



*Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data*

## Weekly News Update

Volume 2, Issue 22

1 June 2012

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



Sergeant Terry Johnson with carefully bagged evidence that may help to identify the owners of the explosives and their intended use (Picture: Crown Copyright/MOD 2012)

[See [Afghan And British Troops Discover Huge Drugs And Explosives Cache](#)]

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## 1. [Attack, Pakistan] Pakistan Bomb Kills Three, Injures Six

Sunday, May 27 2012

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hpWNzndQmjW1GwkRk3rDZeJzczXQ?docId=CN.G.a4e1cd652a9dc8f2479738662f5d22.561>

A remote-controlled bomb targeting a police van killed three passers-by and wounded six other people in Pakistan's troubled southwest on Sunday, police said.

The explosive device was planted underneath a donkey cart on the outskirts of Quetta, the capital of the oil-and-gas-rich Baluchistan province, which borders Iran and Afghanistan.

"The bomb targeting a police van exploded seconds after it passed by the cart, killing three passers-by and wounding six others including a policeman," local police official Sikandar Tareen told AFP.

Another local police official, Saleem Shawani, confirmed the incident and casualties.

There was no claim of responsibility, but Baluchistan suffers from Islamist militancy, sectarian violence between Sunni and Shiite Muslims and a separatist insurgency.

Gunmen riding a motorcycle shot dead the chief warden of the district prison on May 19.

Al-Qaeda-linked militant group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi claimed responsibility and said "the slain warden was a cruel person and used to subject our imprisoned leaders and workers to torture".

Hundreds of civilians have been killed since Baluch rebels rose up in 2004 against the federal Pakistani government, demanding political autonomy and a greater share of profits from the resources in the region.

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## 2. [Attack, Pakistan] Rocket Kills Two At Pakistan Market

Sunday, May 27 2012

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ivErnGtK7nyk6t8wMr26KHi86HCg?docId=CNG.23a90748454eef0061c410bea48e264a.5b1>

Rockets fired by suspected insurgents Saturday killed two people and wounded 20 others in Pakistan's troubled southwestern city of Quetta, police and hospital officials said.

One rocket which landed at a busy market killed a 17-year-old boy and wounded 18 others, police said. One of the injured died later in hospital.

"A boy was killed on the spot and one of the wounded, a man, died at hospital," senior police official Mohammad Zubair told AFP.

A second rocket landed about a kilometre (mile) away in a Christian neighbourhood and wounded three family members.

Hospital official Rasheed Jamali confirmed the casualties.

Zubair said nobody had immediately claimed responsibility for firing the rockets but in the past separatists have carried out similar attacks.

Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan province of which Quetta is the capital, suffers from Islamist militancy linked to the Taliban, sectarian violence between Sunni and Shiite Muslims and a separatist insurgency.

Hundreds of people have been killed since separatist Baluch rebels rose up in 2004, demanding political autonomy and a greater share of profits from oil, gas and mineral resources in the region.



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### **3. [Attack, Pakistan] Railway Track Blown Up In Quetta**

Tuesday, May 29 2012

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\05\29\story\\_29-5-2012\\_pg7\\_3](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\05\29\story_29-5-2012_pg7_3)

A portion of the main railway track was blown up in Pirkaniabad area on Sariab in Quetta on Monday. According to the police, unidentified persons planted explosive material to the railway track, which exploded with a big bang destroying two-foot-long portion of the track, while the blast also caused suspension of railway traffic to and from Quetta. Police rushed to the spot soon after incident and cordoned off the area to trace the suspects. Technical teams of the Pakistan Railways also reached the site to repair the damaged portion of the track. "The repair work will be finished by Monday night," sources in Pakistan Railway said. A case has been registered against the unidentified persons and investigation is underway.

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#### 4. [Special Interest, Pakistan] Pakistan Tests Nuclear Capable Multi-Tube Missile

Tuesday, May 29 2012

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2012-05/29/c\\_131618215.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2012-05/29/c_131618215.htm)

Pakistan on Tuesday successfully testfired a short range nuclear capable missile, the military said.

The indigenously developed Short Range Surface to Surface Multi Tube Missile Hatf IX (NASR), with a range of 60 km, can carry nuclear warheads of appropriate yield, with high accuracy, and possesses shoot and scoot attributes, an army statement said.

This quick response system addresses the need to deter evolving threats, specially at shorter ranges, it said.

"The successful test has also been warmly appreciated by the president, prime minister of Pakistan and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, who have congratulated scientists and engineers on their outstanding success," the statement said.

Pakistan, which carried out nuclear tests in 1998, has developed several series of nuclear capable missiles and routinely conducts tests.



Director General of the Strategic Plans Division Lieutenant General Khalid Ahmed Kidwai, terming the NASR missile as a weapon of peace, said that the test was a major development which will consolidate Pakistan's deterrence capability at all levels of the threat spectrum, thereby ensuring peace in the region.

Senior officials who witnessed the test included Chairman of the National Engineering and Scientific Commission Irfan Burney, and Commander of the Army Strategic Forces Command Lieutenant General Tariq Nadeem Gilani, as well as senior officers from the Strategic forces and scientists and engineers of strategic organizations.

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## 5. [Security, Afghanistan] Afghan And British Troops Discover Huge Drugs And Explosives Cache

Tuesday, May 29 2012

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceNews/MilitaryOperations/AfghanAndBritishTroopsDiscoverHugeDrugsAndExplosivesCache.htm>

Working closely with Afghan security forces, soldiers of 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment have made a considerable discovery of insurgent narcotics and supplies in the Nad 'Ali district of Helmand province.

The men of A (Norfolk) Company have been working closely with Afghan security forces since their arrival in Helmand in late March.

The discovery happened on Thursday 17 May when troops from 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, known as the Vikings, were carrying out an operation with Afghan forces to stop insurgents threatening the protected communities in Nad 'Ali.

The operation began with a helicopter insertion into the area early in the morning and after a long march the men of 1 Platoon approached the group of compounds which intelligence had identified as an area of interest.



On arrival at the compounds, A Company Sergeant Terry Johnson asked Corporal Jamie Seymour to secure the area as he spoke with a local elder.

Sergeant Johnson said, "I was content after liaising with the local elder that the area was quiet; as I made preparations to depart Private Liam Downes said he had made a find. We get tip-offs from the locals regularly. On this occasion we had no reason to expect this find was going to be anything special. I wanted to be happy that we weren't missing anything else so I ordered the compound near the find to be searched."

The Afghan National Directorate of Security (NDS) had received a 'tip-off' from locals on the location of a potential enemy hoard. The find that Private Downes had located turned out to be a 50kg bag of explosives.



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Further inside the compounds ISAF and NDS personnel located a ninety-kilogram bag of opium, as well as equipment used for filtration of the drug.

Sergeant Johnson continued, "This is a massive knock to the enemy. The opium has an estimated value of \$60,000."

Major Matt Woodeson, Officer Commanding A (Norfolk) Company, said, "The boys did well, relying on their training and each other. With the co-operation of the local nationals and our Afghan partners we have dealt another blow to the insurgent cause."

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## 6. [Attack, Afghanistan] Blast Kills Three Would-Be Suicide Bombers, Wounds Two In East Afghanistan

Tuesday, May 29 2012

<http://www.newstrackindia.com/newsdetails/2012/05/29/100-Blast-kills-three-would-be-suicide-bombers-wounds-two-in-east-Afghanistan.html>

Three Taliban would- be suicide bombers were killed and two others sustained injuries as their explosive device went off prematurely in Nangarhar province 120 km east of capital Kabul on Tuesday, a local official said.

"Five Taliban militants equipped with suicide vests and driving a car from Momandara district towards provincial capital Jalalabad to conduct mass attack but their explosive devices exploded prematurely killing three on the spot and badly injuring two others, " the governor of Momandara district Noor Agha Kamran told Xinhua.

Taliban militants fighting Afghan government and largely relying on suicide attacks and roadside bombings have yet to make comment.

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## 7. [Law Enforcement, Pakistan] Quetta Police Seize 2,000kg Of Explosives

Thursday, May 31 2012

<http://paktribune.com/news/Quetta-police-seize-2000kg-of-explosives-250251.html>

Police claimed to have arrested seven suspects, including three Afghans, and seized a huge cache of explosives from Kuchlak on Wednesday.

Police said they had seized 2,000kg of explosives, 110 landmines, 2,980 detonators, 6,800 remote-control systems, 11 double-battery devices, 11 walky-talky sets and batteries, 3,000 metres of wire and 3,200 kg of potassium.

Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Mir Zubair Mehmood told reporters two vehicles packed with explosives were en route to Quetta from Zhob when the New Kuchlak police intercepted them near Bostan Phatak. Those arrested include three Afghan nationals – Muhammad Khan, Rafiullah and Abdul Hakeem.

The other four accused were identified as Mehmood Khan and Hazebullah, residents of Bostan; and Rehmatullah and Mira Jan, residents of Kharotabad. The CCPO said the suspects wanted to smuggle the explosives to Quetta. Police have registered cases and started investigation.

"It is a big achievement," the CCPO said, adding that the accused were being interrogated and important disclosures were expected during the probe. He said that it had not been known to which terror outfit the suspects belonged. "Investigation is underway and police will inform the media about any development," he also said.

Mehmood said the terrorists could have made over 2,000 bombs from these explosive materials if they had smuggled these to Quetta.







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## 8. [Attack, Afghanistan] Two NATO Service Members Killed

Wednesday, May 30 2012

<http://www.ajc.com/news/nation-world/afghanistan-2afghanistan-2-nato-service-1448940.html>

An insurgent attack and a homemade bomb killed two NATO service members Wednesday in southern Afghanistan, the coalition said.

The deaths raised the number of coalition troops who have died in Afghanistan this year to 174. The coalition did not provide further details about the attacks.

Southern Afghanistan is the traditional heartland of the Taliban and has been the deadliest place for foreign forces since the Afghan war started in 2001. The U.S. poured tens of thousands of additional troops into the south in 2009 and 2010 in an attempt to reverse the Taliban's momentum.

While violence has fallen in some areas, frequent attacks still occur, posing a challenge for the U.S. as it attempts to hand over responsibility for security to Afghan forces and withdraw most of its combat troops by the end of 2014.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, three district government employees were killed by a roadside bomb as they were traveling to work Wednesday morning in eastern Nangarhar province's Deh Bala district, said district chief Asrarullah.

Officials also said the Taliban attacked a hilltop police post in northern Badakhshan province's Warduj district late Tuesday, triggering heavy fighting that killed eight policemen and six militants, according to the provincial governor's spokesman, Abdul Maruf Rasikh. Two policemen and 11 militants were also wounded, he said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement sent to reporters by the group's spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid.

Badakhshan province is relatively peaceful but has experienced periodic attacks. Two foreign doctors and their three Afghan colleagues were kidnapped last week in Badakhshan.

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## 9. [Attack, Afghanistan] Afghanistan Suicide Car Bomb Kills Five Police

Thursday, May 31 2012

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/31/afghanistan-suicide-car-bomb\\_n\\_1558564.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/31/afghanistan-suicide-car-bomb_n_1558564.html)

suicide bomber detonated a vehicle full of explosives outside a district police headquarters in southern Afghanistan on Thursday, killing five policemen, a government official said.

The attack in Kandahar province's Argistan district also wounded six policemen, said Javid Faisal, the provincial governor's spokesman.

Kandahar is the spiritual heartland of the Taliban and has been one of the most heavily contested areas between the militants and Afghan and foreign forces. The U.S. poured tens of thousands of additional troops into Kandahar and other areas of the south in 2009 and 2010 to reverse the Taliban's momentum. While violence has fallen in some areas, attacks still occur frequently.

Also Thursday, a homemade bomb killed a member of the U.S.-led NATO force in southern Afghanistan, the coalition said, without providing further details.

The death raised the number of coalition troops who have died in Afghanistan this year to 176.

The persistent violence poses a challenge for the U.S. as it seeks to hand over responsibility for security to Afghan forces and withdraw most of its combat troops by 2014.

A pair of attacks killed five policemen Thursday in eastern Afghanistan, also a key base for the Taliban and their allies.

In one attack, in Kunduz province's Dashti Archi district, a roadside bomb struck a vehicle carrying the head of the district's anti-terrorism police force, killing him along with a colleague and a police bodyguard, said district chief Shaik Sadaruddin.

A grenade tossed at a police checkpoint in Jalalabad city, capital of Nangarhar province, killed two policemen, said provincial police chief Gen. Abdullah Azim Stanikzai.

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## **10. [Security, Afghanistan] 1,188 Pounds Of HME Destroyed In Mizan District, Zabul Province**

Thursday, May 31 2012

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/89236/1188-pounds-hme-destroyed-mizan-district-zabul-province#.T8e3e1I7uSo>

Afghan National Army soldiers of the 6th Kandak, 2nd Brigade, 205th Corps and U.S. soldiers of Task Force 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment destroyed an explosives factory and two caches totaling 1,188 pounds of HME, one suicide vest, one 82mm mortar round, one metal pressure plate, seven yellow jugs of white residue and assorted bomb-making materials, May 31, in the Mizan district of Zabul province.

On May 29, Task Force Diamond Head reported seeing approximately 200 pounds of HME drying on the roof of a building in Mizan district to Task Force 1-14th Cavalry soldiers from the 6th Kandak and Task Force 1-14th were sent to investigate. Upon arrival they discovered over 200 pounds of HME in the building and various components that could be used to manufacture improvised explosive devices. They decided to request an explosives ordinance disposal unit to help continue site exploitation the following morning.

On the morning of May 30 the partnered units found another 220 pounds of HME, seven jugs of white powder residue, 10 batteries, 10 battery casings and one metal pressure plate. The soldiers continued to search the surrounding area and found two caches in large holes in the ground. The first cache consisted of three 100 lb bags of ammonium nitrate and aluminum HME, one 82mm mortar round and one suicide vest. EOD had to reduce several booby-traps before exploiting the second cache which had 200 lbs of HME. The soldiers cordoned off the area and waited till the next morning for the destruction of the explosives.

On May 31, the Zabul provincial governor, 2/205th ANA Brigade commander and 3-2nd SBCT Brigade commander agreed to call in an air-strike to destroy the HME factory and all associated explosives.

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## **11. [Law Enforcement, Afghanistan] Afghan Police Confiscate Weapons Cache, Arrest Suspected Insurgents In Chora**

Thursday, May 31 2012

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/89215/afghan-police-confiscate-weapons-cache-arrest-suspected-insurgents-chora#.T8e1rFI7uSo>

Afghan National Police officers confiscated a weapons cache and apprehended five suspected insurgents in the Chora district, May 27.

The cache discovery and arrests were the result of an ANP investigation which was conducted after insurgents attacked the Balazar Afghan Local Police checkpoint.

A coalition representative reported that the weapons cache consisted of two improvised explosive device remote controls, two AK-47 assault rifles, two rocket propelled grenade launchers, 400 rounds of ammunition with 26 magazines, communication equipment and tactical gear.

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## **12. [Security, Afghanistan] Suicide Bombing Prevented**

Thursday, May 31 2012

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/89234/operations-update-suicide-bombing-prevented#.T8e3f1I7uSo>

Afghan security forces prevented a suicide attacker from entering the district governor's compound in Nawa district, Helmand province, May 31. The security forces identified the man as a suicide bomber and caused him to prematurely detonate his explosives before entering the compound's entry control point. The attacker was killed by the explosion and caused no additional casualties.

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### **13. [Attack, Afghanistan] Suicide Bomber Attacks NATO Base In Eastern Afghanistan**

Friday, June 1 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-18296442>

A suicide bomber has attacked a base of the NATO-led peacekeeping force (ISAF) in eastern Afghanistan.

The attacker drove a lorry laden with explosives at the base in Khost province, a security source in Kabul and a Taliban spokesman both said.

ISAF confirmed insurgents had attacked one of its bases in the east but did not give any further details.

One unnamed local official told Agence-France Presse news agency that seven Afghan civilians had been killed.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the source added that the attacker had driven the lorry into the first security post outside the base.

Seven Afghan construction workers were killed and a further 13 people were injured, the source added.

Speaking to the private Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press news agency, Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said a "group of Taliban armed with light and heavy weapons and suicide attack vests" had followed up the lorry bomb with an assault on the base.

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## 14. [Attack, Kenya] Two Separate Attacks Wound Five In North East Kenya

Saturday, May 26 2012

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/05/26/uk-kenya-attacks-idUKBRE84POHK20120526>

Suspected grenade attacks at a hotel and a refugee camp in northeastern Kenya wounded at least five people on Saturday, police said, days after a similar strike in the same region.

Grenade and improvised explosive device (IED) attacks in Kenya have become more frequent since it sent troops to Somalia to pursue al Shabaab insurgents it blames for a wave of kidnappings last year.

Police said four builders at a primary school in the Ifo refugee camp in Garissa, and one person at a hotel in Wajir were wounded in the attacks.

"Four people have been injured in the Ifo attack. They are all casual labourers working at a primary school doing construction," said Leo Nyongesa, North Eastern police commander, told Reuters.

Nyongesa said that a second blast at a hotel in Wajir, popular with government officials, had wounded one person.

Nairobi blames al Shabaab militants for the kidnappings of foreigners on Kenyan soil that had threatened the country's multi-million dollar tourism industry.

The militants have threatened major reprisals if Kenyan troops do not withdraw and have launched large-scale suicide bombings in the past.

The hotel in Wajir is on a road leading to a military camp, and is close to a government club that was also attacked last year, while the Ifo refugee camp attack was at a temporary shelter for casual workers.

"I had a loud explosion, went out and saw police and security vehicles rushing towards ... somewhere around the military camp," said Ahmed Sheikh, a Wajir resident.

On Thursday, at least three people were wounded in a suspected grenade attack at a hotel in the Dadaab refugee camp, while earlier in the week, two soldiers were wounded when their vehicle hit an IED in Mandera, also in the north east.

On May 16 a suspected remote-controlled bomb went off in Dadaab, killing one police officer and wounding three.

On the same day, gunmen set off grenades outside a night club in the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa, killing one person and wounding several others.

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## 15. [Attack, South Sudan] Sudan Warplanes Bomb South On Eve Of African Union-Brokered Peace Talks

Tuesday, May 29 2012

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/May-29/174932-sudan-warplanes-bomb-south-on-eve-of-african-union-brokered-peace-talks.ashx#axzz1wGtiCiDc>

South Sudan said Monday Sudanese warplanes and artillery had bombarded its territory on the eve of peace talks, as Southern officials set off to attend African Union-led negotiations in Ethiopia.

“They are bombing South Sudan, attacking South Sudan, and continuing to send armed groups to destabilize South Sudan ... these are not the signs of peace,” South Sudan’s top negotiator Pagan Amum told reporters.

However, Amum said he was still “optimistic” that the talks due to start Tuesday in Addis Ababa would go ahead and produce results.

The former civil war foes fought heavily in contested border regions last month, the worst fighting since the South won independence last July and sparking international concerns of a return to all-out war.

International pressure has pushed both sides to return to the long-running talks stalled by the fighting in April, when Southern troops seized an oil field from Khartoum’s troops for 10 days as Sudan launched repeated airstrikes.

Southern army spokesman Philip Aguer said that Khartoum’s army, the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), had launched bombing raids by warplanes as well as firing shells across their contested border.

“For the last three days SAF has been bombing Northern Bahr al-Ghazal ... this has also involved long range artillery,” Aguer told AFP.

Sudan has repeatedly denied it has launched airstrikes on the South, and it was not possible to independently verify the reports of the attacks.

The United Nations Security Council earlier this month ordered both sides cease fighting and return to talks or face possible sanctions.

“We are returning to the talks ready to negotiate with the Government of Sudan to discuss all the outstanding issues,” Amum added.

“We are actually more optimistic than any time before, as today we have the U.N. Security Council resolution giving a timeframe to achieve resolution within three months. It is good there is international backing.”

However, Amum accused Khartoum of “attempting to impose preconditions on the talks” and said that it was “clear and obvious that the government of Sudan is not only hostile but is in violation of the (U.N.) resolution.”

Khartoum's Foreign Ministry has said it will attend the May 29 talks and discuss the U.N. resolution calling for resumption of dialogue on unresolved "critical" issues.

However, Khartoum said it had complained to the UN Security Council Sunday over reported "aggression" by the South, including alleged cross-border incursions, which it said had also broken the U.N. order to halt hostilities.

South Sudan broke away from Sudan in July after a 2005 peace deal ended one of Africa's longest civil wars, which killed about 2 million people.

But tensions soon flared again over a series of unresolved issues, including the border, the future of disputed territories and oil. The South separated with about 75 percent of the former united Sudan's oil production, but Juba still depends on the north's pipeline and Red Sea port to export its crude.

A protracted dispute over fees for use of that infrastructure led South Sudan in January to shut its oil production after accusing the north of theft.

The Security Council gave both sides three months to conclude the talks.

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## **16. [Attack, Somalia] Al Shabaab Ambushes President's Convoy Near Afgoye, Three Killed**

Tuesday, May 29 2012

<http://www.raxanreeb.com/2012/05/somalia-al-shabaab-ambushes-presidents-convoy-near-afgoye-three-killed/>

At least three government forces were killed as more than six others including senior spokesman were wounded after Al Shabaab fighters ambushed a convoy of president Sharif Sheikh Ahmed returning from Afgoye district on Tuesday, RBC Radio reports.

The attack occurred at Calamada location on the Afgoye corridor which is 19-km south of the capital shortly after the president paid his first visit to Afgoye district which the government forces backed by AMISOM seized from Al Shabaab on Friday.

Three of the president's special guards were killed in fierce gun battle which lasted for more than twenty minutes between the government forces and Al Shabaab fighters. Senior Ahlusuna spokesman Mohamed Hussein Owliyo was among those wounded.

The convoy which among government ministers, members of the parliament and military officials were later escorted to the capital and none of the high profile people was hurt in the attack, the spokesperson of the transitional government said this afternoon.

"After the consecutive defeat which they are encountering from the government and AMISOM, the extremists tried to attack us but in Allah's wishes they failed." Gen Abdulkarim Yusuf Aden told RBC Radio. "Five of Al Shabaab members were arrested in today's attack." He added.

Meanwhile Al Shabaab spokesman Sheikh Abdiasis abu Mus'ab said that his fighters killed senior government officials in today's attack.

He added that the fighters of Al Shabaab have still presence in the area and will maintain attacks against the government forces and the AMISOM.

The situation of the Afgoye corridor was calm this afternoon as the government sent reinforcement troops.

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## 17. [Trend, Kenya] Fertilizer Bomb Suspected In Nairobi Blast

Tuesday, May 29 2012

[http://www.boston.com/news/world/africa/articles/2012/05/29/fbi\\_joins\\_investigation\\_into\\_kenyan\\_bomb\\_blast/](http://www.boston.com/news/world/africa/articles/2012/05/29/fbi_joins_investigation_into_kenyan_bomb_blast/)

A fertilizer bomb could have caused the blast that ripped through a building full of small shops, an official told The Associated Press on Tuesday, as the FBI joined the investigation.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the smell of ammonia at the scene of Monday's explosion on Moi Avenue indicates the possible presence of a fertilizer bomb, which is commonly made of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil.

Among the 33 people wounded was a woman who blamed the blast on a "bearded man" who left behind a bag shortly before the detonation.

FBI agents helped analyze the blast site at Kenya's request, said John Haynes, a U.S. Embassy spokesman. A group of FBI agents could be seen at the site of the explosion sifting through debris and packing samples with members of Kenya's Anti-Terror Police Unit.

The intelligence firm IntelCenter said militants from the al-Qaida-linked Somali group al-Shabab bragged about acting as journalists and conducting interviews of survivors after the blast. IntelCenter said the development poses significant challenges to security forces and legitimate members of the media covering attacks.

The explosion sent dark smoke billowing out of a one-story building on the downtown avenue named after Kenya's second president. The blast peeled back the front corner of the building's aluminum roof, shattered windows in the building and scattered shoes, clothes and other wares on the ground. A high-rise building with a glass exterior next door was largely untouched.

Tuesday's explosion follows several grenade attacks the Kenyan government has blamed on the al-Qaida-linked Somalia militant group al-Shabab. At least 40 civilians have been killed in the grenade attacks since October, which police attribute to Kenyan sympathizers of al-Shabab.

At the site of the explosion on Tuesday, some Kenyans expressed anger over what they said was the police's inability to protect them against the attacks. Marketing Consultant Lucas Okwany, 46, said many Kenyan police officers are more interested in collecting bribes than carrying out police duties.

"I am scared because in marketing you have to go into all these buildings to look for work, and any of them could now be a target," he said.

Kenya's police force is constrained by poor resources and low pay, which fuels the bribe-seeking. Few police in Kenya have cars, and those who do are given little fuel.

The rising insecurity in Kenya has also impacted the hotel business. Hotel workers, who could not give their names for fear of losing their jobs, say that hotel rooms are lying empty because business travelers have been scared away by the attacks.

Mike Macharia, the chief executive of the Kenya Association of Hotel Keepers and Caterers, said there has been a drop in bookings but that hotels can still recover with the help of aggressive marketing and increased security.

Al-Shabab threatened in October to bring down Nairobi skyscrapers and referenced the July 2010 bomb attacks they masterminded in Kampala, Uganda, that killed 76 people. Al-Shabab issued the threat against Kenya after Kenyan troops moved into Somalia to attack al-Shabab fighters.

One shop worker wounded in the blast, Irene Wachira, said from her hospital bed on Monday that a bearded man came to a nearby stall three times and acted as if he were interested in buying something. Wachira said the third time he came with a bag that he left behind. The blast occurred shortly afterward, she said.

Wachira described the man as "Arabic-looking" because of his relatively light skin. A doctor told AP that another person wounded in the blast said a Somali-looking man left behind the bag. The doctor said he could not be quoted by name.

Al-Shabab has not yet made any public comment on the attack.

Police officials first indicated that Monday's explosion could have been caused by some sort of electrical malfunction but the prime minister said it was deliberate.



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## **18. [Attack, Somalia] Roadside Bomb In Somalia's Puntland Kills Six**

Wednesday, May 30 2012

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hbAs8lukn22UpjjZuFSh1F3T1mJQ?docId=CNG.abab8909d1ecd495628687beca8d3d9b.221>

At least six people, including three civilians, were killed Wednesday in northern Somalia's Puntland region when a roadside bomb exploded as security forces tried to defuse it.

"Three members of the security forces and three civilians were killed in the explosion," said security official Mahdi Abdulahi.

The blast occurred in the northern part of Galkayo, a town on the border separating semi-autonomous Puntland from the self-proclaimed separate region of Galmudug to the south.

"The civilians thought it was safe and they approached, but then it exploded," said Jama Alale, a grocer living nearby, adding that he had seen dead bodies with limbs ripped off by the explosion.

No group has claimed responsibility for the blast, the latest in a series of attacks in the restive region controlled by various militia forces opposed to the Al-Qaeda linked Shebab rebels.

At the end of January, a suicide attack against the home of warlord and former police chief Abdi Hasan Qeybdiid in Galkayo killed two people but left its intended target unharmed.

Galkayo has been the scene of clashes between rival political and clan groups in recent months.

Journalists in the city have also come under attack, with a radio reporter gunned down in early May as he headed home from work. Two months earlier a reporter at Radio Galkayo was shot dead as he returned home.

No group have claimed responsibility for those attacks.

Somalia has been without a stable central authority since the 1991 ouster of Siad Barre that sparked two decades of civil war.

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## **19. [Security, Nigeria] Bomb Threat Mars Democracy Day Celebration In Benue**

Wednesday, May 30 2012

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2012/05/bomb-threat-mars-democracy-day-celebration-in-benue/>

An alleged threat by an Islamic sect to bomb Makurdi, Benue State capital, yesterday, stalled Democracy Day celebration in the city as the state government unofficially cancelled events.

The development forced the people who had thronged the Ibrahim Babangida, IBB, Square, venue of the ceremony to turn back home disappointed.

When Vanguard visited the venue, people were seen moving in and out of the venue, even as policemen were strategically positioned.

Meanwhile, traders dealing in snacks, sachet water and ice cream, among others who had thronged the venue with the aim of doing brisk business were also disappointed at the turn of events. A Police officer, who spoke to Vanguard on condition of anonymity, said they were deployed to the venue to provide security as was the tradition every year.

He said: "You can see the number of policemen here. Special Anti Robbery Squad, SARS, men of civil defense and traffic wardens, among other security operatives are also here to discharge their duties, only to discover that there were no arrangements for any celebration today."

Vanguard, however, reliably gathered that the decision by the state government to cancel the ceremony was as a result of a threat message allegedly being circulated in the town by members of a sect to bomb the town in the event of any celebration to mark the day.

Speaking on the development, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Media and Publicity, Dr. Cletus Akwaya, said the decision of government not to hold public celebration this year has nothing to do with security threat.

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## 20. [Security, Nigeria] Bomb Found In Empty TV Set In Kaduna

Wednesday, May 30 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201205300201.html>

An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) concealed in an empty television set was yesterday detonated by the bomb disposal unit of the Kaduna State police command.

The sound of the bomb, which residents said was planted at the early hours of yesterday by Katsina Road roundabout just a few meters away from the SOJ plaza where bombed exploded weeks ago, created tension in the metropolis.

It was gathered that the bomb disposal unit of the police arrived at the area around 6am and condoned off the road; and minutes after their arrival a deafening noise was heard.

The state commissioner of police, Mohammad Jinjiri Abubakar, confirmed the incident, saying his men successfully detonated the bomb.

"IED concealed in television set was found yesterday morning; it is a very dangerous one. It was planted around 4.am and based on intelligence report we got to know of it. Our men arrived there around 6am and they successfully detonated it", he said.



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## 21. [Special Interest, Somalia] Terror Group Al-Shabaab's Appeal Grows In Africa

Wednesday, May 30 2012

[http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/47615551/ns/world\\_news-africa/#.T8er61I7uSo](http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/47615551/ns/world_news-africa/#.T8er61I7uSo)

When Abdullahi slipped across the Kenya-Somali border to join the fighters of Islamist militant group al-Shabaab in 2009, the livestock herder from northern Kenya found himself among recruits from around the globe.

There were ethnic Somalis who had grown up in Australia, Britain, France and the United States. But there was also a large number of fellow Kenyans in the group's ranks. They included, unexpectedly, dozens of young men who did not share his Somali ancestry or language but came instead from the green, tropical heartland of Kenya where Christianity is the dominant religion.

Abdullahi, then aged about 20, initially dismissed those men as opportunists who had pretended to convert to Islam to win work as guns for hire.

Then he saw them in battle.

"They were good fighters. I saw the way they would advise us to fight, to defend ourselves," Abdullahi said of his two years in al-Shabaab, during which time he fought Somalia's weak United Nations-backed government. "I fought one battle outside Mogadishu. Half of us died... (The Kenyans) were very brave, the way they ran towards gunfire."

That's exactly what worries Kenyan and Western security agencies. Al-Shabaab has been waging an insurgency against Somalia's fragile interim government since 2007 and formally became part of al-Qaida earlier this year. Abdullahi's account is part of a mounting body of evidence — including intelligence picked up by security agencies, research by the United Nations and accounts by Muslim Kenyans interviewed for this story - that suggests al-Shabaab is mentoring a new and increasingly multi-ethnic generation of militants in the region.

That could have major ramifications not just for Somalia, which has been without a working government for two decades, but also for countries such as Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, relatively stable democracies whose economies are among the steadiest in Africa. This week, Kenyan politicians blamed a bombing in central Nairobi on al-Shabaab, which means "Youth" or "Boys" in Arabic.

Al-Shabaab seeks to impose a strict version of Sharia or Islamic law. The group emerged as a force in 2006 as part of a movement that pushed U.S.-backed warlords out of Somalia's capital, Mogadishu. It remains Somalia's most powerful non-government armed group and, in its propaganda, promotes the idea that many Muslims are flocking to its cause around Africa.

Washington and London have long worried the Somali group aimed to expand its influence in Africa. That suspicion was confirmed last July when a United Nations investigation found al-Shabaab had created extensive funding, recruiting and training networks in Kenya.

Much remains unclear about the strength of the group's following outside Somalia. Some academics, including Kenya-based independent researcher Paul Goldsmith and University of California scholar Jeremy Prestholdt, urge caution because Kenya's Western allies may play up the significance of the group to justify budgets and expanded surveillance powers.

Abdullahi's story about his time in al-Shabaab couldn't be independently verified. His account is consistent with those of other young Kenyan men involved in Islamist radicalism, including another former al-Shabaab fighter interviewed for this story, 22-year-old Mohamud, and by clerics, police officials, diplomats, security officials, lawyers, academics and social workers.

The flow of recruits continues, they say.

A skinny, bearded figure in sandals, dusty black trousers and a sports shirt, Abdullahi lives in Mandera, a few hours drive from Garissa, the town in Kenya's dusty north where he spoke with Reuters. He quit al-Shabaab last year, he said, because he grew disillusioned with the violence and with promises of payments that never came. Back home, he is unemployed and hopes to study at university. His militant days are behind him, though he asked that his full name not be used because he worried about official reprisals.

'Going over'

Pinning down the number of non-Somalis who have joined al-Shabaab is difficult. Boniface Mwaniki, head of Kenya's Anti-Terrorist Police Unit, said it was impossible to compile accurate figures because the Kenyan-Somali border is porous and long.

In separate interviews, a Western private security consultant, a European diplomat, a lawyer familiar with the militant Islamist community in Kenya, a community organizer and an independent researcher with an international non-governmental organization all said that up to 600 non-Somali Kenyans are currently fighting with al-Shabaab, around 10 percent of the group's total troops.

The militant group is also using its connections and social media to inspire the creation of loose networks of sympathizers in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Kenya's Security Minister George Saitoti worries that this support could allow al-Shabaab to threaten East Africa, and especially Kenya, the region's economic hub.

Non-Somali East Africans have taken part in al-Qaida attacks before, including the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and the suicide bomb attack on an Israeli-owned hotel near Mombasa in 2002. A few have risen high in al-Qaida: Indian Ocean islander Fazul Harun Mohamed once worked as Osama bin Laden's private secretary in Afghanistan.

Concern has risen since a coordinated bomb attack on Uganda's capital Kampala in July 2010, which killed 79 people watching the soccer World Cup final. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility, saying the attacks were retribution for Uganda's troop deployments in Mogadishu as African Union peacekeepers.

In September last year Kampala's High Court jailed two Ugandans on charges connected to the attack.



"We've seen a very different dynamic now. The young converts are the ones who are being lured into terrorism," said Al-Amin Kimathi, a Kenyan human rights activist who was released last year after being held on suspicion of involvement in the Kampala bombings.

Concern over al-Shabaab's growing East African contingent was one of the motives for Kenya's decision to send troops into Somalia last October.

Elders lose control

The pull of militancy is placing new strains on the region's Muslim communities, say elders, clerics and younger Muslims.

"The older generation has lost control of the youngsters. They've lost it completely," said Kimathi, who was born a Christian in Nyeri in Kenya's central highlands and converted to Islam in his mid-30s.

Most converts, he said, are "overzealous" and easy targets for al-Shabaab's recruitment campaigns, especially if they are poor. Because the young men, often converts, do not fit the conventional profile of an Arab or Somali militant, they are harder to track, one European diplomat said.

But Kenya's police have made life harder for the group's recruiters. Back in April 2009, when Abdullahi joined al Shabaab, it was possible for recruiters to carry out indoctrination sessions in a mosque. Abdullahi said he met al-Shabaab clerics from Somalia when they came to preach in his home town of Mandera.

"It was after afternoon prayers. We went to a corner of the mosque where we could talk quietly," he said. "They said that jihad was going on in Somalia and that we were all brothers and should join the jihad. They promised us money and food.

"They said Islam was under attack, and they mentioned Ethiopia. They told us the Ethiopians and other Christians were attacking Islam and they wanted to wash Islam out of the country. That made me feel so angry."

Fuelled by that anger and the fact he could not make enough to feed his family, he headed across the border. Abdullahi had been a herder and then worked for an aid organization, distributing rice and water.

"I joined for the jihad, I wanted to defend Islam. But of course we needed money to support the family," he said.

The Somali clerics who had visited his mosque paid him \$1,000 and said more money would follow. It did not.

"Of course I believed in jihad," Abdullahi said, shaking his head. "But what I found them fighting was not jihad."

'You want to attack'

Al-Shabaab may have lost Abdullahi, but there are others ready to take his place, many of them not ethnic Somalis. In the port city of Mombasa on Kenya's Indian Ocean Coast, sermons by fiery clerics stoke anti-Western sentiment.

Suleiman Adam, a 25-year-old mobile-phone card salesman, says his radicalization began in 2002, when he enrolled in an Islamic boarding school north of the city. Adam, whose forefathers came from Sudan, is the son of a truck driver who could not afford to send his son to a regular high school.

Looking back, Adam said, it was obvious that some of his teachers at the school sympathized with al-Shabaab.

There were moments when he agreed. "If you see some American tourist, like a kaffir (unbeliever), you just feel like you want to attack him. You are of that mind that 'These people are bad. These people want to finish this religion of Islam.' That was what was in my mind ... You feel like going and exploding yourself."

But even in his radical days Adam was not as extreme as some of his classmates, who included non-Somali Kenyans like him. "There are some... who are 50-50. We felt it's not a jihad, going to explode yourself, that's not a jihad. It wasn't making sense. But there were those who were 100 percent. They believed in that."

That faith is exploited by unscrupulous radical preachers, say community leaders like Imam Mustafa Bakari. Sitting in a cafe opposite his Masjid Fathi mosque in Mombasa, he said he worried that the recruitment would continue "because preachers in Mombasa are continuing with these wrong teachings.

"We have Muslims here who want to go to Somalia to join al-Shabaab, but I've told them they should not go to Somalia because the war there is not jihad. In Somalia it's Muslims fighting Muslims and that is not jihad."

A sense of piety is often fuelled by more practical considerations. Mwalimu Rama, 38, a former youth leader who now works for a non-governmental organization that counsels young Mombasa radicals, has friends with al-Shabaab in Somalia. Some occasionally call him to chat about their exploits, he said.

But when he tries to persuade them to come home, they scoff. "What, you have a job for me? You want to employ me? Is there actually anything good there, if I come back?" he said they ask.

The Salafi influence

Financial considerations also play in Kenya's capital, Nairobi. It's not hard to find al Shabaab sympathizers in the Eastleigh district, which teems with ethnic Somalis. But over the past few years the group's influence has extended to other areas, including Majengo, a huddle of streets beside the downtown area.

One of the most vocal of its support bases is a group called the Muslim Youth Centre, once headed by radical preacher Ahmed Iman Ali, who now lives in Somalia. Iman Ali used to preach at the Masjid Sunna, a small Majengo mosque, where he would openly praise al-Shabaab, residents say.

The mosque's current imam, Alzadin Muriuki Omar, 27, a thin, sprightly figure in shirt and trousers, denied that Masjid Sunna had any ongoing connection to al-Shabaab. He said he has told his congregation not to fight in Somalia, arguing that God commands his followers to solve disputes through discussion.

Kenyan media reports that the mosque is the centre of terrorism in East Africa are wrong, Omar said, as a hen clucked about his feet in the mosque's yard.

Omar and many of his congregation are Salafis, followers of an ultra-conservative brand of Islam that has its roots in Saudi Arabia.

Salafis are in the minority among Kenya's 4.3 million Muslims, but are beginning to flex their muscles. Older, non-Salafi Muslims in Majengo view Omar's congregation with suspicion, in part because Omar's followers have recently asserted control over the district's main mosque, the Pumwani Riyadh, one of Nairobi's oldest.

Imam Yahya Hussein, deputy imam of Pumwani, insists his followers will retake control of the mosque once current renovations are finished.

Sitting in a white plastic chair in a temporary mosque made of wooden poles and sheets of blue plastic and green canvas, Hussein suggested the spread of Salafi Islam in Majengo was a result of the increasing influence of Somalis with longer exposure to Salafist thinking. While many Salafis are no less revolted by al Qaida-style violence than other Muslims, their puritanical branch of the religion is espoused by many of the militants behind al-Shabaab.

"We have been against the Somali influence in this area for as long as I can remember," Hussein said. "As the population of the Somalis started growing in Nairobi ... the Somalis came here day time and night time," he said. "They have money. So it's the influence of money. So the youth here will tell the old men, 'What are you giving me? You are not giving me anything,'" he said. "Where there is money, people will go."

#### Police problems

It doesn't help that the police response to radicalism is often heavy-handed and corrupt, community activists say. Diplomats say that poor Muslim coastal areas of East Africa such as Mombasa or Tanzania's Zanzibar islands are particularly vulnerable.

It's "not far-fetched at all" to suggest that political stability on the East Africa coast could be threatened, a Western official said.

Stig Jarle Hansen, associate professor at the Department of International Environment and Development Studies at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, reckons that in terms of the quality of their response, "The Kenyans are where countries like Norway and Britain were about 20 years ago. They are using hard power, not soft power. They are not going into the communities to talk. They are going in to arrest. Engagement is not happening and that's not just because of a policy weakness but also because of the poverty of the state. They have less resources."

Police spokesman Eric Kiraithe said the force was not heavy-handed and such an allegation was "mischievous."

Kimathi, the Kenyan human-rights activist, also blames counterterrorist activities by Western and African forces. He spent almost a year in detention, much of it in solitary confinement, on suspicion of involvement in the Kampala bombings. He had visited Uganda to advise several Kenyans transferred there by Kenyan authorities after they had been picked up for the attacks. The prosecutor dropped murder and terrorism charges against him in September 2011 and released him.

The Ugandan prosecutor declined comment on his decision.

Despite his experience, Kimathi says there is a problem with the expansion of al Shabaab into non-Somali ethnic groups in East Africa.

"That is what is worrying now," he said. "They are still finding their ways around ... They think the whole world is their theater."

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## 22. [Attack, Syria] Explosive Device Goes Off In Central Syria, Killing Six

Friday, May 25 2012

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2012-05/25/c\\_131611633.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2012-05/25/c_131611633.htm)

An explosive device went off in Syria's central Homs province Friday, killing six people of one family, state-TV reported, as activists reported the eruption of anti-government rallies in several Syrian cities.

The device was planted by unidentified gunmen before the family 's house in the southern neighborhood of al-Rableh town in Qusair in Homs, said the TV.

The motives behind the attack were not immediately known.

Syria's central region has emerged as a focal point in the 15- month-long civil unrest in Syria. The explosions of improvised explosive devices have become daily occurrences across Syria.

Meanwhile, heavy clashes were reported in Homs province between government troops and armed rebels.

A day earlier, a report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria said that gross violations continue unabated in an increasingly militarized context despite various parties in the conflict having reached an agreement.

The commission has also taken note of an increased use of improvised explosive devices by anti-government groups.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Wednesday accused the Syrian opposition of undermining the peace plan implemented by the UN and Arab League joint envoy to Syria Kofi Annan.

He said that the Syrian opposition and their supporting countries have violated relevant UN resolutions.

Meanwhile, the activists' network, Local Coordination Committees, said that anti-regime rallies were held in several Syrian cities Friday, which has become the traditional day for nationwide antagonists' rallies.

Another activists' group, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said around eight people were killed across Syria over the past 12 hours, blaming the government for the bloodshed. The opposition account couldn't be independently verified.

In its Thursday's report, the human rights commission said a total of 478 police officers and 2,091 individuals from the military and security forces were killed in a year since March 2011, while the UN said the Syrian unrest has claimed the lives of 1,000 people.

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### **23. [Attack, Iraq] Nineteen Pakistani Pilgrims Wounded In Iraq Bombing**

Sunday, May 27 2012

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/384941/19-pakistani-pilgrims-wounded-in-iraq-bombing/>

A roadside bomb in Iraq's Anbar province wounded 19 Pakistani Shia pilgrims on Sunday, police and a doctor said, in the second attack against pilgrims in the province in days.

"A bus carrying Pakistani pilgrims was targeted by a roadside bomb at around 4:00 pm (1300 GMT) on the highway to Baghdad" from Fallujah, Anbar police spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Hassan Taher Kitab told AFP.

The attack wounded the driver of the bus and 18 passengers, including three children who were in critical condition, he said.

Assem al-Hadithi, a doctor at Fallujah Hospital, confirmed the toll, and said that the pilgrims were going to visit the Al-Askari shrine in Samarra, north of Baghdad.

The attack comes after a roadside bomb exploded on Wednesday near a bus carrying Lebanese Shia pilgrims west of Anbar's provincial capital Ramadi, killing three and wounding at least 10.

Iraq is home to some of the holiest sites for Shia Muslims, to which hundreds of thousands of pilgrims flock each year. Pilgrims are periodically attacked, often with bombs.

Brutal sectarian fighting tore across Iraq beginning in 2006, leaving tens of thousands of people dead.

While the violence was brought under control by a US troop surge and by Sunni tribesmen switching sides to fight against insurgents, sectarian tensions in Iraq remain high.

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## 24. [Attack, Syria] Roadside Bomb Targets Security Men In Syrian Capital, Injuring Five

Sunday, May 27 2012

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2012-05/27/c\\_131613686.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2012-05/27/c_131613686.htm)

A roadside bomb tore through a security forces' vehicle in the Syrian capital of Damascus Sunday morning, injuring five security members and setting the vehicle ablaze, local media and witnesses said. The bomb went off at Southern Motahleq highway in Damascus, witnesses said. Details surrounding the incidents are still forthcoming, but such incidents have become daily occurrences across Syria.

On Thursday, a report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria said unlawful killing, torture and ill-treatment and violation of children's rights have continued at the hands of the Syrian government and armed opposition groups. The commission has also taken note of an increased use of improvised explosive devices by anti-government groups.

It noted a series of large explosions in which scores of civilians were killed and pointed out the explosions appear to be by suicide bombers or by explosives hidden in vehicles and detonated remotely. However, "the commission was not able to ascertain those responsible for these criminal acts," the report said.

Meanwhile, witnesses said that a shootout occurred in Damascus' central Midan neighborhood at early time Sunday, sending people to rush to schools to take their children out of fear of escalating violence. The source of the shooting was not immediately clear.

Al-Midan has witnessed two large suicide bombings that targeted security patrols and killed dozens of them and civilians since early this year. The violence in Syria continued unabated despite the deployment of more than 250 UN observers, who arrived in Syria last month to shore up a cease-fire that has not taken hold despite pledges from the government and the opposition to curb the violence. Both sides blame each other for the prolonged violence.

Top UN officials on Saturday strongly condemned the killing of more than 90 civilians, including 32 kids in Syria at early time Saturday, and stressed that those responsible for the deadly attack must be held accountable.

Observers from the UN Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS) confirmed the killing after viewing the bodies in the village of Houla near the central city of Homs, where they also confirmed from an examination of ordnance that artillery and tank shells were fired at a residential neighborhood.

In response to the deadly attack, UN officials urged that the Syrian government to immediately cease the use of heavy weapons in population centers, and called on all parties to halt violence in all its forms.

The UN estimates that more than 9,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in Syria and tens of thousands displaced since the unrest began some 15 months ago.

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## 25. [Attack, Yemen] Roadside Bomb Kills Four Yemeni Soldiers

Tuesday, May 29 2012

[http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/roadside-bomb-kills-4-yemeni-soldiers\\_778491.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/roadside-bomb-kills-4-yemeni-soldiers_778491.html)

At least four Yemeni soldiers were killed on Tuesday by a roadside bombing on the eastern outskirts of the southern port city Aden, a security official said.

The roadside bomb exploded early Tuesday, hitting a military patrol near the al-Alam checkpoint on the eastern outskirts of Aden, killing at least four soldiers, the local security official told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The military patrol was near the security checkpoint of al-Alam that monitors the major highway connecting Aden to the city of Zinjibar, the capital of Abyan province, the security official said.

Just a few hours after the bombing, army forces blocked the main road linking Zinjibar to Aden, he added.

On Monday evening, at least seven members of the Yemen-based al- Qaida branch were killed when a U.S. drone strike bombed their pick- up truck in the southeastern province of Hadramout, a security official told Xinhua.

Hundreds of militants from the Yemen-based al-Qaida branch, locally known as Ansar al-Sharia (Partisans of Islamic Law), are attempting to expand their foothold and take control over the county's southern regions where central authority has almost no presence.

The Yemeni armed forces, backed by U.S.military advisers, have recently increased assaults against al-Qaida bastions in southern regions, as part of an offensive to uproot the terrorists from areas they overran during the one-year political turmoil in Yemen.

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## 26. [Trend, Yemen] Airstrike, Shelling Kills 20 Militants

Wednesday, May 30 2012

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jP38BpYhmtwv0oLw--XVfxsgT8xg?docId=fd4c74e25e2a4dd89ea5435f05eb0e0e>

Yemeni warplanes and artillery strikes killed 20 al-Qaida-linked militants in heavy shelling and clashes on Wednesday in the country's south, according to Defense Ministry and military officials.

The ministry said an air raid targeted a militant communications station near the southern coastal town of Shaqra early Wednesday, killing three and wounding seven.

Military officials say the station was used by the militants to direct operations using the Internet, wireless communications and a satellite telephone.

Elsewhere, army shelling and clashes in the western the town of Jaar, an al-Qaida stronghold, left 17 fighters and six soldiers dead and injured 12 over the past 24 hours. The army is conducting an offensive against the town, which has been in al-Qaida's hands for more than a year.

The army "fought a fierce two-hour battles with terrorists," the statement said, adding that army engineers defused land mines planted by al-Qaida militants.

Residents who fled Jaar say that al-Qaida militants were using heavy weaponry, including tanks.

Mahdi Nasser, who fled Wednesday morning, said there has been constant shelling for two days, and most residents have fled in fear. He said he saw army positions four kilometers (2.5 miles) outside Jaar.

Officials said that over the past days, the military tried to advance toward Jaar but encountered fierce resistance.

Jaar is in Abyan province, where al-Qaida controls the provincial capital, Zinjibar.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with military regulations.

Backed by the U.S., Yemen's army is pursuing a wide offensive against al-Qaida in several parts of the south, after the militant group took control during a year of political turmoil that accompanied an uprising against longtime ruler Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Hitting back, a suicide bomber who blew himself up in the middle of a military parade rehearsal in the capital, Sanaa, on May 21, leaving nearly 100 dead. Al-Qaida claimed responsibility for the attack.

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## 27. [Attack, Iraq] Bomb Attacks In Baghdad Kill 12 People

Thursday, May 31 2012

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2116144,00.html>

A series of bombings in the Iraqi capital struck a crowded restaurant, a police patrol and several other targets on Thursday, killing 12 people and wounding 29 in the bloodiest day in Baghdad in more than a month, police and hospital medics said.

Violence has fallen in Iraq since a wave of sectarian bloodshed in 2006 and 2007, but insurgents carry out frequent attacks on security forces and civilians in an attempt to undermine the Shiite-led government.

In northwest Baghdad, a parked car exploded outside a crowded restaurant in the Shiite neighborhood of Shula, killing eight people and wounding 13, police officials said.

Naseer Ali, owner of a grocery shop in Shula, said he was about 150 meters (yards) from the restaurant when the blast went off. Ali said he and other witnesses rushed to help the victims until the ambulances arrived.

"I was in my shop when I heard a powerful explosion and everybody rushed to the explosion site," he said. "Part of the restaurant was damaged and the windows of the nearby shops were shattered. We saw several wounded people screaming for help."

Ali said he is worried the level of violence in Baghdad will return to what it was several years ago, in part because of the growing sectarian divide underlying a months-long paralysis of Iraq's national unity government.

"The politicians are busy with their personal ambitions and the insurgents are making use of this," said Ali, standing on the sidewalk, his shirt stained with blood.

Elsewhere in Baghdad, a parked car blew up near the home of Jamal-Din Mohammed, an adviser to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, killing a civilian and wounding four people, including two guards protecting Mohammed's house.

Earlier Thursday, explosions hit two adjacent homes of Baghdad policemen in the predominantly Sunni neighborhood of Amariyah, killing two and wounding nine people, among them three children. One of the policemen was killed and one was wounded.

A fifth attack targeted a police patrol in Baghdad, killing a policeman and wounding three officers.

Medics at nearby hospitals confirmed the casualties. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Although the level of violence has dropped off sharply in recent years, deadly bombings are still common.

On April 19, bombs blew up in 10 Iraqi cities, killing 30 people and wounding more than 110. In Baghdad alone, 12 people were killed at the time, mostly in Shiite neighborhoods.

Some argue that the ongoing political impasse has opened the door to violence. The unity government headed by al-Maliki, a Shiite, has been largely paralyzed since the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq late last year.

There is mounting criticism of al-Maliki within the ruling coalition, amid complaints that he is shutting out Iraq's two main minorities — Kurds and Sunni Muslims — in decision-making. However, his opponents appear to fall short of a needed majority in parliament to bring down him down.

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## **28. [Security, Ireland] Guns, Explosives And Ammo Seized**

Sunday, May 27 2012

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/republic-of-ireland/guns-explosives-and-ammo-seized-16164373.html>

Explosives, firearms and ammunition have been seized in a raid in Limerick.

The cache was discovered during a planned search by gardai targeting criminal gangs in the county.

A submachine gun, 30 grenades, two pistols and 400 rounds of ammunition were found .

A Defence Forces bomb disposal team were also at the scene to assess the viability of the devices found.

Elsewhere, two men arrested over the seizure of cannabis worth an estimated street value of 1.5 million euro in the city have appeared before Limerick District Court and remanded in custody.

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## 29. [Security, Netherlands] Al-Shabaab Plotting Attack In Netherlands

Monday, May 28 2012

<http://www.rnw.nl/english/bulletin/al-shabab-plotting-attack-netherlands>

A former commander of the Somali al-Qaeda-linked organisation al-Shabaab says dormant cells in the Netherlands are secretly preparing terrorist attacks.

The commander, who left al-Shabaab because of a dispute with its leaders, said the militant Islamist group is actively recruiting and training members of the Somali diaspora in the Netherlands, United Kingdom and United States to launch attacks in the countries where they have residence.

Dutch public broadcaster VPRO spoke to BBC reporter Mary Harper on its radio programme Bureau Buitenland. She had interviewed Mohamed Farah al Ansari who said Somalia was becoming the new hub of jihadism. Al Ansari joined up with government forces and entered a protection programme with the interim government after he stopped activities with Al Shabaab.

The Somali commander was questioned by US security officials at the American embassy in Nairobi.

Waging jihad

Al-Shabaab is an offshoot of the Islamic Courts Union, which splintered into several smaller factions after its defeat in 2006 by the Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the TFG's Ethiopian military allies. The group describes itself as waging jihad against "enemies of Islam", and is engaged in combat against the TFG and the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM).

The outfit controls large swathes of the southern parts of the country where it is said to have imposed its own strict form of Sharia Law. Its strength is estimated at around 14,000 militants. The group also targets foreign aid organisations, leading to a suspension of humanitarian operations and an exodus of relief agents.

The UN Security Council voted earlier this year to increase AU peacekeeping forces in Somalia. The fighting has shifted away from the capital Mogadishu and government troops have managed to take a strategic al-Shabaab stronghold in south-western Somalia.

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### **30. [Law Enforcement, Denmark] Danish Police Arrest Two Somali Men In Terror Plot**

Tuesday, May 29 2012

<http://www.mareeg.com/fidsan.php?sid=24383&tirsan=3>

Two Danish brothers originally from Somalia were arrested on suspicion of plotting a terror attack, Denmark's security service said Tuesday.

The two brothers, ages 18 and 23, were arrested late Monday — one in the western city of Aarhus and the other as he arrived by plane at Copenhagen's international airport, said the Danish Security and Intelligence Service, or PET.

The men were suspected of "being in the process of preparing an act of terror" after they were overheard talking about methods, targets and different weapons types, PET said in a statement, suggesting the suspects had been under surveillance. One of them had been to a training camp in Somalia run by the Islamist militant group al-Shabab, the agency said. The Somalia-based al-Shabab has links to al-Qaida.

The suspects are "Danish citizens of Somali origin" who have lived in Denmark for 16 years, PET said.

"According to PET's assessment the arrests have prevented a concrete act of terror, and the arrests therefore don't lead to a changed evaluation of the terror threat in Denmark," PET said, adding that the terror threat level in Denmark remains "serious."

The Scandinavian country has been in the crosshairs of Islamist terror groups after the publication of newspaper cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad in 2005.

A Somali man living in Denmark was convicted of terrorism and sentenced to 10 years in prison after breaking into the home of one of the cartoonists with an ax in 2010.

Last year, a Chechen-born man was sentenced to 12 years in prison for preparing a letter bomb that exploded as he was assembling it in a Copenhagen hotel in 2010.

Another trial is under way in Denmark against four men accused of plotting a shooting spree at another Danish newspaper.

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### 31. [Security, Estonia] Explosive Cache Could Be Biggest Ever Found In Estonia

Wednesday, May 30 2012

<http://news.err.ee/7191199a-74ad-4a8e-b9c2-555a2794fba4>

May has been a busy month for the nation's bomb squads, but no one expected a find on the scale of one made late last week.

Bomb deactivation personnel on the outskirts of Tallinn found 15 tons of TNT and other explosives that had been buried for more than 75 years - the biggest such find since independence was regained.

It started as an ordinary call for the squad on May 24. An unidentified person was seen avidly digging in the area and, as the area is historically associated with the defense industry, the specialists were tipped off.



Initially the responders found a hand grenade and a small quantity of explosives. But more and more material kept surfacing into the evening.

"We were shocked the next day as large pieces started to be uncovered. We're used to reckoning quantities in grams," said Arno Pugonen of the Rescue Board's bomb squad.

It took three days to complete the work. By midnight on Sunday, the area was TNT-free. The explosives were sent by special police and Defense Forces escort to a facility in Tapa, where the material was destroyed in a controlled explosion.



Pugonen said the find comprised a mixed bag of old, unstable explosives, including one type that was toxic.

Military historian Mati Õun said the explosives - highly unstable and dangerous - could have been cached after an explosion at an ammunition factory in 1936.

The factory was in the process of extracting explosive from old naval mines and reloading it into artillery shells. An estimated nine tons exploded, and shattering windows miles away in the garden town of Nõmme.

Õun said the incident was the largest peacetime accident in Estonia, claiming 63 lives

After the plant was closed, Õun said, apparently the path of least resistance was taken with regard to disposing of the remaining munitions

"They weren't about to go far, just poured it into pits and there it stayed for 75 years," he said.

"It's certainly a complete surprise to me that they pursued this course during the first republic, but there is nothing new under the sun. All kinds of outrageous shortcuts are taken in re-independent Estonia and it was the same in the old one."

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### **32. [Security, Azerbaijan] Forty Arrested In Eurovision Terror Plot**

Wednesday, May 30 2012

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2012/05/30/2162398/azerbaijan-reveals-eurovision.html>

Security services in Azerbaijan say they have arrested 40 suspects and seized weapons as they thwarted a series of planned terror attacks against the Eurovision Song Contest. Targets included the song contest venue and major hotels housing foreigners, the National Security Ministry said in a statement Wednesday.

Azerbaijan has in recent months reported being the target of terrorist activities planned by groups with ties to Al-Qaida and Iran, and this appears to be most extravagant alleged plot revealed to date.

An oil-rich nation of 9 million people wedged between Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan has nurtured close relations with the United States and played an active role in Western-led counter-terrorist programs. That policy has placed a strain on its ties with Iran, which hosts a sizable ethnic Azeri community.

The statement Wednesday said other plots included plans for an assassination attempt on President Ilham Aliyev in April, as well as attacks on religious pilgrimage sites and police stations.

Officials said 40 people have been arrested. Weapons seized included 13 assault rifles, one machine gun, 12 handguns, three rifles, 3,400 rounds of bullets, 62 hand grenades, and several kilograms of explosives. The statement provided no details on when the arrests took place.

"The armed group set itself the aim of mounting terrorist attacks in several regions of Azerbaijan, creating a mood of powerlessness and lawlessness, sowing panic, ethnic and religious enmity, disrupting the public peace and damaging Azerbaijan's international image," the statement said.

The Eurovision attack would have centered on the Baku Crystal Hall, where the singing competition concluded early Sunday, officials said. Other planned targets included Marriot and Hilton hotels in the capital, Baku.

At least one suspected plotter, 37-year-old Azerbaijani citizen Vugar Padarov, and a security agent were killed during raids to shut down the terrorist group, the statement said.

Padarov was identified in an April security statement as the leader of a group that had received religious training in Syria. Some of its members had weapons training with the Jihad Islami group in Pakistan and took part in fighting NATO-led troops in Afghanistan, the National Security Ministry said.

In March, the ministry announced the arrests of 22 Azerbaijani citizens it said had been hired by Iran to stage terror attacks against the U.S. and Israeli embassies as well as against western-linked groups and companies. It said they had been trained in Iran by the Revolutionary Guard.

Earlier this year, it announced the arrest of several other suspected terrorists allegedly working for Iran's secret services.

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### **33. [Attack, Turkey] Bomb Attack Kill Two Policemen, Wounds Several In Central Turkey**

Friday, May 25 2012

<http://www.nationalturk.com/en/bomb-attack-kill-turkey-6548>

A woman ignited two bombs outside of the local police station killing two police officers and wounding 21 people in the town of Pınarbaşı in the central Turkish province of Kayseri.

10 of the wounded are reportedly children. After the attack the electricity to the town of Pınarbaşı was cut.

The incident reportedly took place around 10 a.m. when two men evaded a police checkpoint on the Kahramanmaraş-Kayseri highway and tried to enter the Pınarbaşı Police Department building complex. Police tried to prevent the men from entering and opened fire on both of the suspects, who were killed.

However, an explosive in their vehicle was detonated minutes after, killing a police officer and seriously wounding seven others. The wounded were reported to have sustained only minor injuries.

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### **34. [Security, India] One Naxal Woman Cadre Killed In MP; Explosives Recovered In Chhattisgarh**

Sunday, May 27 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/1-Naxal-woman-cadre-killed-in-MP-explosives-recovered-in-Chhattisgarh/articleshow/13536627.cms>

A woman Naxal, who is yet to be identified, was gunned down and a few more are likely to have been injured in an encounter in the Dadri forest in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh on Saturday.

In another successful anti-Naxal operation, the Rajnandgaon police of Chhattisgarh in a joint operation with Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force recovered 10 directional mines and another five improvised launchers packed with splinters and explosives on Thursday.

It's learnt that the Naxals had used the same type of directional mines to blow up the convoy of former Andhra Pradesh chief minister Chandrababu Naidu in 2003. The explosives were found 16-km away from the Gadchiroli border on the Chhattisgarh side.

After the recent success of Gadchiroli police in gunning down one Naxal and arresting two, the Balaghat cops emerged victorious after a fierce gun battle which lasted for six hours.

Balaghat SP Sachin Kumar Atulkar said that a joint force comprising district police and state's special anti-Naxal force 'Hawk' led by him had gone into the forest on receiving information about the presence of the rebels. "We had a steady exchange of fire against around 40-50 Naxals. The blood stains on the spot suggest that some Naxals may have received serious injuries. The slain woman had a rifle and was carrying some ammunition too," said Atulkar to TOI from Balaghat.

In the other incident, the Rajnandgaon police managed to foil an ambush bid at a spot near Sitapur at Lekhepal village. The mines and launchers were planted along the sides of the Manpur-Chandrapur road.

Rajnandgaon SP Sanjiv Shukla said that the Naxals had turned the section of the road into a minefield. "On Wednesday, a wire was first spotted suspiciously coming from the undergrowth. But since it was getting dark, we did not take any chances. On the next day, the explosives were unearthed and diffused," he said. Shukla added that the mines and launchers must have been planted on Wednesday itself and were ready to be used. "If they would have exploded, the splinters filled in them would have hit the targets like a shower," he said.

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### **35. [Security, India] IED Recovered In Naxal-Affected Jharkhand District**

Sunday, May 27 2012

[http://zeenews.india.com/news/jharkhand/ied-recovered-in-naxal-affected-jharkhand-district\\_778022.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/jharkhand/ied-recovered-in-naxal-affected-jharkhand-district_778022.html)

A powerful IED was recovered on Sunday by security forces in the Naxal-affected Khunti district's Jaranga village, the police said.

The IED, weighing 25 kg, was found hidden during routine search at a spot falling under Adki police station, Superintendent of Police M Tamilvananan told reporters here.

The explosive was later defused, he said.

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### **36. [Security, India] Explosives Seized In Rajasthan, Two Held**

Monday, May 28 2012

[http://zeenews.india.com/news/rajasthan/explosives-seized-in-rajasthan-2-held\\_778092.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/rajasthan/explosives-seized-in-rajasthan-2-held_778092.html)

A huge cache of explosives was seized from a car in Rajasthan's Tonk district and two persons have been arrested in this connection, police here said Monday.

The accused duo, Lokesh Kumar and Surendra, was arrested from Kota-Jaipur Highway yesterday after explosives were recovered from the SUV they were travelling in, police said.

150 kg of Ammonium nitrate in three sacks, 2,000 gelatin rods and 1,900 detonators were seized from the vehicle, they said, adding, the explosives were being transported to Bassi in Jaipur.

Further investigations are on, police said.

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### 37. [Attack, Thailand] Pattani Bomb Attack Kills Three

Tuesday, May 29 2012

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/security/295486/pattani-bomb-attack-kills-3>

Three security volunteers were killed and four of their colleagues injured in a bomb attack in Kapho district of Pattani province yesterday.

The improvised bomb, which was packed in a fire extinguisher and weighed about seven kilogrammes was buried under a road in Ban Koli village of tambon Talo Dueraman. It was detonated by wire from a rubber plantation about 200 metres away as the volunteers passed by in their truck.

They were returning from a ceremony to circumcise an assistant village head's son. The blast tore through the vehicle, killing the three instantly.

The dead were identified as Abdullo Hawae, 40, Nima Masae, 32, and Muhammadromeesu Yuso, 25.

The injured are Aliya Solae, 41, Anasnan Sata, 26, Somnuek Nirunphut, 41, and Masuree Ako, 28.

Meanwhile, in Yala municipality, a woman was shot in the head and seriously wounded about 1pm yesterday. Police said a pillion rider shot Mayuree Sai-uma, 40, while she was leaving her rented garage on Siroros 3 Road.

Police believe the shooting resulted from a personal conflict. They found a bankbook in her car showing up to 100,000 baht had been transferred to her account.

Ms Mayuree worked as a cleaner at a Yala municipality office and police are investigating how she could afford a car and why she had such a large sum of money in her account.



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### **38. [Security, United States] Suspected Bomb Prompts Evacuation Of Idaho Courthouse**

Tuesday, May 29 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/29/us-usa-bombthreat-idaho-idUSBRE84S1DJ20120529>

A federal courthouse and office building in Idaho was evacuated on Tuesday and nearby streets cordoned off after authorities discovered a package suspected to be a mail bomb, federal and local officials said.

A mail clerk alerted marshals about a suspicious package delivered to the building by the U.S. Postal Service in Pocatello and an initial X-ray inspection of the parcel suggested it may contain an explosive device, a U.S. Marshals Service supervisor said.

Nearly 40 workers in the building were ordered to leave as a precaution while authorities examined the package, which came from an unknown sender, said Darrin Lambert, supervisor of the Marshals Service office in Pocatello.

"We were unable to clearly identify the device or possible device," Lambert said the package. It was not immediately clear to whom the package was addressed and whether it bore a return address.

No one was reported hurt in the incident, which unfolded in the early afternoon.

The building is located in the business district of Pocatello, a city of about 58,000 residents in southeastern Idaho that is home to Idaho State University. The building houses offices of the U.S. attorney and probation officers in addition to the federal courthouse.

Police closed off streets within a one-block perimeter of the courthouse while a bomb squad was brought in to remove the package and dispose of it.

Pocatello police spokeswoman Diane Brush said a bomb-disposal robot was sent into the building to retrieve the parcel and place it into a special canister for detonation in a nearby parking lot.

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### 39. [Special Interest, United States] New NIST SRM Supports The Fight Against Terrorist Bombings

Tuesday, May 29 2012

<http://www.nist.gov/mml/analytical/explosive-052912.cfm>

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has released a new standard reference material (SRM) to aid in the detection of two explosive compounds that are known to be used by terrorists. Researchers designed the new test samples to simulate the size and behavior of residues that remain after handling the explosives PETN (pentaerythritol tetranitrate) and TATP (triacetone triperoxide). Instrument developers, academic researchers and government labs can use the SRM to test, refine and validate their new detector designs.

The new test samples are available from NIST as Standard Reference Material (SRM) 2907, "Trace Terrorist Explosives Simulants."

Fabricating and handling explosives leaves trace residues of the explosives on skin, clothes or other possessions. These residues are invisible to the naked eye and difficult to remove but may be detected by sensitive explosives detectors. Airport security personnel collect residues with handheld swipe wands. The swipes are then heated to vaporize the explosives, and the vapors analyzed in a tabletop detector. Current detectors typically use a technique called ion mobility mass spectrometry that can recognize specific ionized chemicals based on their chemical properties.

Both PETN and TATP are relatively difficult to detect in the field. The compounds were used in failed terrorist attacks by the "shoe bomber" in 2002 and the "underwear bomber" in 2009.

The new NIST reference material contains meticulously measured concentrations of these two explosives that can be used to test and validate the ability of machines and methods to detect the explosives' presence. The SRM is not itself explosive; it is formulated from inert particles coated with a trace amount of the two explosives.

NIST researchers certified the PETN and TATP content of the simulants using liquid chromatography with both ultraviolet absorbance and mass spectrometric detection. Analytical challenges included development of a new ionization-enhancing additive (for PETN) and a custom synthesized stable-isotope internal standard for the liquid chromatography mass spectrometer measurements of TATP. Details of the development of the materials and the analytical methods used were described in a 2011 paper in *Analytical Chemistry*.\*

SRM 2907, Trace Terrorist Explosives Simulants, is the third SRM supporting the detection of trace explosives. Details, including pricing and distribution, are available at [https://www-s.nist.gov/srmors/view\\_detail.cfm?srm=2907](https://www-s.nist.gov/srmors/view_detail.cfm?srm=2907). The Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate funded the production of the work presented in this material under HSHQDC-10-00297 with NIST.

Standard reference materials are among the most widely distributed and used products from NIST. The agency prepares, analyzes and distributes about 1,300 different materials used throughout the world to check the accuracy of instruments, validate test procedures, and serve as the basis for quality control standards worldwide.



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#### **40. [Trend, United States] Homeowner Killed By Homemade Explosive Device**

Tuesday, May 29 2012

<http://www.newschannel5.com/story/18650034/homeowner-killed-by-homemade-explosive-device>

A Giles County man has been killed after a mishap with a homemade explosive device.

Officials with the Giles County Sheriff's Department said officers were called to a home Davis Hollow Road in Minor Hill on reports of a shooting Thursday. When officers arrived at the home, they found 67-year-old Jerry Bryan Simpkins dead of a head injury that appeared to have been caused by a homemade explosive.

After speaking with the victim's family officers determined that there were several more homemade devices on the property with unknown triggers. Giles County officials requested additional support from Giles County Office of Emergency Management, Maury County Office of Emergency Management and the Columbia Police Department Hazardous Devices Unit and were able to secure the area and create a safe perimeter.

With the help from the other agencies, the Giles County Sheriff's Department officers were able to safely remove the victim from the home and locate several more homemade explosive devices.

Police have not yet determined what types of explosives were in the home and what might have caused them to kill the homeowner.

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#### **41. [Security, United States] IED Found In Room At Local Motel**

Wednesday, May 30 2012

[http://www.douglasdispatch.com/articles/2012/05/30/news/breaking\\_news/doc4fc6481094f88090930842.txt](http://www.douglasdispatch.com/articles/2012/05/30/news/breaking_news/doc4fc6481094f88090930842.txt)

Parts of A Ave were blocked off Friday night not only for Douglas High School's graduation but also when an improvised explosive device was found in an nearby residence.

According to Carol Capas at approximately 5 p.m. May 27 the Cochise County Sheriff's Office was requested to dispatch a bomb technician to the Border Motel in Douglas in reference to a possible explosive device located in a room.

Capas said the bomb tech responded and advised that the item was an improvised explosive device (IED) manufactures using a "replica" US Military MK2 fragmentation hand grenade.

The explosive filler was found to be "black powder". The replica grenade had an attached US Military Practice Grenade Fuse which had been modified to hold two inches of green pyrotechnic (hobby/cannon) fuse. This fuse was inserted into the black powder as the initiator.

Capas said the IED was transported to the AZ DOC Douglas Complex Range where the fuse was remotely removed from the grenade body.

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## 42. [Special Interest, United States] Serial Bomber Of Arizona, Like Other Terrorists, Leaves A Signature

Thursday, May 31 2012

<http://www.thecuttingedgenews.com/index.php?article=73940>

A small improvised explosive device (IED) detonated at a Salvation Army distribution center in Phoenix, Ariz., on the afternoon of May 24. Two Salvation Army employees discovered the explosive device, which was concealed inside a yellow, hand-held 6-volt flashlight, as they were sorting through a box of donated items. The IED exploded when one of the employees picked up the flashlight and attempted to turn it on. The blast was not very powerful, and the two employees suffered only minor injuries.

This was the third incident in the Greater Phoenix area in recent weeks involving an IED concealed in a flashlight. Two explosive devices very similar to the May 24 IED exploded May 13 and May 14 in Glendale, Ariz., a city in the Greater Phoenix metropolitan area.

Both devices were abandoned in public places. In the May 13 incident, a woman discovered a yellow, hand-held 6-volt flashlight next to a tree outside a Glendale business. When the woman picked up the flashlight and attempted to turn it on, it exploded, causing minor scratches and bruises to her face and hands. It also inflicted minor wounds to a woman beside her. The next day, a man found an identical flashlight in a ditch where he was working in another part of Glendale. He was lightly injured when the flashlight exploded as he attempted to turn it on.

So far, the explosive devices have failed to cause significant injury or death, but they do seem to indicate that there is a serial bombmaker operating in the Phoenix area. While it is not yet clear what the bombmaker's motives are, past cases of serial bombers suggest that the publicity he has received and the fear he has invoked will likely influence him to continue manufacturing explosive devices until he is captured. (Based on earlier cases involving serial bombers, it is also safe to assume that the culprit in the Phoenix area is a man.)

The bombmaker's method of concealing his explosive devices may also change after gaining publicity for this wave of attacks. Finally, there is a chance that the destructive effect of the bombmaker's devices will increase as he becomes more proficient at building IEDs.

### Serial Bombers

Serial bombmakers vary greatly in skill, motivation and affiliation. Most bombmakers involved with militant groups are, in effect, serial bombers, especially when they are exceptional bombmakers such as those we discussed in the May 17 Security Weekly. These include individuals such as Abu Ibrahim of the Black September Organization, Yahya Ayyash of Hamas or al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's Ibrahim Hassan Tali al-Asiri. Such individuals typically create hundreds, if not thousands, of innovative explosive devices for their groups' terrorist operations over a span of many years. However, not all serial bombmakers are associated with a militant group.

There is a long history of individuals who have operated as serial bombers. From 1940 to 1956, George Metesky, who was known in the media as "The Mad Bomber," deployed 33 IEDs, 22 of which detonated, and injured 15 people. Metesky was angry after being denied disability pay following an injury he sustained while working for Consolidated Edison, Inc. After planting two explosive devices in 1940, Metesky observed a self-imposed moratorium on bombing attacks during World War II. He deployed the bulk of his devices -- pipe bombs -- from 1951 to 1956. He attacked not only Consolidated Edison, but also theaters, the New York subway system, the New York Public Library, Radio City Music Hall, Grand Central Station and other targets. Metesky was arrested after Consolidated Edison personnel managers identified him based on details he provided in threatening letters.

One of the most famous serial bombers in recent years was Theodore Kaczynski, also known as the "Unabomber." UNABomb was an FBI case name that stood for "University and Airline Bomber" -- Kaczynski's first targets. From May 1978 until April 1995, Kaczynski deployed 16 IEDs that killed a total of three people and injured 23 more. Like the Metesky case, it was Kaczynski's writings that allowed him to be identified, though it was Kaczynski's brother who identified him for authorities. As demonstrated in his manifesto, titled *Industrial Society and Its Future* (1995), Kaczynski was motivated by a fear of technology. He called for a revolution against modern society's "industrial-technological system."

Eric Rudolph first came onto the scene in July 1996 when a bomb he planted in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park detonated during the 1996 Summer Olympics. Rudolph also conducted IED attacks against abortion clinics in Atlanta in 1997 and in Birmingham, Ala., in 1998 and against a gay bar in Atlanta in 1997. Rudolph's IED attacks killed two and wounded more than 100. Rudolph was motivated by his extreme anti-abortion and anti-homosexual convictions. Not all serial bombers have intended to kill their targets. From 1994 to 2006, an unidentified bombmaker known by the media as the "Italian Unabomber" planted dozens of small IEDs in various locations in Italy.

While many of the IEDs were pipe bombs, the Italian bombmaker also concealed IEDs in cans of tomato paste, cigarette lighters, church votive candles and in items intended to target children, such as bottles of soap bubbles, colored markers and Kinder Eggs. The size of many of these devices suggests that the bombmaker hoped to maim and terrorize his victims but not kill them. A suspect was arrested in the Italian case but was later acquitted, and the case has never been officially solved. Since many serial bombmakers, such as Metesky and Kaczynski, go through periods when they suspend bombmaking activity, it is possible that the Italian bombmaker is still at large and will attack again.

#### The Learning Curve

Of these historical examples, Rudolph stands out because from the beginning of his campaign he used relatively powerful devices that were constructed with a main charge of commercial dynamite and that contained nails as added shrapnel. From the outset, Rudolph appeared to have been bent on killing. This is different from the case of the Italian Unabomber. Rudolph's explosive devices also functioned as designed, and his first device proved deadly, an accomplishment aided by the fact that he was constructing them from stolen commercial explosive components rather than dealing with homemade

bomb components and explosive mixtures. However, all serial bombmakers must overcome a learning curve.

A bombmaker's first explosive devices typically malfunction or only partially detonate until he perfects his craft. For example, the two devices Metesky deployed in 1940 failed to explode, but when he resumed his bombing campaign in 1951, his first device functioned as intended. Still, of the 33 devices Metesky planted, one-third of them did not function as designed. Likewise, Kaczynski's initial explosive devices caused only light injuries. It was not until the 1980s that his bombs began to cause significant injuries to their victims, and he did not kill his first victim until 1985. By the mid-1990s, Kaczynski had become very deadly. His last two bombing attacks, in December 1994 and April 1995, both proved fatal.

A malfunction is not uncommon when a self-taught bombmaker constructs an IED using a new design and does not have the time or the place to test it. Essentially testing the explosive device when he deploys it, the bombmaker applies lessons from one operation to the next to improve his devices. This progression of bombmaking competence has also been displayed in many cases involving militant groups. Based on these cases, we believe it is highly likely that if the Phoenix bombmaker is not identified and arrested, he will continue along the learning curve and eventually construct more powerful -- and thus more deadly -- IEDs.

At this point it is unclear what is motivating the serial bombmaker in Phoenix. Young men sometimes construct small IEDs for their own amusement -- and not necessarily for use in an attack -- but in such cases they usually want to watch their devices detonate, oftentimes even recording the detonations to post them online. They will sometimes use such devices in pranks, such as to blow up mailboxes, but again, they usually like to observe the results. Abandoning IEDs in booby-trapped items for people to find and activate suggests a different motive.

Reports suggest that there were ceramic shards and BBs added to the Phoenix devices. This indicates that the devices were intended to harm people rather than just scare them. There are reports that a pair of dice was found at the scene of one of the Glendale explosions, which has led some to speculate that the dice were left by the bomber as a calling card. Similarly, the box containing the booby-trapped flashlight in the Salvation Army attack also held books that were predominately concerned with murders and serial killers; this may also prove to be some sort of calling card.

#### A Bombmaker's Signature

Forensic science has come a long way since the days of Metesky. Urged along by international terrorism cases and cases like the Unabomber investigation, bomb investigators, chemists and forensic technicians are far more advanced in their craft than they were a few years ago. In a bombing, the evidence is not completely vaporized as many people believe. Certainly, the explosive charge may be mostly or completely detonated, but it will still leave behind traces of chemical residue that allow the explosive to be identified. In addition, portions of the main charge often times will not be detonated, especially with homemade explosive mixtures.

Although they are frequently shattered and scattered, significant portions of the device's firing chain often can be recovered in a careful bomb crime scene investigation. It is not unusual to find batteries, wires, switches or pieces of clock or circuit board during a post-blast investigation. Sometimes pieces of the aluminum body of a blasting cap can be found. In the case of the Phoenix bombings, the fact that the flashlights did not explode with much force will likely assist the police in their post-blast investigation, since device components were probably not thrown very far or even that badly damaged. It is also possible that an identifiable fingerprint or trace DNA evidence can be recovered from the explosive device.

If used in the construction of the device, electrical tape is often an excellent place to recover such evidence. Like other craftsmen, bombmakers tend to do things a certain way and to repeat it from project to project. They also favor certain components and tend to string these components together in much the same way. They will often connect the wires together in the same manner, use the same type of solder, connectors or tape, and in many cases they will even use the same tools to cut wires or other items, leaving tool marks that can be compared microscopically. All these unique factors combine to form what is referred to as a bombmaker's "signature."

In many cases this signature is as unique and personalized as an actual written signature. According to reports, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) laboratory is working on the Phoenix case. The ATF lab has many decades of working post-blast investigations and, along with the FBI, has been heavily involved in maintaining something called the U.S. Bomb Data Center, which is a repository of data pertaining to bombing investigations that can be cross-referenced to uncover ties to past cases. The ATF lab, like the FBI lab's explosives section, also maintains an extensive database of bomb components and other signature items.

However, unless there is a bomb signature item, fingerprint or trace DNA evidence that can be readily connected to a suspect, or unless authorities are able to trace one of the components (such as the flashlight) back to the place of purchase, it is likely that the bombmaker will attack again -- serial bombers usually do. The next time, the devices may be disguised in a different manner and may be more powerful.

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### **43. [Security, Colombia] Three Hidden Depots Were Found By The National Army In The Departments Of Antioquia And Boyacá**

Friday, May 25 2012

<http://www.cgfm.mil.co/CGFMPortal/faces/index.jsp?id=14749>

Military operations deployed by troops of the First and Seventh Brigade of the Army in different regions of the country, left the finding of three hidden depots pertaining to illegal groups of the FARC.

Initially, the main point of the operations took place in the municipality of Chita, department of Boyacá, when troops of the Artillery Battalion no. 1 “Tarqui” found depots of the front 28 “Jose Maria Córdoba” of the FARC, which contained 250 kilos of pentolite, a rifle caliber 30 and military equipment of the guerrillas.

The offensive of the Army continued with the finding of two clandestine depots pertaining to the Front “Atanasio Girardot” of the FARC, in the municipality of Algeria, department of Antioquia.

This joint operation was led by the Mechanized Cavalry Group no. 4 “Juan del Corral” in coordination with soldiers of the Judicial Police (SIJIN), which seized 125 kilos of explosives R1, a kilo of pentolite, 25 meters of detonating cord, 12 artisanal mortal traps, 46 hand grenades, a submachine rifle, an rudimentary shot rifle and the ammunition for weapons of different calibers.

The war material was destroyed under controlled conditions by military expert personnel in explosives.

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#### **44. [Security, Chile] Chile-Peru Landmine Blast Kills At Least One In Car**

Saturday, May 26 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-18223274>

A Peruvian driver was killed when his car hit a landmine in northern Chile.

The Chilean army said the car - a taxi with a Peruvian number plate - crossed the border illegally on Friday night in the Arica and Parinacota region. It inadvertently entered a minefield and set off an anti-tank device, which destroyed the vehicle.

Chile planted thousands of mines along its border in the 1970s during a period of tension with Peru.

Chilean prosecutor Patricio Espinoza confirmed the driver was a Peruvian national, but did not identify him.

The victim was apparently driving a taxi that belonged to a private company in the border city of Tacna.

The Chilean army said in a statement that the minefield, in an area known as Quebrados Escritos, "was expressly marked according to existing international norms."

Reports in the Chilean press say another person was killed in the accident. The police said no one could have survived the powerful explosion, but only one casualty has been confirmed so far.

Periodic border tensions are a legacy of the 19th Century War of the Pacific, which ended with Chile annexing part of southern Peru as well as Bolivia's coastline. The mines on the Peruvian border were planted during the government of Gen Augusto Pinochet (1973-90).

Chile had tense relations with Argentina at the time, and the military government decided to mine its northern border to prevent an invasion. Chile's democratic government later became a signatory to the Ottawa Treaty banning anti-personnel mines. It aims to be mine-free by 2020.

Since 2002, 14,000 mines have been cleared, but thousands still remain on the border with Peru.

In February, more than 100 of them were displaced by torrential rain and washed down a ravine into the vicinity of the road linking Arica in Chile and Tacna in Peru.

The border remained closed for several days, while army bomb disposal experts detonated a number of devices in controlled explosions.

The closure left hundreds of travellers stranded.

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## **45. [Security, Colombia] Case With Eight Kilos Of Pentolite Was Deactivated In Bogota**

Sunday, May 27 2012

[http://www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/M/maletin\\_con\\_ocho\\_kilos\\_de\\_pentolita\\_fue\\_des\\_activado\\_en\\_bogota/maletin\\_con\\_ocho\\_kilos\\_de\\_pentolita\\_fue\\_desactivado\\_en\\_bogota.asp](http://www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/M/maletin_con_ocho_kilos_de_pentolita_fue_des_activado_en_bogota/maletin_con_ocho_kilos_de_pentolita_fue_desactivado_en_bogota.asp)

An alleged attack in southern Bogota was thwarted in the afternoon of Sunday explosion-proof units of the Metropolitan Police in the capital of the Republic.

Initial reports account for a briefcase whose contents were 8.6 kilos of pentolite, two batteries and a detonating cord that would have a damage capacity of 80 meter radius. The explosive device was found by authorities in the neighborhood near English, a sector in which there are some facilities of the National Police.

The situation forced the evacuation of three blocks.

Police confirmed the arrest of a demobilized FARC would be related to the fact.

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#### **46. [Security, Colombia] Colombian Army Captures 'FARC Operative'**

Tuesday, May 29 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/24289-colombian-army-captures-farc-operative-frijolito.html>

The Colombian army captured an important alleged FARC member known by the alias 'Frijolito' (Little Bean), newspaper El Espectador reported Tuesday.

Members of the Mobile Brigade No. 8 of the Fifth Division of the army arrested the supposed FARC member early Tuesday morning in the village of San Gabriel, in the municipality of Lower Planada, located in Tolima, a department in central Colombia.

Frijolito reportedly belonged to the Marquetalia Heroes mobile column of the FARC's Central Bloc, known for carrying out terrorist acts, assassinations, extortion and intelligence gathering in the municipalities of Rioblanco and Planadas, also located in Tolima.

The 35-year-old had allegedly been a member of the FARC for eight years. During his tenure he was supposedly responsible for carrying out numerous violent acts, including the murder of two men in the village of Brisas Quebrador in December 2010.

He had outstanding warrants out for his arrest on charges of aggravated murder and rebellion.

Frijolito was known for planting land mines and other illegal explosives on commonly used roads in areas with strong army presence.

At the time of his arrest, he was found in a possession of a fragmentation grenade, a 40mm grenade, six homemade electronic detonators, a conventional electronic detonator and two pressure activated tatuco-type explosives.

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## 47. [Security, Colombia] Five People Are Caught With Explosives In Roncesvalles

Wednesday, May 30 2012

<http://www.elnuevodia.com.co/nuevodia/actualidad/judicial/147249-cinco-personas-son-capturadas-con-explosivos-en-roncesvalles>

In a raid in the heart of Roncesvalles, Tolima Police arrested five people in this town who would be helpers alias 'Giovanny', leader of the Front 21 of FARC.

With a search warrant issued by the Attorney Third Specialized in uniform came to one of the residence from the center of Roncesvalles and arrested five people and seized more than five kilos of pentolite.

According to the prosecution, the detainees kept in different places in the house, explosives would be used in terrorist acts against the security forces in this town. Also, the prosecuting body said that these people would camouflaging in response to orders alias 'Giovanny' top leader of the Front 21 of FARC operates in Tolima.

In the raid seized 12 bars of pentolite, each of 450 grams, according to the Attorney-machine guns, two handsets connected to a detonating the explosive capsule, three sim card phones and seven different cell phone companies.

The police commander of Tolima, Col. Wilson Mosquera, said that this seizure "a tragedy was avoided because of unpredictable consequences to the ability of this explosive, 500 to a thousand meters of range".

Similarly Hippolytus were caught red handed Flórez Paez, 51, Hernando Forero Paez, 56 years, Shirley Rojas Hernandez, 26 years, Mario Esquivel Alexander Forero, 27, and Ordoñez Edison Forero, 26.

The youngest of three months old, son of Shirley, was given to the police station for the respective care Roncesvalles.

In hearing

Before the Fifth Criminal Municipal guarantees were presented according to the five captured in Roncesvalles. The judge gave legality to the arrest and now these people should be brought to justice for the crimes of rebellion and terrorism.

An improvised explosive device had been installed on the road in the municipality of Rovira leads to Roncesvalles, allegedly by members of FARC's Front 21.

The charge was located by troops from Infantry Battalion 16 'Patriots' attached to the Sixth Brigade, who destroyed the device in a controlled manner.

According to official information, the device contained two hand grenades type IM-26, which have a destructive radius of about nine meters each, 20 meters of duplex cable and electric Estopin. Apparently going to do triggered the passage of the troops.

The discovery of this material was made possible by people who reported strange movements in the area of the El Real, the municipality of Rovira.

The Command of the Sixth Brigade remind the community that any act strange or dangerous can be reported to the lines 146 and 147 which are on duty 24 hours a day.

Remember that

A week ago, apparently, three men tried to burn a tank car when leaving Rovira way to Roncesvalles. According to information from that time the fire occurred in the headstock of the vehicle, but the rapid action of bodies prevented the flames reached the fuel being transported. The commander of the Sixth Brigade, Col. Jairo Sandoval told THE NEW DAY that those responsible for this fact would be three masked men who posed as members of the AUC. However, he added then, that these actions correspond to common criminals who want to sow panic among the population.



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## **48. [Security, Colombia] Seized Ten Kilos Of Dynamite**

Wednesday, May 30 2012

<http://www.lanacion.com.co/2012/05/30/decomisados-10-kilos-de-dinamita/>

A creek of the FARC, with dynamite, and mechalenta pentolite, was discovered in rural area of Aipe by the Army.

The cache of explosive materials from the front 66 'Joselo Lozada, was revealed in yesterday morning by soldiers from Special Energy and Road No. 12, in search operations in the region.

Military spokesmen said that in the cove the insurgents had stored 10 kilos of dynamite, 12 kilos of pentolite, 20 electric detonators and 10 meters of safety fuse.

The explosives were destroyed in a controlled manner by Army experts.

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