-years old sister Roda. Rodelyn died on the spot while Roda was wounded when the bomb exploded inside their home in Brgy Tacayan, Tapaz, Capiz Sunday afternoon.

Capt. Java further said that the IED was to have be used, "by the rebels for their terrorist activities in Capiz and other parts of Panay." According to AFP research the rebels in Panay island have increasingly turned to the use of explosives.

Most recently in August of 2011, when alleged NPA members used IED's when they ambushed the army personnel belonging to the 61st Infantry Battalion in Brgy Switch, Tapaz, Capiz.

The AFP also says the rebels set up two IEDs near the Igcabugao Elementary School in Igaras, Iloilo sometime March of 2010 but AFP and PNP bomb disposal teams recovered these while conducting peace and development works and a medical mission at the school which was believed to have been the target then.

Philippine military records, further show a total of seven IEDs were recovered by the 82nd Infantry Battalion in various NPA encampments in Igaras and Miagao, both in Iloilo province, as far back as 2009.

In 2002, the leadership of the NPA announced they would be adopting the tactics of insurgents in Iraq; the Philippine military being primarily the targets. Since then numerous attacks have taken place across areas where the rebels operate. Most are remote detonated devices similar to those used by Islamic extremists in the southern Philippine island of Mindanao.

The Philippine military believes that some members of the rebel groups have had 'cross training' and technology transfers between the armed groups who while ideological opposites cooperate at times in terms of technology, arms, and, offer safe havens for a price to each other. Or so the Armed Forces of the Philippines has reported in the past.

Proof of this the Police and military claim is during the escape of Rizal Day 2000 bomber Fathur Roman Al Ghozi, who hid out and was transported from Manila to Mindanao allegedly the military claims by members of other armed groups. A report released on synergy between the groups claimed in 2005.

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Major General Jose Mabanta, Commander of the 3rd Infantry (Spearhead) Division, based in Camp Peralta, Jamindan, Capiz extended his deepest sympathy to the victims of the explosion incident. "We appeal to the leadership of the NPA to spare our children from harm and stay away from the communities that choose to live in peace," said MGen Mabanta.

"The four decades of armed struggle have only brought senseless deaths and miseries to the lives of innocent civilians," Mabanta added. He also said social problems in our country can easily be solved in an environment of peace rather than through armed struggle."

"This is a continued disregard of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law or CARHRIHL which the communist group is a signatory," Mabanta said. "We appeal to the leadership of the NPA to spare our children from harm and stay away from the communities that choose to live in peace," Mabanta added.\*

CARHRIHL states that parties involved in the agreement should affirm and apply the principles of international humanitarian law in order to protect the civilian population and individual civilians, as well as persons deprived of their liberty for reasons related to the armed conflict and also guarantees the right against economic and food blockades and indiscriminate bombings, shelling, strafing, gunfire and the use of landmines.

The CARHRIHL is the first of four agreements in the substantive agenda of the formal talks between the government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) which was signed on March 16, 1998 in the Hague, The Netherlands and was approved on April 10, 1998 by the NDFP National Council chairman Maria Orosa and on Aug. 7 that year by then President Joseph Estrada.

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31. Blast Rocks Manipur's Ukhul HQ

Monday, 12 March 2012

<http://www.nagalandpost.com/ChannelNews/Regional/RegionalNews.aspx?news=TkVXUzEwMDAxNTAzNw%3D%3D-B6xxWFX0SaQ%3D>

A powerful bomb exploded near the mini-secretariat building of Manipur's Ukhul district headquarters detonated by suspected militants later Sunday night. No casualty was reported in the blast.

Police said the bomb was blasted at the Old ADC (Autonomous District Council) office located around 50-meter away from the mini-secretariat building.

Some damages were caused to the office building by the impact of the blast.

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### 32. Colombian Army Seizes Detonators

Tuesday, 06 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.quintadivision.mil.co%2F%3Fidcategoria%3D323045>

#### **[Approximate Translation]**

During the last hours of operations and development of military search and control area, troops of the Sixth Brigade found in different parts of the department of war material allegedly belonging to FARC's Front 21.

The first incident occurred in the Salado neighborhood of the city of Ibagué, there was found by troops of Combat Services ASPC-6 a cache with the following material: 40 mm grenade, 15 caliber rifle cartridges 15.56 mm, 11 blanks and 11 electric detonators which are used to initiate the explosive charges, so it is presumed that these elements would be used to carry out terrorist acts in the urban municipality of Ibagué.

Also, in the El Rodeo municipality of Cajamarca was located a 60mm mortar shell, which has a radius of 40 meters involvement, it was destroyed in a controlled manner in the scene.

The Sixth Brigade Command reiterates that the community can report Tolimense anything suspicious or dangerous to the lines 146 and / or 147.

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33. Colombian Army Destroys Explosives In Meta

Wednesday, 07 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.cuartadivision.mil.co%2F%3Fidcategoria%3D323090>

**[Approximate Translation]**

Villavicencio. In the last hours of the Fourth Division units, deployed in the region of eastern Colombia, made significant operational results against various armed organizations outside the law offenders in the departments of Meta, Guaviare and Vaupés

In order to safeguard the integrity and safety of the inhabitants of the department of Meta, men of the Battalion of Engineers No. 7 "General Carlos Alban," Unit attached to the Seventh Brigade, located and destroyed in a controlled, five improvised explosive devices located in rural area of San Martin.

The discovery and subsequent destruction of a controlled type of explosive material 'tatuco', took place during the development of effective control military operations area and had been installed in the front 53 'Jose Antonio Anzoategui' of the terrorist group FARC.

Simultaneously in the general area of Puerto Alvira, a town of Mapiripan Battalion Combat Battalion of Land No. 120 "Jose Echevarria Huberley" attached to the Twenty-Second Jungle Brigade, captured a man, who at the time was in possession of illegal substances. The man was brought before the court second city, for their respective legal authorities.

In other developments, soldiers of the Thirty-First Jungle Brigade, while performing search and control operations in the area known as pipe Yararaca Caruru Township, Vaupés Department, seized 50 gallons of gasoline smuggling, which were transported in two boats, a motorboat and a fiberglass canoe. The illegal material was destroyed in a controlled manner, belonged to the front of Vaupes the FARC narco-terrorist organization.

With these results, the Fourth Division composed of the Seventh Brigade and Jungle Brigade No. 22 and 31 reiterate their firm commitment to comply fully with the institutional mission based on the military defeat of the illegal armed groups and contribute to the internal the jurisdiction assigned.

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34. FARC Attack In Caquetá Injures Six

Saturday, 10 March 2012

<http://www.hispanicallyspeakingnews.com/notitas-de-noticias/details/farc-detonates-roadside-bomb-leaving-6-wounded-in-colombia/14533/>

Four soldiers and two civilians - a woman and a boy - were wounded when the FARC guerrilla group detonated a house rigged with explosives as a military convoy passed by in San Vicente del Caguan, a city in the southern Colombian province of Caqueta, a military commander said.

The attack occurred Saturday morning on the road that leads from the San Vicente del Caguan airport to the Cazadores Battalion base on the city's outskirts, army 12th Brigade commander Gen. Fabricio Cabrera told Efe.

Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, guerrillas detonated about 200 kilos (some 440 pounds) of explosives as the convoy approached, Cabrera said.

"The house bomb was made of cement and they had been preparing it since its construction, they even planted explosives in the foundation. They had it waiting for the right time until they detonated it as the military convoy was passing by," Cabrera said.

The woman and the boy were walking on the road, which is surrounded by houses, about one kilometer (0.62 miles) from the downtown area.

The soldiers and the two wounded civilians were taken to a hospital in Florencia, the capital of Caqueta, and are out of danger, the general said.

The army vehicle hit by the blast was destroyed, the Juan Bosco school was damaged and the windows of the control tower at the airport were shattered, Cabrera said.

The damage to the control tower forced airport officials to restrict nighttime operations, Colombian Civil Aviation Agency director Santiago Castro said.

Airport officials, however, did not find any damage to the planes sitting on the landing strip at the time of the explosion.

The FARC, Colombia's oldest and largest leftist guerrilla group, was founded in 1964, has an estimated 8,000 fighters and operates across a large swath of this Andean nation.

The Colombian government has made fighting the FARC a top priority and has obtained billions in U.S. aid for counterinsurgency operations.

The FARC has suffered a series of setbacks in recent years at the hands of the Colombian security forces. Alfonso Cano, the FARC's top leader, was killed on Nov. 4 in a military and police operation that the government hailed as the biggest blow to the FARC in its nearly 50-year history.

Cano, a 63-year-old intellectual who had entered the ranks of the FARC 30 years ago, was killed in a remote area of the southwestern province of Cauca a few hours after fleeing a bombardment.

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The FARC also suffered a series of blows in 2008, with the biggest coming in July of that year, when the Colombian army rescued a group of high-profile rebel-held captives: former presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt, U.S. military contractors Thomas Howes, Keith Stansell and Marc Gonsalves, and 11 other Colombian police officers and soldiers.

The FARC is on both the U.S. and EU lists of terrorist groups. Drug trafficking, extortion and kidnapping-for-ransom are the FARC's main means of financing its operations.

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35. FARC Attacks Puerto Asis

Tuesday, 13 March 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=auto&tl=en&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.micurillo.com%2F2012%2F03%2Fcon-cilindros-bomba-atacaron-base.html>

**[Approximate Translation]**

The action was perpetrated by the FARC to five kilometers from the town of Puerto Asis, Putumayo Under. One of the injured is serious.

One soldier died and four people were injured in the attack early yesterday morning by FARC guerrillas to a military base located five kilometers from the town of Puerto Asis in Putumayo Lower.

According to official information, the guerrillas in the attack launched from a ramp pump cylinder from a nearby farm Engineers Battalion Number 27.

One of the wounded are in critical condition and together with its partners receive medical care at the hospital Mocoa.

The commander of the 27th Jungle Brigade, General Guillermo del Vasto, said the dead and wounded soldiers were part of a patrol guarding the outer zone of the facilities of the Battalion.

"Fortunately the explosives failed to reach the base or the effects it would have been greater," said General del Vasto.

There are currently searching reaction against the perpetrators of the attack in the Lower Putumayo jungle area.

It tightens the law and order situation in this region of Putumayo. Last Wednesday the FARC harassed an army patrol between Puerto Vega and Teteyé. This left one soldier wounded by a gunshot impact in the abdomen.

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36. Man Arrested After Explosive Device Found In Cork

Monday, 12 March 2012

<http://www.thejournal.ie/explosive-device-made-safe-in-cork-381220-Mar2012/>

Residents in the Ballyvolane area of Cork were evacuated from their homes last night after an explosive device was discovered under a car in the area.

A man in his 30s has been arrested and is being held at Mayfield Garda Station, where he is being detained under the provisions of Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act.

A member of the Army Bomb Disposal team suffered minor injuries while attempting to render the object safe. He was brought to Cork University Hospital as a precaution.

His injuries are described as minor, including cuts, bruises and flash injuries. He was released from hospital this afternoon.

The Defence Forces deployed the Bomb Disposal Team in response to a request from Gardaí in the city after a suspicious object was reported underneath a vehicle outside a private residence in Ballyvolane in Cork City.

The team arrived on scene shortly before midnight and commenced operations to render the device safe. The IED was reportedly difficult to access with the bomb disposal robot, and so the team leader commenced a manual approach. It was during this procedure that the device detonated and the team leader was injured.

A second bomb disposal officer was then deployed to the scene and the area was declared safe shortly after 2am.

The remaining members of the team returned unharmed to base at 2.20am.

The area's residents were allowed to return to their homes in the early hours of this morning. The car is due to be technically examined by Gardaí today.

The Defence Forces issued a statement to thank the general public for messages of support and good wishes that were received about the individual injured during the mission.

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37. Suicide Bomber Kills Five In Russia's Dagestan

Wednesday, 07 March 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/07/us-russia-dagestan-attack-idUSTRE8260CR20120307>

A female suicide bomber has killed at least five policemen by blowing herself up at a traffic police post in the restive Dagestan region of southern Russia.

The woman detonated her bomb late on Tuesday outside Karabudakhkent, a village 40 km (24 miles) south of the provincial capital Makhachkala, Russia's RIA news agency quoted local police as saying.

Dagestan faces almost daily shootings and bomb attacks as part of an Islamist insurgency across the mainly Muslim North Caucasus following two separatist wars in Chechnya.

"The female terrorist approached the (traffic police) enclosure and blew herself up," the police official said.

Dagestan faces almost daily shootings and bomb attacks as part of an Islamist insurgency across the mainly Muslim North Caucasus following two separatist wars in Chechnya.

An unofficial Islamist website, [www.kavkazcenter.com](http://www.kavkazcenter.com). said up to 10 policemen had been killed in the attack and that it was carried out by a woman suicide bomber supported by insurgents who executed policemen wounded during the blast.

The rebels want to create an Islamic state ruled by sharia in the region, which is close Sochi, where Russia will host the winter Olympics in 2014.

The insurgents said they carried out a suicide bombing at Moscow's Domodedovo airport that killed 37 people in January 2011, and twin bombings that killed 40 people on Moscow's metro in 2010.

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## 38. Police Arrest Two Muscovites Preventing Possible Attack On Manege Square

Tuesday, 06 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.vtomske.ru%2Fnews%2F45138.html%3Fprint%3D1>

**[Approximate Translation]**

In the Moscow region arrested two young men who made and sold homemade bombs of varying difficulty, until controlled. First, he was arrested 21-year-old resident of the village Stolbovaya Chekhov District, Ilya Parkhomenko, during the interrogation he passed his friend - 22-year-old resident of Podolsk Andrei Zhuravlev, in the country of which they were collected explosive devices.

Police officers, who followed Parkhomenko since early February, found that a week ago he asked the man, who wishes to buy a few bombs "with a view to possible use of 5 or March 6, 2012 during the events following the presidential elections at the Manege Square in Moscow" . Then they decided to take the shooter. Recall that the situation in the capital on the eve of the elections is gradually heating up: the police prepared for riots, pulling in the capital of military equipment, and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has scared provocations from the opposition, knowing that his opponents are looking for "sacrificial victim" to her " bang "and blame the government. Mode of high alert police reserves and now.

At Parkhomenko and Zhuravleva operatives out, stumbled on a page in their social network, where they were placed on the proposals laid out explosives and explosive devices, photos and videos of explosions, "Vesti". Parkhomenko and Zhuravlev were arrested after police carried out a control purchases.

In early February, the detective in the guise of a buyer purchased a Parkhomenko for the first 3,600 rubles an improvised explosive device made from F-1 grenade. After a while, the site quotes the words of the Moscow police chief of the Office of Information and Public Relations Eugene Gildeeva cupola near Moscow, the attacker has sold police two improvised explosive devices with a remote control for \$ 300.

Imaginary buyer asked the seller to demonstrate the power sold by a bomb, and he blew it with one of the devices purchased with the main mass of 585 g charge of high explosive and chopped nails and bolts in the form of destructive elements.

According to the newspaper "Komsomolskaya Pravda" as soon as the police learned that a Parkhomenko asked his friend, who tried to organize a series of explosions at the Manege Square, a manufacturer of bombs they decided to take - he was arrested March 2 on the sale of operatives bomb with a remote control for \$ 200.

In the detainee was seized improvised explosive device, "made in the form of a package of green mass of 1.2 kg of high explosive with elements of lethality, with built-in remote detonator and fuse - the mobile phone," said Eugene Gildeev. In addition, the suspect was taken: traumatic gun "Jorge" 9 mm caliber, 15 rounds of traumatic as well as U.S. \$ 500 (200 sent at the time of purchase and a further 300 paid previously).

Parkhomenko passed the companion and the place where they made the bomb

During the interrogation, Parkhomenko passed his friend who helped him in the explosive case. In the suburban home of Andrey Zhuravlev attackers staged a laboratory for manufacturing explosives. During the search, police found and seized explosive mixtures where the components - ammonium nitrate, a

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bottle of aluminum powder residue, metal cutting striking element, RGD-5 hand grenade, as well as mobile phones, sim cards and literature on bomb-making.

Publication of Life News published on its website video seizure of explosives in the country Zhuravleva.

Zhuravlev himself said that the alleged bomb Parkhomenko gathered at his summer residence without his help. "I met him near the station and we walked Stolbovaya me to the country - says Zhuravlev. - Drank beer, he once asked permission to manufacture a bomb at me. I did not mind." According to the young man, while he was not financially interested in the events and did not know what would later be used fabricated device.

However, investigators are inclined not to believe the words Zhuravleva. They believe that he "assisted in the manufacture and sale of improvised explosive devices, was in the know, and also made a purchase and storage in a suburban house components for the manufacture of explosive mixtures."

The search took place in the apartment Parkhomenko - he has also been found and seized bomb-making ingredients, as well as traumatic gun "Jorge", 15 rounds of traumatic and 500 U.S. dollars, the proceeds from the sale of explosive devices.

With respect to detainees prosecuted under Article 222 of the Criminal Code ("illegal sale of weapons, explosives and explosive devices") providing for the punishment of five to eight years.

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39. Police Prevent Mass Bomb Attack In North Caucasus

Wednesday, 14 March 2012

<http://en.rian.ru/crime/20120314/172149527.html>

Security forces have prevented a string of terror attacks after defusing nine bombs at an illegal laboratory in Nalchik, the capital of Russia's North Caucasus republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, the National Anti-Terrorism Committee said on Wednesday.

"The total mass of improvised explosive devices was over 100 kg of TNT equivalent. According to bomb experts, an explosion of that power would have destroyed a whole city block," the committee said in a statement.

The laboratory where the bombs were produced was located in a garage in Nalchik, the capital of the republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, and was discovered by policemen early Wednesday.

All the bombs were taken to a secure area and destroyed, the committee added.

Sporadic terrorist attacks and militant clashes are common in Russia's mainly Muslim North Caucasus republics. Nalchik witnessed a pitched battle in 2005 between around 150 local militants and police and security forces. The attackers killed 35 policemen and soldiers and 14 civilians but lost 92 of their own men.

Russia has been fighting militants in the North Caucasus for over a decade, including two separatist wars in Chechnya.

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40. Russian Interior Ministry To Plant Fake IEDs In Attempt To Raise Awareness

Monday, 12 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.mk.ru%2Fsocial%2Farticle%2F2012%2F03%2F12%2F680383-mvd-vzorvet-rossiyu-ponaroshku.html>

**[Approximate Translation]**

The Interior Ministry has invented an unusual method of increasing the vigilance of citizens and their employees. The Office intends to spend millions of rubles on the dummy explosive devices.

Photo: Natalie Gubernatorova

Interior Ministry procures a party dummy explosive devices in order to leave them in public places, writes today "Izvestia" . In this way, the police were going to check the vigilance of citizens and police responsiveness.

As a source told the publication in the ministry, tenders for 'bombs' worth about 2 million rubles was declared in February 2012. According to the technical project, external plaster cast should be a copy of a typical home-made bombs, that is a plastic box with a clockwork and wires. In the meantime, the police themselves have to make plaster casts of their own, from scrap materials.

It is assumed that the police will use a dummy for the covert anti-terrorist checks in public places. This practice has long used special services.

"As a rule, dummy left in public places - in a shopping center, near schools, train stations or at the Department of the Interior, and then assess how quickly and exactly how to react, citizens and officials of a potential" - said the representative of the Ministry of Interior.

The first wave of similar anti-terrorist exercises held in the country last spring, several weeks after the terrorist attack at Domodedovo airport January 24, 2011. After that, Dmitry Medvedev, visiting Kiev railway station, excoriated chapter Railways Vladimir Yakunin to the weak security in railway stations.

At the same time, the Interior Ministry acknowledged that tacit verification not welcome the guidance department. This is due to the risk that the vigilant guard raise the alarm and there will be mass panic.

Human rights activists are also skeptical about the idea. They note that the legal status of such events is not defined. In addition, the Russians have traditionally not inclined to trust law enforcement.

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#### 41. FBI Budget Cuts Could Hamper Bomb Tracking

Wednesday, 07 March 2012

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2012/03/fbi-budget-cuts-could-hamper-bomb-tracking/>

FBI Director Robert S. Mueller warned lawmakers Wednesday that a possible budget cut could delay his agency's efforts to find terrorists and bomb makers.

The FBI's Terrorist Explosive Device Analytical Center (TEDAC) at Quantico was established in late 2003 to help counter the threat of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) faced by U.S. soldiers in war zones.

FBI officials say they have analyzed over 80,000 IEDs at TEDAC, but Mueller, testifying before the House Appropriations Committee Wednesday, said that the proposed budget cut could lead to a greater backlog in the analysis of devices, preventing timely fingerprint analysis of suspected and known terrorists.

"We have the process of evaluating IEDs that have been discovered in Iraq and now Afghanistan," Mueller said, "and we take those IEDs and process them through our laboratory for fingerprints for DNA, for the designs. We have a backlog and that — our ability to get through that backlog — will be impacted by that rescission."

The FBI's budget request for 2013 includes a \$162 million cut from the FBI's Salaries & Expense account. FBI officials declined to say how large the backlog of IEDs waiting to be analyzed is.

"I've got monies allocated to address that backlog," Mueller added.

"If we're cut, I can't do that backlog and that enhances the risk that we will not have a fingerprint of an individual on an IED and that individual may get into Europe or may get into the United States."

"That is less important than making certain we follow every lead on every potential terrorist in the United States," Mueller continued. "So I have to prioritize. But with the prioritization comes an enhanced risk."

There have been an estimated 127,105 IED attacks in Iraq and 52,963 IED attacks in Afghanistan since 2004, according to military records.

The budget rebalancing could also cut \$37 million from the FBI's internal computer security system and an effort to centralize all FBI records.

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## 42. New York Man's Arsenal Was Out-Of-Control Hobby

Wednesday, 07 March 2012

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2012/03/07/1855152/arsenal-of-weapons-explosives.html>

A suburban New York man broke into his elderly parents' home while they wintered in Florida and built up a cache of enough explosive materials to potentially level an entire block, as well as an arsenal of weapons, pipe bombs, grenades and hundreds of marijuana plants, a prosecutor said Thursday.

Marc Ringel, 53, of Woodmere, on Long Island, said nothing as his attorney entered not guilty pleas to firearms, weapons possession and reckless endangerment charges in Nassau County District Court. He was ordered held without bail until his next court appearance on Monday.

The attorney, Saul Bienenfeld, told reporters after the arraignment that his client wasn't part of any organized terrorist group.

"This is a hobby that got out of control," Bienenfeld said of the weapons accusations. "If you look on the Internet, you can easily find out how to make bombs. If you want to take that up as a hobby, everything can be sold legally. It's when you put it together that you have a problem. Not everything was put together."

The attorney also said most of the more than 100 handguns and rifles Ringel is accused of possessing are antiques that he obtained online with the intention of re-selling them. Nassau County police have said Ringel doesn't possess a handgun license.

Bienenfeld declined to address accusations that hundreds of marijuana plants were also found in the Woodmere home owned by Ringel's parents, Abraham and Ruth Ringel. The couple, who spend the winter at a home in Florida, returned to New York on Wednesday; they sat in the first row of the courtroom to watch their son's arraignment but declined to speak with reporters.

Assistant District Attorney Christine Geier told the judge that Ringel broke into the home without permission. Bienenfeld disputed that claim but didn't elaborate. He also indicated that he may challenge whether police followed proper search procedures when his client was arrested.

"There's a big issue with how this search was conducted," the lawyer said. "There's a big issue with whether the search warrant is valid or not."

Ringel wasn't initially charged with having the marijuana plants, though a grand jury is expected to review the case and consider additional charges, according to the district attorney's office.

Ringel was arrested Tuesday after police said they responded to a silent alarm at the home, located on a dead-end street in a community just outside New York City. Police said they found Ringel working on a van in his driveway. He had no identification, so officers followed him toward the front door where he presumably was going to retrieve his ID.

When he opened the door, police said, the officers were overcome by the pungent smell of the marijuana plants. They also reported seeing a weapon on the floor and then took Ringel into custody.

Officers ordered an evacuation of about 20 homes in the neighborhood for several hours and obtained a search warrant, which they used to find the cache of weapons, Nassau County police Chief Steven



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Skrynecki said. Police also found a pit dug in the backyard of the home, which the chief theorized could have been used for experimenting with the explosives.

Police said they recovered 50 pounds of ingredients for making explosives, including ammonium nitrate, fuel oil, peroxide, sodium nitrate and citric acid. Also found were approximately 100 handguns, long rifles, pipe bombs and hand grenades in various locations around the home, authorities said.

"We view him as a tremendous threat to society," Skrynecki said.

Bienenfeld said his client assisted the FBI and other law enforcement officials after he was arrested.

"When the FBI told him that they're going to go in and dismantle some of this equipment, we then cooperated with the FBI right then and there and said nothing there you have to be worried about.," Bienenfeld said. "Do not pull any pins. Do not do anything stupid and everything will be fine."

Ringel was believed to be unemployed, and police said he had lived out West for a while. He was divorced and had moved back to Long Island about three years ago. Bienenfeld said Ringel was embroiled in a custody dispute involving his two daughters who live out of state, but he didn't disclose any details.

Court records indicate that Ringel was arrested in Provo, Utah, in 2005 on a charge of violating an order of protection. He also has a 2002 disorderly conduct conviction in Verde Valley, Ariz.

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43. Colebrookdale Police Arrest Man With Explosives

Tuesday, 13 March 2012

[http://www.berksmontnews.com/articles/2012/03/13/boyertown\\_area\\_times/news/doc4f5f978340c08055735788.txt](http://www.berksmontnews.com/articles/2012/03/13/boyertown_area_times/news/doc4f5f978340c08055735788.txt)

A township man who allegedly ran from police after a traffic stop in which police found an explosive in his possession, has been charged with drug possession.

Joel Herb, 49, of 940 N. Reading Ave., was arrested Tuesday from his home, police confirmed, after he was found in possession of suspected methamphetamine Monday night.

A press release issued by Colebrookdale Township Police Chief Christopher Schott indicated police stopped Herb in the area of 940 N. Reading Ave. shortly before 10 p.m. Monday after he “committed several traffic violations.” Upon stopping Herb, police located the controlled substances as well as “a small, metallic cylinder in (Herb’s) vehicle that appeared to be a small pipe bomb.”

According to court records, Herb ran from police on foot and was located at his residence a short time later. Police indicated in the search warrant obtained through Reading Central Court around 4:35 a.m. Tuesday that on Feb. 17 police were called regarding “a loud explosion in the area of 940 N. Reading Ave.,” which is Herb’s address. When police spoke to Herb following that incident he “denied even hearing the device explode,” according to the search warrant.

The search warrant was obtained by Colebrookdale Township Police to search Herb’s residence for “explosives, explosive devices, black powder, smokeless powder, explosive precursors, hobby precursors, pyrotechnic fuses, detonators ... bomb making instructions, manuals, and directions, receipts for the purchase of any explosive material, including tools to facilitate an explosive device,” and other related items.

The search warrant was executed by police around 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and two “small explosive devices” were located in the garage at the property, according to the press release issued by police. Police said the Reading Bomb Squad was conducting tests on the devices Tuesday afternoon.

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