



## Weekly News Update

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



Thai bomb squad members inspect the wreckage of a car at the scene of a car bomb blast in Thailand's southern restive province of Yala on March 31, 2012. (AFP Photo / Muhhamad Sabri)

[See [Bomb Attacks Kill 13, Injure More Than 350 In South Thailand](#)]

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## AFPAK

### 1. [Attack, Afghanistan] Afghan Market Bombs Injure 24, Mostly Children

Monday, 2 April 2012

<http://pakistan.onepakistan.com/news/world/afghanistan/70105-afghan-market-bombs-injure-24-mostly-children.html>

Twin bomb blasts tore through a market in northern Afghanistan's Baghlan province on Monday, wounding two dozen people, just over half of them school children, officials said.

"Overall we have 24 admitted to the hospital, 17 civilians, 13 of them are school students," said Abdul Qahar Qanit, a doctor in the local hospital.

He said seven security personnel, including two senior district police officials, were also among the casualties.

The explosions occurred one after another, with the second coming after security forces arrived to investigate the first blast, local administration chief Amir Gul told AFP.

"There was a blast in Sher Market in Baghlan-i-Markazi. The first blast occurred and wounded some civilians, the second one followed shortly after the first one," he said.

He earlier told AFP that 18 people, five of them members of the Afghan security forces, had been injured, adding that the explosions were from improvised explosive devices rather than suicide bombers.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the blasts were similar to attacks carried out by the Taliban as part of their insurgency against President Hamid Karzai's government and his Western allies.

## 2. [Attack, Afghanistan] Six Afghan Policemen, Two Civilians Killed In South

Tuesday, 3 April 2012

[http://hosted2.ap.org/OHCOL/8ef5320729ce4298abefc1903704c7d5/Article\\_2012-04-03-AS-Afghanistan/id-829fd100594f4b6a8a09649998152d59](http://hosted2.ap.org/OHCOL/8ef5320729ce4298abefc1903704c7d5/Article_2012-04-03-AS-Afghanistan/id-829fd100594f4b6a8a09649998152d59)

Insurgents killed six policemen and two civilians in southern Afghanistan in a pair of attacks, including an ambush on a checkpoint after militants allegedly poisoned the officers manning the outpost, authorities said Tuesday.

The Helmand province governor's office said in a statement that "insurgents poisoned" the food at a checkpoint in the Nahri Sarraj district and then attacked the police there late Monday. Four policemen were killed and two were wounded in the attack. The bodies of two civilians also were found at the checkpoint.

The governor's office did not say whether the dead were killed by poisoning or in the fighting.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi rejected the government's account of the clashes, saying Taliban fighters attacked the checkpoint and seized weapons and a vehicle but didn't poison the police.

"The way they were fighting, it looked like they might have been on drugs. That's why the police are claiming that we poisoned them," he said. "We didn't."

A government delegation has been sent to the area to investigate.

In neighboring Kandahar province, two Afghan policemen were killed Tuesday morning when their vehicle ran over a roadside bomb in Shah Wali Kot district, provincial police chief Gen. Abdul Razaq said.

### 3. [Trend, Pakistan] Reign Of Terror In Lyari

Tuesday, 3 April 2012

<http://www.chowrangi.com/reign-of-terror-in-lyari.html>

Lyari is one of the under-developed parts of Karachi, famous for its football players, gang wars, and die-hard PPP jiyalas.

Gangs of Lyari, supported and patronized by various political parties, and some rumoured to be financed by neighbouring countries, have invoked a reign of terror and mayhem in Lyari. The gangs fight amongst each other for land, extortion money, and the ultra lucrative business of drugs. Lyari has transformed into a perpetual war zone, while police and law enforcement agencies stand at the outskirts of the no-go areas.

In recent times, the Balochs led by Uzair Baloch (came to fame after death of Abdul Rehman Dakait in alleged police encounter – he is now said to be anti-PPP) and Habib Jan Baloch, patronized and collected under the umbrella of Peoples Aman Committee (PAC) by Zulfiqar Mirza, confronted with the Kutchies, who are allegedly supported by MQM. The PAC wrecked havoc in Lyari and adjoining areas, ranging from Old town (Kharadar, Solider Bazar) to Saddar and Sher Shah to Nazimabad and Gulshan-e-Iqbal. Their extortion demands were so high, and the consequences of nonpayment so severe, that traders and businessmen thought to wrap their businesses up from Karachi rather than living under a hanging sword.

This obviously has enraged MQM and Sunni Tehreek, the other players in extortion game. The recent operation in Lyari is said to be initiated on MQM's demands, who is in a tough spot these days simultaneously necking with ANP, Sunni Tehreek and PAC.

While there is an operation going on in Lyari, the administration and government has done nothing to take public in confidence. All we get from them is crap. There is no visible plan of action, no goals and certainly no deadlines.

Local media has gone haywire on the coverage of so called Lyari operation. The print and electronic media is showing the shots and pictures like the operation is part of some Bollywood or Hollywood flick. Policemen in civvies, many with their faces covered with masks, carrying semi-automatic weapons and confronting with mob throwing stones and Molotov cocktails.

No one gives a damn about how this excessive media coverage of violence and mayhem will impact our image in external world. Why on earth an investor will come to Karachi when he all sees about the city is gutted vehicles, arson, dead bodies and people firing straight shots at each other.



کراچی: لیاری میں بیمر کو مظاہرین سے جھڑپوں کے دوران سادہ کپڑوں میں پولیس اہلکار جدید ہتھیاروں سے فائرنگ کر رہے ہیں جبکہ دو نقاب پوش اہلکار اپنی گنتوں کو لوڈ کر رہے ہیں (پی پی آئی)



لیاری میں پولیس سے جھڑپ کے دوران ایک شخص پٹرول بم بنا رہا ہے (تصاویر جنگ)



لیاری میں ہنگامہ آرائی کے دوران ایک شخص پولیس پر پٹرول بم پھینک رہا ہے



#### **4. [Attack, Pakistan] Car Bomb Kills One And Wounds 13 In Pakistan**

Monday, 2 April 2012

[http://www.prensa-latina.cu/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=493551&Itemid=1](http://www.prensa-latina.cu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=493551&Itemid=1)

At least one person was killed and 13 injured today during a suicide car bomb attack in Kurram Agency, tribal region of northwest Pakistan bordering Afghanistan.

According to Dunya TV television channel, the vehicle exploded in a taxi park adjacent to a bus stop in Sadda bazaar area.

Police and rescue teams rushed to the scene and began moving the wounded to hospital.

The panel said the bomb was detonated in a car with a remote control and also destroyed four vehicles.

## 5. [Attack, Pakistan] Militants storm Pakistan checkpoint in Mohmand

Monday, 2 April 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-17581715>

At least four Pakistani soldiers have been killed after militants attacked an army checkpoint close to the Afghan border, officials say.

Security officials also say at least 10 militants were killed in the ensuing battle; that number has not been independently confirmed.

A spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban said they carried out the assault in the Mohmand tribal area.

Cross-border attacks on Pakistani forces has been a source of tension.

Pakistan has previously complained about Pakistani Taliban fighters using Afghanistan as a base to stage such attacks.

But Afghanistan and the US say the Afghan Taliban operate within Pakistan's borders to plan attacks on Western forces in Afghanistan, something Pakistan denies.

Nevertheless, analysts say Mohmand is one of several districts in Pakistan's volatile tribal areas where militants have carved out strongholds.

Last summer, the army stepped up raids on militant hideouts in the district.

## 6. [Security, Afghanistan] War in Afghanistan: Mission Impossible?

Thursday, 29 March 2012

<http://www.pakistankakhudahafiz.com/2012/03/29/war-in-afghanistan-mission-impossible/>

The discovery of a dozen suicide vests packed with explosives in Kabul was a matter of deep concern, a grim indication that the Taliban were intent on carrying out a massive attack. The added shockwaves came from the location: they were found in the country's Ministry of Defence, less than a mile from President Hamid Karzai's residence and the headquarters of Western forces.

Eighteen serving soldiers were arrested. They were planning, it is claimed, to blow up the building and everyone in it as well as buses full of government employees. Yesterday afternoon there were contradictory accounts of what had happened from different ministries, while commandos searched the premises after reports that two would-be bombers had escaped and were still hiding there.

The extraordinary events in the Afghan capital came 24 hours after two British servicemen were murdered by an Afghan soldier at Lashkar Gah, the British headquarters in Helmand, and an American soldier was shot dead by an Afghan policeman at a checkpoint in Paktika. So far this year, 16 Nato soldiers have been killed by their Afghan allies, second only to fatalities caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs), the insurgents' weapon of choice.

According to Pentagon figures released last month, an estimated 80 Western service members have been killed by Afghans in uniform since 2007, with 75 per cent of the attacks in the past two years. The fear of an enemy within is particularly relevant at this time in the mission, with the West's exit strategy predicated on training Afghan forces to take over security and, after Nato ends its combat status, a small number carrying on acting as advisers.

With the West's rush for the exit from the war depending on building up the size of Afghan security forces, some Afghan officials say that corners were being cut when it came to security checks. "The foreigners just want the numbers keep going up so that they can say they have finished their job and it is time to go," said one official. "In such situations it is not surprising that some bad people are slipping through."

General John Allen, the American head of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan (Isaf) insisted that these types of attacks are to be expected in this type of war. "We experienced these in Iraq. We experienced them in Vietnam. On any occasion where you're dealing with an insurgency and where you're also growing an indigenous force... the enemy's going to do all that they can to disrupt both the counterinsurgency operations and the developing nation's security forces."

Gen Allen acknowledged, however, that precautionary measures have had to be taken. "We have taken steps necessary on our side to protect ourselves with respect to, in fact, sleeping arrangements, internal defences associated with those small bases in which we operate, the posture of our forces, to have someone always overwatching our forces. On the Afghan side, they are doing the same thing. They're helping the troops to understand how to recognise radicalisation or the emergence of extremism in individuals who may in fact be suspect."

One force which was seen as keeping the Islamists at bay – especially from Kabul and other major cities – and out of the armed forces, was the Afghan intelligence service, the National Directorate of Security. However, its head, Amrullah Saleh, resigned two years ago in protest at what he claimed was President Karzai surrounding himself with Islamists. His deputy, Abdullah Laghmani, had been assassinated by a Taliban suicide bomber a few months previously. With the two men gone, western officials began to notice a deterioration in the security situation.

Taliban attacks in Kabul have increased since. But although the preparations for the bombing inside the Defence Ministry were obviously part of an organised operation, there is little hard evidence of systematic large-scale infiltration.

Afghan observers hold that most of the recent attacks by Afghan security forces on their western colleagues have been sparked by anger at the burning of Korans by US officials at Bagram air base and the massacre of 17 villagers by US sergeant Robert Bales.

Interventions by President Karzai, such as describing the US and British troops as “devils” and the Koran burning – a crass mistake but not something done out of malice – as “an act which can never be forgiven” have also been inflammatory in the febrile atmosphere.

Following the killing of five soldiers from the Grenadier Guards Battle Group in Nad-e-Ali by an Afghan they were training, called Asadullah, stricter vetting procedures were brought in including more thorough background checks and biometric testing. However, in August 2010 three more soldiers, from the Royal Gurkha Rifles, were killed in Nahr-e-Seraj by an Afghan soldier, Talib Hussein.

Haji Wassim Nasruddin, who once fought alongside the insurgents in Pashmul, near Kandahar, but gave up arms under a reconciliation programme, and now lives in Kandahar City, said: “We never organised our young men to join the police and army.

“We hated the police in particular, because they were corrupt. But because they were corrupt, they sometimes helped us and because they were afraid, they sometimes helped us. And, of course, if any of them attacked foreigners, we would give them shelter and call them true Muslims.”

Wahid Muzhda, a former Taliban foreign ministry official and now an analyst of the insurgency, agreed. “All these killings are not linked to the Taliban. The recent Koran burnings and the shooting of children are affecting the minds of the Afghan soldiers. They think: if the foreigners are coming here to defend Afghanistan, why are they killing children?

“But it is effective, trust is being undermined between the international forces and the Afghans. How can foreign soldiers mentor if they are worried about the Afghans they are teaching? It is not possible.”

## 7. [Attack, Afghanistan] Four U.S. soldiers killed in suicide bomb blast

Wednesday, 4 April 2012

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2125068/We-warned-roam-city-Four-U-S-soldiers-killed-suicide-bomb-blast-went-sightseeing-took-photos-Afghanistan-park.html#ixzz1r6xLm5Tq>

Four U.S. soldiers were killed by a suicide bomber today as they took pictures and went sightseeing in an Afghanistan park.

Witnesses said the bomber walked up to the troops, who had been warned by locals 'not to roam around the city', screamed 'Allahu Akbar' and then detonated a suicide vest.

Four civilians and two Afghan policemen were also killed in the midday explosion in the northern city of Maymana.

It is the latest in a string of attacks, as militants continue trying to undermine U.S. efforts to build up the Afghan military and leave combat duties to local forces by the end of 2014.

Graphic video footage of the scene of the attack, available on YouTube, showed what appeared to be dead Afghan civilians, police and foreign troops at the explosion site.

Body parts were strewn around the gate and on the ground, and blood was spattered everywhere.

Faryab is relatively calm, but considered to be a stronghold of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, or IMU, an Al Qaeda affiliated group most active in the northern provinces of Afghanistan.

On March 26, a joint Afghan and coalition force killed the group's leader in Afghanistan Makhdum Nusrat and detained two other insurgents.

The coalition said Nusrat had been leading attacks against Afghan and coalition troops in the north for the past eight months and was plotting the assassination of a member of parliament in Kabul.

The IMU was formed in 1991, originally aiming to set up an Islamic state in Uzbekistan, which borders Afghanistan.

Later it expanded its goal to seeking an Islamic state across Central Asia.

Militants have also stepped up their attacks against international and Afghan troops nationwide in recent weeks.

Nine Afghan policemen were killed and 11 abducted across the nation in the past three days.

Fighting in Afghanistan usually wanes during the winter months as Taliban fighters take a break because of winter weather, only to surge in the spring.

Heavy snow covers many of the mountain passes used by the Taliban and other insurgent fighters to cross mainly into eastern Afghanistan from safe havens in neighbouring Pakistan.

Anger against foreign forces has also risen following a series of missteps, including the inadvertent burning of copies of the Muslim holy book and other religious materials in February and the massacre of 17 Afghan civilians allegedly by a rogue U.S. soldier.

Foreign troops also have found themselves increasingly targeted.

So far this year, 97 NATO service members have been killed in Afghanistan, including at least 52 Americans.

Germany and Norway, who have troops in the region, said that none of their soldiers were involved. Germany commands alliance operations in the region.





## 8. [Attack, Pakistan] Suicide bomber kills three in Karachi

Thursday, 5 April 2012

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jjBSR5flvxiDnOki5w\\_aCZ3DEA9w?docId=CNG.b52eda1e30632c8546099310287b2c04.61](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jjBSR5flvxiDnOki5w_aCZ3DEA9w?docId=CNG.b52eda1e30632c8546099310287b2c04.61)

A suicide bomber on Thursday targeted a Karachi police officer involved in a campaign against Islamist militants, killing at least three other people, Pakistani officials said.

Senior police official Rao Anwar said he was the target of the blast, which tore through a busy area lined with market stalls at around 10:30 am (0530 GMT), and said he had been threatened by militants.

"I was moving with my squad in Malir Halt district when the explosion took place. I am unhurt, but some of my men have been injured," Anwar told AFP.

An armoured police vehicle and vendors' stalls were damaged in the explosion which police official Tahir Naveed said was a suicide attack.

Up to four kilograms (nine pounds) of explosives were used in the device, according to a bomb disposal official.

Karachi is Pakistan's largest city and its port has been a lifeline for US troops fighting the Taliban in landlocked Afghanistan, though Pakistan shut down the supply lines last November when US air strikes killed 24 soldiers.

The bomber struck near a bank in a garrison area of the sprawling city, which is the country's financial capital and home to 18 million people.

"At least four people are dead and 13 others were injured," police surgeon Hamid Parhyar told AFP.

Police suspect the bomber was among the dead. All of the dead were men and there were two teenagers among the wounded.

Anwar has been heavily involved in a campaign against Islamist militants in Karachi, which is plagued with ethnic, sectarian and political violence.

"I got several letters sent by unknown militants, the latest of them was received last month, in which they had threatened me with grave consequences if I continued to hunt their terror accomplices," he told AFP.

"Such attacks will not deter us from our mission to keep our people safe," he said.

Anwar was also involved in last December's raid on a self-styled seminary, where officers said they rescued 53 students, including children as young as seven chained up in the basement, who said they had been regularly beaten.



Madrassas, which provide the poorest families with the only education they can afford, are not tightly regulated in Pakistan and have served as recruitment grounds for the Taliban and other Al-Qaeda-linked terror groups.

The last suicide attack in Karachi killed two policemen in November.

This week, Pakistan's human rights commission said ethnic, sectarian and politically linked violence had killed 300 people so far this year in Karachi, where migration has turned the city into a melting pot of different people.

Police said three officers patrolling PIB Colony, one of the areas affected by the recent violence, were killed in a drive-by shooting on Thursday.

## 9. [Attack, Afghanistan] IED blast claimed 7 lives in Jamrud

Wednesday, 4 April 2012

<http://www.frc.com.pk/link/slidercont/494>

At least Seven persons including two tribal elders were killed and many others injured when a passenger vehicle hit an improvised explosive device (IED) planted on roadside on Wednesday in Kharkiabad Jaba area of tehsil Jamrud, official and local sources informed.

The sources said that a double cabin passenger pick up bearing registration No. P-4311 was on its way to Jamrud Bazaar from Ganj Gari, near Kharkiabad when it was blown up by road side planted remote controlled explosive device.

Seven persons were killed on the spot while many others received fatal wounds who were rushed to Peshawar for medical aid, sources said, adding that the vehicle was also destroyed in the blast

The deceased were identified as Gulab Khan, Akram, Said Akram, Sapeen Gul, Sahib Gul and Minar. Malik Akram and Gulab were local elders and Sahib Gul was serving as clerk in education department, sources said.

Assistant Political Agent Jamrud Mohammad Jamil confirmed the incident saying that it seems to be that the vehicle-launched was targeted from some distance, but the investigation is in progress.

All persons killed in the explosion were relatives and NATO suppliers, locals and Khasadar force officials revealed.

On the condition of anonymity a Khasadar official said that some of the killed were receiving regular threats due to their alleged engagement in NATO supplies though NATO supply has been suspended for a long time after the US copters attack on Salala check post in Mohmand Agency.

No one claimed responsibility for the heinous crime.

A doctor at the local government hospital where the dead and the injured were taken also confirmed the casualties. "We are treating six other passengers who were wounded while three seriously injured have been shifted to Peshawar," the doctor said.



## 10. [Attack, Afghanistan] 2 killed, 16 injured in Badakhshan suicide bomb blast

Thursday, 5 April 2012

<http://www.khaama.com/2-killed-16-injured-in-badakhshan-suicide-bomb-blast-034>

An explosion rocked north-eastern Badakhshan province on Thursday afternoon, local security officials said.

According to provincial security chief Gen. Sakhidad Haidary, the incident took place in Keshm district after a suicide bomber detonated his explosives in a local market.

Gen. Haidary further added, at least 2 people were killed and 6 others were injured following the incident.

He also added, a former Jihadi commander Nazok Mir was killed along with one of his member following the explosion and 16 other civilians including children were injured.

No group including the Taliban militants have so far claimed responsibility behind the incident.



## 11. [Security, Afghanistan] Weapons and drugs cache seized in Afghan operations

Thursday, 5 April 2012

<http://www.khaama.com/weapons-and-drugs-cache-seized-in-afghan-operations-028>

According to a statement released by International Security Assistance Force, a Provincial Response Company, supported by coalition forces, planned and led an operation to destroy a cache of improvised explosive device components and other weapons in Tulak district, Ghor province, yesterday.

The cache consisted of 12 small-arms weapons, 37 different IED components, 18 ammunition magazines, one mortar sight, six mortar fuses, a quantity of small-arms ammunition, two Afghan police uniforms and 4.5 pounds (2 kilograms) of ammonium nitrate.

Several insurgents were detained and all of the cache's components were destroyed at the scene.

The statement further added, a combined Afghan and coalition security force discovered a drug cache during a patrol in Maiwand district of southern Kandahar province. The cache consisted of 700 pounds (318 kilograms) of narcotics which were destroyed on site.



Afghan forces, supported by coalition troops, completed a series of operations to disrupt insurgent activity in Khash Rod district, Nimroz province, the statement added. The operations resulted in the detention of multiple insurgents, as well as the seizure of several small-arms weapons, rocket-propelled grenades and 770 pounds (350 kilograms) of dry opium.

In a separate statement ISAF announced Afghan and coalition forces killed two insurgents and discovered a weapons cache in eastern Afghanistan during operations throughout the past 24 hours, April 4.

Afghan National Army soldiers and coalition forces killed one insurgent in response to indirect and small-arms fire in Khogyani district, Ghazni province.

An Afghan forces patrol killed one insurgent in response to indirect and small arms fire in Sperah district, Khowst province.

Coalition forces also discovered a large cache of materials commonly used in the production of mortars and improvised explosive devices while conducting operations in Sayyidabad district, Wardak province. The materials were apprehended by an explosive ordnance team for disposal.

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

## 12. [Attack, Afghanistan] Taliban Kill Eight Afghan Police

Thursday, 5 April 2012

<http://www.dawn.com/2012/04/05/taliban-kill-eight-afghan-police-official.html>

Taliban gunmen killed eight local policemen in an attack on a remote post in western Afghanistan, a provincial official said Thursday.

The attack happened late on Wednesday, said Naqibullah Farahi, spokesman for the provincial administration of Farah, which borders Iran. Earlier a suicide bomb attack had claimed 12 lives in northern Afghanistan the same day.

“The Taliban attacked an Afghan local police post” in Khaki Safed district, he told AFP. “There were eight people in the post and all were killed.” Investigators have gone to the area, he added.

Contacted by AFP, Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi claimed responsibility for the attack and said 12 local policemen had been killed. The Taliban regularly exaggerate their claims.

Afghan police are regularly targeted by the militants who have been fighting a decade-long insurgency against President Hamid Karzai’s Western-backed government.

Earlier this week six people including four policemen were poisoned and shot dead at a police post in Helmand province, which neighbours Farah, days after a policeman in Paktika province poisoned and then shot dead nine of his colleagues while they slept.

### **13. [Attack, Pakistan] Panic At Malir: SSR Escapes Bomb Attack**

Friday, 6 April 2012

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/360389/panic-at-malir-ssp-escapes-bomb-attack/>

Five people were killed and eighteen injured in Malir Halt when SSP Malir Rao Anwar's armoured personnel carrier (APC) came under attack in a bomb blast.

A little after 11am on Thursday, SSP Rao Anwar was making his way to the Malir court for a meeting with a sessions judge regarding an inquiry into the murder in March of a former Malir Bar Association president Salahuddin, and his son Ali.

As Anwar's convoy passed a printing press in the area and reached the corner before the turn, an explosion ripped through the air, shooting ball bearings in every direction.

"When we got near the turning, which is where the cars have to slow down, that was the target area and the attacker came at that point and rammed into the door. There is a khadda over there that forces everyone to slow down," said SSP Anwar.

Anwar, who has been the centre of a controversy and is a household name for criminals in the city, says he was in the second car out of the six-vehicle convoy that also included police mobile units as well as APCs.

"The sound was so loud and the explosion so large that everything became dark for a moment and everyone started rushing," a witness told the media.

The explosion created panic on the roads as cars started rushing from all sides driving down the wrong side of the street. CCTV footage captured the chaos.

Anwar and his fellow police officers escaped unhurt.

Brigadier Javed Iqbal of the Rangers claimed right at the beginning that it was a suicide attack but the police gave conflicting information. Charred chunks of flesh have been sent away for DNA testing.

The official version from the Sindh police spokesperson on the nature of the blast is that it was a planted bomb in a motorcycle that struck Anwar's convoy and not a suicide attack. This claim is corroborated by the driver of the APC, who also said that no attacker rammed into the vehicle.

The APC's front tyre exploded and had several small holes in it from the ball bearings, but the vehicle didn't suffer any major damage to its door, which one would expect from an explosive being driven into it.

A portion of a face was discovered stuck to a Honda CD-70 motorcycle with the license plate KDA-1659 which is suspected to be the attacker's vehicle. One police officer speculated that it could have just been a bomb planted in a motorcycle that was remotely detonated, and the face belonged to a passerby.

Whatever may be the case, this much is clear that the plotters had intricate details of Anwar's movements even, unless it was a lucky guess, which vehicle he would use. "This is my daily routine to go to work. Today, I was going to work but the route was the same," said Anwar adding that, "I only keep people I trust with me so it can't be the work of an insider."

According to Jinnah hospital's MLO Dr Kaleem Shaikh, three of the bodies have been identified as Bilal, Atta Mohammad and Lal Badshah. They are working on two others. "One of the unidentified bodies could possibly be a bomber and another body could possibly be a beggar's," said Karim.

City wardens Syed Ejaz Ahmed, Iftikhar and Muhammad Ali Malik were among the injured while two to four of the injured are in critical condition, according to the MLO.

Additional Inspector General Sindh Police Akhtar Hussain Gorchani has ordered DIG East Captain (retd) Tahir Naveed to assemble a team to investigate.

Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan claimed it was behind the attack, hours after it took place. The TTP is known to claim attacks which later are owned by other organisations, but Anwar is convinced it was the TTP.

Anwar says that intelligence agencies provided him with a report about a month ago that warned him that there were threats against him and CID SSP Chaudhry Aslam, whose home was targeted in 2011. "I've arrested so many of their people before – they were after me," said Anwar who seemed unperturbed.

Anwar is one of the inspectors who played a vital role in the Karachi operation in the 1990s against the Mohajir Qaumi Movement. He is considered an aide of President Zardari.

Anwar has himself ruled out that the lawyer's murder case has any link to the attack as no progress was made.



## 14. [Attack, Afghanistan] Bomber kills provincial peace council head in Afghan east

Friday, 6 April 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/06/us-afghanistan-bombing-peace-idUSBRE8350AA20120406>

A suicide bomber killed the head of a regional peace council on Friday in Afghanistan's east, police said, dealing a fresh blow to the country's attempts to negotiate a peace deal with Taliban insurgents.

Hashim Monib and his son were killed as they left their mosque in Asadabad, the capital of the Kunar province, provincial police chief Ewaz Mohd told Reuters.

"They were on their way home after prayers when the bomber attacked them," he said.

Provincial peace councils, along with the separate 70-member High Peace Council which President Hamid Karzai established two years ago, appear to have made little progress in negotiating with the Taliban to end the war now in its eleventh year.

The council came under attack last year when its chief Burhanuddin Rabbani was assassinated by a suicide bomber.

U.S. diplomats have separately engaged the Taliban in secret discussions abroad leading to an agreement on the establishment of a Taliban office in the Gulf state of Qatar, though the Taliban later suspended the talks, blaming Washington for ignoring its demands.

Fear is mounting amongst Afghans and foreign governments alike that the planned pullout of NATO combat troops by the end of 2014 and Afghan national elections in the same year could see the country engulfed in more conflict and bloodshed.



## AFRICOM

### 15. [Security, Nigeria] Another Boko Haram Bomb Factory Uncovered In Kogi

Monday, 2 April 2012

<http://247nigerianewsupdate.com/another-boko-haram-bomb-factory-uncovered-in-kogi/>

Security forces, yesterday, clashed with gunmen suspected to be members of the Islamist group, Boko Haram.

By the time the booming of guns went down, 10 people lay dead.

The dead include nine suspected Islamists and one soldier. Two other security operatives sustained serious injuries.

Scene of gun battle was Ihima, in Okehi Local Government Area of Kogi State.

The members of the security forces, comprising of the military and the Department of State Security, SSS, were said to be on their way to uncover a bomb factory allegedly operated by Boko Haram in Ihima when they came under attack by the Islamists.

The security forces had acted on a tip-off barely one week after they uncovered another bomb factory in Kabba, the headquarters of Kabba LGA, Kogi State.



## **16. [Attack, Nigeria] Ex-Militants Bomb Agip Oil Wells In Bayelsa**

Monday, 2 April 2012

<http://saharareporters.com/news-page/ex-militants-bomb-agip-oil-wells-bayelsa>

The National Agip Oil Company, NAOC pipelines and oil wells stretching between Tailor Creek and the River Niger, Yenagoa, home State of the president Goodluck Jonathan was bombed on Sunday by Niger Delta militants.

The latest attack led to the destruction of five cluster Agip oil wells, according to reports.

A group led by an ex-militant known as "Commander Cairo" claimed responsibility for the attack. The group's leader said the move was a protest against Nigeria's government negligence and under-development of the Niger Delta region.

While threatening bigger attacks, the group also stated that members of the Joint Task Force would be destroyed should the unit attempt any counter attacks on its members.

Yesterday's attack signal further deterioration of the Niger Delta crisis which is bound to lead to a significant increase in international oil prices.

## **17. [Security, Nigeria] Nigerian Police Say Man Killed in Kaduna While Planting Bomb**

Monday, 2 April 2012

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-04-02/nigerian-police-say-man-killed-in-kaduna-while-planting-bomb-1-.html>

A man was killed while trying to plant a bomb on a petrol tanker in the north-central Nigerian city of Kaduna yesterday, police spokesman Aminu Lawan said.

“The bomb exploded with the man and killed him; he is the only person that died,” Lawan said by phone today from the city.

Authorities in Nigeria, Africa’s top oil producer, blame Boko Haram, a militant Islamic group, for a surge of attacks since 2009 against government buildings and security forces in the mainly Muslim north and Abuja, the capital.

The group claimed responsibility for multiple blasts and attacks in the city of Kano on Jan. 20 that killed at least 256 people, according to the Civil Rights Congress. In February, a blast at a military checkpoint in Kaduna killed at least one person.

Nigeria, Africa’s most populous nation with more than 160 million people, is split between a mainly Muslim north and a predominantly Christian south.

## 18. [Attack, Kenya] Twin Explosions Rock Mombasa

Saturday, 31 March 2012

<http://www.mwakilishi.com/content/articles/2012/03/31/twin-explosions-rock-mombasa.html>

At least one person was killed when two explosions rocked Mombasa town on Saturday evening. The blasts occurred at a busy bus terminus in Mtwapa and a restaurant in Mombasa town.

In Mtwapa, explosives were hurled at a Christian prayer meeting, fifteen kilometres from Mombasa town centre, at about 6.30pm.

The second attack took place shortly afterwards at a restaurant near the Mombasa Municipal Stadium.

At least 26 people were reported injured in the attack at the prayer gathering. However, Sunday Nation could not independently verify the casualty figures.

In the second attack, at the Stadium View Bar and Restaurant, a police officer is said to have sustained serious injuries. The second attack took place at around 7.45pm.

Coast Provincial Commissioner Mr Ernest Munyi confirmed the explosions, saying that one person, a woman, had died in the Mtwapa incident.

While official sources reported that one person had died, unconfirmed reports indicated that the dead may have been four.

Mvita MP Najib Balala said that a second explosion had occurred at an entertainment spot near the Municipal stadium almost simultaneously.

"I have heard that besides the explosion in Mtwapa, there has been another one at an entertainment spot at the Buxton area near the Mombasa Municipal Stadium.

"I am trying to get further details from my contacts who live near the area where the second explosion has occurred. The details are still scanty," he explained.

A senior police officer who, cannot be named because he is not authorised to speak on behalf of the force, said the Mtwapa prayer gathering was coming to an end when the device exploded, sending the congregation scampering to safety.

The officer who was among the first to rush to the scene said the incident occurred at around 6.30pm, sparking a major stampede in the area.

"It is hard to tell whether it was a grenade or a bomb, we are still investigating," the officer stated.

The PC said that emergency services had been mobilised to undertake rescue efforts and ferry the injured to hospitals. He said the injured, three of them in critical condition, were taken to Coast General Hospital.

## 19. [Attack, Yemen] Yemen air raids 'kill al-Qaeda militants'

Tuesday, 3 April 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-17596445>

About 40 al-Qaeda militants have been killed in a series of air raids in the mountainous south, officials say.

They told the AP news agency that government forces had taken the al-Qaeda base of al-Rahha after three days of strikes.

The raids come days after an attack on a nearby army base left 30 dead.

Islamist militants have renewed attacks since President Abdrabbu Mansour Hadi took office in February. He has made fighting al-Qaeda a top priority.

One unnamed official told the AFP news agency that 38 militants had been killed after days of shelling and bombing in the province of Lahij. Another official said 43 people had been killed.

The militants have taken advantage of a year of anti-government protests and have been locked in deadly battles with the army for months.

There is no confirmation of the Yemeni claim that the militants are from al-Qaeda.

A group linked to al-Qaeda, Ansar al-Sharia, has been increasing its influence in southern Yemen over the past year of political instability.

The United States, worried about the militant threat, has been encouraging the Yemeni authorities to tackle them, and has reportedly intensified its own drone strikes.

Yemen's political upheavals finally forced long-time President Ali Abdullah Saleh to leave the country earlier this year.

However, BBC World Affairs correspondent Nick Childs says continuing tensions within the country's political and military establishments are hampering the new government's efforts to establish stability and maybe also in its campaign against the militants.

## 20. [Attack, Libya] Libya clashes: 'At least 14 dead' around Zuwara

Tuesday, 3 April 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-17602343>

Clashes between ethnic Berbers and their Arab neighbours have killed at least 14 people and injured many more in Libya, officials say.

Fighting has continued for a third day around the predominantly Berber town of Zuwara in western Libya.

The National Transitional Council (NTC) has said it is sending forces to intervene and enforce a ceasefire.

It has been struggling to assert its authority over tribal groups following the ousting of Col Gaddafi last year.

There are reports of militiamen from inside Zuwara exchanging mortars and heavy fire with fighters in the nearby Arab areas of al-Jumail and Reghadin.

Interior Minister Fawzi Abdel A'al told reporters he was "asking the two sides to restrain themselves... because there will be no winner in this battle", Reuters news agency reports.

The fighting in Zuwara follows clashes between rival militias in the southern city of Sabha last week which left around 150 people dead.

The BBC's Jon Donnison, in Tripoli, says Libya's government lacks any real central authority, or even an army to dispatch.

Much of Libya is being policed by heavily-armed militias with long standing tribal and regional rivalries, making it difficult for the NTC to assert control over all of the country ahead of elections in two month's time.

## 21. [Security, Mali] Mali Tuareg rebels control Timbuktu as troops flee

Sunday, 1 April 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-17576725>

Tuareg rebels in Mali have seized Timbuktu, the last northern army stronghold, as the leaders of last month's military coup said they were ready to cede power.

A rebel statement said they had "control of the entire region" and had ended Malian "occupation".

Government troops are reported to have fled the city as rebel forces swept in.

Military leaders who ousted President Amadou Toumani Toure 10 days ago say they are reinstating the constitution.

However, the BBC's West Africa correspondent Thomas Fessy says they have not stepped down and there are no clear arrangements for a transition of power.

Witnesses in Timbuktu said rebel fighters had taken the airport, administrative buildings and military camps.

"The city is totally under their control," city Mayor Ousmane Halle told AP news agency by phone.

Residents told the BBC that there was no fighting in the town.

"Early in the morning there were some noises, and people were scared. And then later on there's no fighting on the streets, nothing happened they just fired in the air and finished," said one resident contacted by telephone.

Witnesses said rebel fighters were mixing with local Arab militiamen, who have been protecting businesses since troops fled the town.

Rebels from the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) are said to have been driving around the town in pick-up trucks, waving the MNLA flag.

The rebels, who want an independent Tuareg homeland, are reported to be backed by Islamist fighters.

Our correspondent says it is not yet clear how these different armed groups intend to share their prize.

The historic town of Timbuktu is one of the most famous in Mali

A statement released by the MNLA said they would now begin their "mission of defending and securing the territory of the Azawad, for the happiness of its people".

Azawad is the rebels' term for the entire north of Mali.

Coup leader Capt Amadou Sanogo said in a statement in the capital, Bamako, that the 1992 constitution - which his uprising had scrapped - would now be re-established.

He said coup leaders would consult with local political forces to set up a transition body "with the aim of organising peaceful, free, open and democratic elections in which we will not take part".

He also told AFP news agency he had despatched envoys to the Timbuktu region to try to obtain a ceasefire.

Analysts say rebels have taken advantage of uncertainty after the coup to make swift advances.

Two other important northern centres, Kidal and Gao, fell to the Tuareg fighters in recent days.

Timbuktu, about 700km (440 miles) from the capital Bamako, was the only major northern town still under the control of the Malian army.

The country has been in turmoil for more than a week since army officers overthrew the government, blaming it for failing to contain the rebels, who launched their offensive in January.

Regional bloc Ecowas said its leaders would hold a meeting in Senegal on Monday to discuss Mali.

Ecowas had threatened to close land borders, freeze assets and impose a financial blockade if the army did not stand down before Monday.

Ivory Coast President and Ecowas leader Alassane Ouattara said the bloc was prepared "to take the necessary measures".





## 22. [Attack, Somalia] Somalia sports officials killed in theatre bombing

Wednesday, 4 April 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-17609047>

Somalia's Olympic committee and football heads are among seven people killed by a bomb in Mogadishu.

Prime Minister Abdiweli Mohamed Ali was also present when the blast struck the newly re-opened national theatre but he told the BBC he was unhurt.

Militants from the al-Shabab group say they had carried out the bombing.

The African Union (AU) peacekeeping mission in Somalia condemned the attack as "despicable" and said it would not deter peace efforts.

The theatre closed in the early 1990s as Somalia descended into civil war and was only reopened last month, amid a new period of relative optimism.

The President of the Somali Olympic Committee, Aden Yabarow Wiish, and the Somali Football Federation chief, Said Mohamed Nur, were among a group of dignitaries who had gathered to mark the first anniversary of the launch of Somalia's national television station.

Three Somali television journalists were also wounded in the blast, sources have told the BBC Somali Service.

Earlier reports put the number of dead at 10.

Musical event

The prime minister told the BBC a woman suicide attackers had struck.

"In the middle of my speech... a suicide bomber exploded herself," he told BBC News.

Condemning al-Shabab, he said it was in the group's nature to "kill innocent people".

"This is the last breaths of a dying horse, so now hopefully they will be eliminated from the face of the earth," he added.

An eyewitness, Salah Jimale, told the Associated Press news agency: "The blast happened as musicians were singing and spectators were clapping for them.

"Smoke made everything go dark. People screamed and soldiers suddenly started opening fire at the gate."

Reporters at the scene say dozens of people were hurt, and have described seeing shoes and bloody mobile phones lying on the floor, and chairs cut in half by the force of the blast.

In a statement al-Shabab said it was behind the bombing but referred to a planted device rather than a suicide bomber.

Al-Shabab militants who had controlled large parts of the country, including Mogadishu, were pushed out of the city by AU troops last year.

Appeal for information

Since then, there has been a period of relative quiet, with sporting activity resuming, restaurants opening, and the re-opening of the National Theatre.

But al-Shabab has continued to attack the capital with bombs and mortars.

Brigadier General Audace Nduwumunsi, deputy commander of the AU mission (Amisom), said the peacekeepers stood firmly with the Somali government.

"Yet again the terrorists' methods show that they are enemies of peace and are foreign to Somali culture," he said.

"By their attack they are trying to derail the hopes and dreams of the Somali people but they will fail."

He encouraged people in Mogadishu to come forward with any information about possible further attacks.



### **23. [Security, Sudan] Military spokesman: South Sudan shoots down a Sudanese military jet over South Sudan territory**

Wednesday, 4 April 2012

[http://news.yahoo.com/military-spokesman-south-sudan-shoots-down-sudanese-military-163235755.html;\\_ylt=AkxQZJlg9tZiTCrigwu1DcWs0NUE;\\_ylu=X3oDMTNsOGQxdXNmBG1pdANUb3BTdG9yeSBGUARwa2cDYzEzNmZIMDAtOTkxNC0zNzVmLTkwOTQtNzAzMzc4OGVkdMDZiBHBvcwMxBHNIYwNOb3Bfc3Rvcn](http://news.yahoo.com/military-spokesman-south-sudan-shoots-down-sudanese-military-163235755.html;_ylt=AkxQZJlg9tZiTCrigwu1DcWs0NUE;_ylu=X3oDMTNsOGQxdXNmBG1pdANUb3BTdG9yeSBGUARwa2cDYzEzNmZIMDAtOTkxNC0zNzVmLTkwOTQtNzAzMzc4OGVkdMDZiBHBvcwMxBHNIYwNOb3Bfc3Rvcn)

South Sudan's military spokesman says South Sudan shot down a Sudanese military jet flying over its territory.

Col. Philip Aguer said South Sudanese forces shot down a Sudanese MiG-29 jet fighter Wednesday afternoon.

Aguer said the MiG was one of two Sudanese jets flying over South Sudanese oil fields. Aguer said the jets had dropped "many" bombs in the region earlier Wednesday.

South Sudan split off from Sudan last year after decades of war, but the two countries have been moving closer to military confrontation in recent months.

## 24. [Special Interest, Mali] U.N. council alarmed by al Qaeda presence in Mali

Wednesday, 4 April 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/04/us-mali-un-idUSBRE8330YV20120404>

The U.N. Security Council said on Wednesday it was worried by al Qaeda's presence in Mali and warned that Islamist extremists could further weaken security in the West African country where a military coup last month has bolstered a separatist rebellion.

In its third statement since the March 22 coup by renegade soldiers angry at the Mali government's failure to stamp out the rebellion in the north of the country, the 15-nation Security Council again called for the restoration of constitutional rule.

The council also threw its support behind efforts by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to restore order in Mali. U.N. political affairs chief Lynn Pascoe told the council on Tuesday that ECOWAS had placed some 3,000 troops on standby to deal with the coup and rebellion in Mali.

Pascoe also said the situation in Mali had "taken a turn for the worse over the course of the past several days," Susan Rice, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, told reporters on Tuesday. Rice is president of the Security Council for April.

In its statement Wednesday, the council said it "calls upon the rebels to immediately cease all violence and urges all parties in Mali to seek a peaceful solution through appropriate political dialogue. The council stresses the importance of the safety of civilians and of the respect of human rights."

While the coup leaders' intention was to give the army more clout to tackle the nascent revolt of Tuareg rebels, their power grab triggered a rebel sweep through a northern swathe of the country that includes the ancient trading post of Timbuktu.

"The Security Council strongly condemns the continued attacks, looting and seizure of territory carried out by rebel groups in the north of Mali and demands an immediate cessation of hostilities," it said.

### IMPOSING SHARIA LAW

The Tuareg rebels, who want a northern homeland, have also been joined by Islamists bent on imposing Islamic sharia law across the whole of the moderate Muslim state.

"The council is alarmed by the presence in the region of the terrorist group Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), which could lead to a further destabilization of the security situation," it said.

AQIM is a mostly autonomous wing that sprung from the Algerian Salafist movement in 2007. The group, believed to number a few hundred members, has taken advantage of weak governance and poverty to mount sporadic attacks on local armies and kidnap Westerners, earning millions of dollars in ransoms.

UNCLASSIFIED

The conflict in Mali has also exacerbated a deteriorating humanitarian situation in the turbulent Sahel region - a belt of land spanning nearly a dozen of the world's poorest countries on the southern rim of the Sahara - where millions of people are on the brink of starvation due to drought.

Pascoe told the Security Council that there were some 90,000 internally displaced people in Mali and another 130,000 people had fled the country.

The Council statement called "on all parties in Mali to allow timely, safe and unimpeded access of humanitarian aid to civilians in need."

## 25. [Security, Nigeria] SSS nab 4 with 60 explosive devices

Thursday, 5 April 2012

<http://www.businessdayonline.com/NG/index.php/news/latest/35577-sss-nab-4-with-60-explosive-devices->

Operatives of the State Security Services (SSS) on Thursday arrested 4 persons with 60 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Gombe.

The Gombe State Director of SSS, Mr Bitrus Asha, revealed this while parading the suspects before newsmen in Gombe on Thursday.

Asha said the suspects were arrested in a house at the British Cotton Ginney Area (BCGA) in the metropolis between 12 noon and 1.30 p.m. "As you can see, there are a lot of explosives, numbering about 60 prepared in tins, ready for detonation. "So we are lucky that the tins were recovered and you are even advised not to go near the items with your handsets. "Very soon, the items will be detonated, we are lucky that we have made the recovery."

Asked if the suspects were attempting to detonate the bombs somewhere, he said: "definitely, going by experiences, they were meant to be detonated definitely and we have information on that plan."

Asha said it was too early to know who they were but that they were hoodlums who never wanted peace to exist in the state.

The director said that officers and other personnel of the service had reinforced patrol in the state capital to avert any untoward incident.



## 26. [Security, Somalia] Briton Arrested on Way to Rebel-Held Somalia Town

Wednesday, 28 March 2012

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/briton-arrested-rebel-held-somalia-town-16019693>

A British man who claimed to be heading on vacation to a rebel-held town in Somalia has been arrested in the country's capital on suspicion of links to a terrorist group, officials said Wednesday.

Lt. Col. Paddy Ankunda, a spokesman in Somalia for the African Union military force, named the arrested man as Clive Denis Everton, born in 1966. Everton was detained by Somali police at Mogadishu airport after traveling from Britain via Kenya.

Ankunda said police had discovered suspicious items in his luggage, including 30 CDs, but did not give any further explanation. He said Everton had planned to travel to Kismayo, a rebel-held port town in southern Somalia.

In an interview broadcast on Somalia's RBC TV, Everton said he had hoped to travel overland to Kismayo from Mombasa, Kenya, but had been unable to carry out the trip.

"I just wanted somewhere peaceful, sunny ... nice," Everton said, insisting his trip was intended for recreation.

British citizen Dennis Clive Everton, stands in front of the jail, as he shows his British Passport to reporters, in Mogadishu, Somalia, Wednesday, March 28, 2012, after he was arrested at Mogadishu airport on on suspicion of links to a terrorist group. Britain's foreign ministry said it is investigating reports that a British passport holder was arrested in Somalia on suspicion of links to a terrorist group. (AP Photo/Farah Abdi Warsameh) CloseBritain's foreign ministry in London said it was investigating reports that a British passport holder had been arrested on suspicion of possible connections to terrorism.

Diplomats have recently warned that dozens of British and American citizens, including some with no family ties to Somalia, are traveling to the country to fight alongside the al-Qaida-linked militant group al-Shabab. Britain's Royal United Services Institute, a military think tank, estimates about 200 foreigners are active in the country.

More than 40 people have traveled from the U.S. to Somalia to join al-Shabab since 2007, and 15 of them have died, according to a report from the U.S. House of Representatives' Homeland Security Committee.

At least 21 men have left Minnesota, which has a community of more than 32,000 Somalis, during that period and the FBI has confirmed that at least two of them died in Somalia as suicide bombers. A U.S. citizen is suspected in a third suicide bombing and another is under investigation in connection with a fourth bombing on Oct. 29 that killed 15 people.

At an international conference on Somalia last month, British Prime Minister David Cameron warned that al-Shabab could export terrorism to Europe and the United States.

## 27. [Security, Kenya] Kenya promised on Sunday to hunt down Somalia-based al Shabaab rebels following two blasts

Sunday, 1 April 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/01/us-kenya-explosions-idUSBRE8300AD20120401>

Al Shabaab has staged attacks in Kenya since Nairobi sent troops into Somalia last October to pursue the group. However, Saturday's blasts were the first to target Mombasa, one of Kenya's top tourist destinations, and were staged just before the busy Easter tourist season in the coming week.

"We will not tire of hunting for these people (al Shabaab) until we finish them. They have ruined their country and now they have come here to ruin Kenya's economy," Internal Security Minister George Saitoti told reporters while visiting the scenes of the explosions.

Regional police commander Aggrey Adoli said al Shabaab was one line of inquiry, but not the only one. "Investigations are going on. Al Shabaab is among those being investigated," Adoli told Reuters.

Prime Minister Raila Odinga, who accompanied Saitoti, tried to reassure foreign visitors after the explosions whose victims were all Kenyans. "Kenya is safe. No one should threaten tourists. They should continue coming to Kenya and the government will protect them," he said.

A senior regional administration official told Reuters that makeshift bombs were used in the near-simultaneous attacks at an open air Christian meeting and a packed bar.

"These were what are known as Improvised Explosive Devices but investigations are still going on to establish exactly what type of IEDs," said Ernest Munyi, provincial commissioner for the coastal region.

Al Shabaab issued a statement that also fell short of claiming responsibility for the attacks, saying that Kenya's security depended on its military activities in Somalia.

"The more Kenyan troops continue to persecute innocent Muslims of Somalia, the less secure Kenyan cities will be; and the more oppression the Muslims of Somalia feel, the more constricted Kenyan life will be," it said.

Saitoti vowed that Kenya would chase members of al Shabaab, an al Qaeda-aligned group which controls large parts of Somalia, wherever they may hide to protect its people and economy.

The Kenyan military moved into south Somalia after two separate attacks on tourists in resorts on its northern coast.

Saturday's attacks created fears that the tourism business, one of the nation's big three hard currency earners, could be hit by cancellations during the Easter season.



## 28. [Security, Nigeria] Nigeria: Easter - Boko Haram Plans Major Kano Attack - JTF Says

Thursday, 5 April 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201204050558.html>

Boko Haram followers are planning to launch another major attack in Kano during the Easter holiday, similar to their deadly strike in January, the Joint Task Force said yesterday.

The force asked people to stay indoors during the period unless if they had to go out to avoid being caught up in the likely confrontation between security agencies and sect members.

Spokesman for the JTF in Kano, Lt. Ikedichi Iweha, told journalists yesterday at the Army's 3 Brigade headquarters that intelligence reports showed the sect was planning to launch a large-scale attack in the next days.

He said Honda and Golf cars are the likely vehicles to be used in the attacks, adding that gunmen on Tuesday night snatched a Honda car, possibly for suicide bombing, but it was later recovered by security men.

Boko Haram's deadliest strike yet happened in Kano on January 20, when at least 186 people were killed, according to the official figures. On that day, eight security formations were attacked by suicide bombers and gunmen. Since then Kano has witnessed sporadic shootings targeting security men and formations.

"Residents should be security conscious and be mindful of their movements because we have intelligence report that the terrorists are planning to take advantage of the oncoming Easter holiday to launch a large scale attack on Kano city just like they had done earlier this year," Iweha said yesterday.

He said people should stay at home unless they have serious activities to attend to outside.

"We are trying very hard to protect the lives of Kano people from being terminated by terrorists. The JTF always tries to be professional in conducting its duties. Therefore people should accept our advice and stay indoors during the holiday," Iweha added.

In a statement later emailed to Daily Trust in Kano, Iweha alerted members of the public to activities of "criminal terrorists" looking for vehicles to use for suicide attacks.

"It may interest you to know that snatching of the vehicle is not an end in itself but a means to an end. It is also in line with available intelligence to the fact that criminal terrorist elements are going about desperately looking for specific vehicles to be used for suicide missions in Kano metropolis and its environs," he said.

"Members of the public are continuously called upon to continue to remain vigilant, report suspicious cars especially Honda and Golf brands and movements of persons to the police and other security agencies.

"This would go a long way to frustrate the plans of the extremist elements bent on sabotaging the economy of the state as well as the peace of the community."

He gave an account of how the car was snatched on Tuesday: "Yesterday, 3 April 2012 at about 2130hrs, a JTF checkpoint was alerted by an afflicted member of the public whose car was snatched at gun point at his residence by terrorist elements as he entered his house.

"The car was to be used possibly in the next few days for suicide bombing mission. Based on the tip off, the JTF alerted all its units within the area to look out for a Honda accord car 2008 model with the colour and description accurately given.

"The troops at all JTF check points responded with all alertness and within twenty minutes, one of our checkpoints spotted the vehicle in question.

"The vehicle was flagged down for checking, but the terrorist elements on sighting men of the JTF opened fire at the check point in their desperate bid to get away.

"Troops at the checkpoint responded in self-defence and to frustrate the criminal terrorist elements from getting away. During the brief but intense encounter, three of the terrorist elements were gunned down.

"An immediate search conducted on the vehicle revealed that the occupants had 2 AK 47 Rifles, 1 pistol, 1 locally manufactured pistol, 47 rounds of 7.62mm special and 6 rounds of 9mm."

The JTF spokesman, who displayed the stolen car, the corpses of the suspects and the weapons recovered, said that Boko Haram followers now engage in kidnapping and carjacking because they have run out of money.

Our correspondent reports that security measures were being stepped up in Kano yesterday, ahead of the Easter holidays, which start tomorrow.

In addition to the checkpoints around the city, armour tanks were noticed being deployed yesterday around the prisons area.

## 29. [Attack, Somalia] Kenyan, Somali soldiers kill 40 Al Shabaab militia

Thursday, 5 April 2012

<http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/InsidePage.php?id=2000055636&cid=4>

Kenyan forces in Somalia killed more than 40 Al Shabaab militants in Southern Somalia and destroyed nine enemy vehicles in attacks on Wednesday.

Three Kenyan soldiers were slightly injured in the battles, according to Col Cyrus Oguna of Kenya Defence Forces.

Military spokesman Maj Emanuel Chirchir said at least 40 militants were killed in the attacks.

"Al Shabaab casualty report 40 confirmed neutralized, 30 AK 47 captured, 1 Doshika and 1 PKM captured," said Maj Chirchir in a Twitter posting.

He added six Somalia National Army personnel were injured in the latest strike but they were all out of danger.

The incident happened about kilometers East Hosingo Township near the Indian Ocean in Southern Somalia at about 5am.

Maj Chirchir said Al Shabaab attack was likely to be a diversionary tactic to allow infiltration of Improvised Explosive Devices in the Northern sector.

Separate reports from Somalia indicate that the International Commission of the Red Crescent ICRC has entered Gedo province and other areas liberated by the Kenya Defence Forces and their Somali National Army allies.

Earlier reports indicated widening splits within Al Shabaab with allegations that one of the militants' leaders Ali Dheere had fled to Yemen with several fighters. @

And Al Shabaab claimed a devastating bomb attack in Mogadishu, which killed 10 people in a sports facility in the Somalia capital.

Kenya entered Southern Somalia last October to attack Al Shabaab after the militants raided Kenyan towns to steal arms, abduct citizens and foreigners and also recruit Kenyans into the militia.

From last month Kenyan forces joined the African Mission in Somalia AMISOM and are situated in the Juba areas of Somalia. The Kenyans have encountered ambushes by the militants.

"Initial battle damage assessment from the raid indicates that eight Technical Vehicles and one Land Cruiser belonging to Al Shabaab were destroyed. Several Al Shabaab members were also killed," read part of a statement from military headquarters.

The statement added Al Shabaab base was completely destroyed and the Al Shabaab members who escaped towards Bibi are being pursued.

### 30. [Special Interest, Mali] Mali Rebels Declare Independent 'Azawad'

Friday, 6 April 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/06/us-mali-idUSBRE83507L20120406>

Mali's desert Tuaregs proclaimed independence for what they call the state of Azawad on Friday, a secession bid immediately rejected by the African Union, neighboring Algeria and the former colonial power France.

The nomadic people has nurtured the dream of a Saharan homeland since Mali's independence in 1960 and has come closer than ever to attaining it by seizing key northern towns this week while the capital Bamako was distracted by a coup.

Neighbors fear the creation of a new state could encourage separatists elsewhere, while the presence within the rebellion of Islamists with ties to al Qaeda has sparked wider fears of the emergence of a new rogue state threatening global security.

"The Executive Committee of the MNLA calls on the entire international community to immediately recognize, in a spirit of justice and peace, the independent state of Azawad," Billal Ag Acherif, secretary-general of the Tuareg-led MNLA rebel group MNLA said on its [www.mnlamov.net](http://www.mnlamov.net) home page.

The statement listed decades of Tuareg grievances over their treatment by governments dominated by black southerners in the distant capital Bamako. It said the group recognized all borders with neighboring states and pledged to create a democratic state based on the principles of the United Nations charter.

It was datelined in the town of Gao, which along with the ancient trading post of Timbuktu and other northern towns fell to rebels in a matter of 72 hours this week as soldiers in Mali's army either defected to the rebellion or fled.

Reuters Television pictures from Gao taken hours before the overnight website declaration showed jubilant MNLA soldiers celebrating in the local governor's residence in Gao, decked with an MNLA flag and re-christened "The Palace of Azawad".

The territory claimed as Azawad roughly corresponds to the three northern regions of Mali which together make up a zone larger than France. The term is thought to have linguistic links to the dried up Azawagh tributary of the giant Niger river which snakes through West Africa from Guinea to Nigeria.

The 54-state African Union rejected the independence call as "null and of no value whatsoever", urging the rest of the world to shun the secession bid. Algerian Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia said his country could never accept a break-up of its neighbor.

France also rejected the declaration and Defense Minister Gerard Longuet said it was now up to Mali's neighbors to see whether negotiations were possible with the MNLA - a move that could target an autonomy deal short of full independence.

"What we want from ECOWAS is for them to work out a real long-term solution for Mali," Longuet told reporters in Paris of the 15-member West African regional bloc.

#### WHO'S IN CONTROL?

Initial reactions in Bamako were of dismay.

"This is really a bad joke," Toure Alassane, a 42-year-old native of Timbuktu said at gathering of about 200 northerners protesting against the move in the capital Bamako.

"It will never work. You don't just declare independence when people don't have food to eat and nothing is functioning in the north," he said. Widespread food shortages caused by last year's rain failure have been aggravated by the insecurity.

In the northern town of Kidal, one resident said control was not in the hands of the MNLA but of the Ansar Dine Islamist group which seeks to impose sharia law across Mali.

"Nothing goes without their say," the resident said.

The advance capitalized on confusion in Bamako after a March 22 coup by mid-ranking officers whose main goal had been to beef up efforts to quash the rebellion.

In a sign of growing foreign concern, Britain said it was temporarily closing its embassy and pulling embassy staff from the country, "given the unstable and unpredictable situation in Mali and the continuing lack of constitutional rule".

Mali's worried neighbors see the handover of power back to civilians as a precondition for moves to help stabilize the country and have imposed economic and diplomatic sanctions aimed at forcing junta leader Captain Amadou Sanogo to step down.

On Thursday a team of mediators expressed hope Sanogo would soon announce steps that would allow them to drop the sanctions on Africa's third largest gold miner, which include the closure of borders and the suspension of its account at the regional central bank. There was no immediate response from the junta.

ECOWAS military planners are preparing the mandate for a force of up to 3,000 soldiers which could be deployed in Mali with the dual aim of securing the return to constitutional order and halting any further rebel advance.

France's Longuet put MNLA's fighting strength at a maximum 3,000 forces and estimated that was 10 times the combined head count of Ansar Dine. He reaffirmed that France could provide an ECOWAS force with logistical help including transport.

### 31. [Security, Malawi] Malawi President Bingu wa Mutharika 'dead'

Friday, 6 April 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-17636393>

President Bingu wa Mutharika of Malawi has died, doctors and cabinet ministers have told the BBC, but this has not been officially announced.

One of the doctors who treated Mr Mutharika, 78, said the president was "clinically dead" on Thursday after suffering a cardiac arrest.

State media has only reported that he has been flown to South Africa for medical treatment.

If confirmed, his death would spark a constitutional crisis, analysts say.

According to the constitution, the vice-president takes over if the head of state is incapacitated or dies in office.

But Vice-President Joyce Banda and Mr Mutharika fell out after a row over the succession in 2010, and she was expelled from the ruling Democratic People's Party (DPP).

Mr Mutharika's brother, Foreign Minister Peter Mutharika, was chosen instead of Ms Banda to be the DPP's presidential candidate in the 2014 elections.

He has been standing in for the president when needed during official occasions. Ms Banda recently told the BBC she had not spoken to Bingu wa Mutharika for more than a year.

The BBC's Raphael Tenthani in the main city, Blantyre, says ministers met all night to discuss the situation.

The doctors and ministers say that Mr Mutharika's body was taken to South Africa while a decision is taken about what to do next.

Government sources have told the BBC that efforts to resuscitate President Mutharika had failed and that an official announcement is being prepared.

'The laws are clear'

Former President Bakili Muluzi - a bitter rival to Mr Mutharika - has called on the authorities to make an announcement.

"It's important that the government announces the condition of the president as soon as possible so that the nation is informed," he told journalists.

"I am calling for a constitutional order, for continued peace and order. The laws of Malawi are very clear that the vice-president takes over when the president can no longer govern."

Mr Mutharika, a former World Bank economist, came to power in a 2004 election, after being backed by outgoing President Muluzi. Soon afterwards, Mr Mutharika left his United Democratic Front (UDF) to form the DPP, after accusing Mr Muluzi and other UDF leaders of opposing his campaign against corruption.

Since being re-elected with a large majority in 2009, critics allege he has demonstrated an increasingly authoritarian streak.

The president has been under mounting pressure to resign, amid accusations of nepotism and economic mismanagement.

The criticism has led to a souring in relations with major foreign aid donors, especially the United Kingdom.

Last year, Mr Mutharika expelled the UK High Commissioner, Fergus Cochrane-Dyett, after a leaked embassy cable quoted the diplomat as saying that the president could not tolerate criticism.

The Malawian leader said he could not accept "insults" just because the UK was his country's largest aid donor.

In response, the UK expelled the Malawian envoy to London and cut direct aid.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world, with an estimated 75% of the population living on less than \$1 (60p) a day.

The country has suffered shortages of fuel and foreign currency since the UK and other donors cancelled aid.

## EUCOM

### 32. [Security, France] France opens terror probe after raids on Islamist suspects

Wednesday, 4 April 2012

<http://www.euronews.com/2012/04/03/france-opens-terror-probe-after-raids-on-islamist-suspects/>

Fears over radical Islam have gripped France again, amid claims that suspected militants had discussed plans to kidnap a Jewish judge.

Preliminary charges are being filed against 13 Islamist suspects arrested last week.

The Paris Prosecutor said the case has nothing to do with that of gunman Mohamed Merah, at the centre of last month's killing spree in Toulouse.

"The protagonists of these two cases have never met each other," François Molins told reporters.

He said investigations into the activities of the banned Forsane Alizza or 'Knights of Pride' Islamist group, currently in the spotlight, began months earlier.

France has deported two suspected extremists and may expel others as internal security gets a bigger profile ahead of this month's presidential election.

"It is astonishing that, all of a sudden, as if by coincidence, one week after the Merah case, five imams are found to be dangerous and presenting a big threat to state security," said International Rights lawyer Joseph Braham, speaking in Paris.

French police commandos arrested 19 suspected Islamist militants in raids on Friday, saying that a number of weapons were seized. Of those still in custody, 13 are formally being put under investigation on suspicion of terrorist activities.

According to the prosecutor, the suspects had at one time discussed the possibility of kidnapping a judge in the city of Lyon.



### **33. [Attack, Turkey] Bomb Explodes In Front Of State Building In İstanbul, Two Injured**

Monday, 2 April 2012

<http://www.todayszaman.com/news-276085-bomb-explodes-in-front-of-state-building-in-istanbul-two-injured.html>

A bomb placed in a dumpster inside the Gaziosmanpaşa District Governor's Office in İstanbul exploded on Monday, injuring two people.

Ambulances were dispatched to the scene following the explosion, which reportedly damaged the front of the Gaziosmanpaşa Directorate of Population Affairs building, located inside the Gaziosmanpaşa District Governor's Office. Two people injured in the blast were taken to a nearby hospital.

The explosion comes hours after Turkish police safely defused a bomb found in a bag near the entrance of the Swissôtel in one of İstanbul's busiest streets in Beşiktaş. Street cleaners found a suspicious bag along Dolmabahçe Street earlier on Monday and notified police. A bomb squad defused the explosive after police cordoned off the area and the street was temporarily closed to both pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Police have not made a statement regarding the type of explosive. Police stated that they are still investigating who placed the bomb and why.

There were no claims of responsibility and it was not known if the two incidents were connected.

### **34. [Attack, Ireland] Police Appeal For Information After North Petrol Bomb Attacks**

Sunday, 1 April 2012

<http://www.thejournal.ie/police-appeal-for-information-after-north-petrol-bomb-attacks-403335-Apr2012/>

Police in Northern Ireland have appealed for information after two separate petrol bomb attacks in Foyle and Lisburn over the last 24 hours.

In the first incident, a petrol bomb was thrown at the door of a house in the Fenn Park area of Foyle just after 11.15am yesterday.

Three men were inside the house at the time and were later treated for smoke inhalation. Their injuries are not said to be life threatening.

Meanwhile, two cars were petrol bombed in the Banfield Grange area of Lisburn just after 1.30am this morning.

One of the vehicles had its rear window smashed and the back of the car damaged. A petrol bomb also struck the rear of the second car.

### **35. [Security, Syria] Gunmen Arrested in Eastern Ghota, Infiltration Attempt from Lebanon Foiled, Explosives Dismantled in Idleb**

Sunday, 1 April 2012

<http://www.sana.sy/eng/337/2012/04/01/409498.htm>

The competent authorities on Saturday arrested a number of gunmen, who have committed various crimes, in Eastern Ghota in Damascus Countryside in cooperation with the inhabitants.

SANA reporter cited an official source as saying that an amount of mines and explosive were seized.

Competent authorities today foiled an armed terrorist group's attempt to infiltrate from Lebanon into Syria near the border town of Ba'youn in Talkalakh, Homs countryside.

SANA reporter learned that clashes erupted with the terrorists led to the killing of a number of the group while others have fled to the Lebanese lands.

Weapons including Doshka machine gun, rifles, explosives and bombs were confiscated.

At Baba Amro in Homs, the authorities discovered a warehouse for weapons, seizing rifles, machine guns, explosives, hand-made bombs and a big quantity of ammunitions.

Authorities seized a car loaded with various weapons in Bab al-Hawa neighborhood in Idleb countryside.

SANA reporter said the authorities tracked down the car as it did not stop at a checkpoint in Bab al-Hawa neighborhood, pointing out that the driver fired at the authorities leading to clashes which resulted in his death.

Several machine guns in addition to wireless devices, night-vision scopes and sniper ammunition were found in the car.

Engineering units dismantled two explosive devices rigged for remote detonation which were planted by terrorist groups in Idleb governorate.

The first device had a yield of 40 kilograms and was planted at the western entrance of the town of Ariha, while the second had a yield of 50 kilograms and was planted near Maartamsrin roundabout.

Two explosive devices with yields ranging between 35 and 50 kilograms were detonated on the Idleb-Harem road near the Central Prison without causing any damage.

Security and stability were restored to the town of al-Madiq Castle in Hama after the authorities rid it of armed terrorist groups that had been terrorizing locals, erecting roadblocks and barricades, and vandalizing public and private property.

The locals said that the terrorist had been holding him hostage, preventing them from moving around and going to work, in addition to using them as human shields, preventing students from going to school, and isolating the area.

In Homs city, the authorities raided a three-stories building in Juret al-Arayes neighborhood which an armed terrorist group had been using as a hideout, confiscating a large amount of weapons in ammo, some of which made in Israel while others were US-made.

The confiscated weapons include automatic rifles, sniper rifles and machineguns, in addition to magazines, satchels, advanced communication devices, explosives, and medical equipment and supplies stolen by the terrorists.

In Aleppo city, a terrorist group detonated an explosive device on Friday evening in al-Marje neighborhood while law-enforcement forces were trying to dismantle it and evacuate citizens from the vicinity.

The explosion injured 17 civilians and members of law-enforcement forces, but there were no casualties or ensuing shooting, contrary to the allegations of some media outlets.



### **36. [Security, Israel] IDF Says It Killed Terrorist Along Gaza Border**

Sunday, 1 April 2012

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-kills-terrorist-along-gaza-border/>

IDF forces operating along the Gaza border Saturday night shot and killed an armed terrorist. The man was spotted “digging in the ground, suggesting he was attempting to plant an explosive device,” the IDF Spokesperson’s office said in a statement released Sunday.

His body was found with an AK-47 assault rifle during a search conducted Sunday morning.

Over the past week IDF forces found three explosive devices adjacent to the fence. All three were destroyed by controlled demolitions.

The IDF said in its release that such attempted attacks are “proof of how terror organizations use the area adjacent to the security fence” to plant bombs and try to carry out attacks and kidnappings, “endangering the citizens of Israel and the security forces operating in the area.”

### 37. [Security, Syria] Four Explosive Devices Dismantled in Aleppo, Weapons Confiscated in Daraa

Friday, 30 March 2012

<http://www.sana.sy/eng/337/2012/03/30/409426.htm>

The military engineering units on Thursday evening dismantled four explosive devices planted by armed terrorist groups in Aleppo and its countryside to target the citizens and law enforcement personnel.

A source in the province told SANA reporter that two explosive devices, 30 kg each, and another weighing 45 kg were planted on al-Maslamiyeh-Aleppo road.

A fourth explosive device weighing 2 kg, the source added, was found attached to the bottom of a car near al-Neirab Bridge in the city of Aleppo.

Authorities Confiscate Weapons, Ammunition in Daraa

Authorities on Friday clashed with an armed terrorist group in Daraa Countryside, killing three terrorists, arresting others and confiscating their weapons.

The confiscated weapons are mortar launcher and shells, anti-armor mines, explosive charges, detonators and rifles, in addition to military and medical equipment.



### 38. [Special Interest, Austria] Scientists Have Developed A New Method To Detect Chemicals Inside A Container

Tuesday, 3 April 2012

<http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=140897>

Scientists have developed a new method to detect chemicals inside a container over distances that top the 100-metre mark. This will help people assess explosive substances from a distance, making such tasks safer. The study was funded in part by the OPTIX ('Optical technologies for the identification of explosives') project, which is backed with EUR 2.49 million under the Security Theme of the EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

Part of the OPTIX consortium, researchers from the Vienna University of Technology (TU Vienna) in Austria say the laser light that makes up this new technique is scattered in a very specific way by various substances. This light is used to help researchers assess the contents of a closed, non-transparent container.

'The method we are using is Raman spectroscopy,' explains TU Vienna's Professor Bernhard Lendl. The team irradiated the sample with a laser beam. When the sample's molecules scatter the light, the energy changes. Photons, for instance, can transfer energy to the molecules by exciting molecular vibrations. The light's wavelength changes, as does its colour. Scientists evaluate the colour spectrum of the scattered light to find out which molecules have scattered.

'Until now, the sample had to be placed very close to the laser and the light detector for this kind of Raman spectroscopy,' explains Dr Bernard Zachhuber of TU Vienna. Measurements can now be made over long distances because of this sophisticated technology. 'Among hundreds of millions of photons, only a few trigger a Raman-scattering process in the sample,' Dr Zachhuber says.

According to the team, these scattered particles of light are scattered uniformly in all directions. Only a small fraction returns to the light detector. From this very weak signal, as much information as possible has to be extracted. This can be done using a highly efficient telescope and extremely sensitive light detectors, they say.

The researchers tested used explosives, such as trinitrotoluene (TNT), ammonium nitrate/fuel oil (ANFO) or Research Department Explosive (RDX), in many instances, generating very positive results. 'Even at a distance of more than 100 meters, the substances could be detected reliably,' says Engelene Chrysostom from TU Vienna.

The team says Raman spectroscopy works over long distances even if the sample is inside a non-transparent container. The laser beam is scattered by the container wall, but a tiny portion of the beam penetrates the box. According to the researchers, it can still excite Raman-scattering processes. 'The challenge is to distinguish the container's light signal from the sample signal,' says Professor Lendl.

An easy, geometric trick makes this possible. The laser beam hits the container at a specific spot, and the light signal emitted by the container stems from a tiny region. The team says this innovative method

could help airports with their security checks. But other areas would benefit as well, especially those that need to investigate closely and securely.

The OPTIX consortium is led by Indra Sistemas from Spain, and is made up of experts from Germany, Spain, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Austria and Sweden.



### 39. [Security, United Kingdom] Al-Qaeda 'could target UK youths'

Wednesday, 4 April 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17606434>

British youths from African communities could become radicalised as al-Qaeda looks to Africa to build its strength, the Rusi think tank has suggested.

It says such a development would pose new challenges for UK and other Western intelligence services.

It warns of potential for new or greater radicalisation among British youths from the Somali and other east and west African communities.

The government said it was tackling home-grown terrorist threats.

Radicalisation has already been seen during the past 15 years among some young members of the Pakistani, North African and Indian communities in Britain, the report published by the Royal United Services Institute suggests.

Report author Valentina Soria said: "Most significant is the potential for radicalisation and then mobilisation of a new subset of British youths."

"The UK could soon be facing much greater radicalisation among the Somali minority and new radicalisation in some sections of other communities from east and west African countries."

This was because the "jihadist challenge" may be migrating across Saharan and Sub-Saharan Africa as the al-Qaeda leadership - weakened by the death of Osama Bin Laden - looks to partnerships to re-group and re-energise itself, the report says.

Western intelligence services have acknowledged that the terror threat has changed and shifted, including into Africa, with Somalia a particular focus of concern.

But this report suggests those intelligence services also face new challenges tracking the threat if "jihadism evolves and disperses into territories of ungoverned, or loosely governed, space across large stretches of the African continent".

Regarding Somalia, Ms Soria said foreign fighters now represented "a valuable, albeit still limited, source of manpower for al-Shabab", a Somali hardline Islamist group banned in the UK.

'Operational necessity'

It is "possible that the use of new terror tactics may have further alienated its African recruits who are mostly reluctant to get involved in suicide bombings", she said.

"As a result, the recruitment of foreign fighters could be read as a choice of operational necessity rather than as a move aimed to make al-Shabab the next al-Qaida."

She added that the "dynamics of jihadism in Africa may provoke direct terrorist attacks inside the UK" but said there had been "no direct public evidence of this happening".

Ms Soria said: "The UK cannot expect to remain immune from the 'spill-over' effects of events that could reshape part of the African continent."

A government spokeswoman said: "We are tackling the threat of home-grown terrorism with our new prevent strategy, which is challenging extremist ideology and tackling the radicalisation of vulnerable people.

"We are also working with governments in Africa to improve their capacity to tackle the terrorist threat."

#### 40. [Security, France] France arrests Islamist suspects in fresh raids

Wednesday, 4 April 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17607155>

Police in France have conducted new raids on Islamist suspects in the wake of the multiple killings by gunman Mohamed Merah.

At least 10 people were arrested as police conducted operations in several locations, mostly in the south.

Meanwhile 13 people arrested in raids last week were charged with terrorism and nine of them remanded in custody.

President Nicolas Sarkozy vowed to crack down on suspected radical Islamists after the Merah killings.

Expulsions

Most of Wednesday's raids were in the south and south-west, notably in Marseille but also in Carpentras, Valence and Pau, police sources told Agence France-Presse news agency.

There was also a raid in Roubaix, close to the Belgian border.

The raids were organised by the DCRI intelligence agency and carried out by elite Raid and GIPN commandos.

One police source said: "Those arrested have a similar profile to Mohamed Merah. They are isolated individuals, who are self-radicalised."

He told Reuters they were tracked on Islamists forums expressing extreme views and that they were planning to visit Afghanistan, Pakistan and West Africa to wage jihad, or holy war.

The operation comes less than a week after raids that targeted men who are believed to be associated with a radical group called Forsane Alizza, or Knights of Pride, which was banned last month.

The group's leader Mohamed Achamlane is one of nine people remanded in custody while police investigate allegations that they stashed weapons and plotted to kidnap a judge.

Police have been careful not to link the raids to the killings by Merah in Toulouse and Montauban.

The self-confessed al-Qaeda gunman was shot dead by police in Toulouse, following attacks in which he murdered seven people, including three children.

After last week's raids, Mr Sarkozy, who faces a presidential election this month, said the crackdown on radical Islamists "would continue and that will allow us to expel from our national territory a certain number of people who have no reason to be here".

On Monday, the French interior ministry announced the expulsion of five radical Islamic preachers as part of the crackdown.

Security has become a major issue in the election campaign, as Mr Sarkozy battles to overcome his main rival, Francois Hollande.

Latest opinion polls suggest the rivals are neck-and-neck in the first round of voting on 22 April, with Mr Sarkozy continuing to close the gap on Mr Hollande in the widely expected run-off vote on 6 May.

#### 41. [Security, Turkey] Improvised explosive device found in jar

Wednesday, 4 April 2012

[http://www.dha.com.tr/improvised-explosive-device-found-in-jar-son-dakika-haberi\\_294271.html](http://www.dha.com.tr/improvised-explosive-device-found-in-jar-son-dakika-haberi_294271.html)

A bomb was found placed in a jar at a the Okmeydani Metrobus stop in Istanbul on Tuesday afternoon. The bomb was initially noticed by some passers-by, and the police was informed of the packet, an improvised explosive device placed in a jar.

A bomb squad was called to the scene, and they detected the suspected package as a bomb. The team destroyed the bomb in the jar, and took the pieces for further examination to the Security Directorate of Istanbul.



## 42. [Attack, Russia] Four Policemen Injured in Ingushetia Blast

Friday, 6 April 2012

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=229245>

A rocket fired from Egypt's Sinai Peninsula slammed into the Israeli Red Sea resort of Eilat yesterday, police said, causing no injuries in the town packed with tourists ahead of a Jewish holiday.

The attack prompted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to warn that Israel would "hit those who hit us."

Eilat police were put on the highest state of alert following the blast, which occurred shortly after midnight, officials said.

"This rocket, which was fired from Egypt, exploded in the town but did not cause any injuries or damage," Eilat district police chief Ron Gertner told Israel's army radio.

Gertner said a Grad rocket slammed into a construction site in the city, about 300 metres (yards) from a residential area, shortly after midnight.

In all, three loud blasts rocked the city, prompting hundreds of worried people to ring the emergency police number.

"Eilat residents heard three explosions in the night, but for the moment we have only found one rocket," police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld told AFP. Police were conducting searches to see if anything else had hit the town.

The Israeli army confirmed details of the incident.

### 43. [Security, Israel] Rocket hits Israeli tourist town Eilat

Thursday, 5 April 2012

<http://en.ria.ru/crime/20120405/172637604.html>

Four police officers were injured on Thursday in a bomb explosion in Russian North Caucasus Republic of Ingushetia, a spokesman for Ingishtia's Investigative Committee said.

A powerful roadside bomb detonated in the city of Malgobek when a police patrol car passed by. The UAZ car was severely damaged while four policemen received injuries of various degrees.

"As a result of the explosion four law enforcement officers were wounded," the spokesman said. "The power of the explosive device was equivalent to 20 kg of TNT."

"The policemen were in armor-enforced UAZ vehicle, and the armor, essentially, saved their lives," the official added.

In comparison, the bomb that killed 37 people in Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport in January 2011, had a TNT equivalent of 7 kg.

The blast in Malgobek left a crater with one meter in depth and 2.5 meters in diameter.

Investigators are working on the site of the explosion. Preliminary data suggests that the bomb was triggered by a remote transmitter.

Attacks on police and security officials are a frequent occurrence in the volatile North Caucasus, which saw two brutal federal wars against separatists in Chechnya in the mid-1990s and the early 2000s.

## CENTCOM

### 44. [Attack, Iraq] Bomb kills TV presenter in central Iraq

Tuesday, 3 April 2012

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jT9BNRi55-8zK9pm2FLqsUizUew?docId=CNG.117b9d2e24e98f4d9cc4a11a230c357d.91>

A "sticky bomb" killed a television presenter working for a local station in Salaheddin province of central Iraq, a provincial spokesman said on Tuesday.

Kamiran Salaheddin, a presenter for Salaheddin Channel, was killed in central Tikrit by a magnetic bomb attached to his car as he drove home from work late on Monday, Salaheddin provincial council spokesman Jamal al-Dulaimi told AFP.

Salaheddin, a 34-year-old father-of-two, was the second journalist killed in Iraq this year, according to the Journalistic Freedoms Observatory, an Iraq-based media rights group.

Salaheddin Channel was established by American forces in 2004 and is funded by Salaheddin provincial council.

"The Iraqi authorities must do everything possible to ensure that those responsible for his death are brought to justice," Paris-based watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said in a statement condemning the attack.

"His murder must not go unpunished."

Iraq ranked 152nd out of 179 countries in RSF's 2011-2012 World Press Freedom Index, down 22 from the year before.

The report said there was "an increase in murders of journalists" in Iraq, and "journalists are very often the target of violence by the security forces, whether at demonstrations in Tahrir Square in Baghdad, or in Iraqi Kurdistan, a region that had for many years offered a refuge for journalists."



## 45. [Attack, Iraq] Car bomb kills 5 near Baghdad

Wednesday, 4 April 2012

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/iraq/story/2012-04-04/Iraq-bombing-Baghdad/53987186/1>

Iraqi officials say a car bomb targeting a local police chief missed him but killed five people and wounded 15 in a Sunni town north of Baghdad.

A police official says the Wednesday morning blast missed the convoy of police Col. Qandil Khalil, the head of Duluiyah police, as it was driving near a local market.

Duluiyah, a former al-Qaida stronghold, is 45 miles north of Baghdad.

A hospital official confirmed the death toll, adding that all casualties were civilians. All the officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release information.

Although violence has dropped significantly in Iraq, security forces frequently come under attack by insurgents.

#### **46. [Security, Iran] Chinese freighter hijacked by pirates off Iran**

Friday, 6 April 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/06/us-china-idUSBRE83508S20120406>

A Chinese freighter has been hijacked by pirates off southern Iran, the Chinese Embassy in Tehran reported on Friday.

The cargo ship, the "Xianghuamen," belongs to Nanjing Ocean Shipping Co Ltd in Nanjing, eastern China, the embassy said in a posting on its website.

The ship was commandeered Friday morning in the Gulf of Oman near the south Iranian port of Chabahar, the embassy said.

The embassy is in touch with Iranian authorities and has asked the government to take all necessary steps to recover the vessel and its crew safely, according to the statement.

There were no other details, including the number of pirates or crew members.

An official with Nanjing Ocean Shipping contacted by telephone confirmed the hijacking, but would not provide further information.

## NORTHCOM

### 47. [Attack, USA] Bomb Explodes Outside Wisconsin Planned Parenthood Clinic

Monday, 2 April 2012

<http://www.kare11.com/news/article/970743/396/Bomb-explodes-outside-Wis-Planned-Parenthood-clinic>

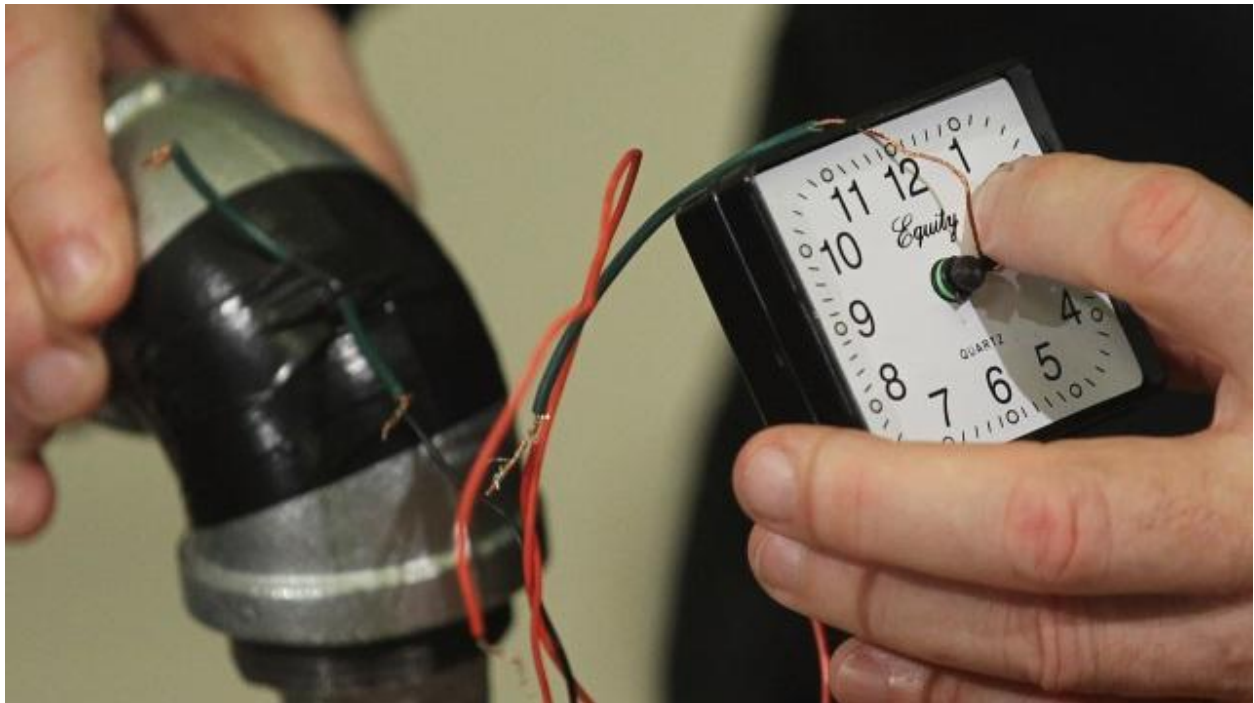
A Wisconsin police chief says no threats had been received by a Planned Parenthood clinic in eastern Wisconsin where a small homemade explosive caused minimal damage over the weekend.

Grand Chute Police Chief Greg Peterson says a bottle containing a chemical was placed on the clinic's outside window sill about 7:40 p.m. Sunday. A small fire broke out when the bottle exploded, but quickly burned itself out.

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin CEO Teri Huyck says there was minimal damage to an exam room and that the clinic will reopen Tuesday. No one was in the building at the time.

The Grand Chute Fire Department responded to the clinic's fire alarm and alerted police after finding the bottle.

Peterson says the FBI is helping investigate. No suspects are in custody.



#### **48. [Security, USA] Bomb Squad Detonates Suspicious Package near ASU**

Monday, 2 April 2012

<http://www.myfoxphoenix.com/dpp/news/local/tempe/bomb-squad-detonates-suspicious-package-near-asu-4-2-2012>

Tempe Police closed part of Mill Ave Monday night while they investigated a suspicious package.

Police responded to the intersection of 7th St and Mill Ave after reports of an unattended package near the statues, next to the parking garage.

They closed off the area and the package was detonated by the bomb squad.

After further investigation, it was determined that the package was not a threat.

The area is back open.

## **49. [Security, USA] Milwaukee Police Remove Non-Explosive Fuse; Downtown Streets Open**

Tuesday, 3 April 2012

<http://www.todaystmj4.com/news/local/145891095.html>

A Milwaukee Police robot has removed what had been suspected to be a pipe bomb near a downtown street, but the MPD says the object was found to not be an explosive.

Officers had blocked off an area near the corner of North 2nd and West Wells Street since about 1:25 a.m. Tuesday morning, but that area was re-opened by 6:45 a.m.

The Criminal Investigation Unit's Hazardous Device Unit responded to investigate the suspected bomb, and tech workers were investigating the possible device after the robot removed it.

It was found around the Renaissance Book Store, right by the corner of 2nd and Wells.

At about 6:08 a.m., TODAY'S TMJ4 cameras showed a robot removing what was believed to be the suspicious device.

After investigating it, they discovered it was a large fuse from a power substation.

According to Milwaukee Police, someone had the fuse in their vehicle and left it next to the building.

Police said there was no threat connected to the discovery of the device.

## 50. [Security, USA] Rash of bomb threats target University of Pittsburgh

Tuesday, 3 April 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/03/us-usa-pittsburgh-threats-idUSBRE8320UY20120403>

After receiving 10 bomb threats in three weeks, the University of Pittsburgh offered a \$50,000 reward on Tuesday for information leading to the capture of whoever is responsible.

Shortly after word of the reward was announced, an 11th threat was made, school authorities said.

"The inability to bring this succession of threats to a quick end obviously is a source of frustration for everyone whose life has been disrupted by them," the university Chancellor Mark Nordenberg said in a statement.

"But I can assure you that law enforcement professionals are doing everything they can to pursue all possible leads and ... we have offered a very substantial reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for these crimes," he said.

The tenth threat arrived shortly after 2 a.m. on Tuesday in text messages sent to Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reporters, prompting evacuation of the university's Litchfield Towers dormitory, school officials said.

Students were allowed to return about four hours later.

The bomb threats began on February 13, when one was made against the university's Chevron Science Center, where the chemistry department is located.

Most recently, at mid-morning on Tuesday, a text message to reporters targeted the same science center.

Two threats on Monday came in an email and scrawled on a university bathroom wall, forcing evacuation of David Lawrence Hall, which The building contains classrooms, lecture halls and a large auditorium. Also evacuated was the Cathedral of Learning, a towering landmark at the heart of campus that houses administrative offices, classrooms, libraries and a restaurant.

Asked for details about the most recent threats, university spokesman John Adele said the information was confidential.

The threats have not been confined to the University of Pittsburgh. Point Park University in downtown Pittsburgh also received a bomb threat in recent weeks, authorities said.

## PACOM

### 51. [Attack, Thailand] Bomb Attacks Kill 13, Injure More Than 350 In South Thailand

Saturday, 31 March 2012

<http://rt.com/news/thailand-south-deadly-bombing-912/>

Three bomb blasts have struck the southern town of Yala, killing thirteen people and wounding dozens more, local officials say.

The first two bombs are thought to have been hidden inside motorcycles, while the third was planted in a nearby car.

They detonated only minutes apart, damaging vehicles and setting the surrounding shops and buildings on fire.

The public health ministry said 10 people were in critical condition with severe burns.

Yala city is the main commercial hub in the country's south.

Thailand's restive South is plagued by regular terrorist attacks and violence from Muslim extremist insurgent groups operating in the region.

Meanwhile, at least four people died and more than 300 were injured in a hotel fire in the same province. The Lee Gardens hotel, located in southern Thailand's biggest city Hat Yai, went up in flames in the middle of the night – reportedly following a gas tank explosion. The province's governor said 336 people were hospitalized, mostly with smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning, and many others were seriously wounded.

Early reports said the fire might have been caused by a gas main explosion in the compound or from an insurgent attack, while security officials have yet to determine whether the incident was linked to the Yala bombings which occurred on the same day.





## **52. [Security, India] Police in Maharashtra recover huge cache of explosives**

Monday, 2 April 2012

<http://www.aninews.in/videogallery4/3266-police-in-maharashtra-recover-huge-cache-of-explosives.html>

Police officials in Thane district of Maharashtra have recovered a huge cache of explosive from two men and arrested them in connection with the case. The seizure of explosives triggered panic in the area. The police forces found 53 boxes of gelatin, 18 boxes of detonators and 150 kilograms of ammonium nitrate hidden inside a vehicle.

### 53. [Security, Australia] Explosive Concern

Thursday, 5 April 2012

<http://www.waginargus.com.au/news/local/news/general/explosive-concern/2511282.aspx>

Japan has completed the deployment of a land-based system of interceptor missiles in preparation for a planned North Korean rocket launch later this month.

The exercise was finalised in Okinawa on Thursday, days after a similar deployment was completed on Monday in Naha, the capital of the Okinawa prefecture.

The interceptors would be ready to shoot down any parts of the rocket that veer into Japan's airspace.

Kunisaki, a transport ship of the Maritime Defence Force, carried the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missile interceptors to the port in Ishigaki island to be installed facing towards the controversial rocket's planned route.

With the PAC-3's arrival in Ishigaki, the island closest to the area of the rocket's trajectory, interceptors are now positioned in four locations in Okinawa, including the military bases in Naha, Miyako and Chinen.

Mobile missile launchers, in addition to the ones in Okinawa, will be positioned in the Tokyo metropolitan area in the next few days.

#### Birthday celebration

North Korea's "Unha-3" rocket is expected to fly over western Japan, including part of Okinawa, after it is launched from a pad on North Korea's west coast between April 12-16.

The North says the launch is for putting a satellite into orbit in honour of the 100th birthday of the country's late founder, Kim Il Sung.

It has raised concerns that a failed launch, or a failing stage of the rocket, could endanger Japanese lives or property.

In addition to the PAC-3s, anti-missile equipped destroyers will be deployed to the Pacific and East China Sea.

Tokyo took the same measures in 2009 over an earlier North Korea missile launch.

They deployed warships with anti-missile systems, positioned patriot missile interceptors and established a system to warn residents when the rocket was approaching.

Japan's intentions were not to shoot down the rocket but to have self-defence forces on standby to intercept any fragments of a missile should the launch fail.

Japan, the US and other countries claim the North is seeking to test the capabilities of its long-range missiles, in violation of international agreements.

## 54. [Security, Japan] Japan ready for North Korea missile launch

Friday, 6 April 2012

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2012/04/201245164632450178.html>

Security forces are believed to have gunned down around six Maoists in a fierce gun battle in the deep forest of Karamdih under Barwadih police station in Latehar district on Thursday.

The encounter started at around 12 in the afternoon when a joint team of CoBRA of the CRPF, Jharkhand Jaguar and Jharkhand Armed Police was conducting search operation. The area is close to Chhattisgarh State border. The encounter continued for three hours. During the operation Maoists also fired at BSF helicopter which was flying at low altitude in the area.

During the operation one jawan of the CoBRA team of the CRPF, Satyaprakash Jaiswal succumbed to bullet injury while another jawan of Jharkhand Jaguar, Sanjay Kumar Paswan was rushed to Apollo Hospital, Ranchi.

"Our men during the operation spotted Maoists taking away the body of their guerrilla squad. Security forces have inflicted damage on the rebels. It is reported that Maoists also fired bullets at the BSF chopper in the area. Chopper has returned safe to Ranchi," Jharkhand Police spokesperson RK Mallick told The Pioneer.

Nawarnabhu was another place situated some kilometers away from Karamdih where security forces engaged Maoists in a pitched gun battle.

Reportedly, top Maoist leader Sudhirji who is also member of CPI (Maoist) central executive committee has been operating in this area. While additional security forces have been summoned in the area, additional deployment has been made by the Chhattisgarh police on the border area.

## 55. [Attack, India] Six Maoists, CoBRA jawan dead in Jharkhand encounter

Thursday, 5 April 2012

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/nation/55576-six-maoists-cobra-jawan-dead-in-jharkhand-encounter.html>

Maoists violence, militancy in Jammu and Kashmir and insurgency in the Northeast continued to be the top areas of concern for the country's internal security in 2011 with Left wing extremism claiming the most lives.

According to the annual report of the Home Ministry for 2011-12, terrorism in the hinterland and communal situation remained by and large under control, except for the serial bomb blasts in Mumbai in July 2011 and bomb blast in Delhi High Court in September last year.

Level of infiltration from across the borders and the resultant terrorist activities in the Kashmir Valley showed significant decline in 2011. Since outbreak of militancy, more than 40,000 people have lost their lives in Jammu and Kashmir of which 13,846 were civilians and 4,807 were security personnel.

Maoists violence had claimed 3,240 lives between 2008 and 2011 in nine Naxal hit states -- Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

"The CPI (Maoist) continues to remain the most dominant and violent outfit among the various Left Wing extremist groups, accounting for more than 90 per cent of total Left wing extremist incidents and 95 per cent of resultant killings," the annual report said .

Action against the Maoists will continue and this is a long drawn out battle and needs to be persevered with both in terms of operations against the armed elements as well as the all round development of LWE affected areas.

The Home Ministry's annual report said Jammu and Kashmir has been affected by terrorist and secessionist violence, sponsored and supported from across the border for almost two decades.

The levels of terrorist violence and encounters in the hinterlands of Jammu and Kashmir are inextricably linked to the levels of successful infiltration from across the border and there were 3,805 infiltration attempts in the border state since 2004 to 2011.

"Government have adopted various counter terrorism strategies to neutralise the efforts and capabilities of militants to disturb peace in the state. The government has also encouraged policies to mainstream the youth and discourage the local youth from joining militancy," it said.

Referring to the security situation in the Northeastern states, the report said situation in some of the states in the region which has remained complex for quite some time because of diverse demands advocated by various militant outfits, has shown improvement in 2011 as compared to the previous year in terms of number of incidents of violence and casualties of civilians and security forces.

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"Manipur continues to be affected by the activities of a large number of militant or insurgent outfits.... The security situation in Assam has improved since early 2010 coinciding with falling level of violence orchestrated by insurgent groups," it said.

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## 56. [Security, India] Maoists, J-K, NE continue to be top three areas of concern

Wednesday, 4 April 2012

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics/nation/maoists-j-k-ne-continue-to-be-top-three-areas-of-concern/articleshow/12545419.cms>

Improvised explosive devices are being set off around town and Wagin Police are extremely concerned that somebody is going to get hurt.

Tins containing household items have been placed near residents' houses and set off in the Strickland Street and Cowcher Street areas causing an explosion over the past three weeks.

Sergeant Paul Lydiate said because of the contents, the home-made devices were taking some time to explode, by which time the culprits had left them unattended.

"Because flames are visible in the tins I'm greatly concerned that somebody else is going to become curious and approach the device just as it explodes," Sergeant Lydiate said.

"This needs to stop because it has the potential for disaster."

Sergeant Lydiate said a line of inquiry was currently open and encouraged members of the public to contact the police if they have any information about the incidents.

"I urge the person/s involved to contact me – come forward and sort this matter out," he said.

"It is important that this stops before it becomes even more serious and somebody gets hurt."

## SOUTHCOM

### 57. [Security, Colombia] Explosive Charge Deactivated In Buenaventura

Tuesday, 3 April 2012

<http://m.eltiempo.com/colombia/cali/desactivan-una-carga-explosiva-en-buenaventura-valle/11480021/1>

The explosive was hidden in a trash bag.

Five kilos of pentolite were abandoned Nestor Tenorio Park Urban.

The cargo, hidden in a trash bag, was defused by men of the police anti-explosives.

According to Colonel Oscar Antonio Gomez, commander of the District Police, the cargo was composed of 10 bars pentolite and detonating cord, which was powered by a motorcycle battery.

"The detonating cord doubles the capacity of the explosive that would be triggered by cell phone," said the officer.

The explosive was left beside a tree, just 15 meters from CAI Police and close to the play area for children. Citizen information allowed off the load.

The officer blamed the failed action attributed to front 'Manuel Cepeda Vargas 'of the FARC, as the park is the largest entertainment center in Buenaventura departen where many families.

Despite this situation, authorities reported calm in the harbor that is ready to receive thousands of tourists.



## 58. [Security, Colombia] Authorities Deactivate Car Bomb In La Guajira

Sunday, 1 April 2012

<http://www.vanguardia.com/actualidad/colombia/150530-autoridades-desactivaron-un-carro-bomba-en-la-guajira>

Troops of the Tenth Armored Brigade, in coordination with the National Police defused a controlled manner a Toyota truck that had been loaded with explosives in the municipality of Maicao, in Guajira.

Authorities attribute the incident to members of the FARC's 59th front who had stolen the vehicle in a rural area of the town of Albania.

According to official information, to learn about the theft of the vehicle, the police began searching and found it in an area near the town of Maicao.

He immediately proceeded to cordon off the area and apply the security device for verification of the vehicle, which was loaded with 60 kilos of high explosives.

Twelve hours did the anti-explosive experts work in a controlled manner to disable the vehicle.





## 59. [Security, Colombia] FARC Plans Attacks On Colombian Air Bases

Friday, 30 March 2012

<http://www.vanguardia.com.mx/farcplaneabanataquesabasesaereascolombianas-1251669.html>

The plan was discovered in the computers of the late chief of the insurgent group, Alfonso Cano, by researchers from the Attorney responsible for reviewing the contents.

Bogota. - The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) were planning to attack at least five air bases with helicopter model aircraft that would operate by remote control, local radio reported today.

The plan was discovered in the computers of the late chief of the insurgent group, Alfonso Cano, by researchers from the Attorney responsible for reviewing its contents, said the radio station FM in Bogota.

According to the Post, the FARC planned to attack five air bases of the Police, Army and the Colombian Air Force helicopter with model airplanes loaded with high explosive C-4, the report said.

According to the report, they would be operated by remote control and would be unmanned and small size, flight range of up to 15 minutes and a distance of one kilometer.

"The prosecution found in e-Cano's computer records on the Internet of several of the stores or centers that sell these American-made model aircraft," the radio.

He said that in one of the emails it is clear that the attacks were ready, as one of the guerrillas Cano informs that "already made purchases and birds were tested. Everything was positive."

Targeted by the FARC are the foundations of Apiay (Villavicencio), Palanquero (La Dorada) Marandua (Vichada), Three Corners (Caquetá) and the Anti-Narcotics Police in San Jose del Guaviare.



## 60. [Security, Colombia] Colombia's Farc rebels release hostages

Tuesday, 3 April 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-17580862>

Colombia's Farc rebels have released their last 10 police and military hostages - some of whom have spent 14 years in captivity.

They were collected from the jungle by a Brazilian military helicopter and flown to safety.

President Juan Manuel Santos welcomed the releases but said they were "not enough" to open direct peace talks.

Farc has been fighting Colombia's government for five decades, making it Latin America's oldest insurgency.

The rebels, who have lost ground in recent years, are still holding an unknown number of civilians hostage.

Television pictures showed the former hostages waving and punching the air as they got off the helicopter at the city of Villavicencio, where they were welcomed by their relatives and given medical checks before being flown on to the capital, Bogota.

Some emerged with their pets, which included a peccary - a kind of wild pig - and a monkey.

"Welcome to liberty, soldiers and policemen of Colombia," Mr Santos said at the presidential palace.

"Freedom has been very delayed but now it is yours, to the delight of the whole country."

But he warned that until all hostages were freed, his government would continue its policy of confronting armed groups.

"When the government believes there are enough guarantees to begin a process that leads to the end of the conflict, the country will know it," he said.

The hostage release was co-ordinated by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and a group of Colombian mediators led by former senator Piedad Cordoba.

"We express our great happiness at the success of this operation that allowed in just one day the reunion of 10 families that were waiting for so many years," the head of the ICRC in Colombia, Jordi Raich, said.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc) have been fighting for power in Colombia since the 1960s.

But over the past decade they have suffered a series of setbacks, losing several top commanders and much of their strength.

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For many years the rebels tried to use captured members of the security forces as bargaining tools to try to secure the release of jailed guerrillas.

After drug trafficking, kidnapping for ransom has been the group's main source of income, but it has drawn national and international condemnation. In February, the Farc promised to end the practice.

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## 61. [Attack, Colombia] 'FARC' bomb kills 3 Colombian soldiers near Ecuador border

Thursday, 5 April 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/23265-farc-bomb-kills-3-colombian-soldiers-near-ecuador-border.html>

Three Colombian soldiers have been killed and another three were injured by a roadside bomb near the Ecuadorean border, the army announced Thursday.

According to the army, the bomb went off when an army patrol was traveling a road between the border town of Ipiales and the Putumayo department.

The Colombian armed forces reportedly have been carrying out military offensives against a local FARC unit for over a week.



## 62. [Security, Colombia] Colombia says 36 FARC rebels killed in air raid

Monday, 2 April 2012

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2012/apr/02/lt-colombia-rebels/>

Colombia's military killed 36 rebels in the pre-dawn bombing Monday of a guerrilla camp, officials said, striking a second major blow in less than a week to the nation's main guerrilla force.

The attack in the Meta state municipality of Vista Hermosa, a traditional stronghold of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, comes just as the group known by its Spanish initials FARC says it is preparing to free its last prisoners.

Colombia's armed forces chief, Gen. Alejandro Navas, dismissed suggestions that the military attacks could delay the releases, saying the strikes fall within the "rules of the conflict." He said Monday's raid was several months in the planning.

Navas said the targeted rebels were undergoing training in an area where the Andes ridge meets Colombia's southeastern plains that is the base of the Bloque Oriental, the FARC's most potent cadre.

Commandos captured five insurgents, including three women, and seized weapons and computers, the military high command said.

President Juan Manuel Santos said three rebels were wounded.

"This operation isn't over," Navas said, emphasizing what he called its "highly strategic" nature.

Last week, the military killed 33 rebels in a similar air raid on another FARC stronghold, in Arauca state near the border with Venezuela.

Although Colombia's military brass has been stingy with operational details, the attacks follow a new strategy devised after they tracked down and killed the FARC's previous commander, Alfonso Cano, last year.

President Juan Manuel Santos said at the time that, given that the conflict was in what he called "its final phase," the military would go after the FARC's logistics and supplies.

The peasant-based rebels took up arms in 1964, demanding a more equitable distribution of wealth in a country where land ownership is highly concentrated.

They have engaged the government in several failed attempts at peace, most recently in 1999-2002. During those talks, the FARC was afforded a Switzerland-sized safe haven that included Vista Hermosa and it continued offensive operations elsewhere in Colombia.

The rebels have been increasingly battered over the past decade as Colombia professionalized its military with U.S. assistance, and were seeking peace talks even before Cano was killed.

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The FARC has said it plans to release its last prisoners, 10 soldiers and police officers held for as long as 14 years, on April 2 and 4.

It also recently announced a halt to ransom kidnappings that have been a financing tool along with the cocaine trade.

Yet neither the insurgents, who have about 9,000 fighters, nor Colombia's armed forces have eased up on military operations.

The military's March 21 raid in Arauca came four days after rebels in the same region killed 11 soldiers in an attack.

Santos, who was defense minister in 2006-2009, said Monday that the armed forces "will not stop, will continue and will persevere" in their mission.

Military analyst Alfredo Rangel said the government's military offensive could prompt the FARC to delay the prisoner releases. Doing so, however, would badly "hurt its image before the nation and international community," he said.

An activist who has long worked for the freedom of security force members held by the FARC, and who is slated to receive the 10 captives, expressed optimism Monday.

"I don't think that because of these operations the releases will be canceled," said the activist, Marleny Orjuela.

### **63. [Attack, Colombia] Two Soldiers Killed by Bomb in Southern Colombia**

Wednesday, 4 April 2012

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=487768&CategoryId=12393>

Two Colombian soldiers were killed and several others wounded Wednesday when a bomb exploded on a country road in the southern province of Putumayo, the army said.

The device was detonated by remote control as troops from the 27th Jungle Brigade were passing through the village of La Libertad, Gen. Guillermo del Basto told reporters in Mocoa, the provincial capital.

While the brigade commander did not speculate on who was behind the bomb, leftist FARC rebels and heavily armed drug traffickers are known to operate in that part of Putumayo, which borders Ecuador.

Del Basto said he sent reinforcements to La Libertad to identify and track down those responsible for the attack.

Wednesday's bombing was the first attack on the military since the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, freed the last 10 of the dozens of members of the security forces the guerrillas held for years in hopes of trading them for jailed rebels.