



Weekly News Update

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



Marines from Kajaki's Forward Operating Base Zeebrugge on a mission to clear mines and IEDs in a nearby field. Every inch of this grass could be deadly — the area is heavily mined by the Taliban.

A Marine digs in the dirt after his metal detector beeped.
[See [In the Meadows of Afghanistan, an Endless Search for IEDs](#)]

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1. [Trend] **In the Meadows of Afghanistan, an Endless Search for IED** (Global Post)

Sunday, 25 September 2011

<http://www.globalpost.com/photo-galleries/planet-pic/5676055/the-meadows-afghanistan-endless-search-ieds>

Marines from Echo Battery, 2/12 Field Artillery, are what is known as provisional infantry.

They are trained for something else, in this case firing huge howitzers at distant targets. However, with the military stretched thin, they are required to patrol and fight on foot as infantrymen.

And like most infantrymen, they find themselves operating as a provisional bomb squad.

The area around the Kajaki Dam and hydroelectric power plant is seeded with old Russian mines, and local Taliban fighters make improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that are just as deadly and often more difficult to detect.

The Marines carry sophisticated electronics to try to find or disable the IEDs, but often it comes down to having sharp eyes, and spotting a bit of wire poking through the soil.

The artillerymen, based at Forward Operating Base Zeebrugge, have lost one Marine and had several terribly wounded in the few months they've been at Kajaki. Local children have also been killed by IED. A little boy rode his bicycle over one recently.

The meadows are littered with shrapnel from 30 years of war, which makes the metal detectors difficult to use. The knee-high grass also hides bones of IED and mine victims.

Marines make the grim discoveries from time to time, finding a leg bone from one of their fallen comrades picked clean by ants or a shredded piece of body armor.

Songbirds chirp and flutter about Kajaki's verdant meadows without a care, but a creeping fear hangs over anyone who sets foot in the grass, soft and deadly.

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2. [Trend] **Admiral Mullen: Pakistani ISI Sponsoring Haqqani Attacks** (Long War Journal)
Thursday, 22 September 2011
http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/09/admiral_mullen_pakis.php

During a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing today, Admiral Michael Mullen, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, highlighted the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence Agency's role in sponsoring the Haqqani Network - including attacks on American forces in Afghanistan.

"The fact remains that the Quetta Shura [Taliban] and the Haqqani Network operate from Pakistan with impunity," Mullen said in his written testimony. "Extremist organizations serving as proxies of the government of Pakistan are attacking Afghan troops and civilians as well as US soldiers."

Mullen continued: "For example, we believe the Haqqani Network--which has long enjoyed the support and protection of the Pakistani government and is, in many ways, a strategic arm of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence Agency--is responsible for the September 13th attacks against the U.S. Embassy in Kabul."

"There is ample evidence confirming that the Haqqanis were behind the June 28th attack against the Inter-Continental Hotel in Kabul and the September 10th truck bomb attack that killed five Afghans and injured another 96 individuals, 77 of whom were US soldiers," Mullen continued.

During his oral testimony, Mullen reportedly reiterated his concerns about the ISI's role in sponsoring Haqqani Network attacks.

"With ISI support, Haqqani operatives planned and conducted (a Sept. 10) truck bomb attack, as well as the assault on our embassy," Mullen said, according to Reuters. "We also have credible intelligence that they were behind the June 28 attack against the Inter-Continental Hotel in Kabul and a host of other smaller but effective operations."

The Sept. 13 attack on the US Embassy in Kabul was part of a lengthy siege on Western targets, including the NATO headquarters. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attacks, which used both suicide bombers and rocket-propelled grenades. [See LWJ report, Taliban launch complex attack on US embassy in Kabul.]

Afghan officials previously released audio of intercepted conversations between the terrorists responsible for the June 28 attack on the Inter-Continental Hotel and their Haqqani handlers in Pakistan. In an intercepted phone call, Badruddin Haqqani, a top leader of the terror network, is heard directing one of the fighters and laughing during the attack that killed 11 civilians and two Afghan policemen, as well as nine members of the attack team. [See LWJ report, Haqqani Network directed Kabul assault by phone from Pakistan.]

The ISI's sponsorship of terrorist attacks inside Afghanistan and elsewhere has long been known to US intelligence officials.

For instance, according to a leaked State Department cable dated Dec. 5, 2008, a senior US intelligence official briefed NATO representatives on the ISI's dirty work. The ISI "provides intelligence and financial support to insurgent groups - especially the Jalaluddin Haqqani network out of Miram Shah, North Waziristan - to conduct attacks in Afghanistan against Afghan government, ISAF, and Indian targets," Dr. Peter Lavoy, who was then the National Intelligence Officer for South Asia, told his NATO counterparts.

Years later, Pakistan's duplicity in this long war is still a major problem. While recognizing that progress has been made in Afghanistan, Mullen cautioned that Pakistan's sponsorship of the insurgency may jeopardize the mission.

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"History teaches us that it is difficult to defeat an insurgency when fighters enjoy a sanctuary outside national boundaries, and we are seeing this again today," Mullen said in his written testimony. "The actions by the Pakistani government to support [the Quetta Shura Taliban and the Haqqani Network] --actively and passively--represent a growing problem that is undermining U.S. interests and may violate international norms, potentially warranting sanction."

Mullen continues: "In supporting these groups, the government of Pakistan, particularly the Pakistani Army, continues to jeopardize Pakistan's opportunity to be a respected and prosperous nation with genuine regional and international influence."

Mullen argues, however, that now is not the time "to disengage from Pakistan" but instead, 10 years after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, America should "reframe our relationship."

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3. [Trend] **The Hidden Harm in Fighting the War on Terror** (Sydney Morning Herald)
Sunday, 25 September 2011
<http://bfbs.com/news/afghanistan/new-badge-ied-search-teams-51513.html>

In 2009, US Marine Corps commandant General James Amos was visiting veterans at the Walter Reed hospital in Bethesda, Maryland. There he met a bomb disposal expert suffering from neurological problems. With some difficulty, the patient said to the general: "I know who you are. I have a picture of you and I together in Iraq."

As it happened, the general had the same picture. It had been taken in 2007, when he posed with a group of marines who had survived after an improvised explosive device detonated under their armoured vehicle. At the time, the marines appeared unscathed. The bomb disposal expert was redeployed and exposed to more explosions. When General Amos saw him in the hospital he understood that mild traumatic brain injury was a real condition and needed to be taken seriously.

What blast waves do to the brain is still not fully understood. The symptoms that occur after exposure to an explosion resemble concussion. Sportsmen who suffer repeated bouts of concussion can take longer to recover from each subsequent bout. And soldiers repeatedly exposed to bomb blast waves may experience long-term brain damage. Symptoms can include headaches, ringing in the ears, nausea, forgetfulness and short-term memory loss. Sufferers might forget their way home after going to the shops, or talk about wanting to try a restaurant they had eaten at the night before.

Some symptoms are similar to post-traumatic stress disorder, which is one reason it took some time for mild traumatic brain injury to be recognised as a separate condition. Psychological disorders unfortunately carry more of a stigma than strictly physical ailments, which might be why blast-affected soldiers experiencing some of these symptoms may have been reluctant to come forward in the past. That danger still exists. The Australian Defence Force says most Australian soldiers suffering from mild traumatic brain injury are expected to recover within 10 days. A web-based diagnostic tool to test cognitive function after exposure to a blast has also been introduced. The force says that because of the new testing methods it now expects this type of injury will be reported more frequently. But a diagnostic tool is not the same as cure or prevention. Inevitably, Australian soldiers will continue to be at risk of long-term brain damage if they are exposed to repeated explosions. And this is an ever-present danger while they remain in combat zones where IEDs can be found.

It is important soldiers are educated about the condition. Boxers who are repeatedly knocked out in the ring are more vulnerable to diseases such as Alzheimer's or Parkinson's later in life - and so are soldiers who are exposed to multiple bomb blasts. IEDs are a signature weapon on the rebel side in the Afghan war. Mild traumatic brain injury can be seen as a signature injury of the conflict - a hidden cost, invisible to a casual observer.

In the US, it has been estimated that the number of troops affected by this kind of brain injury is between 200,000 and 320,000. Doctors fear a potential epidemic of disability and dementia. No treatment exists as yet. Furthermore, budget cuts in the US mean fewer resources are available for research into the condition. The simplest way to put an end to the risks posed by IEDs would be to bring our soldiers home. Failing this, Australian researchers can play a role in unravelling the causes and treatments of mild traumatic brain injury. We have a responsibility to soldiers serving now and to those who may be affected by exploding IEDs in the future.

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4. [Security] **2nd Special Troops Battalion Soldiers Train ALP to Detect IEDs** (DVIDS)

Wednesday, 21 September 2011

http://www.dvidshub.net/news/77352/2stb-soldiers-train-alp-detect-ieds#.ToCr_2jZPx

Soldiers assigned to the Afghan Local Police training detachment with Company D, 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, attached to 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, conducted an improvised explosive device lane at Joint Combat Outpost Masaw, Sept. 15.

Planning for the lane took place Sept. 12-13 and focused on teaching the ALP about identifying and securing IEDs.

The ALP received classroom training that provided an overview on the components of an IED, common locations for emplacement of IEDs and proper steps to cordon the IED in preparation for an explosive ordnance team.

“Providing the ALP with the tools necessary to independently identify and clear IED sites allows them to take one step closer to transitioning to a self-sustaining force,” said 1st Lt. Simone Luca, executive officer of the ALP training detachment with Company D.

After the classroom training portion was completed, the ALP participated in the IED lanes. There were two separate IED lanes, and ALP members were given a task and purpose in order to guide them through each of the scenarios.

ALP were directed to identify any IEDs or caches, practice reporting the incident to their higher headquarters, and to identify the type of IED in order to request EOD support.

“Since we assumed responsibility for the Masaw battle space, we have watched the ALP makes vast improvements,” said Capt. Brian Kern, ALP training detachment commander. “The ALP program is vital for a secure and prosperous Afghanistan.”

Kern went on to say, “The ALP members displayed their ability to identify IEDs, which is one of the biggest threats in this area of operations. I am confident that they will be able to secure and protect their fellow citizens.”

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5. [Tech] **Clark International Logistics to Build Unique Armored Vehicle** (West Virginia Media)
Friday, 23 September 2011
<http://wowktv.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=108574>

The door to a new product line has opened at Clark International Logistics in Poca. The company is preparing to build and sell an armored vehicle called the Patron.

“It can withstand a IED blast underneath and under the wheel, as well as the fact it is protected against small arms fire to .30 caliber armor piercing round,” said Troy Thornton, the director of contracts and development for Clark International Logistics.

The vehicle includes things like cameras and electronic devices to protect those inside. It can hold nine people.

“The vehicle has armored glass so it has the same level of protection as the armored steel,” said Thornton.

It was first developed by the Marines about five years ago. The company acquired the rights to the vehicle from a South Carolina company a few months ago. Now employees will be learning a new job skill as they build the Patron.

“I thought it looked like a cool SUV vehicle. It was something different,” said employee Mark Wolforth.

Before the first one is built, Thornton says there may be a few changes.

“Some of the driver controls and things like that we want to make simpler with less switches and buttons,” said Thornton.

The company plans to market the Patron to military services and law enforcement agencies across the nation and around the world.

Since the product line is in the beginning stages of development, Thornton said it's too early to tell what the economic impact will be for Putnam County.

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6. [Attack: Kabul, AFG] **Taliban Suicide Bomber Assassinate Head of Afghan High Peace Council**
(Long War Journal)

Tuesday, 20 September 2011

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/09/taliban_suicide_bomb_31.php#ixzz1Z4wmcE1w

The Taliban have claimed credit for today's suicide attack in Kabul that killed Burhanuddin Rabbani, the chief of the Afghan High Peace Council and former president of Afghanistan. The suicide bomber killed Rabbani in his home and seriously wounded Masoom Stanekzai, the peace council's secretary, after detonating an explosive device that was hidden in his turban. "A Taliban member who went to Rabbani's house for peace talks detonated a bomb hidden in his turban," a statement released by the Kabul police chief's office said, according to Reuters. The suicide bomber had not been searched by security forces prior to entering Rabbani's home, as a sign of trust.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid identified the suicide bomber as Mohammad Masoom, and said he entered Rabbani's home under the guise of peace talks. "As soon as Rabbani came three steps forward to hug Mohammad Masoom, he triggered his explosive-filled jacket killing Rabbani, (another) Taliban militant Wahid Yar and four security guards present at the house," he told Reuters.

Masoom was introduced to Rabbani by Rahmatullah Wahidiyar, the Taliban's former Deputy Minister of Refugees Affairs. Wahidiyar, who is from Paktia province, reconciled with the Afghan government in the winter of 2005. The New York Times described Wahidiyar as "a trusted emissary" of Rabbani. His whereabouts are currently unknown.

Kabul police and the National Directorate of Security are said to have a second suicide bomber and the Taliban's driver in custody. As the head of the Afghan High Peace Council, Rabbani was tasked with conducting reconciliation talks with the Taliban. While Rabbani had in the past been optimistic about the prospects for reconciliation, he is said to have soured on the process and believed the Taliban had no interest in reconciliation, according to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. NATO and the US are banking on reconciliation with large elements of the Taliban as well as the development of the Afghan National Security Forces as major elements of the strategy to dramatically reduce their military presence by 2014.

The assassination of Rabbani is the latest in a string of attacks that have targeted high-profile Afghan leaders. Since the beginning of spring, the Taliban have killed Ghulam Haidar Hamidi, the mayor of Kandahar; Ahmed Wali Karzai, President Karzai's brother and an influential power broker in Kandahar; General Daud, the top police commander in the north; General Abdul Rahman Sayedkhili, the provincial chief of police for Kunduz; Jan Mohammad Khan, the former governor of Uruzgan province who had become one of Karzai's top advisers; and Mohammad Hashim Watanwal, a parliamentarian from Uruzgan. Khan and Watanwal were killed in a suicide attack at Khan's home in Kabul.

Rabbani's murder also takes place just one week after a team of Taliban fighters launched an assault on the US Embassy, NATO headquarters, and several police stations in Kabul. The attack lasted for more than 20 hours. Today's attack is the fourth carried out by the Taliban using a bomb hidden in a turban. This is a tactic that was not used by the Taliban until this summer. On July 14, a Taliban suicide bomber detonated his headdress during a funeral ceremony for the slain half-brother of Afghan President Hamid Karzai, killing four people, including the ulema council leader, Maulvi Hikmatullah Hikmat, and another senior religious cleric. On July 27, a turban suicide bomber killed the mayor of Kandahar City, Ghulam Haidar Hamidi, after he exited a meeting and was speaking on his cellphone in a courtyard. And on Aug. 19, a Taliban suicide bomber with an explosive device hidden within his headdress detonated at an Afghan government center during a ceremony marking Afghanistan's Independence Day held at the Helmand Military Corps Center. Three Afghan National Policemen were wounded in the attack.

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7. [Attack: Takhar, AFG] **Wainwright Soldier Killed in IED Attack** (Army Times)

Wednesday, 21 September 2011

<http://www.armytimes.com/news/2011/09/army-wainwright-casualty-afghanistan-ryan-j-cook-092111w/>

An Alaska-based soldier was killed earlier this week in Afghanistan, the Defense Department has announced.

Spc. Ryan J. Cook, 29, of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., died Sunday in Takhar province of injuries suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, out of Fort Wainwright.

No further information was immediately available.

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8. [Attack: Kandahar, AFG] **Fort Riley Soldier Killed by IED in Afghanistan** (AP)

Monday, 19 September 2011

<http://cjonline.com/news/2011-09-19/fort-riley-soldier-killed-ied-afghanistan#.ToCsDGjZPx>

A Kansas-based Army combat engineer was killed Sunday while fighting in Afghanistan, the Defense Department announced Monday.

Army Spc. Chazray Clark, 24, of suburban Detroit, died Sunday in Afghanistan's Kandahar Province.

Clark was wounded when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. His remains arrived Monday afternoon at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

He was part of the Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, based at Fort Riley.

Fort Riley said Clark joined the Army in September 2009 and began his first deployment to Afghanistan this February.

He is survived by his wife and one child.

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9. [Attack: Kandahar, AFG] **Army Reports Second Stryker Death This Week** (Alaska Public)

Saturday, 17 September 2011

<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2011/09/22/army-reports-second-stryker-death-this-week/>

The Army is reporting the death of another Ft. Wainwright based soldier in Afghanistan, the second this week. U.S. Army Alaska officials say Sgt. Timothy Douglas Sayne of Reno, Nevada was killed Sunday by a roadside bomb in Kandahar Province.

The 31-year-old Sayne was a cavalry scout assigned with the Fairbanks based 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team. Next of kin have been notified.

The death follows that of fellow Stryker Specialist Ryan J. Cook, of Florida, who died of injuries suffered in a separate IED attack also Sunday in Kandahar Province. The soldiers are the 14th and 15th Ft. Wainwright based troops to be killed in Afghanistan since the brigade's current year long deployment, began in April.

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10. [Attack: Logar, AFG] **Suicide Blast Kills 2, Wounds 2 in Afghan Town** (Xinhua News Agency)
Saturday, 24 September 2011
http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2011-09/24/c_131157845.html

A roadside bomb killed 16 Afghan civilians, 11 of them children, as the group was returning Tuesday from an engagement party in western Afghanistan, provincial officials said.

Authorities in Herat province, near the Iranian border, said an improvised explosive device, or IED, detonated when the minibus the group was riding in ran over it.

The United Nations says record numbers of Afghan civilians died in the first half of this year. The bulk of civilian casualties are blamed on insurgents. IEDs and suicide bombings are the biggest killers.

Herat province is considered a relatively peaceful part of Afghanistan. Security control of its capital, Herat city, was handed over to Afghan forces during the summer.

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11. [Attack: Herat, AFG] **Sixteen Civilians Die in Roadside Bombing** (Los Angeles Times)

Tuesday, 27 September 2011

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world_now/2011/09/sixteen-afghan-civilians-die-in-roadside-bombing.html

A roadside bomb killed 16 Afghan civilians, 11 of them children, as the group was returning Tuesday from an engagement party in western Afghanistan, provincial officials said.

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12. [Attack: Bajaur, PAK] **Four Killed in Twin Blasts in Bajaur** (Express Tribune)
Friday, 23 September 2011
<http://tribune.com.pk/story/257837/4-killed-in-bajaur-agency-blasts/>

The incident took place in the Bar Chamarkand tehsil when a pick-up vehicle carrying local tribesmen to the market was targeted using roadside bombs.

Local sources said that the two blasts followed each other in quick succession.

“The first blast hit the vehicle and a little later another blast went off when tribesmen gathered at the site to attend to the casualties,” an eyewitness said.

Sources said that the incident took place near the Pak-Afghan border and all the fatalities included civilians. The deceased were identified as Mauala Bahdar, Gul Shireena, Malik Kashmaly Khan and his daughter. The injured were identified as Essa Khan, Khushal, Azeem and Ibrahim.

The injured were rushed to the Agency Headquarters Hospital Khar and one of the injured, in critical condition, was shifted to Peshawar for treatment.

Locals said that a lack of ambulances and medical services hampered the shifting of the injured to the hospital and locals had to arrange their own vehicles for assistance.

Security forces cordoned off the area following the blast and security arrangements were put on high alert.

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13. [Attack: Khyber, PAK] **Four Militants Killed in Khyber Blast** (Pakistan Today)
Friday, 23 September 2011
<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2011/09/4-militants-killed-in-khyber-blast/>

At least four suspected militants were killed and another injured when a bomb in their vehicle exploded in Khyber Agency area on Friday.

According to a private news channel, the blast took place at the mountainous Tirah valley, near the Afghan border. The vehicle was completely destroyed in the blast while it was not clear who planted the bomb in the vehicle.

At least four suspected militants were killed, while another was injured in the incident.

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14. [Attack: Sanghar, PAK] **Sanghar Bomb Explosion Kills Three Children** (South Asian News Agency)
Friday, 23 September 2011
<http://www.sananews.net/english/2011/09/sanghar-bomb-explosion-kills-three-children/>

Bomb explosion in Sanghar has killed three children and injured 14 others here on Thursday.

The incident took place at the village of Khproo, when children founded a bomb from rain water and started playing with it by considering it as toy and suddenly it exploded resulting in the deaths of three children on the spot and injury of 14 others; meanwhile the injure were shifted in nearby hospital.

According to hospital sources the five children are in critical condition and they have been shifted in civil hospital Haiderabad for further treatment. The investigation into the incident has been started.

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15. [Attack: Peshawar, PAK] **At Least 14 Dead in Pakistan Bombings** (CNN)

Monday, 19 September 2011

http://articles.cnn.com/2011-09-19/asia/world_asia_pakistan-explosion_1_lady-reading-hospital-pakistan-bombings-peshawar?_s=PM:ASIA

A powerful bomb exploded in a marketplace in Peshawar on Monday night, killing at least six people, wounding at least 31 and destroying about 30 shops, police and hospital officials said.

The explosion was the second fatal bombing Monday in Pakistan. A suicide bomber attacked the home of a senior police official in Islamabad, killing eight people, including a mother and her son who were walking to the child's school.

The Peshawar bomb consisted of 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of explosives and was detonated remotely, said Hukum Khan, an officer with the bomb disposal squad.

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16. [Attack: Al-Hamza] **Terror Bid Foiled in Pakistan** (The Peninsula)

Saturday, 24 September 2011

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Terror-bid-foiled-in-Pakistan/Article1-749740.aspx>

A terror attack was foiled on Saturday in Pakistan's Quetta city when residents nabbed an Afghan militant while he was planting a bomb at a hall, a media report said.

The militant - identified as Abdul Khaliq - was planting the bomb at the Nichari Imambargah, a congregation hall for Shiite ceremonies, Online news agency reported.

On questioning Khaliq, police arrested 20 more terrorists and seized explosive material and weapons from their possession.

On Sep 20, at least 26 Shia pilgrims were gunned down in Balochistan province after their bus was ambushed by gunmen. Three more Shia Muslims were killed in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan, when they were going to a hospital to collect the bodies of those killed in the bus attack.

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17. [Attack: Karbala] **Two Booby-trapped Car Blasts Caused 95 Casualties** (Aswat al-Iraq)
Tuesday, 18 September 2011
http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145024&l=1

The explosions that took place in Karbala city on Sunday were caused by 2 booby-trapped car blasts and 2 explosive charges, that caused 95 victims between martyrs and injured, the Commander of Central Euphrates Operations said on Sunday.

“Karbala city had witnessed today (Sunday) 4 explosions close to the office of Nationality & Civil Status at the center of the city,” General Othman al-Ghanimy told a news conference, attended by Aswat al-Iraq in Karbala Operations building.

He said the explosions have been caused by using 2 booby-trapped cars and 2 explosive charges, laid under civilian cars, parked in the area of the attack, adding that the first explosion was caused by a booby-trapped car, followed by an explosive charge and then by another explosion when the security forces and ambulance cars arrived to drive the wounded to hospitals, and then another booby-trapped car blew off when other security and ambulance cars arrived.

“The final result, according to al-Husseiny Teaching Hospital in Karbala, has reached 10 people killed and 85 wounded, including 34 security elements, 4 of them officers,” he said.

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18. [Attack: Ramadi] **Two Security Men Killed, 3 Others Injured in Ramadi Blast** (Aswat al-Iraq)
http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145013&l=1
Sunday, 25 September 2011

Two security elements have been killed and three others injured, including a civilian, in two explosive charges blast in west Iraq's Anbar Province on Sunday, an Anbar Security source reported.

"An explosive charge blew off on Sunday morning in Albu-Juheish district of Khalidiya township, 20 km to the east of Ramadi, the center of Anbar Province, wounding a civilian," the Security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

"Ten minutes after the time of the blast, and after the arrival of a police patrol to the venue of the attack, an explosive charge blew off, killing a police officer, a policeman and wounding 2 others," he said.

Ramadi, the center of Anbar Province, is 110 km to the west of Baghdad.

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19. [Attack: Garma] **3 Cops Injured in Anbar Blast** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Monday, 19 September 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144921&l=1

Three policemen have been injured in an explosive charge blast against their patrol in Garma township of west Iraq's Anbar Province on Monday, a security source reported.

“An explosive charge blew up against an emergency patrol in Garma township of west Iraq's Anbar Province on Monday, wounding 3 of its elements and causing damage to their vehicle,” the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

He said that an Army and Police force began an investigation campaign, in order to avoid another attack.

Ramadi, the center of Anbar Province, is 110 km to the west of Baghdad.

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20. [Attack: Babel] **Four Killed, 17 Injured in Babel Blast** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Friday, 23 September 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144980&l=1

At least 4 persons have been killed and 17 others injured in a booby-trapped car blast in west Iraq's Babel Province on Thursday, a Babel police source reported on Friday.

"The number of victims of the blast that took place in al-Husseiniya area of Iskandariya township, north of Hilla, the center of Babel Province on Thursday, has reached 4 killed and 17 injured," the police source said, adding that the blast was caused by a suicide bomber, who blew off a booby-trapped car..

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21. [Attack: Baghdad] **Two Soldiers, Guard, Killed in East Baghdad Blast** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Friday, 23 September 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144977&l=1

Two Iraqi soldiers and a guard have been killed in an explosive charge blast against an Army patrol east of Baghdad on Thursday night, a police source reported.

“An explosive charge blew off against an Iraqi Army patrol in front of the Turkomen Club in east Baghdad’s Palestine Street on Thursday night, killing 2 soldiers and the Club’s guard, and causing material damage to the patrol’s vehicle,” the police source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

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22. [Attack: Baghdad] **Four Killed, 15 injured in 5 Baghdad Blasts** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Friday, 23 September 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144976&l=1

Four civilians have been killed and 15 others injured in 5 explosive charges blasts in two west Baghdad houses on Friday, a police source reported.

“Five explosive charges blew off, two of them stuck to door houses, 2 in 2 house gardens and one on the main street in west Baghdad Ghazaliya and Shu’la districts, killing 4 civilians and wounding 15 others, including women and children,” the police source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency on Friday.

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23. [Attack: Hilla] **2 Killed, 15 Wounded in Explosion in Hilla** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Thursday, 22 September 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144972&l=1

Two persons were killed and 15 wounded in an explosion in a Shiite mosque north of Hilla city, security sources said today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that a bombed car exploded this evening near a Shiite mosque, 50 km north Hilla city.

The explosion resulted in material losses in the nearby cars.

No further details were given.

Hilla, the center of Babel province, lies 100 km south of the capital, Baghdad.

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24. [Attack: Kirkuk] **2 Injured in Sticky Bomb Explosion South of Kirkuk** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Wednesday, 21 September 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144951&l=1

A man and his wife were injured in a sticky bomb blast south of Kirkuk, police director said here today.

General Sarhat Qadir told Aswat al-Iraq that the police started investigating the incident, and the wounded were rushed to hospital.

No other details were given.

Late yesterday night, an attempt was made to kidnap a man, but when he tried to escape they shout him in his right arm and the gunmen fled the area.

Kirkuk lies 280 km north east of the capital, Baghdad.

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25. [Attack: Ramadi] **2 Consecutive Explosions in Ramadi** (Aswat al-Iraq)
Tuesday, 20 September 2011
http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144935&l=1

Three persons were killed and nine injured, including four civilians in two consecutive bomb explosions in the center of Ramadi, security sources said today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the explosions were near governmental complexes.

The first explosion was due to an explosive belt in an attempted suicide blast in the western entrance of the governmental comple.

The second blast was the result of a car bomb in the center of Ramadi, the source added.

No other details were given.

Ramadi, the center of Anbar province, lies 110 km west of the capital, Baghdad.

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26. [Attack: Mosul] **Explosive Charge Blows up in Asia-Cell Office in Mosul** (Aswat al-Iraq)
Monday, 19 September 2011
http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144935&l=1

An explosive charge blew up in an office of Iraq's Asia-Cell Telecommunications Company in Mosul city, wounding one of its employees, a Ninewa security source reported on Monday.

“One of the female employees of Asia-Cell Company has been injured in an explosive charge that blew off inside the Company's office in northern Mosul, whilst another explosive charge was discovered by the Iraqi Army's anti-explosive team, causing no losses,” the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

He said the security forces began investigations to discover the way that the explosive charges had been sneaked inside the said Company's office.

Mosul the center of Ninewa Province, is 405 km to the north of Baghdad.

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27. [Attack: Michigan, US] **Michigan Car Bombing Dad to 911: "My Car Blew Up With Two Kids"**
(ABC News)

Thursday, 22 September 2011

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/michigan-car-bombing-dad-911-car-blew-kids/story?id=14579374>

Through excruciating pain, Erik Chappell called 911 and told the dispatcher: "My car blew up with two kids." Chappell and his sons, 11 and 13, were the victims of a car bombing on Tuesday. Chappell's Volvo exploded as he drove the boys to football practice in Monroe, Mich.

"I've got two significant leg injuries...they're chewed up pretty good," he told the 911 dispatcher. "Deep tissue wounds. They are bleeding. I need someone here now." Chappell and his sons are expected to survive the attack.

The sons' principal posted a statement on the school website saying that she had spoken with Chappell's wife, and that her husband and sons were doing well and recovering. "They are all in stable conditions and are in good spirits," Michelle Sontag wrote. "All are expected to have a full recovery. I have spoken with Mrs. Chappell twice today, and she has kept me abreast of their improving conditions." Sontag said that the family is asking for prayers for healing and comfort.

Authorities believe the bombing was a criminal attack and not terrorism. Police say whoever planted the bomb placed it in such a way that it would inflict as much damage as possible.

"They were very, very blessed not to have been killed. They're seriously injured, but they're still alive and that means everything," said Donald Dawkins, spokesman for Michigan's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

When the car erupted into a fireball, burning down to just its metal frame, several panicked witnesses called 911.

"By the time I got there, the car was completely engulfed," said witness Edwin Holly. "The one boy said, oh daddy, my foot keeps hurting... well, he couldn't understand, I don't think. I think he was probably still in shock or whatever."

Somehow Chappell was able to pull his boys out of the car. Police are still searching for who is responsible for planting the car bomb.

The ATF is offering a \$10,000 reward for information that could lead to the suspect's capture.

"They're going to be looking at this most likely as a targeted attack. They're going to look at his personal and professional life...who his former clients are, who his current clients are, what are his most controversial cases," said ABC News' legal analyst Dan Abrams.

Abrams said that one big asset in the investigation is Chappell himself. Since he was lucky enough to survive the attack, he'll be able to aid investigators.

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28. [Security: Wisconsin, US] **Charges Filed After Raid Finds Explosives, Pot Operation** (Journal Sentinel)

Monday, 19 September 2011

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/crime/130163163.html>

A Whitefish Bay man has been charged with possession of an improvised explosive device and manufacturing a controlled substance in connection with an Aug. 22 raid on his home in the 4700 block of N. Berkeley Blvd.

Brian Dale Hollenbeck, 41, was free Monday on a \$20,000 signature bond set by Milwaukee County Court Commissioner Barry Phillips while he awaits a preliminary hearing on Friday, records show.

According to a criminal complaint, investigators discovered a hydroponic growing operation in the attic of Hollenbeck's home and recovered four firearms, about 1.4 pounds of marijuana and a garbage bag filled with dried marijuana stems and plant matter.

Investigators also confiscated 17 1/4 sticks of dynamite, improvised explosive devices with electronic match fuses, M90 dynamite, two 1/8 sticks of dynamite, \$500 in cash and a key to a safety deposit box containing \$8,460, according to the complaint.

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29. [Security: Northern Ireland] **Homes Evacuated After Pipebomb Find** (Belfast Telegraph)
Sunday, 25 September 2011
<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/republic-of-ireland/homes-evacuated-after-pipebomb-find-16054973.html>

About 30 houses were evacuated when a pipebomb was discovered outside a house. An army bomb disposal team was called to an address at Sycamore Drive in Newtownmountkennedy, Co Wicklow, by gardai.

A Defence Forces spokesman said the team arrived on scene at 3.20pm on Sunday and made the viable improvised explosive device safe.

It was then removed to a military installation for further examination, and subsequently handed over to the Gardai for their investigations.

The scene was declared safe at 4.15pm.

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30. [Attack: Somalia] **One Dead in Blast at UN Mining Agency Center in Mogadishu** (Xinhua)
Saturday, 24 September 2011
http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article_xinhua.asp?id=18628

At least one person was killed after a bomb accidentally went off in a vehicle at the UN Mine Action agency office in the Somali capital Mogadishu, an official said Saturday.

The explosion occurred from a bomb that the agency experts removed from a street in Mogadishu but was not properly defused, a staff of the agency who asked for anonymity told Xinhua.

"One person, the driver, died and the vehicle and part of the compound wall were severely damaged by the blast which went off as result of improper handling of the bomb. It was purely accidental, " the staffer said.

The UN demining agency helps the weak Somali government forces in demining the war-torn Horn of Africa nation that has been ravaged by twenty years of conflict which left thousands of unexploded ordinances scattered throughout the country.

Islamist groups opposed to the Somali government forces and African Union peacekeepers in Mogadishu often plant roadside bombs in capital to target the forces. The radical group has banned the UN Mine Action service from operating in Somalia.

Somali government this week foiled an attempt to explode targets in Mogadishu by Islamist radicals. Government forces captured a young boy of 12 carrying an improvised explosive device (IED).

Somali government is struggling to contain Islamist insurgency which it has been fighting for the past twenty years. Officials have asked residents not to return to their homes in areas recently vacated by Islamist rebels for fear of Islamist planted explosives harming civilian returnees.

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31. [Security: Nepal] **Bomb Threat Grounds Delhi-bound SpiceJet Flight From Nepal** (Xinhau)
Monday, 25 September 2011
http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-09-25/india/30200436_1_delhi-bound-bomb-threat-spicejet-aircraft

A SpiceJet aircraft with 179 people on board was on Sunday grounded after a foreign traveller claimed that there was a bomb inside the plane, forcing authorities to evacuate all the Delhi-bound passengers.

However, after a thorough search of the plane, authorities at the Tribhuvan International Airport here said that it was a hoax.

All the passengers were evacuated after one of them reported that there was a bomb inside the aircraft at the time it was about to take off at 10am, said an official at the airport's rescue coordination committee.

There were 179 people aboard, including crew members in the SG 042 flight, which had landed in Kathmandu from Delhi on Sunday morning.

The plane was isolated and security personnel conducted thorough checking of the aircraft for more than three hours after the bomb threat was reported.

The authorities, however, said that nothing was found inside the plane.

The foreign tourist, whose nationality is yet to be established, is being interrogated, the officials said, adding that the aircraft is ready to fly to its destination.

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32. [Security: UK] **UK Terror Sweep Uncovers Suicide Bomb Plot** (Long War Journal)
Tuesday, 26 September 2011
http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/09/uk_terror_sweep_unco.php

Six British men who were detained during raids in Birmingham last week have been linked to an al Qaeda cell in Pakistan, and were planning to carry out suicide attacks. One additional suspect is being questioned by British authorities in connection with the plot.

Last week, six British men of Pakistani origin and a woman were arrested during an intelligence-driven counterterrorism operation led by the UK's West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit [see Threat Matrix report, UK terror sweep nets 7 suspects]. Few details were known about the suspects or the terror plot at the time of the arrests, but as the suspects are scheduled to appear in West London Magistrates Court on Monday, more information has become available.

The purported terror cell is believed by security sources to be a part of an al Qaeda suicide bomb plot under the direction of terrorist leaders in Pakistan, according to the BBC. Prior to the arrests, the suspects had been under MI5 surveillance for "several weeks," and phone conversations were recorded that led officials to believe the cell was moving toward executing the plan but had "not yet reached the goal line."

Ashik Ali, 26, and Irfan Nasser, 30, are accused of orchestrating a bombing campaign in which Ali had stated his intention to carry out a suicide attack.

Along with Irfan Khalid, 26, Irfan Nasser has also been accused of preparing for an act of terrorism, and the two men are alleged to have traveled to Pakistan for terror training and received guidance on bomb making. They are also said to have made a martyrdom film in connection with the plot.

Rahin Ahmed, 25, is accused of fundraising to support the planned terror attacks as well as helping others travel to Pakistan for terror training.

Mohammed Rizwan, 32, and Bahader Ali, 28 (Ashik's brother), are both charged with withholding information since July 29, 2011 that could have prevented the planning of a terrorist act.

A seventh man, 20, was arrested on Thursday and continues to be questioned by authorities for his role in the plot. Under UK terror law, officers have until Sept. 29 to continue questioning the man before he has to be charged or released.

The status of the woman who was detained last week has not been disclosed. Last week, it was reported that the woman was being held under Terrorism Act 2000 for failing to disclose information relating to the plot.

Of the 14 homes searched by police, one belonged to Mohammed Irfan. In 2008, Irfan was sentenced to four years in prison for plotting to kidnap a British soldier and behead him "like a pig," live on the Internet. He was released after serving less than two years and was not rearrested in connection with this case.

While the location of the training camp in Pakistan that was attended by Khalid and Nasser has not been disclosed, Western jihadists are known to train in the Mir Ali and Datta Khel areas in Pakistan's Taliban-controlled tribal agency of North Waziristan. And a jihadist who was set to become the head of the so-called Islamic Army of Great Britain, an al Qaeda branch, was killed by unmanned US strike aircraft in the Datta Khel area of North Waziristan on Sept. 8, 2010 [see LWJ report, British, German jihadists involved in Europe plot killed in Predator strikes].

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Abdul Jabbar, the short-lived leader of the Islamic Army of Great Britain, was said to have been present at a meeting attended by more than 300 jihadists, including members of al Qaeda and the Taliban, several months before he was killed. At that meeting, he was appointed the leader of the Islamic Army of Great Britain and was tasked with carrying out terror attacks in Britain, France, and Germany, using assault rifles and suicide vests.

Jabbar had earlier survived a drone strike on a militant training camp run by Hafiz Gul Bahadur, a commander allied with the Haqqani Network, an Afghan Taliban faction considered one of the most effective forces battling Western troops in Afghanistan.

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33. [Security: Turkey] **Bomb Explosion Averted on Passenger Train en Route to İzmit** (Belfast Telegraph)

Tuesday, 20 September 2011

<http://www.todayszaman.com/news-257362-bomb-explosion-averted-on-passenger-train-en-route-to-izmit.html>

Police stopped a passenger train travelling from the eastern province of Diyarbakır to İzmit after receiving a tip and found a ready-to-explode bomb had been set up on the train on Tuesday, the private Cihan news agency said.

The Siirt Kurtalan Express train was searched for hours after it was stopped at Kırıkkale train station and police found a suspicious package on board. Bomb disposal squads found a ready-to-explode bomb in the package and defused it. Eight passengers have been reportedly detained on suspected links with the planned attack.

Police stepped up security measures around the train station and the station itself was evacuated. The detainees were taken to Kırıkkale Police Department for interrogation.

The planned bomb attack comes on the same day a bomb attack rocked the Turkish capital of Ankara. Three people were killed and 15 others were injured when a bomb exploded in a car in Kızılay early Tuesday. Officials suspect the blast was carried out by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

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34. [Attack: Indonesia] **Suicide Bomber Attacks Church in Indonesia** (Reuters)

Sunday, 25 September 2011

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/09/25/us-indonesia-explosion-idUSTRE78O0TW20110925>

A suspected suicide bomber attacked a church on Indonesia's Java island on Sunday, killing himself and injuring 17 people, police said.

"Only the suspected suicide bomber killed in the attack," said police spokesman Boy Rafli Amar in the city of Solo, Central Java, where the attack took place.

The coordinating minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs, Djoko Suyanto, said earlier another person injured in the attack had died at a hospital.

Seventeen people were wounded in the explosion outside a Protestant church just after Sunday service in Solo, local police spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Djihartono told Reuters.

"The one killed in front of the church is highly suspected as the suicide bomber," he said.

Suyanto said authorities would examine closed circuit footage from the church to identify the suicide bomber.

Solo is the hometown of radical Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, considered the spiritual leaders behind the group that killed more than 200 people in Bali in 2002.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim Country, has been the scene of some major attacks by militants and radical groups over the past decade, but there have been few attacks recently.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono condemned the attack, and said it may be related to an earlier religious violence incident.

"Initial investigation has shown that the attack is related to the bomb attack at a mosque at the Cirebon Police complex about six months ago," said Yudhoyono.

"This is real threat based on intelligent reports and not engineered by the police or any other parties."

Last April, a suicide bomber blew himself up in a mosque inside a police compound in the town of Cirebon, Central Java, wounding police officers and local government officials.

Religious tensions still bubble near the surface in the officially secular nation. Religious conflicts flared up between Muslims and Christians in Maluku and Sulawesi, in the eastern part of the sprawling archipelago, following the overthrow of former President Suharto in 1998.

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35. [Attack: Thailand] **3 Bombs Rock Southern Thailand; 4 Dead, Dozens Wounded** (International Business Times)

Sunday, 17 September 2011

<http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/215523/20110917/bomb-southern-thailand-muslim-malaysia-border-4-dead-sungai-kolok.htm>

A series of three bomb blasts tore through a town in southern Thailand near the Malaysian border, leaving four dead and dozens injured.

The bombs went off within 40 minutes of each other and targeted a hotel and a Chinese-Thai cultural center in Sungai Kolok, in Narathiwat province.

The Bangkok Post reports that a three-year-old girl and a Malaysian tourist were among the dead, while several tourists sustained shrapnel wounds.

All of the bombs were reportedly planted in vehicles - two on motorbikes and another in a car.

Police have detained two suspects for questioning after blocking off roads and cutting mobile phone coverage in the area.

The bomb attacks came hours after a Muslim police officer and a defense volunteer were shot dead in a mosque in tambon Budi, Yala's Muang district, during prayers.

The attacks reflect a recent uptick of violence in the region. Just two days ago, a roadside bomb blasted a military vehicle and five soldiers were killed by suspected insurgents as they attempted to escape.

Earlier in September, a teacher was shot dead and set on fire and on August 23, a bomb injured a monk, nine soldiers, and three civilians as they walked to their temple.

Despite nearly 60,000 Thai troops in the region, the military has been unable to prevent frequent attacks in three southern provinces where Malay-Thai Muslims comprise a 95 percent majority of the region's 1.7 million people.

Thai politicians and the military denounce the Islamist fighters in the region as corrupt criminals who run a drugs and weapons black market in the area and terrorize Buddhists.

While some of the violence is criminal-based, the Islamists in the region argue that they are fighting for economic control and autonomy. They seek to control the region and its people under Islamic law.

Since violence flared up in 2004, nearly 4,800 people have been killed in the border region between Thailand and Malaysia.

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36. [Attack: Turkey] **Kurdish Militants Claim Car Bomb Attack** (AP)

Thursday, 22 September 2011

<http://www.ajc.com/news/nation-world/report-kurdish-militants-claim-1186505.html>

A Kurdish militant group on Thursday claimed responsibility for a car bomb attack near a school in the Turkish capital that killed three people and wounded 34, a pro-Kurdish news agency reported.

The Kurdistan Freedom Falcons also claimed responsibility for a small bomb attack in the Mediterranean resort town of Kemer that wounded 10 people, including four Swedes on Aug. 28, Firat said.

The group vowed more assaults in retaliation for what it called Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government's "war" against the rebels, according to Firat.

Turkish warplanes have carried out airstrikes on suspected PKK targets in northern Iraq — where the guerrillas maintain bases — following stepped up attacks by Kurdish rebels in recent months. Dozens of members of the security forces and at least seven civilians have died in rebel attacks since July.

The PKK itself has denied any role in the Ankara bombing. The main Kurdish rebel group has always distanced itself from violent attacks by the Kurdistan Freedom Falcons in Turkish cities. The militant Kurdish group was responsible for a series of bombings in Turkish resorts in the 1990s.

Earlier, suspected PKK rebels killed one policeman and wounded another one in an attack in the country's southeast, authorities said.

The rebels opened fired on the policemen as they chatted with shop owners in Diyarbakir, the largest city in the Kurdish-dominated southeast, said city's governor, Mustafa Toprak. Two civilians were also wounded in the shooting.

The attack came a day after Kurdish rebels killed one soldier and two pro-government village guards in an ambush in the eastern Van province, according to the governor's office in Van. That was hours after about 2,000 Turkish troops launched an operation against Kurdish rebels in the mountainous Tunceli province, further west, and Turkish jets reportedly bombed rebel bases in northern Iraq.

In an expanding crackdown on Kurdish rebel sympathizers, police on Thursday detained 30 people in the Aegean port city of Izmir, the state-run Anatolia news agency said. Police have rounded up more than 50 Kurdish suspects in the southeast earlier this week.

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37. [Attack: Netherlands] **Amsterdam Immigration Courthouse Hit by bomb Blast** (International Business Times)

Sunday, 17 September 2011

<http://au.ibtimes.com/articles/217874/20110922/amsterdam-district-court-explosion.htm>

A suspected grenade exploded early Wednesday inside an Amsterdam courthouse shattering its windows, but no one was reported hurt.

The grenade exploded in a staircase of the Amsterdam District Court building at 2:30 a.m. local time, a police spokeswoman said, according to CNN. Windows on three floors of the courthouse were damaged by the force of the explosion.

Two men riding a motorcycle were seen driving away moments after the blast and police are now searching for them.

The motive of the attack on the E Tower housing the court is still being determined.

The court handles immigration and deportation cases on illegal immigrants. One case involved populist politician Geert Wilders, who was acquitted of inciting hatred of Muslims in June.

"We usually handle 40-50 cases a day - civil cases, criminal cases. We don't know if the explosion is related to any case. For today, we had no high-profile cases scheduled," Thesundaily.my quoted Anke Poul from the court's press office as saying. The court continues to work on the cases after the blast.

Justice Minister Ivo Opstelten condemned the attack and vowed to find the perpetrators, according to local newspaper Telegraaf.

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38. [Attack: Dagestan] **Powerful Twin Blasts Rock North Caucasus** (Russia Today)
Thursday, 22 September 2011
<http://rt.com/news/blasts-north-caucasus-injured-083/>

One police officer has been killed and some 60 people injured as a result of a double terror attack in Makhachkala, the capital of the Republic of Dagestan in southern Russia.

As a result of the special operation that followed the attacks, one militant has been killed, RIA Novosti cited a representative of the republic's national counter-terrorism committee as saying.

"The active phase of the special operation is over, one militant has been eliminated," the source told the agency. "His identity has been established preliminarily but it cannot be revealed in the interests of the investigation."

According to the source, there are no casualties or injuries among law enforcers. The operation was aimed at finding those responsible for the double attack that hit the republic on Thursday.

Two successive blasts hit the same area of Makhachkala overnight, within the space of about 15 minutes. The explosive device which caused the first explosion had reportedly been hidden in the pedestrian part of Ermoshkina Street in the city. After the first explosion went off, drawing crowds to the site, the second blast rocked the same area.

The second explosion had the equivalent of about 35-40 kilograms of TNT and was much more powerful than the first one. The second explosive device, which was placed inside a parked car, contained metal fragments, aimed at causing injuries.

As a result of the second blast, one traffic policeman was killed and over 60 people were injured, among them 44 policemen.

The first action is believed to have been a trap for the police, who rushed to the scene and were caught by the second blast, said a source from local law enforcement.

"Police have become the main target of the terror acts in the Caucasus now, as they are the symbol of the power the militants are fighting against," said an RT source in Makhachkala.

"Moreover, the officers patrolling the streets are the easiest target for an attack as they are not specially equipped troops ready for street guerrillas," the source added.

Some of the injured reportedly remain in local hospitals, three of them in a critical condition. Many received first aid and did not need any further assistance.

"Two [of the injured] are now in intensive care. Their condition is serious but stable. We have already operated on them," said Magomed Omarov, chief physician at the city's Emergency Medical Center as cited by the Vesti TV channel.

The double attack follows another one which occurred late on Wednesday in Makhachkala, when a car exploded near the office of the traffic police department. All four terrorists in the car reportedly died. According to the Investigative Committee, two of the four militants who died in the attack have been identified.

The prosecution has already called Thursday's actions a terrorist act, as published on the Investigative Committee's website. A criminal case has been initiated on six articles of the Criminal Code, including committing an act of terror, illegal circulation of arms and weapon supplies, and attempted murder. Explosions snowball in Dagestan

Meanwhile, early on Thursday, a senior officer's car came under heavy machine gun fire in the Buynaksk region of Dagestan. The local police department chief was heading to his office when the accident happened. Two of his guards were killed in the shootout, but the officer himself was not hurt.

Earlier on Wednesday, two explosive devices were defused in the same Dagestan region. However the devices were planted on the roads outside cities and likely targeted military convoys.

The head of the Republic of Dagestan has interrupted his business trip in Moscow and flown to Makhachkala as the situation in the region has deteriorated.

However local residents do not find anything unusual in such blasts. "When a bomb blasts in one district, in the nearby parts of the city life goes on. It does not affect our ordinary life," RT's source said. Attacks continue to plague Dagestan and the volatile North Caucasus region following years of fighting. Although major fighting has been quelled for the moment, local security forces still struggle to make the situation stable.

Jihad may not be the only driving force causing militants to carry out acts of terror, believes a local citizen. There are many criminals in the militant groups who fight for nothing but their own pockets, or merely to hide from justice, the source added. Bandits also attempt to justify their actions as revenge on law enforcement forces who they claim "have treated them unfairly."

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39. [Attack: Mexico] **Bomb Explodes Outside Utility Office in Mexico** (Fox News)
Friday, 23 September 2011
<http://au.ibtimes.com/articles/217874/20110922/amsterdam-district-court-explosion.htm>

No one was hurt when a homemade bomb exploded here early Friday outside an office of Mexico's CFE electric utility, the state-owned company said.

The blast occurred shortly after midnight Thursday near the door of a customer service office in the capital borough of Iztacalco, the CFE said in a statement.

The explosion damaged the office's facade and entrance hall, according to the statement, which said authorities are investigating the incident.

Anarchist and anti-globalization groups and radical environmentalists are known to set off makeshift explosive devices outside shops, bank branches and automatic teller machines in Mexico City.

The attacks almost always take place in the middle of the night and rarely result in injuries or arrests.

No casualties were reported after a bombing last week outside a shuttered nightspot in the capital's Lomas de Chapultepec neighborhood.

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