



*Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data*

## Weekly News Update

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15 June 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.



An improvised claymore mine, with battery and wires, along with improvised explosive device components found by local citizens in Capiz, were turned over to local authorities.

(Picture: 3rd infantry division)

[See [Concerned Citizens In Capiz Turn Over IED Materials To Military](#)]

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## 1. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Blast Kills 19 On Pakistan Bus

Friday, June 8 2012

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jQTyTy4gvp2RzXJrSLnkCpbSUyw?docId=CNG.0f7fe0c5d03b35aff2a7eb15e68b9fa0.171>

A bomb blast ripped through a Pakistani bus on Friday, killing 19 people, including seven women and a child, on the outskirts of the northwestern city of Peshawar, police said.

More than 40 others were wounded in the attack on a bus rented by the government to take staff home after work in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

It was the deadliest attack in months on Peshawar, which has long been a flashpoint for a local Taliban insurgency targeting government officials, security forces and ordinary civilians.

The city runs into the semi-autonomous tribal belt that US officials consider a safe haven for Al-Qaeda and insurgents fighting both in Pakistan and across the border in Afghanistan.

The explosion went off in the Daudzai area, killing government employees and other private passengers riding the same bus, officials said.

"The bomb was planted under the bus," provincial information minister Mian Iftikhar Hussain told reporters.

Police official Tahir Ayub told AFP 19 people were killed and more than 40 wounded. The dead included 12 government employees and others were private passengers, he said.

Another police official, Shafiullah Khan, said seven women and a girl, aged seven, were among the dead.

The explosion destroyed the back end of the bus. Bloodied pieces of human flesh littered the seats, along with blood-stained clothes on the road lined with juniper trees, an AFP reporter said.

Muhammad Ullah, 48, a police official on the bus, said there was a deafening blast.

"The explosion triggered massive smoke inside the bus but even then we could feel soft and bloody pieces of human flesh hitting our bodies," Ullah told AFP while being treated for head and shoulder injuries.

Arsalan, a junior clerk in the provincial auditor general's office, said he remembered asking the driver to stop at a mosque on the road for main Friday prayers just before the explosion took place.

"I don't remember what happened next because I fainted and (found myself) in a hospital bed," the 28-year-old, also with head and neck injuries, told AFP.

The attack came one day after a remote-controlled bomb killed at least 15 people outside a madrassa in Pakistan's southwestern city of Quetta.

The country of 180 million sits on the frontline of the US-led war on Al-Qaeda and since July 2007 has been gripped by a local Taliban-led insurgency, concentrated largely in the northwest.

In the last five years, attacks blamed on Islamist bombers have killed more than 5,000 people according to an AFP tally.

Pakistan's relations with the United States are in disarray and for the last six months, since US air strikes killed 24 Pakistani soldiers along the border, it has imposed a blockade on NATO supplies crossing overland into Afghanistan.

On Thursday, US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta warned Pakistan that the United States was running out of patience over Islamabad's refusal to do more to eliminate safe havens for insurgents who attack US troops fighting a 10-year war against the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Panetta made the strong remarks after talks with Afghan Defence Minister Abdul Rahim Wardak on the latest leg of an Asian tour that took him to Pakistan's arch-rival India, but not Islamabad in a sign of dire US-Pakistan relations.

He singled out the Haqqani network, a Taliban and Al-Qaeda-linked faction that has bases in Pakistan's lawless tribal district of North Waziristan and which has been blamed for some of the deadliest attacks of the 10-year war in Afghanistan.



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## **2. [Attack, Afghanistan] Bomb Kills Four French Troops In Afghanistan**

Saturday, June 9 2012

<http://www.npr.org/2012/06/09/154637533/bomb-kills-4-french-troops-in-afghanistan>

A Taliban suicide bomber disguised as a woman and wearing a burqa blew himself up in a market in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, killing four French troops, officials said.

The French forces were responding to a report of a bomb planted under a bridge in the main market area of Kapisa province's Nijrab district when the bomber walked up to them and detonated his explosives, said Qais Qadri, a spokesman for the provincial government.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack in an email.

France's defense ministry confirmed the nationality of the dead and said another five French troops were wounded in blast. The ministry said they were on an operation supporting the Afghan army but did not provide details.

Qadri said four Afghan civilians were also wounded.

The Kapisa bombing was the second deadly attack on NATO troops reported on Saturday. NATO forces said earlier in the day that a service member was killed in a bomb attack in the east. A spokesman for the international coalition, Maj. Martyn Crighton, said the attacks were not related and happened in different parts of the east.

The latest deaths bring to 13 the number of international troops killed in June. So far this year, 189 international service members have been killed in Afghanistan.

France has said it plans to pull its 3,300 troops out of Afghanistan by the end of the year, well before the 2014 goal for the majority of NATO combat troops to have left the country. Kapisa province has been a particularly deadly posting for French troops. In January, an Afghan soldier shot and killed four French troops on a base in the province.

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### **3. [Attack, Afghanistan] Afghan Bomb 'Wounds Pregnant Woman'**

Monday, June 11 2012

<http://news.yahoo.com/taliban-bomb-kills-pregnant-afghan-065719021.html>

A roadside bomb in Afghanistan killed five people Monday and injured two, including a pregnant woman, when it ripped through the ambulance rushing them to hospital for her to give birth, police said.

The woman was wounded but survived and gave birth without any complications, but four relatives died along with the driver, Sari Pul provincial deputy police chief Sayed Jahnagir Kramat told AFP.

The interior ministry in Kabul initially said that the pregnant woman died in the blast in the northern province, which is regularly hit by insurgent activity, but later said it had been misinformed.

"She's alive and gave birth to her baby," Kramat told AFP.

The dead included a 12-year-old boy, he said, adding that the bomb was planted by Taliban insurgents.

The Taliban regularly use improvised roadside bombs to target Afghan and Western military forces, but they often kill civilians who use the same roads.

For the past five years the number of civilians killed in the war has risen steadily, reaching a record 3,021 in 2011 -- the vast majority caused by insurgents, the United Nations says.

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#### **4. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Hits Bus In Restive Pakistani Province, Killing Six**

Monday, June 11 2012

<http://www.cnn.com/2012/06/11/world/asia/pakistan-violence/index.html>

A bomb blast struck a bus in the restive Pakistani province of Balochistan on Monday, killing six people and wounding 50 others, a senior government official said.

The explosive device, planted on a motorbike parked by the side of the road, went off as the bus drove past, said Irfan Shah Gharsheen, an official from Mastung District in Balochistan, a southwestern province riven by sectarian tensions and militant violence.

The target of the attack was a convey of vehicles carrying Shiite Muslims, Gharsheen said. The explosion took place in the area of Gen in Mastung, 90 kilometers southeast of the provincial capital of Quetta.

Shiites have suffered frequent attacks in Balochistan in recent years. In March, gunmen riding motorbikes shot and killed five Shiites traveling in a van near Quetta.

Balochistan is Pakistan's largest province and lies along the border with Iran and Afghanistan.

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## 5. [Trend, Pakistan] Suicide Attacks Declining In Pakistan

Tuesday, June 12 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/Suicide-attacks-declining-in-Pakistan/articleshow/14065049.cms>

A day after a toy bomb killed a mother and injured three children, Pakistan's northwest was again rocked by a suicide attack which failed to kill a pro-government local leader. These stories might be routine for Pakistan but analysis of causality data for past decade brings out a surprising fact - there is a steep decline in such incidents in the past few years.

According to the data collated by Pakistan Body Count, an organisation that maintains a 'news-report based database' of suicide and drone attacks carried out in the country, the number of incidents as well as casualties, have witnessed a steep decline compared to 2009 and 2010 - the peak years in terms of casualties. The incidents which failed to reach even double digits in the five years spanning between 2002- 2006 suddenly spiked to 57 in 2007. The bombings claimed over 800 lives in that year. They went unchecked for the next two years and reached a peak in 2009 when 90 suicide bombings claimed over thousand lives.

Although the number of incidents started declining in 2010 but the number of fatalities increased. In 2011 there were 44 blasts killing 625 people- nearly half of the 2009 figures. By March 2012, when the data was last updated, there were only 16 such blasts which took 119 lives.

Figures

Year	Total Blasts	Killed	Injured
2002	2	27	91
2003	2	65	115
2004	8	82	399
2005	4	83	230
2006	9	161	230
2007	57	842	2008
2008	61	940	2426
2009	90	1090	3462
2010	58	1153	2954
2011	44	625	1386
2012	16	119	254

Source: Pakistan Body Count

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## 6. [Security, Pakistan] US Drone Strike Kills Four Militants In Pakistan

Wednesday, June 13 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/US-drone-strike-kills-four-militants-in-Pakistan/articleshow/14100932.cms>

A US drone attack killed four insurgents on Wednesday in Pakistan's northwestern tribal region, known as a hotbed of Taliban and Al-Qaeda militants, security officials said.

There has been a dramatic increase in US drone strikes in Pakistan since a NATO summit in Chicago ended last month without a deal to end a six-month blockade on NATO supplies crossing into Afghanistan from Pakistan.

A drone attack killed 15 militants in North Waziristan on June 4. The dead included senior Al-Qaeda figure Abu Yahya al-Libi, according to US officials.

It was not immediately known if there were any high-value targets killed in the latest strike, which again took place in North Waziristan.

"The drone fired two missiles on a vehicle," a security official said. "The death toll has gone up to four," he added. Previously he said three militants had been killed.

The vehicle was hit in Isha village, about 10 kilometres (six miles) east of Miranshah, two other security officials said. The vehicle caught fire after the attack, they said.

Miranshah is the main town in North Waziristan.

Nine drone strikes have been reported in Pakistan since May 23 and the June 4 strike was the deadliest since 18 Pakistani Taliban were reported killed on November 16, 2011.

North Waziristan is Pakistan's premier bastion of Islamist militants and where Islamabad has rejected US pressure to wage a major ground offensive against militants active in the 10-year war against US troops in Afghanistan.

Wednesday's attack came after the United States withdrew negotiators from Pakistan when talks failed to reopen NATO supply routes.

The move signalled a further strain in troubled Pakistani-US relations and followed harsh criticism last week from US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta that saw Pakistan's army chief refuse to meet a senior Pentagon official.

The negotiators had been in Pakistan for about six weeks and US officials believed they were close to a deal with Islamabad to lift the blockade.

Pakistan shut its border to NATO supply convoys on November 26 after a botched US air strike killed 24 Pakistani soldiers.

Washington considers Pakistan's semi-autonomous northwestern tribal belt the main hub of Taliban and Al-Qaeda militants plotting attacks on the West and in Afghanistan.

Distrust over Pakistan's refusal to do more to eliminate the Islamist threat has become a major thorn in increasingly dire Pakistani-US relations.

Pakistani authorities whipped up anti-American sentiment after a covert US raid killed Osama bin Laden and are increasingly vocal in their belief that drone strikes violate national sovereignty.

But US officials consider the attacks a vital weapon in the war against Islamist extremists, despite concerns from rights activists over civilian casualties.

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## 7. [Attack, Afghanistan] Taliban Bomb Leaves Eight Dead In Afghanistan

Tuesday, June 12 2012

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/taliban-bomb-leaves-eight-dead-afghanistan>

aliban bomb attacks killed at least eight people, including women and children, in Afghanistan on Tuesday, officials said.

A suicide bomber on a bicycle targeted a police patrol in the main market of Chahar Bolak, a small town in the northern province of Balkh, regional police spokesman Lal Mohammad Ahmadzi told AFP.

The interior ministry in Kabul confirmed the incident, saying three civilians were killed and five police officers were wounded.

Hours earlier, a roadside bomb ripped through a minibus in the central province of Wardak, killing five civilians, an official said.

Provincial government spokesman Sahidullah Shahid said a mine exploded under the minibus, killing five civilians, including women and children. "Two others are injured," Shahid said.

Four other passengers survived the explosion in the restive province's Sayed Abad district, he said.

Authorities blamed both attacks on the "enemies of Afghanistan", a phrase commonly used by Afghan officials to refer to Taliban and other insurgents.

On Monday, a roadside bomb killed five people in northern Afghanistan and last week twin suicide bombings killed 23 people in the south.

Taliban insurgents regularly use improvised roadside bombs to target Afghan and Western military forces, but they often kill civilians who use the same roads.

For the past five years the number of civilians killed in the war has risen steadily, reaching a record 3,021 in 2011 -- the vast majority caused by insurgents, the United Nations says.

The Taliban are still fighting a bitter insurgency more than a decade after being toppled from power by the 2001 US-led invasion.

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## **8. [Attack, Afghanistan] IED Explosion Kill Three Afghan Police Officers In Nangarhar**

Friday, June 15 2012

<http://www.khaama.com/ied-explosion-kill-3-afghan-police-officers-in-nangarhar-612>

According to local authorities in eastern Nangarhar province at least 3 Afghan national police forces were killed following an improvised explosive device explosion.

The officials further added the incident took place at Fateh Abad area in this province.

Provincial governor spokesman Ahmad Zia Abdulzai said the incident took place after a vehicle of the Afghan police forces struck with a roadside bomb, killing three Afghan police and injuring another police officer.

Mr. Abdulzai further added the vehicle was on its way from Khogyani district which the incident took place.

No group including the Taliban militants have so far claimed responsibility behind the incident. Taliban militants frequently use improvised explosive device and roadside bombs as the weapon of their choice to target Afghan and coalition security forces.

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## 9. [Attack, Nigeria] Suicide Bombing Of Nigeria Police Station Kills Four

Friday, June 8 2012

<http://news.yahoo.com/blast-nigeria-police-station-kills-many-witnesses-123753840.html>

A suicide bomber drove a car packed with explosives into the entrance of the police headquarters of northeast Nigeria's Borno state on Friday, killing four people, including a policeman, and wounding seven, the police commissioner said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the Islamist sect Boko Haram has been blamed for hundreds of bomb and gun attacks on security forces and civilians over the past two years, mostly in Borno state.

Borno police commissioner Bala Hassan told Reuters by phone from the city of Maiduguri that one policeman and three civilians were killed, and seven police officers were wounded by the car bomber.

"He was driving a Toyota Camry, which he tried to drive right into the station. When he couldn't do this, he detonated the bomb," Hassan said. He declined to speculate on who was behind the attack.

Witnesses said they suspected the death toll could be higher.

"Many people, mostly members of the police, which includes men and women, were killed in the explosion," witness Ali Alhaji said.

Earlier, a police officer at the scene, splattered with blood, told Reuters five police vans had been loaded with the dead. He could not be named because he was not authorized to speak. Official police casualty tolls from insurgent attacks on them are frequently much lower than witness estimates.

Police stations are a favorite target for the insurgency, which flared up partly in response to police brutality against its members, including its founder Mohammed Yusuf, killed in police custody during a crackdown in 2009.

A coordinated Boko Haram strike on multiple police stations in north Nigeria's main city of Kano in January killed 186 people, most of them civilians.

From being a reclusive clerical movement opposed to Western education last decade, Boko Haram has radicalized and mushroomed to become the main security threat facing Africa's top energy producer, and has linked up with other Islamist groups in the region such as al Qaeda's north African wing.

It is based far from oil producing facilities in the south, although its fighters have successfully targeted the capital Abuja, in the middle of the country, a handful of times.

Nigerian forces shot dead 16 suspected militants in a fire fight with Islamist sect Boko Haram on Tuesday, the military said, the sort of move which sometimes provokes a retaliation from the Islamists.

Earlier on Friday, a roadside bomb killed one person in downtown Maiduguri, Hassan said.

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## 10. [Attack, Nigeria] Several Killed In Nigeria Church Attacks

Monday, June 11 2012

[http://www.rttnews.com/1903696/several-killed-in-nigeria-church-attacks.aspx?type=gn&utm\\_source=google&utm\\_campaign=sitemap](http://www.rttnews.com/1903696/several-killed-in-nigeria-church-attacks.aspx?type=gn&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=sitemap)

At least four people have been killed and dozens injured after suspected Islamist militants attacked two churches in Nigeria during Sunday services, local media reported citing officials.

In the first attack, gunmen sprayed bullets on worshipers attending Sunday's service at a church in Biu town in the north-eastern Borno state. At least four people were killed and more than 40 injured in that attack.

The second attack, a suicide car bombing, targeted a church in the central city of Jos. The suicide bomber reportedly detonated his explosive-laden vehicle outside the targeted church. There were no reports of casualties in that attack, but it left dozens injured.

The suicide-bombing outside the church in Jos triggered reprisal attacks in the city with hundreds of Christian youths taking to the streets and attacking Islamic institutions. Media reports suggested that at least six people were killed in the retaliatory attacks.

Such periodic outbursts of religious violence are frequent in Nigeria, the northern regions of which are predominantly Muslim with the South being dominated by Christians. The city of Jos lies in Nigeria's volatile Middle Belt, where majority of the population either follow traditional religions or are Christians.

While some 700 people were killed in clashes between Muslims and Christians in Jos during 2004, rioting in September 2001 left at least 1,000 dead. Over 500 others were killed in a similar outbreak of violence in the city in November 2008.

Although no group has yet claimed responsibility for Sunday's Church attacks, authorities blame it on the Boko Harm Islamist sect. They say the two attacks bear the hallmarks of previous such attacks carried out by the radical sect.

The Boko Haram is based in the mainly Muslim north and campaigns against Western education, which it considers as anti-Islamic. The sect wants strict enforcement of Islamic laws in Nigeria after overthrowing the current government. An estimated 1,000 people have been killed since the terror outfit began its campaign of violence in 2009.

The organization came into prominence in July 2009, when hundreds of its members were killed in fighting Nigerian security forces in the north-eastern city of Maiduguri. The group has since claimed responsibility for bombing churches, police stations, military facilities, banks, and beer parlors in northern Nigeria, as well as the United Nations building and police headquarters in capital Abuja.

Earlier this year, the sect had claimed responsibility for a series of bomb blasts that killed at least 185 people in the northern city of Kano in January. The sect had also carried out a series of bomb attacks on churches across Nigeria on Christmas Day, killing at least 42 people.

In response to the escalating violence, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan declared a state of emergency on December 31 in parts of Borno, Niger, Plateau, and Yobe states. He also sacked police chief Hafiz Ringim and six of his deputies in January over their failure to contain the violence unleashed by Boko. Jonathan had then said the move was the "first step towards the comprehensive reorganization and repositioning of the Nigeria police force."

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## 11. [Attack, Libya] US Diplomat's Convoy Attacked In Libya

Monday, June 11 2012

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2012/06/2012611152127356825.html>

Britain's ambassador to Libya was in a convoy of cars attacked in the eastern city of Benghazi, a British embassy spokeswoman has said.

The convoy was hit about 300m from the British consulate office in the city's al-Rabha neighbourhood on Monday.

"A convoy carrying the British ambassador to Libya was involved in a serious incident in Benghazi this afternoon," the spokeswoman said.

"Two close protection officers were injured in the attack but all other staff are safe and uninjured."

She said the injured officers were receiving medical treatment.

The diplomatic convoy was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, local security officials said earlier on Monday.

The embassy spokeswoman earlier said that all staff were accounted for following the attack. "We are liaising closely with the Libyan authorities," she said.

Unis Sharif, Libya's deputy interior minister, said the vehicle was carrying security personnel in a convoy for the head of the British diplomatic mission in Benghazi.

Al Jazeera's Omar al-Saleh, reporting from Tripoli, said that security sources in Benghazi had confirmed the attack, saying it had occurred shortly after the convoy left a restaurant not far from the British consulate.

"Police at the scene said they have found leaflets from a group that calls itself the Brigades of Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman," he said.

Abdel-Rahman is an Egyptian national who is currently serving a life sentence in the US.

A Reuters news agency reporter at the scene in Benghazi said police had cordoned off the area. A damaged but still intact car windscreen could be seen lying on the ground.

Security experts blamed an armed group for allegedly attacking the convoy with a rocket-propelled grenade.

According to the experts, the area around Benghazi is home to a number of groups who oppose any Western presence in Muslim countries.

Five days ago, an explosive device was dropped from a passing car outside the offices of the US diplomatic mission in Benghazi. The blast that followed slightly damaged the gate in front of the building.

On May 22, a rocket-propelled grenade hit the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the city, blasting a small hole in the building but causing no casualties.

Benghazi was the cradle of the uprising last year, which ended Muammar Gaddafi's 42-year rule. Since then, it has become a hot-spot for violence. Arms remain readily available and state security forces are struggling to assert their authority.

The violence comes as Libya prepares to elect a general national congress, with the vote set for July 7.

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## 12. [Attack, Libya] Red Cross Says One Wounded In Attack On Office In Libya

Tuesday, June 12 2012

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jYxidyBRCHaUn\\_qY7\\_Agb8Q\\_mC3g?docId=CN.G.b2371552eed6d000aa85ebc4c2e4bc6b.601](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jYxidyBRCHaUn_qY7_Agb8Q_mC3g?docId=CN.G.b2371552eed6d000aa85ebc4c2e4bc6b.601)

A pre-dawn attack on the the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the western Libyan city of Misrata wounded one person, the organisation's spokeswoman said on Tuesday.

"We do not know if the office was hit by a shoulder mounted rocket or a bomb placed next to the building," Sumaya Beltaifa told AFP.

She said the blast wounded a Libyan citizen who lives next to the offices and caused serious material damage to the ICRC building.

No one was wounded from a crew of 30 ICRC workers, she added.

Beltaifa stressed that ICRC activities are "strictly humanitarian" and "have no relation with religion or politics."

This is the second such attack on the organisation in less than a month.

On May 22, a rocket-propelled grenade struck ICRC offices in the eastern city of Benghazi, cradle of the revolt that toppled Moamer Kadhafi last year.

The Brigades of the Imprisoned Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman claimed responsibility for that first attack on the ICRC in an online statement.

The same group, according to SITE monitoring services, is linked to last week's bombing of the US mission in Benghazi in which one person was wounded.

It said it was avenging the death of Al-Qaeda number two Abu Yahya al-Libi in a drone strike in Pakistan, said the US-based SITE, which monitors jihadi websites.

Libi was a Libyan national and is said to have sympathisers in his homeland.

The Brigades also said the June 6 bomb attack at the US diplomatic mission -- in which one person was wounded -- had come in response to the use of "American drones flying in Libyan skies," SITE said.

The group is named after Abdel Rahman, 73, who received a life sentence in the United States for his involvement in plots to hit New York targets and a plan to assassinate former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak.

Abdel Rahman, known as the "Blind Sheikh," is also cited as one of the inspirations for the first attack on the World Trade Center, which killed six people and injured more than 1,000 in 1993.

The latest attack on the ICRC comes one day after a rocket-propelled grenade hit a British diplomatic convoy, wounding two security guards.

Even though such violence has become increasingly common, Libyan authorities insist they are carried out by "isolated individuals" rather than "organised extremist groups."

Libya is awash with all kinds of weapons after the fall of Kadhafi's regime.

The wave of unrest comes as the North African nation prepares to elect a general national congress, with the vote set for July 7.



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### 13. [Trend, Libya] Libyan Jihadists Claims US Consulate Attack

Tuesday, June 12 2012

[https://www.opensource.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_0\\_200\\_203\\_121123\\_43/content/Diisplay/GMP20120613966534#index=123&searchKey=8557424&rpp=10](https://www.opensource.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_200_203_121123_43/content/Diisplay/GMP20120613966534#index=123&searchKey=8557424&rpp=10)

An alleged Libyan jihadist group has claimed responsibility for last week's bombing of the US consulate in Libya's main eastern city of Benghazi, the SITE monitoring service said Monday.

The "Brigades of the Imprisoned Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman" said the attack was to avenge the death of Al-Qaeda number two Abu Yahya al-Libi in a drone strike in Pakistan, said the US-based SITE, which monitors jihadi websites.

The Brigades also said the June 6 bomb attack at the US diplomatic mission—in which one person was wounded—had come in response to the use of "American drones flying in Libyan skies," SITE said.

The group said it had "planted an explosive device in a wall of the consulate, targeting a group of 'Christian overseers' who were preparing to receive one of the 'heads of instigation'" from the State Department, according to SITE.

The statement added that the group—which also claimed responsibility for a May attack on the Benghazi offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross—would soon release its footage of the consulate attack.

The group was named after Abdel Rahman, 73, who received a life sentence in the United States for his involvement in plots to hit New York targets and a plan to assassinate former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak.

Abdel Rahman, known as the "Blind Sheikh," is also cited as one of the inspirations for the first attack on the World Trade Center, which killed six people and injured more than 1,000 in 1993.

The US State Department had earlier said there was no reason to suspect the attack was in retaliation for a US drone strike in Pakistan that killed Libi, a Libyan citizen.

The same group claimed a May 22 attack on the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the security official said.

Libyan Deputy Interior Minister Unis al-Sharif last week said the attack had been claimed by the "Prisoner Omar Abdelrahman Group," but downplayed the significance of the organization.

"These are religious groups and these acts are just reactions. There are not coordinated operations."

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## **14. [Security, Somalia] Kenyan Jets Bomb Al Shabab Stronghold In Southern Somalia**

Tuesday, June 12 2012

[http://www.keydmedia.net/en/news/article/kenyan\\_jets\\_bomb\\_al\\_shabab\\_stronghold\\_in\\_southern\\_somalia/](http://www.keydmedia.net/en/news/article/kenyan_jets_bomb_al_shabab_stronghold_in_southern_somalia/)

Kenyan fighter Jets bombed on Tuesday a base run by Islamist Al Shabaab rebels in southern Somalia's town of Bu'ale, the nerve centre of Al Shabaab operations in Middle Jubba region, Keydmedia reports.

A witness in Bu'ale town told Keydmedia Somali Service on the phone that the jets fired at least 11 rounds of missiles on a training camp for Al shabab located in Far-Shabeel area, on the outskirts of Bu'ale town, killing and wounding unidentified number of militant fighters.

"I think there are heavy losses sustained on Al shabab fighters in the bombed area, because broad smoke and flames could be seen shadowed the skyline over the base," another witness told Keydmedia Somali Service on condition of anonymity.

Al Shabaab militants have yet to release comments to confirm or deny the bombardment.

Kenya sent troops and tanks illegitimately into anarchic Somalia in October after cross-border raids and kidnappings that it blamed on Al Shabaab, which has allied with Al Qaeda early this year.

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## 15. [Attack, Somalia] Explosion Rattles Beledweyne, Central Somalia

Thursday, June 14 2012

[http://www.keydmedia.net/en/news/article/explosion\\_rattles\\_beledweyne\\_central\\_somalia/](http://www.keydmedia.net/en/news/article/explosion_rattles_beledweyne_central_somalia/)

A huge blast has on Thursday morning rocked the town of Beledweyne, the capital of Hiiran region in central Somalia, targeting Ethiopian troops, Keydmedia reports.

Eyewitnesses told Keydmedia English News service via phone from Beledweyne that the blast was a remote-controlled landmine that hit a convoy of vehicles carrying Ethiopian forces traveling the suburbs the town, causing huge casualties on the soldiers.

“There was a heavy explosion that shook the whole the city at about 6:00 am local time, it occurred at a road on the outskirts of Beledweyne, where Ethiopian forces have been traveling back to the town,” said a local resident.

The exact figures on the casualties could not be immediately verified following the explosion. Shortly after the blast the troops opened fire indiscriminately nearby civilians, but no deaths reported.

The attacks are the latest in a string of blasts including roadside bombs and grenade explosions set off in recent months since the allied troops from Somalia and Ethiopia wrested the town from Al shabab fighters in November last year without much resistance.

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## 16. [Trend, Syria] Syrian Troops Renew Shelling Of Homs; 38 Killed

Monday, June 11 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/syrian-troops-renew-shelling-of-homs-38-killed/2012/06/10/gJQA2T0PUV\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/syrian-troops-renew-shelling-of-homs-38-killed/2012/06/10/gJQA2T0PUV_story.html)

Syrian government forces pounded parts of central Homs province Sunday in a renewed push to regain control of rebel-held territories, and activists said at least 38 people were killed by shelling there over the past 24 hours. The main opposition group in exile, the Syrian National Council, elected a Kurdish dissident as its new leader in hopes of overcoming the disorganization and infighting that has hobbled the opposition since the popular revolt against President Bashar al-Assad began in March 2011.

The government assault focused on the town of Qusair, near the border with Lebanon, where activists reported at least six people died on Sunday. Three others were killed in in shelling of the town of Talbiseh, north of the city of Homs, according to the Britain-based activist group Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

“The mortars came down on Qusair by the dozens,” said Abu al-Hoda, a Qusair-based activist. He said women and children have been huddled for days in basements of apartment buildings, too fearful to come out. On Saturday, 29 people died in violence across Homs province, according to activists.

Regime forces also unleashed a new round of heavy shelling and sent reinforcements to a mountainous area near the coastal city of Latakia, where hundreds of rebels have set up a base and fierce fighting has raged in recent days.

The fighting between government troops backed by helicopter gunships and armed groups in the area of Haffa began Tuesday. Rami Abdul-Rahman, the director of the Observatory, said at least 58 soldiers have been killed and more than 200 wounded in the operation there since it began.

He said the heavy losses indicate the seriousness of the challenge in the mountainous area where “hundreds” of rebels are entrenched. His estimated death toll could not be independently verified.

State-run news agency SANA said “terrorist groups” in Haffa attacked public and private institutions on Saturday and committed “heinous” crimes against civilians, setting fire to the national hospital and forcing people to leave their homes. It said troops killed a number of them and arrested several others, adding it was still pursuing gunmen and working to restore security to the area.

Six children were among 10 people killed by a shell that exploded in a house where they had taken cover during the fighting in the region on Saturday, the Observatory said.

The opposition Syrian National Council chose Abdulbaset Sieda, a 56-year-old activist who has been living for many years in exile in Sweden, as their new leader. He was the only candidate to replace liberal opposition leader Burhan Ghalioun for the three-month presidency. He was elected unanimously during an SNC meeting Saturday night in Istanbul that stretched into early hours Sunday.

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## 17. [Trend, Syria] Activists Say Mortars Hit Syria Protest, Ten Dead

Tuesday, June 12 2012

<http://www.ajc.com/news/nation-world/activists-say-mortars-hit-1456273.html>

Syrian forces pelted the eastern city of Deir el-Zour with mortars as anti-government protesters were dispersing before dawn Tuesday, killing at least 10 people as government troops kept up an offensive in a coastal province where Washington says regime forces may be preparing another massacre, activists said.

The offensives were part of an escalation of violence in recent weeks that has brought more international pressure on President Bashar Assad's regime faces over its brutal tactics against the opposition. The U.N. accused the government of using children as human shields in a new report. It said children have been victims of detention, torture and sexual violence.

Amateur video of the mortar attack on Deir el-Zour showed some of the dead in a street as survivors screamed in panic and tried to remove their bodies. Other videos showed some of the wounded receiving treatment at a hospital. The Local Coordination Committees activist group and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 10 people died in the shelling.

Both sides of the 15-month-old revolt to oust Assad have ignored an internationally brokered cease-fire that was supposed to go into effect April 12 but never took hold. The U.S. and its allies also have shown little appetite for getting involved in another Arab nation in turmoil.

Syria is veering ever closer to an all-out civil war as the conflict turns increasingly militarized. Already more than 13,000 have died since March 2011, according to activist groups.

The U.N. special envoy for Syria Kofi Annan has asked governments with influence to "twist arms" to halt the escalating violence in the country, his spokesman Ahmad Fawzi said. Annan is also working to convene a diplomatic meeting soon to discuss the situation in Syria amid worsening fighting between government troops and opposition forces. Earlier this year, he put forward a six-point peace plan, including the cease-fire, to try end the violence.

"It is totally unacceptable and it must stop, and that is why Annan has invited governments with influence to raise the bar to another level, to the highest level possible, and twist arms if necessary, to get the parties to implement the plan," Fawzi told reporters in Geneva. He didn't specify the countries that might be able to pressure Assad into halting its onslaught against the opposition, but Russia, China and Iran are considered Syria's closest and strongest allies.

The two main activist groups reported clashes in areas including the central province of Homs, the northern regions of Idlib and Aleppo and areas around the capital Damascus and the southern province of Daraa.

The Observatory said troops kept up an offensive in an eastern coastal region where the U.S. says Assad's forces may be preparing a massacre. The group said regime forces shelled Haffa and neighboring villages in Latakia province Tuesday for the eighth straight day, it said, as regime forces try to push

through against stiff resistance. Activists say the government has brought in helicopter gunships to aid their offensive, an increasingly common practice.

The Haffa region is dominated by the Alawite sect and is close to Kardaha, which is the hometown of Assad's family. Assad and most of Syria's ruling elite belong to the Alawite minority, an offshoot of Shiite Islam, while the opposition is dominated by the Sunni Muslim majority.

The United States had accused Assad's government Monday of using "new horrific tactics." State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland also said the regime "may be organizing another massacre" in Latakia, where U.N. monitors have been impeded.

Syrian state news agency SANA reported that government forces are still tracking down "terrorists," who it blamed for attacking residents of Haffa. It said the search led to the killing of a number of gunmen and the wounding others. Some were also arrested, it said, adding that two Syrian troops were killed and some others wounded in the clashes.

Attempts to contact activists in Haffa failed because of bad cellular phone connections. State-run news agency SANA said a reporter and a cameraman for the pro-government Ikhbariya TV were wounded when their car was hit with bullets in Haffa on Monday. The government restricts journalists from moving freely, making it nearly impossible to independently verify accounts from either side.

The pro-government daily Al-Watan said Syrian troops were able to retake control of "large areas" of the rebel-held neighborhoods of Khaldiyeh and Bab Sbaa in the central city of Homs, adding that the army planned to "expel all gunmen and terrorists" from the city.

Tarek Badrakhan, an activist in Khaldiyeh, denied the report, saying rebels have control of the whole neighborhood and had repelled several attacks by the army. The Observatory also said that troops are heavily shelling the neighborhood, but still trying to capture it.

Late Monday, the United Nations said children as young as 9 had been used as human shields and some as young as 14 had been tortured in detention. Children described being beaten, blindfolded, subjected to stress positions, whipped with heavy electrical cables, scarred by cigarette burns and in one case subjected to electrical shock to the genitals, the report said.

It quoted a witness as saying that, in a March 9 attack on the village of Ayn l'Arouz in Idlib province, several dozen boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 13 were forcibly taken from their homes and "used by soldiers and militia members as human shields, placing them in front of the windows of buses carrying military personnel into the raid on the village."

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Monday demanded an immediate end to the "dangerous intensification" of violence across Syria and called on all countries with influence to urge the parties "to pull back from the brink."

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## 18. [Special Interest, Syria] Syrian Rebels' Arsenal Includes Remote-Controlled Truck Bombs

Monday, June 11 2012

<http://www.kansascity.com/2012/06/10/3652906/syrian-rebels-arsenal-includes.html>

Late in the afternoon on the second day of the intense fighting that raged in Kafer Zaita for much of last week, a massive explosion rocked the small northern town. "Abdullah," who commands a small unit of rebel fighters, smiled. "I was waiting for that," he said. "We just sent them a little gift."

"They" were the army forces who for two days had been attempting to break out of their stronghold in the center of the town, and the "gift" was a truck laden with what the rebels said was 660 pounds of a homemade explosive. The bomb tore a hole in the fortress wall and left a 4-foot-deep crater in the pavement.

Unlike the car bombs that U.S. troops came to fear during the Iraq war, this vehicle wasn't driven by a young fanatic set on martyrdom. In fact, it wasn't really driven at all. Rather, it was piloted – by remote control. Its pilot remained safely concealed in a nearby house as he steered the truck around a corner, then accelerated it into the stronghold wall.

The drone truck is among the innovations that rebels known as the Free Syrian Army increasingly are using in their fight to topple the government of President Bashar Assad. With growing financial support and what appears to be a steady flow of weapons, the rebels effectively have created havens from which they launch deadly attacks against regular army and police units.

The rebels' effectiveness is driving a rising death toll among the country's security forces that appears likely to hit a record level in June for the second month in a row. As of Monday, the state news agency has announced the funerals of 259 soldiers and police officers who were killed in combat with rebels this month, well ahead of May's pace, when 404 such burials took place.

There are at least two bomb makers near the city of Hama, one of the centers of fighting in Syria, who specialize in making low-tech drone weapons. One of them, "Ahmer," a former math teacher, agreed to talk about his creations, demonstrating how the vehicles are steered using a remote-controlled curtain opener. Like everyone else interviewed for this story, he asked that his real name be withheld, out of fear of government retaliation.

"I've made two so far, but I can't afford to make another one right now," Ahmer said. "They cost about \$200,000 apiece." He showed off a YouTube video of his creation with obvious pride.

Despite some spectacular attacks that have claimed scores of lives in Damascus and generally are thought to be the work of al Qaida-affiliated groups, suicide bombings remain rare here, even as the anti-Assad uprising enters its 15th month. One such bombing occurred a few days ago at a small checkpoint west of Khan Sheikhoun in Idlib province.

A rebel fighter named Mahmoud said the driver had been 17 years old. "His father had four children. He lost three of them to Bashar (Assad), and now this. He has no children left." Mahmoud did not approve. "In Islam, this is not good. There were other ways to accomplish the attack. It's a tragedy."

A five-minute drive south of Kafer Zaita in the town of Ltamneh, Yusef has become a skilled bomb maker as the war has ground on. Before the war he was a farmer, tending a well-kept plum orchard a few miles outside town. Now he seems to have a hand in most all rebel operations in Idlib province, showing his face at meetings with United Nations observers, leading anti-regime demonstrations and fighting battles in pressed khakis and smartly ironed button-down shirts.

Yusef's latest device is a propane tank filled with a homemade explosive that's triggered by the same remote curtain opener that's used to steer the cars. The tank is remarkably heavy. "This will destroy a BMP," he said, referring to the Russian-made armored personnel carriers that are the Syrian military's primary way of transporting its troops. "With a little luck, it can kill a tank, too."

The main component of the homemade explosive is ammonium nitrate, a common fertilizer that Yusef has stockpiled in great supply at his orchard. He laces the nitrate with small bits of aluminum, which give the bomb a higher yield, he explained. "I shred the aluminum by putting it through a meat grinder," he said.

He said he learned how to make homemade explosives long before the war began. "When we were kids, we used this stuff to go fishing," Yusef said. He repeatedly denied having received any training in his craft, a claim that didn't seem particularly credible given the sophistication of his weapons.

He said his bomb making was a one-man operation. "After the revolution, I don't want other people to know how to do this. It could cause problems."

Driving outside the town, on the way to his orchard, Yusef pulled over to check on one of his bombs, carefully hidden at a bend in the road. "I keep the power supply disconnected," he said. "That way it will not detonate accidentally. If the army tries to come here, I'll have enough time to come out and connect it."

When a group of Libyan fighters passed through Kafer Zaita a few days ago en route to Damascus, they were peppered with questions by rebels eager to find ways to fight the better-equipped army forces. One of the Libyans suggested soaking blankets in diesel fuel and leaving them in the streets: "When a tank rolls over it, set it on fire, with an RPG" – meaning a rocket-propelled grenade – "or a Molotov cocktail. It won't destroy the tank, but it gets so hot that the soldiers have to get out." The Syrians listened in rapt attention.

A few days after the battle in Kafer Zaita, Mahmoud and Yusef conferred. Mahmoud had a question for the erstwhile farmer: "If we had some C-4, could you make a bomb out of a remote-controlled airplane?"

Yusef was intrigued. "I've never used C-4 before, but I think so. I could set the fuse to detonate on impact."

They considered the risk of a crash landing, and brainstormed on how to get plastic explosive. Mahmoud promised to do some research and to order a few remote-controlled planes next time he went online: “I can probably get them from Amazon, don’t you think?”

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## 19. [Attack, Iraq] Car Bombs Targeting Shiite Pilgrims Kill More Than 60 People In Iraq

Wednesday, June 13 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/officials-coordinated-car-bomb-attacks-on-shiite-pilgrims-in-baghdad-kill-at-least-20-people/2012/06/13/gJQAqOE8YV\\_story.html?hpid=z3?td=sm\\_facebook&utm\\_campaign=wpapp](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/officials-coordinated-car-bomb-attacks-on-shiite-pilgrims-in-baghdad-kill-at-least-20-people/2012/06/13/gJQAqOE8YV_story.html?hpid=z3?td=sm_facebook&utm_campaign=wpapp)

A coordinated wave of car bombs struck Shiite pilgrims in Baghdad and several other cities Wednesday, killing at least 65 people and wounding more than 200 in one of the deadliest days in Iraq since U.S. troops withdrew from the country.

The bloodshed comes against a backdrop of political divisions that have raised tensions and threatened to provoke a new round of the violence that once pushed Iraq to the brink of civil war. Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, but they bore the hallmarks of Sunni insurgents who frequently target Shiites in Iraq.

Wednesday's blasts were the third this week targeting the annual pilgrimage that sees hundreds of thousands of Shiites converge on a golden-domed shrine in Baghdad's northern neighborhood of Kazimiyah to commemorate the eighth century death of a revered Shiite saint, Imam Moussa al-Kadhim. The commemoration culminates on Saturday.

Puddles of blood and shards of metal clogged a drainage ditch at the site of one of the bombings in the city of Hillah, where hours before pilgrims had been marching. Soldiers and dazed onlookers wandered near the charred remains of the car that had exploded and ripped gaping holes in nearby shops.

Most of the 16 separate explosions that rocked the country targeted Shiite pilgrims in five cities, but two hit offices of political parties linked to Iraq's Kurdish minority in the tense north. Authorities had tightened security ahead of the pilgrimage, including a blockade of the mainly Sunni area of Azamiyah, which is near the twin-domed Shiite shrine.

The level of violence has dropped dramatically in Iraq since peaking in 2006-2007 as the country faced a Sunni-led insurgency and retaliatory sectarian fighting that broke out after the U.S.-led invasion that ousted Saddam Hussein. But Iraqis still face near-daily attacks and Shiite pilgrimages are often targeted.

Political divisions also have only deepened, paralyzing the country since the Americans withdrew all combat troops in mid-December.

Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has been accused of trying to monopolize power, and tensions spiked after Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi — the highest-ranking Sunni in Iraq's leadership — was charged with running death squads. The government began his trial in absentia since al-Hashemi was out of the country, drawing allegations the charges were part of a vendetta by the Shiite-led government.

The political stagnation has set back hopes for stability in Iraq and stalled efforts to rebuild the country after eight years of U.S. occupation.

“These violent acts reflect the depth of the political crisis in the country and the escalation of political differences among blocs,” said politician Abdul-Sataar al-Jumaili of the Sunni political bloc Iraqiya.

Baghdad military command spokesman Col. Dhia al-Wakeel said the attacks were intended to reignite all-out sectarian bloodshed, “but Iraqis are fully aware of the terrorism agenda and will not slip into a sectarian conflict.”



According to accounts compiled by police and health officials in the targeted areas, the first bomb struck a procession at around 5 a.m. in the town of Taji, north of Baghdad, killing seven people and wounding two others. That was followed by four more morning blasts that hit other groups of pilgrims across the capital, killing 25 people and wounding more than 70.

South of Baghdad, two car bombs exploded minutes apart at dawn in the center of the mainly Shiite city of Hillah, killing 21 people and wounding 53, according to two police officers and one health worker.

A parked car bomb also exploded near a group of pilgrims in the Shiite holy city of Karbala, 90 kilometers (55 miles) south of Baghdad, at about 8 a.m., killing two people and wounding 22 others.

In the Shiite town of Balad, 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of Baghdad, two nearly simultaneous car bombs killed seven pilgrims and wounded 34.

Explosions also targeted Iraqi Kurds in the north.

One person was killed as three blasts rocked the ethnically mixed city of Kirkuk, one of them outside the local office of Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani’s political party.

Another car bomb targeted an office of Iraqi President Jalal Talabani’s Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in the northern city of Mosul, killing two people and wounding four. Two other explosions wounded five people elsewhere in Mosul, about 360 kilometers (225 miles) northwest of Baghdad. The details were reported by officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren’t authorized to release the information.

The overall toll made it the deadliest day in Iraq since Jan. 5, when a wave of bombings targeting Shiites killed 78 people in Baghdad and outside the southern city of Nasiriyah.

Shortly after the attacks, al-Maliki chaired a meeting with senior army and police officials to discuss ways to overcome security gaps “used by the terrorists,” a statement on the prime minister’s website said.

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## **20. [Security, Syria] Authorities Seize Molotov Cocktails And Explosive Devices In A Car In Aleppo, Clash With Terrorists In Douma Countryside**

Sunday, June 10 2012

<http://www.sana.sy/eng/337/2012/06/10/424355.htm>

Authorities seized on Saturday a large amount of Molotov cocktails, explosive devices, a pump-action shotgun and bullets inside a car in Tariq al-Bab neighborhood in Aleppo city.

SANA reporter said that 30 Molotov cocktails, a number of explosive devices, a pump-action shotgun and bullets were found inside a car.

Meanwhile, military engineering units dismantled an explosive device attached to a car belonging to MP Ali al-Bash outside his house in al-Safira city, eastern Aleppo.

An armed terrorist group attacked law enforcement forces in al-Rihan area in Douma, Damascus Countryside.

The authorities intervened and returned fire, killing two of the attacking terrorists: Hasan Mouselli and Maher al-Sheikh.

An official source told SANA's correspondent that the conflict resulted in the injury of two members of the authorities.

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## 21. [Security, Syria] Authorities Seize Factory For Making Explosive Devices In Damascus Countryside

Sunday, June 10 2012

<http://www.sana.sy/eng/337/2012/06/10/424512.htm>

The authorities, in cooperation with locals, stormed one of the terrorist groups' hideouts in Yelda town in Damascus Countryside, which was a factory for making explosive devices.

The authorities seized three explosive devices ready for detonation and high explosive and toxic materials such as Ammonium nitrate and fertilizers that were used in making explosive devices.

### Terrorist Group Targets Power Transmission Station in Homs

In Homs province, an armed terrorist group targeted in a sabotage act a power transmission station to the west of the National Hospital in teh city of Homs.

Minister of Electricity, Eng. Imad Khamis, told SANA reporter the station caught fire as a result of the sabotage act, noting that fire engines are trying to quench the fire.

The Minister added that the station went out of service and the damages have not yet been estimated.

### A Military Unit confronts terrorists in Homs countryside

An Armed terrorist group today attacked a military unit site at al-Ghanto town in Homs countryside in order to loot weapons and military ammunitions.

An official source in Homs told SANA that members of the military unit clashed with the armed group, killing and wounding a number of the terrorists.



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## 22. [Attack, Syria] Car Bomb Dismantled, Terrorists Blow Up Two Cars In Damascus Countryside, Gas Pipeline Attacked In Deir Ezzor

Monday, June 11 2012

<http://www.sana.sy/eng/337/2012/06/11/424630.htm>

Authorities on Monday dismantled a 700 kg explosive charge planted in a car in Jaramana in Damascus Countryside.

An official source told SANA that an armed terrorist group prepared the booby-trapped car with about 700 kilograms of explosives, adding that the engineering units dismantled the charge.

A delegation of the UN observers' team headed to the area and inspected the car.

Abducted citizen Ahmad al-Jasem, driver of a Mercedes stolen car, said in a speech to the Syrian TV that on May 30th, nearly 50 gunmen intercepted his car while driving home, killing his wife and taking him to a remote farm in al-Mileha, Damascus countryside.



"In the farm I found a sheikh from Libya who issues fatwas and orders to the armed group for killing innocents... then they filmed me with a military uniform as being a Shabih and as being killer of children and women," al-Jasem added.

He underlined that the group put me in a Mercedes car which is similar to my stolen one , tied me to the steering wheel, then they loaded it with 700 KG of explosives.

"The terrorists asked me to bomb the car at an army checkpoint... But I told the army members of what the armed men have done to me.. I asked the Army help.. they assumed their duty," al-Jasem said.

### Terrorists Blow up Two Cars in Barza, Soldier Martyred and Two Civilians Wounded

An army soldier was martyred and two civilians were wounded after an armed terrorist group blew up two cars with explosive charges in Barza, Damascus.

A source at the Province said that the first explosive charge targeted a Toyota Corolla car, causing the martyrdom of its driver.

The source added that the second charge targeted a Mercedes car, causing the injury of two people who were inside the car.

#### Armed Terrorist Group Detonates Gas Pipeline, Causing 400,000 cubic meters of Gas to Leak

An armed terrorist group detonated with an explosive device a gas pipeline between al-Zebari and Sa'alo villages in the countryside of Deir Ezzor, causing 400,000 cubic meters of gas to leak.

The gas pipeline extends from al-Omar field, which belongs to al-Furat Oil Company, in Deir Ezzor to Homs.



A source at the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources told SANA reporter that the Company halted pumping operations through the damaged pipeline, adding that workshops will start repairs tomorrow to restore operations in the next few days.

In a similar statement, a source at the Electricity Ministry said that the attack on the pipeline resulted in putting two gas-powered turbines in an electric power station out of commission.

On May 30th, an armed terrorist group targeted with an explosive device a pipeline to transport oil between Abu Hamam and Gharaneej areas in Deir Ezzor causing fire to erupt at the site of the blast.

Another armed terrorist group, on April 30th, detonated with an explosive device an oil pipeline between the villages of Mahkan and al-Qouriya in Deri Ezzor with an explosive device, damaging a valve and causing large amounts of oil to leak.

Civil Defense and firemen extinguish fires set on by armed groups in Idleb countryside

Civil Defense and firemen today extinguished fires that were deliberately set on by armed terrorist groups in al-Yousfiya and al-Shaghr forests in Idleb countryside.

An official source told SANA that firemen and civil defense staff used planes to extinguish fires.

Authorities clash with armed groups near al-Rouj plain's in Idleb countryside

The competent authorities today clashed with armed terrorist groups who attacked and sabotaged al-Rouj plain's fish stores in Idleb countryside.

SANA reporter learned that the clashes led to the killing of a number of terrorists and arresting others as well as confiscating their weapons.

#### Authorities Storm Terrorists' Den in Douma

The authorities stormed a hideout of an armed terrorist group in Douma area in Damascus Countryside.

An official source told SANA that authorities clashed with the terrorists and killed all of them, adding that one personnel was martyred in the process.

#### Armed Terrorist Group Attacks Law-Enforcement Personnel in al-Haffah

An armed terrorist group attacked law-enforcement personnel in al-Haffah area in Lattakia on Monday.

An official source at the province said that the authorities clashed with the terrorists, killing and wounding large numbers of them, adding that five personnel were martyred and another four were wounded.

#### Competent Authorities Raid a Terrorist Hideout in Jisr al-Shughour

The competent authorities raided a hideout that terrorists used for committing crimes against civilians. A source in the governorate said that the clash left big numbers of terrorists dead and many others injured , while several others were arrested. Big amounts of weapons were also seized.

#### Authorities Kill Dozens of Terrorists in Idleb Countryside

The authorities in Idleb countryside clashed with the armed terrorist groups which launched several attacks against citizens and law-enforcement forces in the villages of Jabal al-Zawiye area. An official source at the province told SANA reporter that the clashes resulted in the death of dozens of terrorists.

In the same context, the authorities confronted terrorists who were opening fire on passersby and busses between the villages of al-Jamediye and Ma'aret al-Nu'man. The clash resulted in the killing and injuring of a number of terrorists, including terrorist Tarek al-Berro who is wanted for murder and vandalism.

#### Authorities clash with armed terrorist group in al-Rastan, Explosive Device Kills Five Terrorists in Deir Ezzor

Authorities clashed on Monday with an armed terrorist group in al-Rastan district as the terrorist attacked civilians and law-enforcement members. SANA reporter said that the clashes resulted in the killing of all members of the armed terrorist group and seizing their weapons.

Meanwhile, five terrorist were killed in Monday after an explosive device set off in their car in al-Joura outskirts in Deir Ezzor.

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## **23. [Security, Yemen] Yemeni Army Seizes Al-Qaeda Munitions Factory, Kills 26 Gunmen**

Monday, June 11 2012

<http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=407880>

Yemeni troops seized control of an Al-Qaeda munitions factory in the southern Abyan province on Monday as battles for control of the restive region killed 26 militants, local and military officials said.

The bodies of 12 militants were discovered inside the factory which lies on the outskirts of the Al-Qaeda stronghold of Jaar, a military official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

A Yemeni air raid on Al-Qaeda positions in Jaar meanwhile killed six jihadists, a local official said.

In the nearby town of Shaqra, where many of the local Al-Qaeda leadership is believed to be hiding, fierce clashes between troops and militants killed eight militants, a military official said.

Five soldiers were also wounded in the battles, the official added on condition of anonymity.

Yemeni forces launched an all-out offensive on May 12 aimed at reclaiming towns and cities lost to Al-Qaeda during the past year, including Abyan's capital Zinjibar.

Since the beginning of the attack, 483 people have been killed, according to an AFP tally combined from different sources. This includes 368 Al-Qaeda militants, 70 soldiers, 26 local armed men, and 19 civilians.

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## 24. [Security, Iraq] Iraq Pilgrimage Security Tight After Bombs Kill 72

Thursday, June 14 2012

<http://www.ajc.com/news/nation-world/iraq-pilgrimage-security-tight-1457764.html>

Iraqi authorities banned motorcycles from Baghdad's streets and dispatched tens of thousands of security forces to guard a Shiite pilgrimage Thursday after coordinated car bombings targeted processions across the country the day before, killing 72 people in one of the worst attacks since the U.S. troops withdrawal.

Despite the violence, hundreds of thousands of faithful Shiites continued their marches to commemorate a revered saint. The processions of pilgrims carrying green banners filled roads into and around the capital as they made their way toward the twin-domed shrine in Baghdad's Kazimiyah neighborhood where Imam Moussa al-Kadhim is said to be buried.

"The events that took place yesterday will never undermine our determination to go to commemorate Imam al-Kadhim," vowed pilgrim Sayid Ali Jassim, standing near a security checkpoint where heavily armed soldiers peered out from behind barriers.

Main Baghdad streets were closed off with concrete blocks Thursday, and soldiers at roadblocks searched pilgrims as they entered roads leading to the shrine. A senior Defense Ministry officer said motorcycles had been banned to reduce the risk that one might slip a bomb past a checkpoint, and he said at least 30,000 soldiers and police were on the streets. He spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the measures.

Authorities on Thursday raised the death toll to 72 and said the 22 explosions in seven cities and towns on Wednesday also wounded more than 270 people, according to two officials from the health and interior ministries. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

The attacks around the country came amid political tension over power-sharing. Iraq's Sunnis and Kurds accuse the Shiite prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, of consolidating power in his own hands. The sharpening political divisions suggest Iraq has made little progress in healing the breach among its religious and ethnic communities that once pushed the country to the brink of civil war.

No one has claimed responsibility for Wednesday's attacks but the bombings bore the hallmarks of al-Qaida and its Sunni militant allies seeking to exploit the sectarian tensions.

Iraqi authorities played down any suggestion that the devastating attacks that have taken place every few weeks or so since the U.S. military withdrew in mid-December portend a return to the all-out, sectarian violence that tore the nation apart in 2006-2007.

Wednesday's blasts were the third in a week targeting the annual Shiite pilgrimage to observe the eighth-century death of al-Kadhim, a revered saint who was the Prophet Muhammad's great-grandson. The commemoration culminates on Saturday.

The level of violence has dropped dramatically in Iraq since the height of the war, though Shiite religious events still are often targeted.

But large-scale bombings still come once or twice a month and security forces have been unable to prevent such the attacks, even though they were on high alert this week.



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## 25. [Attack, Syria] Syria Violence Kills 11, Two Car Bombs Reported

Thursday, June 14 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/06/14/damascus-car-bomb-wounds-two-state-media/>

Nine civilians and two rebels were killed early Thursday in violence across Syria, while car bombs exploded in the northwest city of Idlib and the capital Damascus, monitors reported.

The car bomb in Idlib city targeted a military checkpoint, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said, adding that a number of soldiers were killed or wounded in the blast. No further details were immediately available.

In Damascus, a car bomb exploded early morning in a suburb that houses a popular Shiite shrine, wounding two people, Syrian state media reported.



The blast in the Sayyida Zeinab neighbourhood occurred near the Sadr hospital, leaving a large crater and damaging vehicles.

State news agency SANA said the booby-trapped vehicle was parked in a garage. It gave an initial toll of two people wounded.

The Observatory said meanwhile that clashes between regime troops and rebels erupted early morning in the central city of Homs, where four people were killed before dawn, including three civilians and a rebel fighter.

It added that Ahmed Bahbouh, the head of the rebel military office in Rastan and a leading dissident figure, was killed in violent clashes with government forces in Homs province, the watchdog said.

A civilian was killed in crossfire as rebel fighters and government troops clashed at the entrances of the rebel-held town, which the regime has been trying to overrun for months.

In the southern city of Daraa five people were killed before dawn, including four in the neighbourhood of Tareek Al-Sad, which was heavily shelled by regime troops, the Observatory said.

“Government forces have surrounded the neighbourhood of Tareek Al-Sad in preparation to storm the area”, it said.

At least 77 people were killed across Syria on Wednesday, including 49 civilians, 21 soldiers and seven rebels, the watchdog said.

Well over 14,000 people have been killed in the 15-month revolt in Syria, the majority of them civilians, according to the Observatory.

The escalation in violence follows an assessment by UN peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous on Tuesday that Syria was now locked in fullscale civil war, with regime forces having lost control of “large chunks of territory.”

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## **26. [Security, Iraq] Weapon, Explosives Cache Uncovered North Ramadi**

Wednesday, June 13 2012

[http://www.ninanews.com/english/News\\_Details.asp?ar95\\_VQ=FLMHGF](http://www.ninanews.com/english/News_Details.asp?ar95_VQ=FLMHGF)

Police uncovered on Wednesday, June 13, a cache containing weapons and explosives north of Ramadi, Anbar province.

Police source told NINA that the discovered cache was underground in an agriculture land in Jazeera area, north of Ramadi.

The source added that the cache contained explosive vests, improvised explosive devices, 3 pistols with silencers, 5 BKC machine guns, 4 rockets' launching pads, remote controlled detonators and car bomb making materials.

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## **27. [Security, Iraq] A Cache Of Rockets And Explosives Belt Found In Kirkuk**

Wednesday, June 13 2012

[http://www.ninanews.com/english/News\\_Details.asp?ar95\\_VQ=FLMHFF](http://www.ninanews.com/english/News_Details.asp?ar95_VQ=FLMHFF)

Police force found a cache of 10 rockets and a suicide vest west south of Kirkuk city today .

The Director of Police said to NINA : “ The force found this afternoon a cache of ten rockets near a checkpoint in Daquq district south of Kirkuk.

He noted that the force found also an explosives belt in a garage was prepared to use by unknown in carrying out a suicide attack.

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## **28. [Security, Syria] Syrian Security Forces Arrest Al-Qaeda Suicide Bomber**

Friday, June 15 2012

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/syrian-security-forces-arrest-al-qaeda-suicide-bomber-reports-state-tv/>

Syrian state television reported Thursday that security forces had apprehended an al-Qaeda terrorist who planned to blow himself up during Friday prayers at the A-Rifai mosque in Damascus.

During interrogation, the man, Mohammed Hossem a-Sdaki, revealed that there were other suicide bombers planning to strike other Damascus mosques on Friday.

Earlier on Thursday, a suicide bomber detonated his van packed with explosives in a Damascus suburb, wounding 14 people and damaging one of Shiite Islam's holiest shrines.

The violence in Syria has spiraled out of control since a popular uprising against the regime of President Bashar Assad began in March 2011. Activists claim that over 14,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

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## 29. [Security, Syria] Syrian Rebels Turn To Homemade Bombs (Video)

Friday, June 15 2012

[http://edition.cnn.com/2012/06/14/world/meast/syria-daoud-brigade-bomb-making/index.html?hpt=hp\\_c1](http://edition.cnn.com/2012/06/14/world/meast/syria-daoud-brigade-bomb-making/index.html?hpt=hp_c1)

"These are the explosive devices, they are all made locally," Captain Daoud Hassan Mahmoud explains, crouching down and pointing to the metal cylinders, perhaps just 20cm in diameter -- dozens of them are lined up next to each other.

The cylinders are packed with a deadly concoction of fertilizer, explosives and other chemicals bought from the local market.

"I don't want to name them so that the government doesn't confiscate them from the shops," Mahmoud says.

Placed on the top of the cylinder thick nuts and bolts -- which will turn into lethal shards of shrapnel once detonated: Crude, but highly effective.

"This one would blow up a jeep or a pick-up," he says, pointing to two of the cylinders which a rebel is roughly taping together, in the final stages of preparation. "For a tank or an armored vehicle we use six or eight."

Outgunned by Assad's forces, the captain's team -- the Daoud brigade -- is resorting to Iraq-style guerilla warfare, turning to roadside bombs and, in at least one case, a suicide bombing.

Clips said to be of the brigade's operations are often posted to YouTube, starting off with a Quranic verse, followed by stylized graphics of the brigade's name, and its division -- the Damascus Hawks.

Hardly audible below the music -- a jihadi chorus meant to motivate -- a voice narrates each attack.

The videos are all very similar in tone to those that came out of Iraq when al-Qaeda-allied insurgents there took on the US military. In that battlefield the IED proved to be the most effective weapons against American armor.

In Syria today it is also becoming the weapon of choice.

Mahmoud says they have received no outside help.

"Our funding is dependent on donations, a small collection of money. And what we're able to capture from the Syrian military. We have not received any help even from the Free Syrian Army leadership or the Syrian National Council," he claims.

And so, he says, they have had to improvise.

"We only have AK 47s, sniper rifles, machine guns," Mahmoud explains. "And the regime is fighting us with tanks and rockets. We don't have heavy weapons. We're relying on mines and on making bombs."

Mahmoud says he commands 300 men. The Damascus Hawks Division is made up of around 8,000, operating mostly in Idlib province. There is no way of confirming such claims.

The division, he says, was first made up of defectors and civilians and has gradually increased in numbers.

He says his men are moderate Islamists, who follow the military council of the Free Syrian Army, fighting for democracy.

"As military men, we don't want to see one in power," he says. "We want a democratically elected president, we have to separate the military from the presidency.

"We are also fighting corruption and those opportunists that are in the Idlib countryside," he continues, referring to people he says are capitalizing on the uprising to wreak havoc and carry out operations in the name of the opposition.

The men look relaxed as they calmly mill around among the olive groves, AK 47s slung over their shoulders. This is territory they control. They are a ragtag collection of rebel fighters but in this part of Idlib province in Syria, they boast of taking the fight to the Syrian regime.

Just back from a mission, one of the fighters explains that it failed.

"We set up an ambush against Assad's army using IEDs but they received intelligence about our plan and rerouted the convoy."

Another claims his unit was successful.

"We destroyed an armored vehicle," he boasts.

This is now the Syrian battlefield. Fifteen months on, peaceful protests have morphed into more of an insurgency that threatens to become an all-out war.

Video: <http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/international/2012/06/14/damon-syria-ied.cnn>

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### **30. [Trend, Russia] Major Terror Plot Foiled In Ingushetia's Malgobek**

Monday, June 11 2012

<http://www.interfax.com/newsinf.asp?id=338970>

Police in the Ingush town of Malgobek have foiled a terror plot, a law enforcement source told Interfax

"An explosion occurred outside a grocery shop at around 01:50 a.m. Moscow time. The police who arrived and inspected the scene found two more explosive devices in the adjacent area, which apparently were to go off when the police have arrived at the scene of the first blast," the source said.

The first improvised explosive device (IED) consisted of 500 grams of plastid and a radio controlled detonator, he said. The second device consisted of five underbarrel grenade launcher rounds.

"Both explosive devices were rendered safe by bomb disposal experts," the source said.

It was reported earlier that an IED blew up near the house number 54 in Gardanov street at around 1:50 a.m. Moscow time. The explosion caused damage to the house. No one has been hurt or killed.

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### **31. [Special Interest, Israel] Israel May Attack Iran In Next Few Months - Political Scientist**

Wednesday, June 13 2012

[https://www.opensource.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_0\\_200\\_203\\_121123\\_43/content/Display/CEP20120613950154#index=32&searchKey=8555586&rpp=10](https://www.opensource.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_200_203_121123_43/content/Display/CEP20120613950154#index=32&searchKey=8555586&rpp=10)

Political scientist Sergei Markov believes Israel will attack Iran after the presidential elections in Egypt, the second round of which is scheduled for June 16-17.

"As an expert, I believe the Israeli administration will attack Iran after the Egyptian elections, they cannot do it before that to prevent influencing them, and before a large-scale presidential campaign in the United States because they do not want Barack Obama to get elected," Markov told a press conference at the Interfax central office.

The United States and some other Western countries suspect Iran of developing nuclear weapons under the guise of a peaceful nuclear program. Iran denies all accusations, saying its nuclear program is aimed solely at meeting the country's needs for electrical power.

Some countries and international organizations, including the UN, have adopted sanctions resolutions on Iran that require the country to ensure full transparency of its nuclear program and prove that its purpose is solely peaceful.

The international sextet, which comprises representatives of Russia, the UK, China, the United States, France and Germany have worked together with the IAEA since 2003 on making Iran suspend its uranium enrichment work, which may pose a threat to the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

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## 32. [Trend, Russia] Russia Accuses U.S. Of Arming Syria Rebels

Wednesday, June 13 2012

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/Russia+accuses+arming+Syria+rebels/6775270/story.html>

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Wednesday accused the United States of supplying weapons to Syria's rebels, worsening the conflict engulfing Moscow's allied regime in Damascus.

Russia was supplying "anti-air defence systems" to Damascus in a deal that "in no way violates international laws," Lavrov told a news conference during a brief visit to Iran.

"That contrasts with what the United States is doing with the opposition, which is providing arms to the Syrian opposition which are being used against the Syrian government," he said, in remarks translated from Russian into Farsi by an official interpreter.

It was the first time Moscow has directly pointed the finger at Washington. Previously, it had said unidentified "foreign powers" were arming Syria's opposition.

Lavrov's accusation followed a charge by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Tuesday that she had information Russia was sending to Syria "attack helicopters... which will escalate the conflict quite dramatically."

Asked in Tehran about the helicopter allegation, Lavrov said only that Moscow was giving Damascus "conventional weapons" related to air defence and asserted that the deal complied with international law.

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Gennady Gatilov told reporters last month that Moscow believed "it would be wrong to leave the Syrian government without the means for self-defence."

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said at the same news conference with Lavrov that Tehran and Moscow were "very close" on the Syria issue.

Western and Arab nations, he said, "are sending weapons to Syria and forces to Syria, and are not allowing the reforms promised by the Syrian president to be applied."

Reports in Iran allege that Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United States are arming Syria's rebels - termed "terrorists" by Damascus - while US officials claim Iran is giving arms and military advisors to Syria's regime.

Some observers fear the conflict, which the UN's chief peacekeeper agrees now resembles a civil war, could blow up into a struggle between forces helped by outside nations.

"There is a real risk of it sliding into a proxy war as certain states support the regime or 'the opposition'," one Western diplomat told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The conflict in Syria certainly appears to be getting more brutal - and not just on one side," the diplomat warned.

Monitors say at least 14,100 people have been killed in the 15-month uprising against the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Russia came under fierce criticism from Western and Arab countries for vetoing two UN Security Council resolutions that would have sanctioned Assad for his use of force.

Since then, it has sought to distance itself from Assad while continuing to support his regime. "We do not support any individual or government, we support the people of Syria," Lavrov said.

Moscow is now trying to organise an international conference on Syria that would include several nations with influence over the conflict, including Iran. The United States, Britain and France, though, object to Iran taking part.

"We want the support of all the players," Lavrov said.

"All sides in the conflict need to stop operations.... Any player with leverage should apply pressure to stop the violence and facilitate negotiations," he said.

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### **33. [Special Interest, Germany] Activists Urge Berlin To Ban Cluster-Bomb Investment**

Thursday, June 14 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/14/germany-clusterbombs-idUSL5E8HE7XI20120614>

Germany should ban banks and other financial institutions from investing in companies that manufacture banned cluster bombs, which can kill and injure civilians long after conflicts have ended, activists said in Berlin on Thursday.

German campaign group Facing Finance and the largest Dutch pacifist movement, KV Pax Christi, presented a report in Berlin showing German companies had business relations worth more than \$550 million between 2009 and 2012 with munitions producers making cluster bombs.

"This money comes from its multinational financial services company Allianz and the country's biggest bank, Deutsche Bank," said Thomas Kuechenmeister from Facing Finance, which campaigns against companies investing in firms that profit from violations of human rights.

Cluster bombs are deployed both from the air and from the ground and release hundreds of smaller bombs, which sometimes fail to explode when they hit the ground. This poses a particular threat to children who can be attracted by their toy-like appearance and bright colours. The Oslo Convention of 2008 - negotiated outside the United Nations framework by a group of countries keen to get quick action on the weapons - banned their use, production and transfer and laid down timetables for stockpile destruction.

The Bundestag, or lower house, failed to approve a motion to ban cluster bombs earlier this year. But Gerhrard Schick, a member of parliament for the German Greens, said his party planned to present the bill again soon to bring Germany in line with the Oslo Convention.

Asked about the report, a spokesman for Deutsche Bank told Reuters the bank had started a campaign in 2008 called 'No Go Policy' against financing the production, distribution and trade of cluster bombs, a policy which was further tightened in 2011.

"Deutsche Bank can only enter new contracts with these companies when they decidedly commit themselves to leave this business area. However, contracts stipulated from before this policy became effective are obviously still fulfilled," the spokesman said. Allianz has followed the same path.

"Since January last year the public funds of AllianzGI Europe cannot invest in producers of cluster munitions and those funds were respectively reorganised. Investments of this sort will be also ruled out from the investments of Allianz's insurance funds through a guideline," said an Allianz spokesman.

"If countries around Germany like Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg and in the near future Switzerland and the Netherlands can do it, so can Germany," KV Pax Christi's Roos Boer told reporters in Berlin.

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### **34. [Attack, India] Bomb Explodes Outside MP's Residence**

Tuesday, June 12 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/Bomb-explodes-outside-MPs-residence/articleshow/14035681.cms>

Some anti-social elements exploded a bomb at the main gate of JD(U) MP from Begusarai Monazir Hassan's residence in mohalla Dilawarpur on Sah Jubair road under Kotwali police station at Munger on Monday afternoon.

Incidentally, Dr Hassan, the JD(U) MP and his family members are out of Munger and the caretaker was also not present when the bomb exploded. Monazir's residence was locked from outside, the police said and added that there was no damage from the explosion.

Munger SP P Kannan on getting information rushed to the place of occurrence and took stock of the situation. Monazir, however, described it as the handiwork of some miscreants supporting a candidate who lost the Munger Municipal Corporation (MMC) polls on Sunday.

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### **35. [Attack, Turkey] Assailant Killed After Attack On Police Station In Istanbul**

Wednesday, June 13 2012

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/43272-gunman-killed-after-attacking-istanbul-police-station>

Istanbul police shot dead one of the two gunmen who opened fire with automatic weapons and threw a grenade at a police station late Tuesday, Anatolia news agency reported.

The two unidentified assailants attacked the police station at Istinye on the European shore of Istanbul and a police officer returned fire, killing one of them, Anatolia said.

"First they fired with an automatic weapon, and then the other assailant threw a hand grenade," Istanbul police chief Huseyin Capkin was quoted as saying by Anatolia on Wednesday.

"Our duty officer rendered one of the individuals ineffective," he said, a term used by Turkey's security forces to refer to deaths.

The injured assailant was taken to a private hospital where he died, said Anatolia, adding that the other man ran away.

Police launched a hunt for the man who fled.

Police also found a suspicious package near the same station at Istinye which contained a bomb, Anatolia said. Capkin said the incident was an "act of terrorism," but did not elaborate on its perpetrators.

Several armed groups including Kurdish rebels and far-left organizations, have carried out attacks in Istanbul in the past. Police are particularly a usual target for left-wing splinter groups.

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### **36. [Security, Nepal] NA Defuses Socket Bomb**

Wednesday, June 13 2012

<http://inseconline.org/index.php?type=news&id=10084&lang=en>

Nepal Army has inactivated a socket bomb found in a brick kiln at Kanthapur of Kalika VDC-6 on June 12.

NA from Gorakhdal Battalion inactivated the bomb found in Pandey Brick Kiln, police said. An unidentified gang planted the bomb in the office from a window, Keshav Pandey, proprietor of the Kiln said.

Kalilka Police Post was informed immediately after the bomb was found in the kiln and police called army for disposal of the bomb, Pandey said.

Police said that investigation of the incident is underway.

On September 4, 2011, an unidentified gang had planted a pressure cooker bomb in the kiln.

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### **37. [Security, India] Maoist Plotting To Attack Western Odisha Soft Targets: Police**

Thursday, June 14 2012

<http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/maoist-plotting-to-attack-western-odisha-soft-targets-police/1011737.html>

Police today arrested two hardcore Maoists and claimed that they were part of ultras' plot to attack security camps in certain districts of Western Odisha. Bishram alias Sudhir Bhuiyan, 24 and Habil Horo, 23 belonging to the West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand and accused in several murder cases, were arrested from Saranda forest bordering Odisha and Jharkhand in the small hours today. Their interrogation revealed that the Maoists were planning to attack "soft targets" like security forces camps, training centres and the like in Western Odisha, DIG (Western Range) Yaswant Jethwa said. "We have sounded alert to RPF, CISF camps and other installations," Jethwa said adding that the forces have started joint operation in various areas to thwart any such incident. "As per the plan of the Maoists' Saranda platoon, about 100 cadres with help from other areas could strike any place in the region," he said. The arrest was vital as they revealed the Maoist plan on co-ordination among the cadres of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha to strengthen the sagging confidence of the outlawed organisation, Jethwa said. They were nabbed at around 2 AM at Lungra Ghati under K.Balang police station by a joint team of CRPF and the district volunteer force following a tip off. Bhuiyan and Horo were accused in the killing of Ajit Bardhan, a sub-inspector of police in 2009, and former woman Maoist Kandri Lohar and her four-year-old son last year. Lohar had left the CPI(Maoist) and joined the police as home guard.

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### **38. [Attack, India] Maoists Kill CRPF Man, Injure Six In Bihar**

Sunday, June 10 2012

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-06-10/india/32155521\\_1\\_landmine-blast-crpf-man-maoists](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-06-10/india/32155521_1_landmine-blast-crpf-man-maoists)

A Central Reserve Police Force personnel was killed and six others seriously injured on Sunday in a landmine blast triggered by Maoists in a forested area in Bihar's Gaya district, police said.

CRPF's official Umesh Kumar said that a shootout between security forces and the rebels took place after a landmine blast by Maoists in Dumaria in Gaya about 100 km from here.

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### 39. [Security, India] Huge Cache Of Explosives Seized In Brahmagiri

Sunday, June 10 2012

<http://dailypioneer.com/state-editions/bhubaneswar/72105-huge-cache-of-explosives-seized-in-brahmagiri.html>

One policeman of the bomb disposal squad died and three others sustained serious injuries while defusing live bombs in the campus of the Brahmagiri police station on Sunday.

The police had recovered country-made 53 country-made bombs, 12 detonators and an equal number of gelatin sticks kept in a deserted house, barely two km away from the notorious Gambhari village which saw several bouts of political violence between supporters of the BJD and the Congress following defeat of the ruling BJD in the recent panchayat polls.

After seizure, the police had carried the bombs and explosives to the police station and kept them in the campus and informed the bomb disposal unit stationed at Puri.

According to reports, a bomb exploded as the diffusion process began, killing havildar Ranjan Sarangi, head of the bomb disposal unit on the spot while injuring three of his assistants. They were rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital here in critical condition. A case has been registered in the police station and the body has been sent for post mortem while investigations are on, SP Anup Sahu told mediapersons.

Despite the unfortunate incident, the Brahmagiri police on the day succeeded in foiling plans for a major violence in Gambhari village following seizure of the bombs, detonators and gelatin sticks.

According to sources, on a tip-off a contingent of armed police led by DP Dash, inspector of the Brahmagiri police station, raided the deserted house in the morning. But no arrest was made till evening, the sources said. The police believe that these explosives were stored for use by a group against their rivals. "With the recovery of huge explosives, a major violence was foiled by the police," the police said.

Ever since the defeat of ruling party candidates in the last panchayat and Zilla Parishad polls, the two rival political groups in Gambhari were involved in large scale arson, gun battle and bombing which claimed a number of lives and left scores injured in the recent past. Hundreds of houses were razed to ground while most of the male members have fled the village. They were trying to regroup to launch fresh assault on each other, the sources informed.

Though the police registered a number of criminal cases against hundreds of both the groups and arrested a few, there is no let-up in the situation. Police presence in the area has been beefed up, the police said.

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## **40. [Security, India] Maoists' Cache Of Explosives Recovered, Two Suspects Arrested In Gaya**

Saturday, June 9 2012

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/newsplus/worldnews-35339.html#.T9pRd5g7uSo>

In an extensive anti-Maoist search operation, police recovered 250 kilograms of gunpowder, cane bombs and detonators, here on Saturday.

The local police in collaboration with Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) conducted the operation.

Speaking to reporters, the Assistant Sub-Inspector of Barachatti police station, B. K. Singh confirmed the whereabouts of the operation and the explosives recovered.

"Based on the information, the police officials and the CRPF conducted this operation.

Two people have been arrested. We have recovered the explosives from the residence of a person named Chandrika Manjhi," Singh said.

The police arrested two suspects, Chandrika Manjhi and Krishna Kumar Keshri on the spot.

According to police, the suspected persons were believed to have some connection with the Maoists.

Seizure of explosives gave a huge sigh of relief to the police, as they believe that a major catastrophe was averted with the recovery of the explosives.

"We have recovered the explosives that include gun materials, four detonators, three cane bombs and one pipe bomb. They were planning to make some explosives. We have also found nuts and 30 metres of wire," Singh disclosed.

Recently, the CRPF had recovered 21 powerful landmines and a 10-kilogram gunpowder in Latehar district of Jharkhand.

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## 41. [Security, Philippines] Concerned Citizens In Capiz Turn Over IED Materials To Military

Friday, June 15 2012

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/213145/concerned-citizens-in-capiz-turn-over-ied-materials-to-military>

Landmine components allegedly used in the making of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were turned over to authorities by concerned citizens in Capiz province, an Army spokesman said Friday.

One concerned individual surrendered to authorities Wednesday morning five kilos of ammonium nitrate, 400 grams of Trinitrotoluene (TNT), two blasting caps, and two detonating cords, Major Enrico Ileto, third infantry division spokesman, said in a statement.



A farmer also surrendered an improvised Claymore mine with detonating wires and battery afternoon of the same day, he said.

He said that a similar claymore mine with detonating tools and an 81-millimeter mortar was surrendered to the military March 19, 2012, he added.

Major General Jose Mabanta, commander of the third infantry division, said that while the concerned citizens were not given public recognition “we call [them] heroes of their community as they have prevented these destructive and banned landmines from being used against the people. Definitely the place is much safer now. With the lives spared from the use of these, their actions are invaluable.”

The IEDs were similar to the landmines used by the New People’s Army (NPA), Ileto said.

Last March 11, 2012, a 6-year old girl was killed while her sister was injured after an IED exploded in Barangay (village) Tacayan, Tapaz, Capiz. The NPA was said to be behind the IED, he said.



The NPA fired upon and used IEDs as landmines against soldiers in a populated area in the boundary of Adgao and Ingay in Tubungan, Iloilo about 7:55 a.m. last March 26. Civilian properties were damaged and two civilians were wounded in the incident, Ileto said.

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## 42. [Trend, United States] Ewing Police Investigate Explosive Devices Set Off In West Trenton

Saturday, June 9 2012

[http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2012/06/ewing\\_police\\_investigate\\_explo.html](http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2012/06/ewing_police_investigate_explo.html)

Two apparent improvised explosive devices were detonated six days apart in West Trenton last month, and while no one was injured, police are warning people to be vigilant.

“We don’t want to glorify it,” Lt. Rocco Maruca said of the recent explosions. “We don’t want someone, especially a kid, picking up one of those explosive bottles and having it detonate.”

Police still have no suspects.

The first occurred May 20 on West Upper Ferry Road in the parking lot of an adult day care center. A bright flash lit up the night sky, but no witnesses saw who planted the device as the center was closed for the night.

Police do not believe the makers of the crude device intended any harm, and no injuries or damage was reported.

The second event occurred the night of May 26 on the lawn of a Central Avenue home about 500 yards from the first explosion, police said.

People nearby heard two or three blasts, and arriving police officers found three 16-ounce plastic bottles smoldering in the front yard.

People were at home at the time, but no injuries were reported, and there was no damage outside of burned grass, Maruca said. It was unclear whether the suspects had a reason for placing the explosive bottles on the residents’ lawn that night, police said, and there was no indication that the residents had been threatened.

Searches for the suspects and other devices came up empty. Police declined to reveal the composition of either explosive device.

They have received assistance from the New Jersey State Police’s bomb squad, and the cases remain under investigation.

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### **43. [Security, Colombia] Army Destroys Three Hideouts From The FARC**

Tuesday, June 12 2012

<http://www.ejercito.mil.co/index.php?idcategoria=332332>

Troops from the National Army located and destroyed three illegal hideouts in Norte de Santander, Huila and Putumayo from the terrorist group.

The first operation took place in the municipality of Tibú, Norte de Santander, were troops from the 23rd Mobile Brigade located a clandestine hideout from the 'Ruiz Barí' group of the Farc.

Among the confiscated materials was an antipersonnel mine, 40 meters of detonation cable, six kilos of gunpowder and sorted ammunition.

After, the military offensive was headed in the municipality of Colombia, Huila, were the troops from the 122nd Terrestrial Combat Battalion, located 187 kilos of anfo, hidden in by the terrorist group.

Finally the operations headed by the Sixth Division in Puerto Asis, Putumayo gave as result the destruction of an illegal hideout in which interior were 1.5 kilos of pentolite and 35 meters of detonation cable.

The military investigation point out the 'Pedro Martinez' group from the Farc as owner of the illegal materials.

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#### **44. [Security, Colombia] Army Destroyed 11 Explosive Artifacts**

Monday, June 11 2012

<http://www.ejercito.mil.co/index.php?idcategoria=332330>

Soldiers from the National Army, located and destroyed in the last hours, 11 improvised explosive artifacts installed by terrorists from the Farc in Arauca, Putumayo and Tolima.

Initially on the frame of the offensive operations headed in the town of El Limonar in the municipality of San Miguel, Putumayo, troops from the 9th Special Energetic and Road Battalion, achieved the neutralization of three loaded cylinders with explosives which were installed by terrorists from the group 48 of the Farc.

Meanwhile, troops from the 38th Terrestrial Combat Battalion, deployed in the site known as 'La Unión' in the municipality of Arauquita, Arauca, reported the location and destruction of four improvise explosive artifacts prepared by terrorists from the tenth group of the Farc.

The other explosive artifacts were located in the general area of Puerto Rondon, in the same department by soldiers from the 45th Terrestrial Combat Battalion heading register and control operations.

Finally in the town of El Tesoro in the municipality of Rioblanco, Tolima, two antipersonnel mines installed by terrorists from the group 21 were deactivated in a controlled way by experts from the 117th Terrestrial Combat Battalion from the 20th Mobile Brigade.

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#### **45. [Security, Colombia] Illegal Laboratory Was Dismantled In Cauca**

Monday, June 11 2012

<http://www.ejercito.mil.co/index.php?idcategoria=332328>

The clandestine structure used for the processing of alkaloids was dismantled in the last hours by troops from the National Army in Cauca.

The military operation was deployed by troops from the 4th High Mountain Battalion from the 29th Brigade in the town of Gavilanes in the municipality of Almaguer, allowing the discovery of the laboratory from the criminal band at the service of the drug traffic.

In the site the soldiers confiscated 2.500 kilos of processed coca leaf, 400 kilos of gray cement, 250 kilos of caustic lime, 100 kilos of ammonium sulfate, 75 kilos of sulfuric acid, 660 gallons of gasoline, 165 gallons of potassium permanganate and several plastic cans, among other materials used for the elaboration of coca base paste.

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## 46. [Security, Colombia] Security Forces Capture 'FARC Members' Near Venezuelan Border

Monday, June 11 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/24509-security-forces-capture-farc-members-near-venezuelan-border.html>

Military operations in northern Colombia resulted in the capture of 22 alleged FARC members and more than 40 weapons, reported local media Monday.

Security forces dealt a blow to the guerrilla group this weekend when they arrested alias "Julian," supposed leader of the 33rd Front, defused just over a ton of explosives and dismantled a cocaine laboratory run by the leftist group in the department of Norte de Santander near the Venezuelan border.

The front reportedly handles the security, logistics and finances of FARC's supreme leader, Rodrigo Londono Echeverri, alias "Timochenko," who is believed to be hiding in the region.

"This is one of the few 'sanctuaries' the FARC have left and we have a force of five thousand men coming to their hideouts," said General Juan Pablo Amaya, commander of the army's second division.

"We are destroying the laboratories in order to take away the money they get from drug trafficking and that allows them to buy weapons and explosives," the official added.

According to Pablo, with these 22 arrests, efforts to consolidate the area have resulted in the capture of nearly 100 people with alleged links to the FARC and the destruction of 90 tons of supplies intended for cocaine production.



The arrests were made in three separate operations in the towns of El Tarra and Convencion. The largest of the three took place in the mountains where security forces stormed an encampment harboring 14 guerrillas, land mines and explosives. The other two operations occurred in Convencion, one of which resulted in the capture of five suspected guerrillas, several pistols, seven rifles, grenades and 200kg of explosives.

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## 47. [Security, Colombia] Police Seized Explosives And Avoided Villavicencio Wave Of Terrorism

Tuesday, June 12 2012

[http://www.lasvocesdelsecuestro.com/noticias\\_detalle.php?id=5990](http://www.lasvocesdelsecuestro.com/noticias_detalle.php?id=5990)

After receive information relating to trafficking in explosives and terrorist plans for attacks in Villavicencio, Meta Department, the Metropolitan Police of this city ahead of a raid on a house in the area of Playa Rica, where he found a large quantity of explosives, one with great destructive power.

"There are five bars of a material of high power known as C4, grenades, electric fuses, a timer and shrapnel," said Col. Javier Vivas Baez, commander of Metropolitan Police Villavicencio.

According to the senior official responsible for the mobilization of these elements are members of the network of support Front 27 of FARC, who were planning to execute attacks of great magnitude in this capital.

"The impact would be some high-impact sites, and especially those having to do with the security forces, in retaliation for the Strong blows have been given in recent days by the authorities around the Target," said the officer.



Those responsible for this had come a few days ago to Villavicencio, and were located in an area of low profile to avoid suspicion. But authorities were already tracks the movement of explosives and set the location of the same, so he set out an operation to confiscate.

"We show the inhabitants of this building they had rented a room a few days ago. Had been there only temporarily and the day before had placed these items in that house, who were ready to be armed," Vivas said Baez.

Authorities confirmed that the explosive C4 is the same used in the attack on the former Minister Fernando Londoño Hoyos in Bogota, only that the amount is 15 times higher. In any case, ruled that there is some relationship between the two events (the seizure and attack).

The commander of the Metropolitan Police said that each bar of C4 reaches a value of one million pesos in the legal market, but in the world of weapons and explosives trafficking its value is increased to 5 million pesos, as well as grenades M-26 type IM.

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