



Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data

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.

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1. Wanted: Better Crash Test Dummy For IED Blast

Tuesday, 07 February 2012

<http://www.armytimes.com/news/2012/02/military-wanted-better-crash-test-dummy-ied-blasts-020712w/>

The Army wants a smarter crash test dummy.

Standard dummies — “anthropomorphic test devices” like the ones often seen in car commercials — are great for understanding the effects of front, rear and broadside collisions on humans. But they aren’t much good for analyzing the high-velocity blasts caused by improvised explosive devices under vehicles.

The Army’s Medical Research and Materiel Command and the Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center have launched a program called the Warrior Injury Assessment Manikin, or WIAMan, Project, to build a dummy that will reveal more about the effects that shock waves, projectiles and velocity-driven dirt have on troops struck by IEDs. “The lack of human injury response data for underbody blasts, combined with the current mannequin that is anatomically incorrect and was not designed for this extreme vertical loading environment, present a unique military challenge,” said Lt. Col. Judy Buchanan, the WIAMan project’s medical assessment manager.

The goal of building WIAMan is to understand the biomechanics of injury resulting from an IED strike — information that will lead to better vehicle protection systems, personal protection and medical advancements for treating blast injuries, Buchanan said.

“WIAMan team is focused on one goal: to reduce and prevent injuries and death from a significant battlefield threat,” she said.

From 2003 to 2010, nearly 10,000 service members have been killed or injured by improvised explosive devices, according to Pentagon data.

The WIAMan project is a five-year program; researchers hope to have a prototype in late 2013 or early 2014.

Buchanan declined to discuss the estimated program costs: a \$149,000 contract was awarded to Dynamic Research of Torrance, Calif., in September for engineering services.

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2. New GREMLIN Robot Sniffs Out Bombs Using Sound

Thursday, 02 February 2012

<http://www.tecca.com/news/2012/02/02/gremlin-military-bomb-sensing-robot/>

Land mines and similar hidden improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are an ever-present threat not just to the military, but to the innocent trapped in war-torn lands. But the threat posed by the dangerous bombs may soon be a thing of the past if the military finds success with its new GREMLIN bomb-sensing robot.

GREMLIN stands for Ground-Based Explosive Ordinance Disposal Mobile Laser Interrogation. It's a brand new military robot, still in development, that uses sound waves to get an image of what's present beneath the ground. Defense contractor BAE still has a good 3 years of testing before giving the GREMLIN robot to U.S. troops for use. Still, the technology is promising.

When completed, GREMLIN will only be able to detect bombs — it's unable to disarm them. Still, just knowing the threat is there is more than enough information to prevent a large number of injuries and fatalities. IEDs are easily the most dangerous threat to American troops serving in Afghanistan. These hidden road-side bombs have been responsible for 66% of the deaths suffered by coalition forces since the war began in **2001**.

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3. UN: Civilian Deaths In Afghanistan War Hit Record High

Saturday, 04 February 2012

http://bostonherald.com/news/international/asia_pacific/view/20120204un_civilian_deaths_in_afghan_war_hit_record_high

Last year was the deadliest on record for civilians in the Afghan war, with 3,021 killed as insurgents ratcheted up violence with suicide attacks and roadside bombs, the United Nations said Saturday.

Taliban-affiliated militants were responsible for more than three-quarters of the civilian deaths in 2011, the fifth year in a row in which the death toll went up, the U.N. said.

The figures were a grim testament to the violence the Taliban and allied Islamist militants can still unleash in Afghanistan, even as NATO begins to map out plans for international troops to draw down and give Afghan security forces the main responsibility for fighting insurgents by the end of 2014.

"A decade after the war began, the human cost of it is still rising," said Georgette Gagnon, director for human rights for the U.N. mission in Afghanistan. The number of civilian deaths was up 8 percent over the previous year.

Deaths in suicide bombings jumped dramatically to 450, an 80 percent increase over the previous year. While the number of suicide attacks remained about the same, they killed more civilians. On Dec. 6, a bomber detonated his explosives-filled vest at the entrance of a mosque in Kabul, the capital, killing 56 worshippers during the Shiite Muslim rituals of Ashoura. It was the single deadliest suicide attack since 2008.

The single biggest killer of civilians remained the ever-more-powerful roadside bombs planted by insurgents. The homemade explosives, which can be triggered by a footstep or a vehicle and are often rigged with enough explosives to destroy a tank, killed 967 people — nearly a third of the total.

The 130,000-strong coalition force led by the U.S. says it has been hitting the Taliban hard, seizing their one-time strongholds while expanding and training the Afghan army and police to take over primary responsibility for waging the decade-old war.

Still, insurgent attacks are killing more and more civilians, according to a detailed annual U.N. report.

The increased presence of security forces managed to reduce civilian casualties in the troubled southern provinces of Helmand and Kandahar, but the U.N. said insurgents simply pulled back and focused instead on areas along the country's border with Pakistan, relying more on roadside bombs and suicide attacks in places like bazaars, schoolyards, footpaths, and bus stations.

"The tactics have changed," said Jan Kubis, the U.N. Secretary-General's special representative to Afghanistan. "The anti-government forces being squeezed in certain areas ... move to some other areas and again use these inhuman, indiscriminating weapons like human-activated explosive devices and suicide attacks."

He pointed out that the Taliban itself banned the use of land mines as "un-Islamic and anti-human" in a 1998 proclamation issued while the hard-line movement ruled Afghanistan with their harsh interpretation of Islamic law.

The U.N. report said there is little difference between mines and the buried homemade bombs used by the Taliban. The majority of improvised explosives have about 9 pounds (20 kilograms) of explosives and are triggered by pressure plates rigged to explode when a person steps on it or a vehicle passes over.

"These are basically land mines," Kubis said of the roadside bombs. "So why is this 'inhuman and un-Islamic' weapon being increasingly used?"

The sheer number of roadside bombs that insurgents planted last year overwhelmed security forces' improved ability to detect and neutralize them. An average of 23 roadside bombs per day were either detonated or discovered and defused last year — twice the daily average in 2010, the U.N. report said. Actual explosions increased by 6 percent.

The report's toll of 3,021 civilians dead in violence related to the war and 4,507 more wounded made 2011 the deadliest year for Afghan civilians recorded by the U.N. since it started keeping a detailed count of civilian casualties five years ago. Last year's figure was roughly double the number from 2007.

The U.N. attributed 77 percent of the deaths to insurgent attacks and 14 percent to actions by international and Afghan troops. Nine percent of cases were classified as having an unknown cause.

The number of civilian deaths caused by insurgents was up 14 percent over 2010, the U.N. said, while those caused by security forces went down 4 percent.

Last year was also the second-deadliest year of the decade-long war for international forces in Afghanistan, with at least 544 NATO troops killed. The coalition has been in Afghanistan since the aftermath of the 2001 American-backed intervention to topple the Taliban, which followed the hard-line Islamist regime's refusal to hand over al-Qaida terrorist chief Osama bin Laden, who sponsored the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the U.S.

While the total number of civilian deaths caused by international and Afghan forces dropped, the number of civilians killed by air strikes targeting insurgents rose to 187 in 2011, accounting for nearly half the deaths attributed to forces supporting the government.

The number of civilians killed during controversial, coalition-led night raids on homes dropped to 63 in 2011, down 22 percent from the previous year, the U.N. said.

The U.N. noted a shift in where the violence affecting civilians was centered. In 2010, the provinces with the highest numbers of civilian casualties were the southern Taliban strongholds of Helmand and Kandahar, where an increased number of U.S. troops pushed to take back territory from insurgents.

While those two provinces still had the most deaths in 2011, their numbers dropped, while civilian deaths went sharply up in southeastern provinces including Khost and Paktika, and the eastern provinces of Kunar and Nangarhar. All those areas lie along Afghanistan's volatile border with Pakistan, where many of the Taliban's leaders and the al-Qaida-allied Haqqani network are believed to be based.

Insurgents also intensified an assassination campaign against people associated with the Afghan government. The U.N. report documented 495 targeted killings in 2011, including provincial and district officials, peace council members and pro-government tribal elders. Assassinations were up 3 percent from the previous year and up 160 percent from 2009.

Among the highest profile assassination victims last year was former President Burhanuddin Rabbani, head of the high peace council charged with seeking talks with the Taliban. He was killed by a suicide bomber claiming to carry a message from the insurgents.

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4 Weapons And Ammunitions Seized In Baghlan Province

Monday, 06 February 2012

<http://sgt-jim.blogspot.com/2012/02/weapons-and-ammunitions-seized-in.html>

Officials in Afghan National Directorate for Security in northern Baghlan province following a press release announced to seize some weapons and ammunitions from Wardakha and Cheshma-e-Sher areas of this province. The source further added, the weapons and ammunitions which were seized based on intelligence report included 2 improvised explosive device, 2 barrels of explosives, 13 rounds of RPG-7 missiles along with fake vehicle registration plates and 500 rounds of AK-47 assault rifle ammos.

Provincial intelligence officials following the press release further added, the two improvised explosive device which were planted by armed militants to target Afghan and coalition security forces were seized and defused by Afghan intelligence forces however Afghan security forces have not detained any suspect in this regard so far. Afghan National Directorate for Security forces have seized various weapons and ammunitions caches during the past month. Recently Afghan security forces seized at least 1 ton of explosives and ammunitions following a military operation at Jelga-ha and Khenjan districts.

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5. Bomb Blast Kills One, Wounds Three In Uruzgan

Monday, 06 February 2012

<http://tolonews.com/en/afghanistan/5261-bomb-blast-kills-one-wounds-three-in-uruzgan>

A child was killed and three others were wounded in a bomb blast in south-western Uruzgan province on Monday, local officials said.

The bomb was hidden in a motorbike parked near a market in Dehrawod district of Uruzgan province, provincial spokesman Farid Ayel said.

No group including the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack.

It comes as on Sunday a car bomb in a parking near Kandahar headquarters killed seven people including five Afghan policemen and nineteen others were wounded.

On Saturday the UN's Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (Unama) said that more than 3,021 Afghan civilians had been killed in 2011 conflict.

The deaths in 2011 compared with 2,790 in 2010 and 2,412 in 2009 showed that most of the deaths were caused by insurgents, the report found.

It was the fifth straight year that the toll had risen, with a total of 11,864 civilian lives claimed by the conflict since 2007.

Taliban-led insurgents caused 77 percent of the deaths last year, up to 14 percent from 2010, while Nato-led and Afghan government forces were responsible for killing 410 civilians -14 percent of the total, it added.

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6. Explosion In Helmand Kills Two Afghan Policemen

Thursday, 09 February 2012

<http://www.khaama.com/explosion-in-helmand-kill-and-injure-3-afghan-police-596>

According to local authorities in southern Afghanistan, at least 3 Afghan National police service members were killed and injured following an explosion in southern Helmand province on Thursday.

The officials further added, the incident took place around 10:30 am local time killing at least 2 Afghan police and injuring 1 other.

Provincial governor spokesman Daud Ahmadi confirming the report said, the incident took place after an explosive device planted in a road culvert went off at Lashkargah city.

Mr. Ahmadi further added, Afghan police forces were struggling to defuse the roadside bomb when the explosion took place.

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

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7. Car Bomb Kills Seven In Southern Afghanistan

Sunday, 05 February 2012

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/02/05/2626224/car-bomb-kills-seven-in-southern.html>

A car bomb exploded Sunday near the police headquarters of the southern city of Kandahar, killing seven people and wounding at least 19, provincial officials said.

Five Afghan police officers and two civilians, including a child, were among the dead, said Javid Faisal, a spokesman for the Kandahar governor.

He said the blast occurred on a busy street where police officers and civilians park their cars.

"The car with explosives was parked in this street and was detonated by remote control," said Faisal.

Daud Farhad, director of Kandahar's Mirwais hospital, put the number of injured at 22, including six police officers. He said three of the police officers and four civilians were in a critical condition.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the blast. Afghan President Hamid Karzai attributed it in a statement to the "enemies of the people of Afghanistan."

U.S. Gen. John R. Allen, commander of the U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan, said Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar was unwilling or unable to stop Taliban insurgents from victimizing Afghans, "otherwise he would enforce his own alleged 'orders' to reduce civilian casualties."

The U.S.-led coalition has made huge efforts in the past two years to stabilize the security situation in Kandahar and surrounding areas in Afghanistan's restive south, a traditional Taliban stronghold.

However, despite some progress with security there are still regular attacks on officials and government buildings in Kandahar.

The number of civilian casualties in the Afghanistan conflict reached record levels last year, according to a U.N. report released Saturday. The report said more than 3,000 civilians were killed in 2011 — up 8 percent from 2010.

The report said "anti-government elements" — shorthand for the Taliban and other insurgent groups — were responsible for 77 percent of the deaths.

"Anti-Government Elements used improvised explosive devices more frequently and more widely across the country, conducted deadlier suicide attacks yielding greater numbers of victims, and increased the unlawful and targeted killing of civilians," the report said.

A Taliban statement on Sunday said that the United Nations had consistently tried to cover up "the inhumane actions of the actual perpetrators of the ongoing Afghan war" — the U.S.-led international forces — "and to give legality, in one form or another, to all their crimes."

The statement did not directly address the U.N. report's claims about civilian deaths caused by Taliban operations.

But it said the report downplayed the number of civilian deaths caused by coalition operations, especially "the night raids of the invaders."

The U.N. was biased, the Taliban said, "so much so that some of your policies directly follow those of the White House."

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8. Two Police Constables Killed In Naseerabad Landmine Explosion
Sunday, 05 February 2012

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2012/02/2-police-constables-killed-in-naseerabad-landmine-explosion/>

Two police constables were killed and a passerby was injured in a landmine explosion in Naseerabad district on Saturday while three rockets were fired in Quetta. The banned Baloch Republican Army claimed the responsibility.

Naseerabad District Police Officer Abdul Hayee Baloch said two policemen identified as Hamid and Gulsher were on patrol duty on a motorcycle in Manjoti area, around 20 kilometres from Dera Murad Jamali when their bike hit a landmine, causing a huge blast. As a result, both policemen were killed and their motorcycle was blown into pieces. A passerby identified as Muhammad Ali received injuries. The injured and dead were moved to a nearby hospital. Police rushed to the site after the blast and cordoned off the area.

Meanwhile, unidentified men fired three rockets on the night between Friday and Saturday on the direction of cantonment in Quetta. However, all projectiles landed in the open and exploded without causing any damage. Police said the rockets were fired from undisclosed locations which were landed in Killi Nichari, Spinny Road and Kill Arbab with explosions one after the other.

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9. Four Killed In Peshawar VBIED Attack

Friday, 03 February 2012

<http://www.dawn.com/2012/02/03/large-explosion-hits-peshawar.html>

At least four people were killed and several injured as a large explosion hit Peshawar on Friday, DawnNews reported.

Several people were trapped underneath the rubble of a building destroyed by the heavy explosion, which jolted the neighbourhood located on the Peshawar Ring Road.

The car bomb attack outside the residence of the tribal elder Aastana Gul in the Pishtakhara suburb of Peshawar damaged one house and a private office in the street, police said

Peshawar's bomb disposal expert Hukam Khan said up to 40 kilograms of explosives were packed in a car and detonated remotely.

Bashir Bilour, senior minister Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, also said that at least 30 to 40 kilograms of explosive material had been used. Several pieces of a missile were also found at the location, added Bilour.

One of the injured had been freed from the debris and shifted to the hospital, while rescue workers and police personnel were busy helping recover the rest of the wounded.

Another police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, blamed a homegrown militant group Lashkar-e-Islam led by the warlord Mangal Bagh and based in the lawless tribal district of Khyber for the killings.

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10. Blast Outside House Of FIA Official In Queta

Friday, 03 February 2012

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/national/03-Feb-2012/blast-outside-house-of-fia-official-in-quetta>

A Bomb blast outside the house of Deputy Director Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) destroyed a portion of the house but no human loss or injury was reported.

According to police unknown miscreants had planted a locally made bomb outside the house of FIA official Muhammad Akbar Baloch located at Manu Jan Road of Quetta.

The blast damaged the main gate and walls of the house but residents of the house remained safe in the blast.

The bomb disposal squad (BDS) said the bomb was locally manufactured and about 1.5 kilogram explosive material was used in it.

Upon receiving the information, police and FC reached the spot and cordoned off the area. It should be mentioned that FIA official Akbar Baloch is currently serving in Karachi and investigating into the deaths due to spurious medicines provided by the Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC).

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11. Militants Blow Up Girl's School In NW Pakistan

Friday, 03 February 2012

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/xinhua/2012-02-03/content_5075878.html

Some unidentified militants have blown up a girls' school with a remote-controlled explosive device in Pakistan's northwest city of Dera Ismail Khan on Friday, local media reported.

According to the report of local TV channel Dunya, the incident took place at about 2 a.m. local time when an unknown number of militants tied up the watchman of a middle school and blasted the empty building with explosive material in Syadan area of Dera Ismail Khan, a town in Pakistan's northwest province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The watchman got injured while the four-room school was completely destroyed in the blast, and about 10 kilograms of explosives were reportedly used in the attack.

This is the second time when militants targeted a school in the area. Earlier last year, over 40 kilograms of explosive material was fixed to the wall of a school but police successfully disposed it off.

Orthodox religious scholars in particular in rural areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are against the western style education for women, and there are only 978 middle schools for a population of over eight million women.

The literacy rate of northwest Pakistan (excluding Peshawar) is 22 percent, which is well below the nationwide rate of 56 percent. Among which 35.8 percent of men and 7.5 percent of women receive education in the area, compared to a nationwide 44 percent of women.

Critics believe that after the attempts of sabotaging education system by the militants, the responsible authorities are not making any notable efforts to rebuild the education structure in the effected places.

However, the authorities are of the view that they don't have enough amount of budget allocation for the uplift of education system in the effected areas as their immediate task is to maintain law and order situation and protect the lives of people in the troubled areas.

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12. Militant Attack In Kurram: Soldier Killed, 12 Injured

Monday, 06 February 2012

<http://www.dawn.com/2012/02/07/militant-attack-in-kurram-soldier-killed-12-injured.html>

A soldier was killed and 12 injured after militants attacked a vehicle of security forces in Shaheedano Dhand area of Lower Kurram Agency near Pak-Afghan border on Monday.

Officials of local administration said militants first hurled explosives at the vehicle and then began firing gunshots at it leaving one soldier dead and 12 injured.

They said the injured were shifted to the Combined Military Hospital in Thall town of Hangu district.

Officials said the security personnel returned fire and forced militants into fleeing.

Two days ago, eight soldiers were killed and five kidnapped after militants attacked a convoy of security forces in the same area. The kidnapped soldiers are still missing.

In Charsadda district, militants blew up a government primary school for girls in a village in Shabqadar tehsil on Sunday night.

Villagers said the school building crumbled after explosives planted at night exploded. Police and bomb disposal squad showed up shortly after the blast and collected evidence.

Officials said at least six kilograms of explosives were used in the attack. They said police had begun a hunt for the perpetrators of the blast in the area.

In Bara tehsil of Khyber Agency, two people were killed and one injured in two separate incidents over the last two days.

Among the dead is a Malakdinkhel resident, who was kidnapped by militants two days ago. His headless body was later dumped in Gud Malang area.

No group claimed responsibility for the killing. Name of the dead couldn't be ascertained. In another incident, a youth, Bilal, died and his friend Adnan injured after a stray mortar shell fell on a house in Meri Khel area.

Meanwhile, families of five injured terror suspects from Bara have alleged that their members were denied proper treatment at Peshawar's Lady Reading Hospital.

According to officials of local political administration, these suspects, all workers of a local plastic factory, including Shabbir Khan, Naqeeb Khan, Niaz Mohammad, Said Alam and Alif Khan, were critically injured after security forces fired at their van near Alamgudar on January 29. The driver, Yousaf, who also suffered injures, went away.

They were shifted to ICRC Hospital in Peshawar by their relatives but were taken into custody two days later by personnel of an intelligence agency before being moved to Lady Reading Hospital, where they are kept under tight police security.

Officials said the van driver, who was also suspected of having contacts with a local banned militant organisation, was on the run. When contacted, parents of the captured workers denied that their sons had any links with a militant organisation.

Meanwhile, Ghulam Farooq, political tehsildar of Bara, said his administration was trying to verify the identity of the intelligence agency that picked up factory workers from ICRC Hospital. “We have no knowledge of the incident whatsoever and are now investigating the matter,” he told Dawn.

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13. Three Civilians Injured In North Baghdad Explosion

Wednesday, 08 February 2012

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/\(S\(lrtjmh45rzhi5355leqvjv45\)\)/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=146830&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/(S(lrtjmh45rzhi5355leqvjv45))/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=146830&l=1)

Three Iraqi civilians have been injured in an explosive charge blast in northeast Baghdad's Uteifiya district on Wednesday, a police source reported.

"An explosive charge, planted under a civilian car, has blown up on Wednesday morning in northeast Baghdad's Uteifiya district, wounding its driver and 2 other civilians that happened to be close to the venue of the blast, and causing severe damage to the vehicle," the police source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

He said the 3 injured men were driven to a nearby hospital, whilst the venue of the explosion had been cordoned off, and an investigation has been opened into the incident.

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14. Eight Civilians Injured In Two North Baghdad Explosions

Tuesday, 07 February 2012

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/\(S\(lrtjmh45rzhi5355leqvjv45\)\)/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=146821&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/(S(lrtjmh45rzhi5355leqvjv45))/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=146821&l=1)

At least 8 Iraqi civilians have been injured, including some seriously, in 2 successive explosions in north Baghdad's Suleikh district on Tuesday, a security source reported.

"Two explosive charges have blown up successively in north Baghdad's Suleikh district, wounding 8 civilians, some who were seriously injured and taken to a nearby hospital for treatment," the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

He said the explosions have caused damage to a number of nearby buildings and vehicles.

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15. Four Wounded In Three Bomb Blasts In Tikrit

Saturday, 05 February 2012

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/\(S\(lrtjmh45rzhi5355leqvjv45\)\)/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=146787&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/(S(lrtjmh45rzhi5355leqvjv45))/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=146787&l=1)

Four people, including a cop, were wounded in three bomb explosions south of Tikrit, security sources said today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the first bomb was directed against a police patrol in Ishaqi area, 110 km south of Tikrit city; the second exploded when the civilians were gathered to rescue the first bomb casualties, which led to injuring two, then the third one exploded, wounding another civilian.

No other details were given.

Tikrit, the center of Salah al-Din province, lies 175 km north of the capital, Baghdad.

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16. Two Juveniles Killed While Planting A Bomb In Mosul

Saturday, 04 February 2012

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/\(S\(lrtjmh45rzhi5355leqvjv45\)\)/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=146783&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/(S(lrtjmh45rzhi5355leqvjv45))/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=146783&l=1)

Two juveniles were killed while planting a bomb in east of Mosul, security sources said here today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the two gunmen, 13 and 15 years, were trying to plant the bomb when it exploded.

No other details were given.

Mosul, center of Ninewa province, lies 405 km north of the capital, Baghdad.

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17. Alarming Number Of Explosives In Aden

Monday, 06 February 2012

<http://yementimes.com/en/1544/news/300/Alarming-number-of-explosives-in-Aden.htm>

Seven displaced children were injured after playing with an explosive device in Aden on Wednesday. Around 17,000 explosive remnants of war and land mines were removed from Abyan since June 2011, according to The Yemen Mine Action Committee (YEMAC) in Aden.

The area is not yet clear of explosives, it warned, though some roads – including the main road to Zunjubar – and a number of residential neighborhoods are now safe.

“Seven displaced children were injured in Al-Qadisea school in Aden a few days ago, the children were playing with an explosive object,” said Qaid Saleh, director of the (YEMAC) Aden branch. He added that the vast majority of explosive objects reported and retrieved were locally made and thus more dangerous.

Since May, around 100,000 people fled from Abyan to Aden and Lahj due to the violent clashes between the state, militant groups, and Islamic militias who took over different districts in Abyan governorate. Those Internally Displaced People (IDPs) have been placed with host communities as well as public schools and other premises in Aden and Lahj. According to YEMAC, some have brought armory and explosive materials into the host communities.

In response, YEMAC has devised a comprehensive plan to undertake a massive public education and awareness campaign in response to the community needs in partnership with civil society and humanitarian partners.

Gustavo Gonzalez, UNDP/Yemen senior country director, told the Yemen Times that they are supporting YEMAC’s efforts in the campaign, stating that the UNDP is supporting the establishment of a network for Mine Risk Education comprising of local NGOs and international humanitarian partners under the leadership of YEMNAC. This network aims at targeting 200,000 people affected by conflict to help them become aware of the dangers and mitigating the risks in dealing with mines and unexploded ordinance.

According to Saleh of YEMAC, the militant groups implant mines and explosive devices randomly and in unpredictable locations. He stated that if the mines were implanted in a more strategic pattern, mine clearance and disposal would be an easier job. “The danger is high now that some IDPs have returned to Abyan, as they are actually in areas that mines were implanted in,” he added.

Evidently, some of the IDPs in Aden who have been repatriated to Abyan are now at risk of losing their lives due to the random blasts and mines, hazardous and unexploded ordinances.

The YEMAC does not have clear maps on the risk areas with mines or that have witnessed conflict. These areas are also considered unsafe due to the continued presence of militant groups’ and the likelihood of a relapse into conflict.

Saleh further indicated that the clearance of the road between Aden and Abyan included significant risks for the clearance teams, but it was a priority given that this road is like a life vein for the communities across the governorates of Aden and Abyan. He added that before the road was cleared, many displaced people who tried to get from Zunjubar to Aden or vice versa were at risk of losing their lives due to the random fights in the alternative road – which includes an eight-hour drive across conflict areas in Abyan and Lahj.

Abdullah Sarhan, a member of the clearance team at YEMAC, Aden, told the Yemen Times that working on clearing Abayn's road is like "being in the middle of a battle".

"One of our colleagues was killed and another six were injured," said Sarhan, "this is how we work." The team consists of seven groups that work in coordination with a military force ensuring that the road is safe and not targeted during the clearance operation. Once the explosive remnants are collected they are disposed of them by professional means.

Despite the risks and costs, the YEMAC teams seem persistent in continuing their work in the governorate. The clearance also helped the delivery of humanitarian aid and foodstuffs into the governorate, particularly through local residents and informal social welfare networks.

Gonzalez has praised the work of YEMAC, stating that Yemen is one of the few countries in the world having a strong and reliable national Institution [YEMAC] dealing with mine-related activities.

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18. Two Children Martyred, A Third Woman Wounded In IED Blast In Idleb; Explosives Seized Friday, 03 February 2012

<http://www.sana.sy/eng/337/2012/02/03/398259.htm>

Two children were martyred, a third was wounded when an explosive device planted by an armed terrorist group went off in Kafar Takharim in the countryside of Idleb province on Friday.

A source from the province told SANA reporter that the explosive device was remotely detonated in the middle of Kafar Takharim city, killing Ahmad Bassam al-Bahri and Ahmad Abdul-Rahman Dweilati and wounding a third child who was taken to the National Hospital in Idleb.

The source said that the children are 12-14 years of age, adding that two other citizens were injured in the explosive device blast.

Authorities Seize Weapons, Ammo and Explosives During Pursuit of Terrorists in Damascus Countryside

The authorities on Friday seized firearms, ammunition and explosive devices while pursuing remnants of armed terrorist groups in Douma area in Damascus Countryside.

Confiscated weapons include a number of AK-47 rifles, a machineguns, hand grenades, magazines, large amounts of ammo, and a number of explosive devices set for remote detonation, each weighing 10 kilograms and containing shrapnel and metal fragments, in addition to materials used for making explosives.

Several cars used by terrorists in their attacks on citizens and law enforcement forces were also seized.

2 Law Enforcement Members Injured in Explosive Device Blast in Hama, Diesel Tanker Seized by Terrorists

Meanwhile in Hama province, two law enforcement members were injured in a blast of an explosive device planted by an armed terrorist group in al-Furussiyeh roundabout.

In the same context, the military engineering units dismantled two explosive devices prepared to explode by a remote control in housing areas to the west of the plant nursery and to the south of the stadium in the city of Hama.

An armed terrorist group burglarized a diesel tanker in Amourin village in Hama countryside.

SANA reporter said that the tanker was heading to a gas station in al-Sqeilbiyeh city.

8 Terrorists Killed, Officer Martyred in Clashes with Terrorists

An armed terrorist group attacked on Friday the border guards command headquarter in al-Dar al-Kabira village in Homs countryside. 3 terrorists were killed in the attack and others were injured.

SANA correspondent said that Colonel Ayman Muhammad al-Ali was martyred in the attack and one of the guards was injured.

In al-Lajj in Homs countryside, competent authorities clashed with an armed group, killing five terrorists and injuring many others. 4 law-enforcement members were injured.

In Daraa countryside, a land mine planted by a terrorist group exploded near the wall of Jassem elementary school which caused the wall to collapse. Another mine primed to explode was discovered in the same area.

In Nawa, five military personnel and a lawyer were injured by terrorists' gunfire. SANA correspondent said that lawyer Jamal Abu Zattan was injured when an armed group opened fire on the military personnel as he was passing nearby.

Terrorist Groups Rob Quarry in Palmyra, Steal 8 Tons of Fertilizer in Zabadani

An armed terrorist group stole two bulldozers, a generator and a car from Abu al-Fawares quarry owned by Ministry of Oil in Palmyra.

SANA correspondent said that the terrorist group vandalized the quarry

In Zabadani, Damascus countryside, an armed terrorist group stole 8 tons of fertilizer from the agricultural bank in the city for using it in manufacturing explosive devices. The terrorist group also stole the car of the bank's manager.

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19. IED Factory Discovered In Damascus

Sunday, 05 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=ru&tl=en&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sana.sy%2Frus%2F341%2F2012%2F02%2F05%2F398532.htm>

In the province of Homs in the city of Tadmor armed group attacked a section of the security forces, resulting in 8 people were killed. Several terrorists neutralized and destroyed.

In the village of Al-Hosn province of Homs armed militants attacked a police station, killing three police officer.

In the area of Al-Daban province near the city of Homs Hres military engineer units were neutralized four explosive devices weighing 10 kg each, joined together and equipped with remote control.

In the city of Idleb in an attack by armed terrorist groups in the police station killed a police sergeant Wasim Kahilya, two police officers were injured. Several terrorists were killed and wounded.

In the province of Damascus security forces discovered two underground factories for the production of explosive devices

In the suburbs of Damascus in the Barzu was discovered two underground factories for the production of explosive devices, where there were dozens of homemade bombs weighing up to 20 kg and a large batch of chemicals for their manufacture.

In the city of Latakia in the Al-Shaab Masbah intelligence officers found several explosive devices with remote control, embedded between the houses. All of them are cleared.

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20. Turkish Security Forces Seize Explosives in Batman Province

Saturday, 04 February 2012

<http://english.sabah.com.tr/National/2012/02/04/air-strike-staged-on-pkk-terrorists>

F-16 fighter planes took off from Diyarbakır's 2nd Air Force Command yesterday and bombed the PKK terrorist organization's Zap Camp located in Northern Iraq.

An announcement released on the General Staff website states the following: "Based on exploration and target analysis conducted in the northern Iraqi region, three targets (shelters) belonging to the terrorist organization were located in the Zap region and successfully struck by aircraft belonging to Turkey's Air Forces on February 3rd, 2012. Having successfully completed their mission, our planes have returned safely to their base."

In another incident, gendarmerie and Special Forces teams staged a joint operation in Batman based on intelligence analysis and killed five PKK terrorists in a cave. The operation took place yesterday morning at 7:30 am in a cave located in the rural region of the Günyayla village in Kozluk. According to the information obtained, a higher level member of the terrorist organization was killed in the attack. A kilo and a half of explosives were confiscated from the cave in addition to a Dragunov sharpshooter and other automatic weapons as well as hand grenades.

Meanwhile, the Batman Governorship expressed that certain media organs have released the news that the operation was staged by Batman police. "However," they clarified, "This information does not reflect the truth; the operation was successfully executed by teams from the Batman gendarmerie and police special forces."

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21. Patek Spent Weeks Preparing Bali Bombs, Say Prosecutors

Wednesday, 08 February 2012

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/patek-spent-weeks-preparing-bali-bombs-say-prosecutors/story-e6fmg6so-1226265228315>

Umar Patek, the last major terrorist figure to be tried over the 2002 Bali bombings, spent three weeks preparing the explosives and making the bombs that destroyed 202 lives, Indonesian prosecutors will allege this month.

The 45-year-old veteran of two decades of alleged terrorist activity in Indonesia, the southern Philippines, Afghanistan and Pakistan will face six criminal charges.

The Bali bombing charge, premeditated murder, carries a maximum penalty of death and a minimum term of 20 years.

A panel of judges will be selected today for Patek's trial in West Jakarta District Court and is then expected to decide a starting date on Monday. Fifteen prosecutors have prepared the case against Patek, extradited from Pakistan last August, who will be tried under massive security. Up to 80 witnesses will be called, including Australian survivors of the bombing that killed 88 compatriots.

Having been trained in explosives-making in an Afghan mujaheddin camp in the Pakistan borderlands in the early 1990s, Patek was recruited into the Bali conspiracy in September 2002 by Abdul Matin, better known as Dulmatin, and Imam Samudra, prosecutors will allege.

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"When staying in Dulmatin's rental house (in Solo) the defendant was met by Imam Samudra, who asked him to kill foreigners, or foreign tourists in Bali, using bombs," the indictment alleges.

Samudra was one of three terrorists executed in November 2008 over Bali and Dulmatin was killed by an anti-terrorist police ambush outside Jakarta in March 2010.

Working in a rented house in Denpasar with another Afghanistan campaign veteran, Sawad, Patek finished the high-explosive mixture two days before the Kuta bombings, according to a 50-page indictment lodged on Monday.

He allegedly then helped master bombmaker Azahari bin Husin -- killed in 2005 by Indonesian anti-terrorist police -- and Dulmatin to assemble the Mitsubishi L300 van-bomb that detonated outside the Sari Club in Kuta.

"After the explosive material had been made the defendant, along with Dr Azahari and Sawad, put the black powder into four sets of filing cabinets, while Dulmatin assembled an electronic bomb (detonation) series," the prosecutors allege.

The remainder of the powder went into the backpack that a suicide bomber detonated 20 seconds earlier inside Paddy's Club and a smaller device that exploded outside the US consulate. The indictment alleges Patek left Bali for Java the day before the bombings.

He travelled first to Surabaya and then to Solo, where a week later he met "to evaluate the Bali bombings" with Dulmatin, Amrozi Nurhaysim (also executed in 2008), Ali Imron, Sawad and Abdul Ghoni (all serving life terms) and Idris, who escaped conviction for Bali but got 10 years for the 2003 JW Marriott attack.

Patek will also be charged over church bombings on Christmas Eve 2000 in which 16 people died.

The indictment alleges that Patek travelled with Dulmatin to Malaysia in 1991 to study at the radical Lukmanul Hakim Islamic boarding school under Ali Ghufron, known as Mukhlas, who was also executed in 2008 for his part in the Bali affair.

Later that year Mukhlas organised for the pair to go to a mujaheddin training camp on the Pakistan side of the Afghanistan border, where they met Ali Imron and Samudra.

Between 1996 and 1998 he was mostly involved in the southern Philippines "struggle" with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the indictment alleges.

Fleeing Indonesia after the Bali bombings, Patek returned to The Philippines and the MILF with his Filipina wife Ruqayyah binti Husen, who is now serving a 27-month term in Indonesia.

They were arrested by Pakistani security forces in January last year in Abbottabad, the town where US special forces four months later killed al-Qa'ida founder and leader Osama bin Laden.

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22. Haroon Naik An Expert At Making Bombs

Monday, 06 February 2012

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/Mumbai/Haroon-Naik-an-expert-at-making-bombs/Article1-807313.aspx>

Haroon Rashid Abdul Hamid Naik - who was arrested from a Wadala lodge in August for running a counterfeit currency racket and later booked for his purported role in the 13/7 blasts - is allegedly an expert bomb maker.

Naik, affiliated to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and al-Qaeda since 2000, was trained to make high-grade explosives with precision in Pakistan, said sources from the anti-terrorism squad (ATS). The circuit diagrams that Naik drew during his interrogation revealed his skills as an expert bomb maker, said police sources. Naik could even handle a complex formula and is adept at handling a C4, a military grade explosive.

Naik underwent the basic LeT course of Daura-e-Aam and Daura-e-Khaas training at Bahawalpur. After he showed interest in fighting against the Northern Alliance and the US forces in Afghanistan, he was given the Bait-ur-Rizwan training. In this course -allegedly imparted by Pakistan's crack Special Services Group's Zarar Company, Bahawalpur - he was trained in handling explosives.

Naik has identified a serving Pakistan army general as his handler. The general now handles Riyaz Bhatkal, said police sources. Naik, who used the border of Bangladesh and Nepal to enter India, visited various states in the country.

The state ATS is now investigating the reasons behind his visit to these states and whether he was key to Indian Mujahideen's (IM) reconnaissance plots. The investigation has spread to 18 states with all major counter-terrorist units in the country being informed about the visits, said police sources. He had left for Saudi Arabia in 2005 to operate from there by posing as a businessman.

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23. Maoist Explosive Stockpile Seized In Koraput

Monday, 06 February 2012

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/explosives-stocked--by-maoists-seized/227671-60-117.html>

Huge quantity of explosives stocked by Maoists were recovered by security forces during combing operation in the district, police said on Sunday.

“At least 282 gelatin sticks, each weighing 125 grams, 10 bundles of live wire, 28 tiffin boxes used to pack landmines and other Maoist belongings were recovered from a forest in Machkund area on Saturday evening,” they said. “The explosives were dumped inside the forest in a plastic drum. Security personnel chanced upon the dumped explosives and recovered them,” Koraput Superintendent of Police Avinash Kumar said.

“As no one was present at the spot, no arrest has been made,” he said.

“The Maoists had probably stocked the explosive materials for use during the ensuing panchayat elections in the State to disrupt the process,” Kumar added. Combing operation and patrolling have been intensified in the area after the seizure.

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24. Explosives Seized In Chintamani

Monday, 06 February 2012

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/225126/explosives-seized-chintamani.html>

Police seized large amounts of explosives and arrested a person from Andhra Pradesh with charges of transporting dangerous explosives on Monday near Maadikere Cross on the outskirts of Chintamani.

The person arrested is identified as Altaf from Madanapalli. Tipped off, a team was formed under the leadership of Assistant Superintendent Ramesh Banoth, Superintendent of police Suryaprakash and Girish traced Altaf and arrested him.

Police seized 193 gelatin sticks, 50 kg worth ammonium nitrate, filled in three bags, 100 kg gun powder, 800 electric and other explosives were seized.

“We got information that a consignment of explosives is being transported from Madanapalli in Andhra Pradesh to Santekallahalli in Chintamani. Reason behind transportation of such large amount of explosives is not known yet. We will be able to get the proper information on reasons, only after the investigation,” said ASP Ramesh Banoth.

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25. Authorities Seize Explosives In Ranchi

Thursday, 02 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=hi&tl=en&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.jhpolice.gov.in%2Fnode%2F4647>

The search operation carried out in the woods Kodda of Bundu in Ranchi police success. Maoists hiding in the jungle held large amounts of explosives and weapons were seized. Saket Kumar Singh of Ranchi SSP was reported that the secret of Bundu Kodda and militants are roaming in the woods between the village Tolsandih. They are heavily armed. Maoists are trying to accomplish a major incident. Information on the SSP and the CRPF's 196 Battalion - Bundu in directed search in the forest drive. Ranchi, led by Rural SP Asim Vikrant Minj Kodda of Bundu, Tolsandih Tilaipeedhi area and search operation was launched in the woods. SSP said it was a great success. If the Maoists are successful in their intent was a major event can happen.

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26. Explosive Recovered At Haflong

Thursday, 02 February 2012

<http://www.assamtimes.org/hot-news/5974.html>

In a joint search in the Up Barak Valley express at Lower Haflong station in Dima Hasao district of Assam, the GRP, RPF and train escort party recovered huge quantity of explosive in two ownerless plastic bags covered with old clothes at 8.15 PM on Wednesday.

These explosive comprising 200 nos of detonators, 200 nos of gelatin sticks and 14 mts of fuse wire were kept in a general coach of Barak Valley express.

GRP personal said these materials might be transported to mainland for subversive activities by some terrorist organizations and use people from labour class for the transportation of these explosives.

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27. Four BSF Officers Killed, Two Injured In IED Blast In Odisha

Friday, 10 February 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/4-BSF-officers-killed-2-injured-in-IED-blast-in-Odisha/articleshow/11837623.cms>

Four BSF officers, including a Commanding Officer, were killed while two others were injured in an IED blast by suspected Maoists in Malkangiri district of Odisha.

BSF director general U K Bansal has rushed to the spot, which is next to the Balimela reservoir, infamous for the deadly Naxal ambush in June 2008 when 38 Greyhound commandos of Andhra Pradesh police were killed when they were crossing the water body in a boat.

The BSF squad travelling a jeep was targeted at Balimela culvert at around 1 PM in the Janbai area of the district, under Chitragonda police station, 465 km from here.

The jungles here are a Naxal hotbed as it touches the borders of two other states - Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh - making it a corridor for Maoists.

According to initial reports, the officers were returning in the vehicle after attending a security meeting with the district administration for forthcoming Panchayat elections in the state.

The victims have been identified as Commandant (107 battalion) J R Khaswan, his Second-in-Command Rajesh Sharan, inspector Ashok Yadav and assistant sub-inspector and radio operator of the squad Jitendra.

The two other troopers who were injured have been identified as constables Bishnu Panigrahi and S K Kundu.

Kundu was driving the ill-fated BSF vehicle. A BSF unit is located close to the area where the blast occurred and the team was approaching it.

"A reinforcement contingent of joint security forces has been dispatched for search operations," a senior official said.

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28. Troops Clash With Abu Sayyaf, Recover IED Components

Wednesday, 08 February 2012

<http://mindanaoexaminer.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2012-02-09T14:11:00%2B08:00&max-results=7>

Troops recovered chemicals used for manufacturing homemade explosives following a clash Wednesday with suspected Abu Sayyaf gunmen in the southern Filipino port city of Zamboanga, officials said.

Officials said soldiers chased four armed men who escaped on the village of Landang Laum where the fighting occurred at around 9.45 a.m.

“There were no reports of casualties on both sides. We recovered a boat, IED components, electrical wires, a 9-volt battery, blasting cap and ammonium nitrate, said Army Colonel Buenaventura Pascual, commander of an anti-terror task force in Zamboanga.

He said among the four men were the notorious Pingli brothers who were involved in the kidnapping of three government teachers - Freires Quizon, Janette delos Reyes and Rafael Mayorada - in Zamboanga City in 2009.

“The gunmen were a local group, but connected with the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan province, and involved in the kidnapping of the three teachers three years ago,” Pascual told the Mindanao Examiner.

He said more troops and government militias were deployed in Zamboanga to track down the gunmen. It was unknown whether the men were planning a terror attack or kidnapping in Zamboanga City.

The Abu Sayyaf is still holding two Malaysians, a Japanese national, an Indian man, an Australian citizen and three Filipinos in Basilan and Sulu provinces. A Dutch and a Swiss wildlife photographers were also kidnapped last week in Tawi-Tawi province.

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29. Explosive Device Found Near School In North Cotabato

Friday, 03 February 2012

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/246727/news/regions/report-explosive-device-found-near-school-in-north-cotabato>

An improvised explosive device (IED) was found near a school in Midsayap town in North Cotabato province Thursday night.

The IED was recovered around 10:45 p.m. across the Midsayap Central Elementary School, according to a report Friday on Radyo Mo Nationwide (RMN).

RMN quoted Midsayap deputy police head Inspector Enilo Galilea as saying the IED was also positioned near the municipal plaza.

Police suspect the motive for putting the IED there was more to instill fear among residents, the RMN report added.

An initial investigation showed the IED was made from a 60-mm mortar and was wired to a nine-volt battery, with a cellular phone as the triggering device.

The RMN report said an Explosives and Ordnance team conducted a controlled detonation of the device.

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30. VBIED In Mogadishu Kills Eleven

Wednesday, 08 February 2012

<http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/295446/20120208/somalia-al-shabab-european-union-qaeda.htm>

A suicide car bomb left at least 11 people dead, and many more injured, in Mogadishu, the Somali capital. The militant Islamist group al-Shabab, which has reportedly connections to al-Qaeda, claimed responsibility for the Wednesday attack.

The vehicle, packed with explosives, detonated at a café in the center of Mogadishu's government district, near a hotel that is popular among Somali government officials.

The Somali capital is now technically controlled by the government and African Union forces after an al-Shabab withdrawal in August, yet the terrorist group still regularly threatens the city's security.

"We were behind the explosion at the Muna Hotel. We targeted legislators and government officials," Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Masab, an al-Shabab spokesman, told Reuters. A police spokesman said that one legislator was "slightly injured," Reuters reported.

The European Union's new special envoy to the Horn of Africa, Alexander Rondos, was reportedly in the hotel during the latest attack to meet with Somali government officials.
Must Read

The bombing comes just a few weeks ahead of a scheduled London conference that will address the security situation in Somalia. Ironically, the British Foreign Secretary William Hague was in Somalia just a week ago.

Somalia has lacked a competent central government since 1991, and much of the nation is currently controlled by militia groups. The government in Mogadishu relies on troops from the African Union for its security and stability.

Wednesday's bombing was reminiscent of an al-Shabab attack on the same Muna hotel in 2010, when 30 people were killed after armed militants stormed the facility dressed as army personnel.

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31. Suicide Bomber Kills Two In Central Somalia Attack

Tuesday, 31 January 2012

<http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2012/01/suicide-bomber-kills-two-in-central-somalia-attack/>

At least two people were killed on Tuesday when a suicide bomber attacked the house of a senior militia commander in the central Somali town of Galkayo, officials said.

“A man wearing an explosive vest blew himself up after he was stopped by security guards” as he tried to enter the main gate of Abdi Hasan Qeybdiid, a former police chief and warlord, said local security official Abdisalan Mohamed.

“There was a shootout between him and the guards, before a big explosion that shook the main gate, killing two guards and the bomber,” Mohamed said, adding that four people were injured but that Qeybdiid was not hurt.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, the latest in a string of blasts including roadside bombs and grenade explosions set off in recent months in the war-torn Horn of Africa nation.

Most have been set off inside the Somali capital Mogadishu, where Islamist Shabaab insurgents have largely pulled out of fixed positions and switched to guerrilla tactics against the weak Western-backed government.

Galkayo straddles the border between the separate self-proclaimed independent regions of Puntland and Galmudug, both of which oppose the Al-Qaeda linked Shabaab, who control Somali regions further south.

“The man argued with the guards before he started shooting at them with a pistol, then after a few minutes he blew himself up,” said Abdukadir Ahmed, a witness.

“There are pieces of human flesh at the front gate of the house, which was damaged by the blast,” he added.

A lack of effective central government since Somalia plunged into civil war two decades ago has allowed a flourishing of militias, Islamist insurgents and pirate gangs ruling mini-fiefdoms.

The Shabaab insurgents control large parts of central and southern Somalia but are facing increasing pressure from government forces and regional armies.

Armies from neighbouring countries are converging on the Shabaab – Kenyan forces in the south, Ethiopia’s army in the south and west, and 10,000 African Union soldiers in Mogadishu from Uganda, Burundi and Djibouti.

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32. Al-Qaeda's Hand In Boko Haram's Deadly Attacks

Sunday, 05 February 2012

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/al-qaeda/9062825/Al-Qaedas-hand-in-Boko-Harams-deadly-Nigerian-attacks.html>

The radical Islamist group, based in northern Nigeria, once specialised in robbing banks and attacking defenceless Christian congregations. In the past month, however, its gunmen or suicide bombers have struck 21 times, killing at least 253 people.

The Daily Telegraph understands this transformation has come about partly because of the help Boko Haram has received from al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), a branch of the international terrorist network based in the Saharan states of Mali, Niger and Algeria.

Boko Haram demonstrated its new potency on Jan 20, when at least 100 of the movement's fighters executed eight assaults in Nigeria's northern city of Kano, overwhelming the security forces and killing 185 people.

This operation bore all the hallmarks of al-Qaeda: a mixture of suicide bombers and gunmen, some in police or army uniform, carried out multiple, carefully coordinated attacks on hard targets.

Boko Haram destroyed two police stations and the regional police headquarters, and damaged the local office of the State Security Service, Nigeria's version of MI5.

Related Articles

Al-Qaeda's influence was also evident from the choice of weapons: car bombs exploded outside some targets, while police found caches of "improvised explosive devices", with detonators and shrapnel packed into soft drinks cans.

Since then, Boko Haram has kept up the momentum, launching night raids on two more police stations in Kano.

Officials and experts in the Nigerian capital of Abuja believe Boko Haram has learnt its new capabilities from AQIM. Niger, a key operating theatre for AQIM, shares a largely unmarked frontier with Nigeria, spanning 900 miles of desert and scrub.

Boko Haram probably has little need for weapons or money as its fighters are accomplished bank robbers and whenever they raid a police station, they usually empty the armoury. AQIM's contribution is most likely to be in tactics and expertise, with Boko Haram fighters taken out of Nigeria for training.

While the country has a long history of political and religious violence, experts point to the novelty of Boko Haram's techniques.

"Suicide bombing was, until recently, something we saw in the movies," said Chinedu Nwagu, a security analyst from the Cleen Foundation, which monitors Nigeria's justice system.

"People never thought that anybody here would do that."

The Kano attacks, he added, showed a degree of "coordination that you would not just pick up without very specialised training".

Abubakar Tsav, a former Nigerian police commissioner, said: "They [Boko Haram] clearly have some connections with outsiders."

Once, Boko Haram would steer clear of the security forces and strike largely undefended targets. Today, its fighters frequently outclass and outgun their opponents. "Their weapons and tactics are clearly superior to those used by the Nigerian police," said Yahaya Ibrahim Shinko, a retired Nigerian army officer and security analyst.

If AQIM has passed on training and expertise, it may also transmit al-Qaeda's world view and its international targets. Britain, which is home to an estimated 150,000 Nigerians, could be vulnerable.

So far Boko Haram's agenda has been entirely domestic and there is no evidence the leadership aims to strike outside the country.

Mr Nwagu said: "Boko Haram is very inviting for whatever influences there might be out there."

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33. Army Thwarts Attempted FARC Bombing

Tuesday, 07 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=es&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eof=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.icndiario.com%2F2012%2F02%2F07%2Fcolombia-ejercito-frustra-nuevo-intento-de-atentado-de-las-farc%2F>

APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION:

Troops of the Twenty-third Brigade assigned to Task Force Pegasus, foiled another terrorist plot of the FARC, to find a cove with 1,004 explosive devices in rural areas of the municipality of Tumaco.

The place where they were hiding these explosive devices were located by intelligence work developed by the Forest Battalion No. 53 "Cr Francisco Jose Gonzalez "in the La Espriella, rural area of the municipality of Tumaco.

Buried in the middle of a weed, the officers found 1,004 IEDs, a changon, three Motorola radios and five kilos of rusty barbed wire and cut to be inserted into these devices and cause deadly infections to the staff affected by them.

The explosive devices apparently would be used by members of the Daniel Aldana mobile column of FARC, to carry out attacks against civilians, military and police stations in different parts of the municipality of Nariño.

The process of prosecution was conducted by the National Police assigned to Task Force Pegasus with the support of the Anti-Narcotics Brigade who facilitated the air support.

Colonel Luis Cardozo Emilio Santamaria, Commander of the Twenty-third Brigade, explained that this seizure, neutralized the intentions of the FARC, attacking civilians and security forces deployed in this area. In addition, calls the community to report Narino and provide information which would enable the capture of alias "Oliver" by whom the national government offers a reward of 400 million pesos, and Alias "Rambo", the head of the column Daniel Aldana moving the FARC, a reward of up to 1,500 million pesos.

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34. Police Discover FARC HME, IEDs

Sunday, 05 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=es&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elpilon.com.co%2Finicio%2Fpolicia-hallo-material-explosivo-perteneciente-al-frente-41-de-las-farc%2F>

APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION:

Explosion-proof Efectivos specialized institution of slaughter achieved a significant amount of explosive material belonging to the front 41 of the FARC in events that occurred on January 3 this year in the afternoon.

It should be noted that the police operation was conducted in the village of El Coso, mountainous area of the Serrania del Perija, jurisdiction of the Crescent Township, as far as I uniformed personnel of the institution and anti-explosive experts who destroyed the explosives in a controlled manner without causing damage to the environment.

Countering the criminal actions of the terrorists of the FARC, the National Police personnel, by information provided by the community achieved the discovery of 02 bags of sisal in the interior of which was found 01 white plastic dustbin with 30 kilograms of explosive material gray , homemade (ammonal), 20 improvised explosive devices in PVC pipe containers of different sizes, made up as follows: 10 in the form of fan-type mines, 10 anti-personnel mines way, each loaded with 250 grams of explosive ammonal and shrapnel, 01 flash camera used for the activation of related explosives, 03 kilograms of metal fragments used as shrapnel, 15 fuses with two detonators impact of handmade, used to activate explosive devices thrown from a distance (cylinders), 04 hand grenades, model IM-26, No marks and numbers, 01 grenade plastic body, olive green, PRB-423 model and 04 jars of powder brand piroxilada Barragan.

Thus, the National Police of Colombia, is blocking the way to all groups outside the law who want to sow terror throughout the Colombian territory with terrorist actions.

The National Police is inviting the community to provide information that leads to the whereabouts of this class of explosives belonging to the groups denouncing illegal through lines 123, 156 and 165.

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35. Army Disarms IED In Arauquita

Friday, 03 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=es&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.prensalibrecasanare.com%2Farauca%2F2413-ejrcito-desactivu-carro-bomba-en-zona-rural-del-municipio-de-arauquita.html>

APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION:

Units of the Battalion Special Energy Road No. 1, effectively preventing the New World in the village, rural municipality of Arauquita, exactly in the place known as "The Devil's Curve", a terrorist attack against the security forces and the population civilian, who sought to make members of the company Uriel Londoño of the FARC.

After attending the call of the community, warning of the abandonment of a taxi-type vehicle, Chevrolet Optra, YAU plate 393 which was abandoned on the side of the road, the military units began operations in the area for the purpose to verify this information.

Respective records were made on the perimeter, finding a few meters a Chinese hat type improvised device, consisting of approximately 10 kilos of explosives that would be activated by remote control system, 2 radios 4 batteries and a packet of explosives that were located in the trunk of the taxi.

The material found was destroyed by a controlled Explosive Anti staff of the Army in conjunction with the Marine Corps. Meanwhile, the vehicle was successfully delivered to its owner who thanked the national army, to recover his taxi, which earns a livelihood for his family.

To date, since December 2011 have been thwarted 12 attacks on the Cano Limon oil pipeline and electricity pylons Coveñas, recovered 06 vehicles have been destroyed 610 kilos of explosives, have captured 10 members of armed groups , demobilized 06 people and seized 04 handguns, rifles 9, 1 point 50, a grenade launcher, and 17 grenades and ca 144 different cartridges; to throughout the Department.

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36. Army Discovers Over 1,400 IEDs In Tumaco

Monday, 06 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=es&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wradio.com.co%2Fnoticias%2Factualidad%2Fse-frustra-atentado-de-las-farc-en-narino%2F20120206%2Fnota%2F1619375.aspx>

APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION:

Troops of the Twenty-third Brigade assigned to Task Force Pegasus, foiled another terrorist plot of the FARC, to find a cove with 1,004 explosive devices in rural areas of the municipality of Tumaco.

The place where they were hiding these explosive devices were located through the work of intelligence developed by the Forest Battalion No. 53 "Cr Francisco Jose Gonzalez "in the La Espiella, rural area of the municipality of Tumaco.

Buried in the middle of a weed, the officers found 1,004 IEDs, a changon, three Motorola radios and five kilos of rusty barbed wire and cut to be inserted into these devices and cause deadly infections to the staff affected by them.

The explosive devices apparently would be used by members of the mobile column of the Farc Daniel Aldana, to carry out attacks against civilians, military and police stations in different parts of the municipality of Nariño.

The process of prosecution was conducted by the National Police assigned to Task Force Pegasus with the support of the Counternarcotics Brigade, who provided the air support.

Colonel Luis Cardozo Emilio Santamaria, commander of the Twenty-third Brigade, explained that this seizure neutralized the FARC's intentions of attacking civilians and security forces deployed in this area.

In addition, calls the community to report Narino and provide information which would enable the capture of alias "Oliver" by whom the national government offers a reward of 400 million pesos, and Alias "Rambo", the head of the column Daniel Aldana moving the FARC, a reward of up to 1,500 million pesos.

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37. Authorities Defuse 14 IEDs In Cauca

Saturday, 04 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=es&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eof=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elliberal.com.co%2Fliberal%2Fjudicial%2F107575-desactivan-otros-14-artefactos-explosivos-en-el-cauca>

APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION:

The National Police said in a statement the discovery and destruction in the village of La Cohetera Cajibío Township, in the department of Cauca five artifacts with a load of 15 kilograms of explosive R1 mixed with shrapnel.

However, no details added responsible for installing the apparatus.

In a rural area of the municipality of Miranda, also located in the Cauca, authorities found two more bombs of 40 kg each hidden in a bin of the local soccer field, confirmed to Caracol Radio the commander of the Apollo Task Force the Third Brigade of the Army, General Humberto Jerez.

As said, the FARC following orders of alias "Sergeant Pascual" were those who placed explosive devices "in the soccer field in the village of the municipality of Miranda Guatemala."

In the same village, troops of the Third Army Division in coordination with the National Police in the morning found a minefield consisting of three cylinders of 25 kg each, said Sherry told RCN Radio.

According to the official, these cylinders filled guerrillas "studs, nuts, screws, to affect the civilian population and military forces," so they proceeded to make a "controlled detonation to avoid problems, massacres, death and desolation."

Also in Jambaló (Cauca), bomb disposal experts dismantled four other artifacts that were to be used allegedly by the FARC against the police of the municipality, said the governor of Cauca, Themistocles Ortega during the funeral of one of the victims of the bombing Last Thursday in the town of Villa Rica.

General Jerez did not rule out the placement of these devices and the three car bombs off yesterday in Miranda and rural municipality of Pradera, Valle del Cauca, are part of a FARC offensive against Southwest.

These attempts are thwarted three attacks that were accomplished between Wednesday and Thursday in Tumaco, Pacific port city, and Thursday in the municipalities of Villa Rica (Cauca) and Cajamarca (Tolima), both in southwest country, who left in less than 24 hours 19 dead and 76 wounded.

The inhabitants of Tumaco forward today a march through the streets of downtown to protest against violence.

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While Colombian authorities blamed the FARC all these actions, the Americas director of Human Rights Watch, José Miguel Vivanco, called yesterday from Washington that the Government of Colombia to ensure "timely investigations, thorough and impartial."

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38. Authorities Defuse Two 40 Kg. IEDs In Cauca

Sunday, 05 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=es&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elnuevodia.com.co%2Fnuevodia%2Fmundo%2Fcolombia%2F131359-las-autoridades-arrecian-operativos-contr-la-guerrilla>

APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION:

In a rural area of the municipality of Miranda, located in Cauca, authorities found two bombs of 40 kilos of explosives hidden in cans, confirmed to Caracol Radio the commander of the Apollo Task Force of the Third Brigade of the Army, General Humberto Jerez .

In the same village, troops of the Third Army Division in coordination with the National Police in the morning found a minefield consisting of three cylinders of 25 kg each, said Sherry told RCN Radio.

Also in Jambaló (Cauca), bomb disposal experts dismantled four other artifacts that were to be used allegedly by the FARC against the police of the municipality, said the governor of Cauca, Themistocles Ortega during the funeral of one of the victims of the bombing Last Thursday in the town of Villa Rica.

According to Colonel Dario Antonio Valencia Trujillo, commander integral Polo Task Force, part of the Third Brigade of the national army, "if explosives had been detonated would have caused damage in approximately one block radius."

In other operations conducted by the security forces were seized in Sevilla Valle 40 fragmentation grenades. He was also disabled in the same town, a car bomb with 100 kilos of explosives.

The authorities have extreme measures to prevent reoccurrence of the tragic events of Villarrica and Tumaco.

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39. 700 Kg. Explosives Seized In Chaguani

Wednesday, 08 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cmi.com.co%2Fdefault.asp%3Fn%3D76453>

APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION:

Gauteng Police seized more than half a ton of explosives allegedly intended to use the FARC a terrorist in the center of the country

Authorities seized late on 10-cylinder pump Chaguani Township. The cylinders were loaded with 700 kilos of a powerful explosive called ANFO.

According to initial information obtained by the police, the explosives were in the front 22 of the FARC.

The police commander in Cundinamarca, Colonel Flavio Mesa, commented that the place was hidden ANFO was discovered thanks to information provided by informants.

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40. Army Destroys FARC Explosives In Cauca

Monday, 30 January 2012

http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=es&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eof=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.proclama.tutierra.net%2Findex.php%3Foption%3Dcom_content%26view%3Darticle%26id%3D6124%3Atropas-de-la-vigesima-novena-brigada-ubicaron-y-destruyeron-artefactos-explosivos-%26catid%3D19%3Anoticiassucesos%26Itemid%3D56

APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION:

In the village of Santana, Buenavista area known as the municipality of El Tambo (Cauca), in development of offensive operations Battalion of High Mountain No. 4 "General Benjamin Herrera Cortes", located and destroyed in a controlled large number of explosive devices improvised which would be used to undermine the integrity of the civilian population in the sector, the place was found the following material: 10 launch ramps, 400 meters of safety fuse, 29 driving charges, 67 black powder jars, 180 cartridges 7.62 mm, 85 rounds of 5.56 mm, 10 cylinders of 40 lbs. explosives, 300 meters of duplex cable, 20 cylinders of 40 lbs. 90 tatucos with explosives.

Military operations are being developed with the troops of the Twenty Ninth Brigade with the firm intention to neutralize any terrorist act by organizations outside the law, so is the invitation to the inhabitants of the department of Cauca to report any crime situation through hotlines 146 and 147 of the Army.

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41. Two Bombings In Southwest Colombia Leave 15 Dead

Friday, 03 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=es&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eof=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fnoticias.latam.msn.com%2Fco%2Ffotogaleria.aspx%3Fcp-documentid%3D32304191%26page%3D2>

APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION:

Two bombings at police stations that left 15 dead in two populations of southwestern Colombia, FARC guerrillas attributed to the led on Thursday to President Juan Manuel Santos to launch a major military buildup in the area.

The attacks "have no justification, and what they do is to avoid any possibility of peace," stressed the president from Tumaco, one of the two affected populations where held on Thursday a security council.

"Tumaco has suffered greatly, is designated as a strategic center for the 'narco-terrorism." We decided to intervene Tumaco with a unit of Marines and one Army. Will be more than 2,500 additional men, "said Santos.

It was also decided to increase the police force of 300 men.

In the attack on Tumaco, on Wednesday, 9 people were killed and 69 were injured. This is the third attack that people suffering this year, according to city officials.

While Santos was in Tumaco, a car bomb exploded Thursday outside a police station in the center of the town of Villa Rica, Cauca department (southwest), resulting in six dead and thirty wounded.

The dead are the commander of the police station and five bystanders, including two children, said a police spokesman told AFP in Cauca.

Like the Tumaco, this attack was also attributed by police to a front of the communist guerrilla Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) operating in the area.

In the case of the attack in Tumaco, the defense minister, Juan Carlos Pinzón said that was carried out by FARC in partnership with the criminal gang Los Rastrojos, who make drug traffickers and former paramilitaries.

"The FARC, in partnership with the Rastrojos are defending a drug trafficking route to the Pacific. What we have done is pure terrorism, and the force is to be used directly against these organizations," he said.

"We have made some arrests," he said.

The attacks came hours after FARC indefinitely postponed the release of five policemen and a soldier, kidnapped more than twelve years, claiming that the area where the produce delivery had been militarized.

The releases were announced in December as "a gesture of peace."

But Santos accused on Thursday of "hypocrites" to the FARC, that "on one hand talk about peace and on the other commit terrorist acts."

"The attacks are regrettable Tumaco and Villarica (...) With these actions, the FARC increasingly away any possibility of dialogue," wrote the Minister of Interior, Vargas Lleras, in your Twitter account.

The secretary general of the Organization of American States (OAS), José Miguel Insulza, condemned the "criminal attacks" in Colombia.

"These events represent an affront against the Colombian state and a despicable crime against the people who deserve the resounding rejection of the entire international community," he said in a statement.

From Mexico, the government of Felipe Calderon said in a statement condemned the recent "terrorist acts" in Colombia and sent sympathy to the families of the victims, the people of Colombia and President Santos.

The FARC guerrillas, founded in 1964, is the oldest in Latin America and currently has about 9,000 fighters, according to figures from the Ministry of Defence.

In recent years suffered heavy blows with the death in military operations of its leaders Jorge Briceño (Mono Jojoy), in 2010, and Alfonso Cano, in 2011.

However, their attacks have been increasing, especially against the police, while his new commander in chief, Timoleon Jimenez "Timoshenko" has proposed a direct dialogue to President Santos.

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42. FARC Claims Responsibility For Tumaco Bombing

Friday, 03 February 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/21999-farc-accepts-responsibility-for-tumaco-atrocity.html>

An alleged FARC guerrilla has accepted responsibility for a bombing which killed 11 people in the Pacific town of Tumaco Wednesday, according to newspaper El Espectador.

Authorities said bomb-making equipment had been found at rebel Gerard Chavez's house during a raid.

Police are still looking for alleged FARC members Gustavo Gonzalez Sanchez, alias "Rambo," and Oscar Armando Sinisterra Sevillana, alias "Oliver," believed to have masterminded the police station attack. At least 70 people were also injured.

The government has offered a reward of up to \$668,000 for information leading to their capture.

Another police station bombing the following day in the western town of Villa Rica, also attributed to the FARC, killed six people, including a 3-year-old child.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos called the FARC "hypocrites" Thursday for carrying out the attacks weeks after proposing new peace talks.

The United Nations condemned the attack in a statement released Friday.

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43. Six Killed In Gas Cylinder VBIED Attack In Cauca

Thursday, 02 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=es&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eof=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elnuevosiglo.com.co%2Farticulos%2F2-2012-cauca-seis-muertos-en-acto-con-cilindros-bomba.html>

APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION:

Explosion of gas cylinders installed in a van with plates of Ibagué in the municipality, leaving a balance of six people dead.

At about 12:45 pm today broke the cylinders that were in a blue van, Mazda, ICV-274 plates, Ibagué, opposite the police station, lane 3 with race 7.

The impact killed instantly commander of the police station, Mayor Guido Cifuentes. Two civilians, including a young man, died at the local hospital, while two others died in the hospital in Puerto Tejada. In a clinic in Cali a child died, said police commander Cauca, Col. Ricardo Alargón.

Juan Guillermo Mina, mayor of this town, described the incident as very unfortunate and confirmed six deaths.

Investigations are underway to establish the perpetrators of the attack, but authorities said that in this sector has a presence in front sixth of the FARC. The area is also present paramilitaries and drug traffickers.

4 of the 20 injured were taken to the Clínica Valle del Lili, Cali, where called for blood donors. The others were taken to the Hospital Francisco de Paula Santander, Puerto Tejada.

With this explosion was affected the local hospital, because it is near the police station. In addition, about 30 businesses and 4 homes showed damage.

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44. Santos Announces Measures To Prevent Terrorist Attacks

Sunday, 05 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=es&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elpilon.com.co%2Finicio%2Fsantos-anuncia-medidas-para-prevenir-atentados-terroristas%2F>

APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION:

The President, Juan Manuel Santos Calderon said yesterday during the Agreement for Prosperity in the town of Corozal (Sucre), the Government adopted additional measures to prevent further terrorist attacks by the FARC, after those of this week as a result left about 20 people dead and over 100 injured

By emphasizing that the actions still leave the main victims are civilians, the president said that the FARC weaken their position "to the world" and the country. "That is having a growing conviction in all communities, is also increasingly weakening their position in the world and of course to Colombians."

Off 14 other explosive devices (intertitle)

The National Police reported finding and destruction in the village of La Cohetera Cajibío Township, in the department of Cauca, five artifacts with a load of 15 kilograms of explosive R1 mixed with shrapnel.

In a rural area of the municipality of Miranda, also located in the Cauca, authorities discovered two bombs of 40 kg each hidden in a bin of the local soccer field, confirmed the commander of the Apollo Task Force of the Third Brigade Army General Humberto Jerez.

As said, FARC guerrillas following orders of alias "Sergeant Pascual." In the same village, troops of the Third Army Division in coordination with the National Police in the morning found a minefield consisting of three cylinders of 25 kg each, filled "with studs, nuts, screws, to affect the civilian population "I assure Jerez.

Also in Jambaló, bomb experts dismantled four other artifacts that were to be used allegedly by the FARC against the police of the municipality, said the governor of Cauca, Themistocles Ortega.

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45. Caucasus Emirate Leaders Orders Halt On Attacks Against Russian Civilians

Friday, 03 February 2012

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/02/caucasus_emirate_lea_4.php

Doku Umarov, the leader of the al Qaeda-linked Caucasus Emirate, has ordered an end to attacks that deliberately target Russian civilians. The move is a shift in strategy after his suicide bombers deliberately attacked civilians inside Russia over the past two years, including in the capital of Moscow.

Umarov "gave order to avoid attacks on civilian targets due to a process of civil protest that began in Russia, and the fact that people no longer accept Putin's policy," according to a report by Kavkaz Center, a propaganda outlet of the Caucasus Emirate. The statement is referring to recent protests against Vladimir Putin, the current Prime Minister of Russia, who is seeking a third term.

"This [the protests] may mean that the citizens of Russia - among other things - no longer support the barbarous methods of war used in the Caucasus Emirate and authorized by Putin and his clique," Kavkaz Center stated. "In this case, the civilian population of Russia stays outside the category of aggressor."

The "moratorium does not apply to military and political structures of the belligerent state," Kavkaz continued. "Likewise, this moratorium does not apply to the belligerent state itself, which will not be safe from attacks of the Mujahideen until a truce."

Caucasus Emirate fighters may continue to target "law enforcement structures, the military, intelligence services and political leadership of Russia."

The "truce" is "binding for all subdivisions of Mujahideen forces, including special-operation groups operating inside Russia." The "special-operation groups" likely include the Riyad-us-Saliheen Martyr Brigade, the suicide teams that have targeted civilians in the past.

The Caucasus Emirate has intentionally targeted civilians in recent years. Two of the most deadly attacks claimed by Umarov have occurred in Moscow. Umarov took credit for the Jan. 24, 2011 suicide attack at Domodedovo International Airport in Moscow that killed 35 people and wounded scores more. Umarov also claimed responsibility for the March 29, 2010 suicide attack by two female bombers that killed 39 people in the Moscow metro.

In the past, Umarov has repeatedly vowed to continue attacks inside of Russia. In May 2011, Umarov said in an interview with Kavkaz Center that he considers "the Caucasus Emirate and Russia as a single theater of war."

"Today, the battlefield is not just Chechnya and the Caucasus Emirate, but also the whole Russia," he said last May. "The situation is visible to everybody who has eyes. The Jihad is spreading, steadily and inevitably, everywhere. I've already mentioned that all those artificial borders, administrative divisions, which the Taghut [false leader or liar] drew, mean nothing to us. The days when we wanted to secede and dreamed of building a small Chechen Kuwait in the Caucasus are over."

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The Islamic Caucasus Emirate has close ties to al Qaeda. Some members of the group have fought in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Meanwhile, the International Islamic Battalion, the unit comprised of Arab and other foreign fighters that fights in the Caucasus, has been led by senior al Qaeda leaders. The top leaders of the International Islamic Battalion have included al Qaeda commander Ibn al Khattab (killed in 2002); Abu al Walid (killed in 2004); Abu Hafs al Urduni (killed in 2006); and Muhannad (killed in April 2011).

The US added the Caucasus Emirate to its list of Specially Designated Global Terrorist entities in May 2011. Umarov was added to the US's list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists in June 2010.

For more information on the Islamic Caucasus Emirate and its war with Russia, see LWJ report, 35 killed in suicide attack at Moscow airport.

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46. Bomb Scare Drama Near Bothar Brugha

Wednesday, 01 February 2012

<http://www.drogheda-independent.ie/news/bomb-scare-drama-near-school-3006795.html>

The Army bomb disposal unit carried out a controlled explosion on a suspect device which was found close to St Brigid's and St Patrick's National Schools in Bothar Brugha early on Monday morning.

Gardaí were called to the scene shortly before 9am and the area surrounding the scene was immediately cordoned off. The suspicious container, which had wires coming from it, was located between railings directly opposite the entrance to the two schools.

Superintendent Gerry Smith confirmed the device was inspected by members of the gardaí at around 9am and they in turn requested the attendance of the army EOD team.

'The device was examined by members of the Army EOD team from Gormanston army base and a controlled explosion was carried out,' he said. 'The remains of the device are being forwarded to the Garda Technical Bureau for technical examination.'

The superintendent said no explosive substance was found in the device, which he described as 'an elaborate hoax'.

Some residents living in close proximity to the site were evacuated but gardaí decided not to remove the children from the two schools or those living in the surrounding houses in Bothar Brugha. However, both schools were informed of the situation and advised to keep the children in their classrooms while the situation was brought under control.

One parent, whose child had a hospital appointment earlier in the morning, was bemused to find the street cordoned off by gardaí as she arrived to bring her son to school at around 10.30am.

'My son Theo (8) had a hospital appointment early this morning but he didn't want to miss any classes and wanted to go back to school,' explained Angela Ugwuja from Termon Abbey. 'I was very surprised to see it all cordoned off. We got to the end of the road and realised it was all cordoned off, I don't know what to do now. We walked to the end of the road on the other side and saw it was closed off there but I thought it would be okay from the schools side so we came around before we realised the whole area is shut down.'

Principal of St Brigid's Girls NS Jean Mcfadden revealed the school were unaware of the drama unfolding outside until a member of the gardaí called to the school to inform them of what was happening.

'We had no idea what was going on so we were completely oblivious to it,' she explained. 'The garda came in and said there was a device outside but he did reassure us very quickly that it was a hoax and they were dealing with it. The children were unaware of what was going on but it was a big worry for the parents, the phone never stopped ringing all day.'

'Once it was dealt with we were able to text the parents and let them know everything was okay and that the road had reopened. All's well that ends well thankfully. It was a hoax and hopefully we won't have to deal with anything like that again. It really is such a waste of garda resources and everything else involved but they have to be safe rather than sorry.'

The incident is being investigated by gardaí in Drogheda and Superintendent Smith appealed to any witnesses who may have noticed anyone acting suspiciously in the area to contact gardaí in Drogheda on (041) 9838777.

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47. IED Discovered In Co Offaly
Saturday, 04 February 2012
<http://www.rte.ie/news/2012/0204/device.html>

An improvised explosive device has been made safe after it was discovered in Tullamore, Co Offaly, this afternoon.

An Army Bomb Disposal Team was called to the scene after gardaí had found the suspicious device during a search operation in an industrial unit.

Experts arrived at the scene shortly after 1pm, examined the IED in location and rendered it safe.

A statement from the Defence Forces said the area was cordoned off but a controlled explosion was not required.

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48. Edmond Man Charged With Manufacturing Explosive Device

Tuesday, 07 February 2012

<http://newsok.com/edmond-man-charged-with-manufacturing-explosive-device-two-counts-of-arson/article/3646721>

An Edmond man charged with two counts of arson and one count of manufacturing an explosive device admitted to investigators he set the fires.

Russell Eugene Adams Jr., 30, was being held in the Oklahoma County jail Monday on \$30,000 bail.

Adams faces three felony counts in connection with a car that was set on fire at 1730 E Second St. in Edmond on Nov. 23, putting an incendiary device outside an apartment building where the victims of the car fire lived on Dec. 19 and using a flammable substance in a yard at 824 W Second Street on Jan. 17, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Adams dated a niece of one of the victims for about six weeks before she started trying to avoid him because he wanted more from the relationship, the affidavit stated.

Investigators found a plastic bottle that was half destroyed from the heat at the scene of the fire at 824 W Second St. They said the bottom of the bottle was intact and part of the label indicated it contained lighter fluid.

Adams is scheduled for a preliminary hearing conference at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 16.

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49. Valley Man Sentenced To 24 Months For Possessing & Transporting IED

Tuesday, 07 February 2012

<http://www.fbi.gov/phoenix/press-releases/2012/valley-man-sentenced-to-24-months-for-possessing-and-transporting-improvised-explosive-devices>

Jeffrey Harbin, 29, of Apache Junction, Ariz., was sentenced on February 6, 2012, by U.S. District Judge Neil V. Wake to 24 months' incarceration. Harbin pleaded guilty on September 26, 2011, to one count of unlawful possession of an unregistered destructive device and one count of unlawful transportation of explosive materials.

In his plea agreement, Harbin admitted that on or about January 14, 2011, he knowingly possessed and transported an unregistered destructive device. Specifically, Harbin admitted to possessing and transporting a grenade-like object that he built using a polyvinyl chloride ("PVC") encasement, an improvised fusing system, and a filling of black powder and ball bearings. Harbin further admitted to transporting this highly explosive destructive device on the public roadways in and near Apache Junction, Ariz. The design of this destructive device was significant in that the inclusion and placement of the ball bearings within the device rendered it capable of maximizing both injury and fatality.

Acting U.S. Attorney Ann Birmingham Scheel said, "Jeffrey Harbin is responsible for the manufacture, possession, storage, and transportation of a deadly destructive device that was at times kept in his apartment where he lived with his girlfriend and children, and at times transported on Arizona roads and highways. Harbin's design of the device is powerful evidence that he intended it to be capable of causing serious physical injury and death."

"This sentencing sends a clear message to all individuals like Harbin, that there are severe consequences for possessing a highly explosive destructive device," stated FBI Special Agent in Charge James L. Turgal Jr., Phoenix Division. "The FBI's number one priority is to protect the public from another terrorist attack. The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), is a force multiplier in bringing together law enforcement officers with varied experiences and expertise from multiple jurisdictions and is uniquely designed to thwart this type of activity and individuals from utilizing such devices to harm the public."

The investigation in this case was led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and members of the Phoenix Joint Terrorism Task Force. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms also assisted. The prosecution was handled by Josh Patrick Parecki, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

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50. Explosive Found In Local Neighborhood

Monday, 06 February 2012

<http://smnewsnet.com/archives/9377>

The Charles County Sheriff's Office is assisting the Maryland State Fire Marshalls Office with an IED investigation in one Waldorf neighborhood.

Bomb Technicians and a Deputy State Fire Marshall responded to the 2700 block of Grindall Court in the Bannister neighborhood on Monday, Feb. 6 around 11:59 a.m., after the discovery of 5 chemical reaction Improvise Explosive Devices (Soda Bottle Bombs) were recovered.

Investigation revealed neighbors reportedly heard loud explosions in the neighborhood at about midnight, the night before. They assumed it was some kind of fireworks and celebration from the Super Bowl and therefore ignored the commotion until they discovered the debris from the exploded devices on the street the next day.

The Charles County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene and requested the State Fire Marshal's Bomb Squad. Upon examination of the scene, two additional devices were discovered and were rendered safe by Bomb Technicians. A criminal investigation is continuing.

Anyone who has any information about this incident is urged to contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal at (443) 550-6834.

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51. Man Injures Himself With Explosives

Tuesday, 07 February 2012

<http://www.kctv5.com/story/16637711/man-injuries-himself-with-explosives>

An Indiana father is recovering from serious injuries he apparently received while working with explosive chemicals.

Bomb and hazardous device crews in Fort Wayne worked into the morning hours after police found a vast amount of chemicals and powders used to make explosive devices in the apartment. Officers said it's not unusual for people to try to make bombs, but finds it strange the amount of chemicals they found in the apartment.

"Our officers, our bomb technicians have discovered several containers filled with unknown chemicals, several jars and vials, also filled with unknown powders," said Police spokeswoman, Raquel Foster.

Police became suspicious after a man called 911 saying he was hurt from an explosion. Turns out the man mixed two chemicals that hardened. He then started chiseling away at the rock hard mixture and it exploded.

"You have to envision what he was doing, he was chiseling away at this item," Foster said. "He was well within close proximity and suffered the extent of the explosion to his hand." The man is still in critical condition and is so badly injured that police have not been able to talk to him. The man's two teens were also in the apartment. One was hurt, but is now out of the hospital.

Police do not know why the man had the chemicals or what he planned to do with them. "Just the amount of the items that were located inside the home it's likely that this was a hobby," Foster said.

Once the investigation is complete the information will be sent to the Allen County prosecutor's office. Police said it's likely the man will face criminal charges.

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52. Fontana Police Confiscate Explosive Device

Saturday, 04 February 2012

<http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/articles/2012/02/04/news/doc4f2db4156149a878822163.txt>

Police defused an explosive device and confiscated a gun from two brothers who allegedly planned to burglarize a school, according to the Fontana Unified School District Police Department.

No persons were injured in the incident, which began on Feb. 3 at about noon, when the School Police Department received a transferred call from Date Elementary School. The caller was a male adult who had walked into the school and walked behind the counter and called 9-1-1.

An FUSD officer arrived and detained the subject, who was very paranoid and claiming that people were after him, according to police.

The suspect began making spontaneous statements that he had a gun, bomb and drugs at his home near the school.

For the safety of the school and the surrounding neighborhood, the officer went to the suspect's home and contacted the grandmother and homeowner.

The grandmother said she took a gun from the suspect the previous night, and she allowed officers to search the home for explosives or bombs.

During the search, an explosive device and gun were located. The San Bernardino County bomb squad responded and made the device safe.

Also during the search, officers found detailed plans and maps of Cajon High School in San Bernardino.

The investigation revealed that the brother of the initial subject was a student at Cajon. During an interview with this juvenile, he told detectives that he and his brother had planned to burglarize the school and take computers, and that is why they had maps of the school with specific areas identified.

The two suspects were taken into custody, and the investigating is continuing.

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