

RAPID

Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

Volume 3, Issue 8

22 FEBRUARY 2013

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-tolutions.com> using your government (.mil or .gov) email account.



Serial Bomb Blasts Rock Hyderabad

Coordinated attacks across Hyderabad, India left at least twelve people dead and injured scores.

[Read more on Page 46](#)





1. [Attack, Pakistan] [Suicide Bomber Devastates Shiite Enclave In Pakistan, Killing 83](#) 4
2. [Attack, Pakistan] [Blasts In Karachi Injure Two People](#) 5
3. [Attack, Pakistan] [Suicide Bombers Storm Pakistani Official's Office Killing Five](#) 6
4. [Attack, Pakistan] [Bomb Blast In Karachi, No Casualties Reported](#) 8
5. [Attack, Pakistan] [Explosive Material Seized: Three Held](#) 9
6. [Trend, Pakistan] [Report Reveals Ten Kg Explosive Used In Quetta Blast](#) 10
7. [Attack, Pakistan] [Blast At Religious Rally Near Jacobabad Kills One](#) 11
8. [Law Enforcement, Pakistan] [Four Terror Suspects Killed, Kirani Blast Mastermind Nabbed](#) 12
9. [Attack, Pakistan] [Bomb Blast At Mall In Northwestern Pakistan Kills One Person, Wounds 12](#) 13
10. [Trend, Pakistan] [Explosive Devices Defused In Bannu](#) 14
11. [Attack, Nigeria] [Bomb Explosion Kills One, Injures Policeman In Lagos](#) 15
12. [Security, Kenya] [Man Killed Assembling Bomb Before Kenya Political Rally](#) 18
13. [Trend, Nigeria] [Bomb Experts Confused Over Type Of Device](#) 19
14. [Attack, Nigeria] [Bomb Kills Three In Nigerian Islamist Stronghold](#) 21
15. [Security, Nigeria] [Iran-Backed Terror Cell Exposed In Nigeria](#) 22
16. [Attack, Mali] [Fighting In Gao, Car Bomb In Kidal, Mali Conflict Continues](#) 23
17. [Attack, Iraq] [Iraq Intelligence Officer Dies In Suicide Bombing](#) 24
18. [Attack, Iraq] [Blasts In Baghdad's Shiite Neighborhoods Kill 21](#) 25
19. [Trend, Iraq] [Iraq's Al-Qaeda Wing Claims Baghdad Bombs](#) 26
20. [Attack, Syria] [Syrian Rocket Attack On Aleppo Kills 20](#) 27
21. [Attack, Lebanon] [Bomb Attack On Syrian Refugee Centre In Lebanon](#) 28
22. [Attack, Syria] [Mortars Kill Football Player In Syrian Capital](#) 29
23. [Security, Iran] [Found! Iran's Secret Ballistic Missile Base](#) 31



24. [Attack, Iraq] Bomb Attack Causes Fire In Iraq Fuel Pipeline Again	33
25. [Attack, Syria] Car Bomb Kills 35 Near Damascus Ruling Party Building	34
26. [Special Interest, Bulgaria] Bulgaria Links Lebanese To Bombing, Printer And Telecom Evidence	36
27. [Security, England] Bomb Discovered At Blickling Hall	38
28. [Trend, Ireland] Bomb Disrupts Rail And Road Travel	39
29. [Trend, Spain] Car Bomb Left Outside Megabrothel	40
30. [Attack, Northern Ireland] Petrol Bomb Follows Police Protest	41
31. [Attack, India] Bomb Goes Off At Garbage Dump: Woman Killed	42
32. [Attack, Thailand] Muslim Insurgents Launch 50 Attacks In Thailand's Deep South	43
33. [Attack, India] Bomb Blast In Nagaland Kills One	44
34. [Attack, Thailand] Yala Road Bomb Injures Volunteers	45
35. [Attack, India] Serial Bomb Blasts Rock Hyderabad	46
36. [Attack, Thailand] Pattani Bomb Wounds Two Soldiers	47
37. [Security, United States] Bomb Squad Neutralizes Explosive Left In Eureka Yard	48
38. [Security, United States] Many Explosive Devices Found In Aurora Home	49
39. [Security, United States] US Issues Worldwide Caution Of Terror Threats To Its Citizens	51
40. [Security, United States] School Principal Taking 'No Chances' After Explosive Found	52
41. [Security, United States] Explosive Devices At NC Storage Unit	53
42. [Attack, Colombia] FARC Destroys Police Station In South Colombia Attack	54
43. [Attack, Colombia] FARC Launches Series Of Attacks Over Weekend	55
44. [Trend, Colombia] Number Of Land Mines In Colombia Greatly Exaggerated: NGO	56
45. [Security, Colombia] Young Woman Killed And Eight Wounded In Northwest Colombia Mine-field	58



AFPAK

1. [Attack, Pakistan] Suicide Bomber Devastates Shiite Enclave In Pakistan, Killing 83

Sunday, February 17 2013

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/02/17/world/asia/pakistan-blast/index.html>

Pakistani police have revised the cause of a blast that killed 83 people on Saturday, saying a suicide bomber was behind the attack that pulverized a busy marketplace.

The explosion targeted Shiite Muslims in Hazara, on the outskirts of the southwestern city of Quetta, authorities said.

Police now say a suicide bomber, driving an explosive-laden water tanker, rammed the vehicle into buildings at the crowded marketplace.

The water tanker carried between 800 and 1,000 kilograms (1,760 to 2,200 pounds) of explosive material, Quetta police official Wazir Khan Nasir said.

Previously, police said explosives were packed in a parked water tanker and were remotely detonated.

The blast demolished four buildings of the marketplace, leaving dozens dead and 180 injured.

The banned Sunni militant group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi claimed responsibility for the attack, spokesman Abu Bakar Sadeeq told CNN Sunday.

The assault left some wondering what could stop the bloodshed in Quetta.

Zulfiqar Ali Magsi, the governor and chief executive of Balochistan province, told reporters Saturday that law enforcement agencies were incapable of stopping such attacks and had failed to maintain law and order in Quetta. Pakistan, which is overwhelmingly Sunni, has been plagued by sectarian strife and attacks for years.

Last month, two deadly suicide bombings in a predominantly Shiite neighborhood of Quetta known as Alamdar Road killed 85 Shiite Muslims.

Police described that double bombing as one of the worst attacks on the Shiite minority.

Lashkar-e-Jhangvi also claimed responsibility for that dual attack.

According to its interpretation of Islam, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi believes that Shiites are not Muslims. The group believes Shiites insult close companions of Muslim's prophet Muhammad. Therefore, the militant group believes killing Shiites is a justified in Islam.

Families of victims from Alamdar Road protested for several days by laying their relatives' bodies on a road in Quetta until the federal government dissolved the provincial government and imposed governor rule.

Although Balochistan is the largest Pakistani province in Pakistan, analysts and some locals have criticized the federal government for neglecting it, leading to instability.

The Shiite community has repeatedly asked for more protection but to no avail.

During the Alamdar Road protest, Pakistani Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf met with Shiites in Quetta, Pakistani media reported. He agreed to toss out the provincial government and putting a governor in charge.

All administrative powers of the provincial government were given to the governor, who deployed paramilitary forces to maintain law and order in Quetta.



GETTY IMAGES



AFPAK

2. [Attack, Pakistan] Blasts In Karachi Injure Two People

Sunday, February 17 2013

<http://dawn.com/2013/02/18/loud-blast-heard-near-karachis-sharae-faisal/>

Two separate explosions in Karachi on Monday evening injured at least two people, DawnNews reported.

A loud explosion was heard near the city's Share Faisal. Rescue and security services rushed to the scene immediately after the incident.

Initial police reports suggest the explosion took place at the same venue where protesters were staging a sit-in against killings of 84 Hazara Shias in Quetta.

Police sources said the blast has created a large crater beneath the FTC Bridge on one of the busiest roads of the financial capital of the country. However, there are no reports of casualties yet.

Meanwhile, media reports said that another blast in Orangi Town's Peerabad area has injured at least two people.

Earlier during the day, eight people lost their lives in different incidents of violence in the city.



AFPAK

3. [Attack, Pakistan] Suicide Bombers Storm Pakistani Official's Office Killing Five

Monday, February 18 2013

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2013/02/18/266956.html>

Suicide bombers stormed the offices of a top Pakistani official in the northwest on Monday, killing five people in the latest high-profile attack as the country prepares to hold elections.

Mutahir Zeb, the government's representative in the semi-autonomous tribal district of Khyber, was unhurt but his deputy was seriously wounded in the attack as officials in the city of Peshawar discussed preparations for the elections.

There was no claim of responsibility. The military has long been fighting Taliban and other Islamist insurgents in Khyber, which straddles a key NATO supply route into Afghanistan, where US-led combat troops are due to leave next year.

The upcoming general election will mark the first time adults are eligible to vote and political parties allowed to operate in the tribal belt, parts of which are strongholds of Islamist militants.

The government introduced the changes in 2011 in a bid to contain systemic violence. Critics have argued that lack of reforms had alienated tribesmen and made it easier for militant networks to recruit young men to take up arms to fight the Pakistani government.

Police said 12 people were wounded when two attackers opened fire and then blew themselves up at the complex, which contains Zeb's office, police cells to detain suspected militants, and residential quarters.

Zeb and a meeting of party officials and prospective electoral candidates discussing arrangements for the elections at his office were the target, senior police official Imran Shahid told AFP.

"First they opened fire and lobbed a hand grenade and killed two local police officials. Then they entered in the compound and a gunfight erupted," Shahid said.

Officials said one of the bombers blew himself up at the gate, outside Zeb's office, and the second managed to enter the control room, home to the switchboard.

"The control room, which was in a separate portion, collapsed. Assistant political agent Khalid Mumtaz Kundi, who was present in the control room, was seriously wounded," said Shahid.

Peshawar bomb disposal chief Shafqat Malik said the bombers were carrying up to eight kilos of explosives.

Jamil Shah, spokesman for the main government-run Lady Reading Hospital, said five people were killed and seven others admitted with serious injuries. Four security officials and a civilian man, aged around 60, were among the dead, he said.

Muhammad Iqbal Afridi, local leader in the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party headed by retired cricket star



Imran Khan, said he heard heavy gunfire.

“We were inside the office when we heard gun shots. Suddenly firing started and then they hurled some grenades,” Afridi told AFP.

“Then there was intense exchange of firing between the militants and the security forces. Later, security forces evacuated us from the building. While leaving, I saw two dead bodies and blood everywhere.”

Attempted assassinations

Violence has increased in the northwest in recent months as Pakistan prepares to hold historic general elections by mid-May, which will mark the first time an elected civilian government completes a full-term in office.

On Friday, Ameer Haider Khan Hoti, the chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the northwestern province of which Peshawar is the capital, escaped a Taliban assassination attempt en route to a political rally in the town of Mardan.

On December 22, the Pakistani Taliban claimed the assassination of Hoti’s deputy, Bashir Bilour, in a suicide bombing at a political meeting in Peshawar.

In the southwest, a massive bomb attack killed 81 members of the minority Shiite Muslim Hazara community in the city of Quetta on Saturday.

On January 10, suicide bombers killed 92 people at a snooker hall in another Hazara part of Quetta, the deadliest single attack on Shiites in Pakistan, where rights activists say sectarian violence has reached record levels.



AFPAK

4. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Blast In Karachi, No Casualties Reported

Monday, February 18 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-88629-Bomb-blast-in-Karachi,-no-casualties-reported>

A blast ripped through Sharea Faisal near Gora Qabrستان (Christians' Graveyard), however, no casualties have been reported in the incident.

The thunder of the blast was heard far across from the site of the blast where until this afternoon a sit-in was staged to protest the bomb blast in Quetta that killed 89 people belonging to Hazara community.

Police personnel and teams of rescue services have reached the spot where they are trying to keep off the passers-by and onlookers as a precautionary measure to avoid any loss in case of a second blast.

According to police, the explosion left a two-foot deep crater on a side of the road under FTC flyover on Sharea Faisal.





AFPAK

5. [Attack, Pakistan] Explosive Material Seized: Three Held

Tuesday, February 19 2013

<http://dawn.com/2013/02/20/explosive-material-seized-three-held/>

Railways Police claim to have recovered a huge quantity of explosive material from three Afghan nationals.

A spokesman said on Tuesday that during a routine checking of Quetta-bound 305-Down train at Chaman station, a police party found three suspicious Afghan nationals.

On search, the police recovered 50 anti-personnel mines, 100 fuses, 30 detonators and 33-foot wire from their luggage.

Identified as Abdul Rehman, Abdul Jalil and Abdul Samad, the accused were booked under sections 4 and 5 of the Explosive Act.

Meanwhile, Railways Police Inspector-General Syed Ibne Husain directed the Quetta SP to award commendation certificates to police party members.



AFPAK

6. [Trend, Pakistan] Report Reveals Ten Kg Explosive Used In Quetta Blast

Tuesday, February 19 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-88769-Report-reveals10-kg-explosivel-used-in-Quetta-blast>

An expert report on Tuesday revealed that about 10 kg of explosive material concealed in a water tanker was used in the Quetta blast.

Initially, it was reported that 1000 kg of explosive material was used in the Hazara town blast through a water tanker.

But now according to the sources, phosphorus, aluminum and potassium mixed with diesel, sugar and ammonium powder were used in the blast whose impact was equal to 1000 kg of explosive material.

The shockwaves as result of the explosion destroyed the nearby buildings and most of the people died after getting hit by flying debris and fire. A number of corpses are still unidentified.

The sources said that this type of explosive material was also used in Marriott Hotel Islamabad, FIA building Lahore, and CID Karachi bombs.

According to experts, it is very difficult to check each and every water tanker as 100 to 120 water supply vehicles come into the Hazara Town everyday.





AFPAK

7. [Attack, Pakistan] Blast At Religious Rally Near Jacobabad Kills One

Wednesday, February 20 2013

<http://dawn.com/2013/02/20/blast-at-religious-rally-near-jacobabad-kills-one/>

A blast at a religious rally near Jacobabad killed one and injured at least 12 people on Wednesday, DawnNews reported.

According to reports, the explosion, which police said was a remote-controlled bomb blast, injured 12 people including the Pir of Qambar Sharif, Syed Hussain Shah.

Shafiq Hussain Shah, Shah's grandson, was killed in the explosion, while another grandson was among those injured.

Police said the bomb, which was planted on the side of a road, was remotely detonated when a vehicle carrying Shah and his grandsons passed by.

The situation in Jacobabad became tense following the incident, while the Sunni Tehrik (ST) has called for a province-wide strike in Sindh on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) leader Altaf Hussain also condemned the attack, calling on the president to take immediate notice of the incident.



AFPAK

8. [Law Enforcement, Pakistan] Four Terror Suspects Killed, Kirani Blast Mastermind Nabbed

Wednesday, February 20 2013

<http://www.pakistankakhudahafiz.com/2013/02/20/quetta-four-terror-suspects-killed-kirani-blast-mastermind-nabbed/#.USd624aCV8E>

Four suspected terrorists, including a target killer, were killed and seven others arrested in a targeted operation launched by paramilitary frontier corps (FC) in Quetta on Tuesday.

According to reports, mastermind of Quetta blast and a would-be bomber were also among those nabbed in the operation.

The FC conducted a search operation in Qambrani Kali Bazai area of Quetta early today morning, killing four terrorists and arresting seven others.

One of those killed belong to Rahimyar Khan, one to Kohlu, one to Nawankali and the fourth one is from Manghopir area of Karachi. The dead bodies were shifted to Civil Hospital.

Authorities say that 11-year-old suicide bomber, mastermind of Kirani road blast and three others were arrested.

Explosives, detonators and suicide vests have also been seized from the custody of terrorists.



AFPAK

9. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Blast At Mall In Northwestern Pakistan Kills One Person, Wounds 12

Thursday, February 21 2013

<http://www.startribune.com/world/192209081.html>

Pakistani police say a bomb blast inside a shopping mall in the country's northwest has killed at least one person and wounded 12 people.

Senior police officer Gohar Khan says Thursday's bombing targeted shops selling mobile phones in the Hashat Nagri neighborhood in the city of Peshawar. He says the dead and the wounded were taken to hospital. Some of the victims are in critical condition.

No one claimed responsibility, but suspicion fell on pro-Taliban militants who often target shops selling CDs, mobile phones and Internet cafes, accusing them of spreading obscenity.

Peshawar is the provincial capital of troubled Khyber Pukhtunkhwa province, and Pakistani security forces have carried out several offensives against insurgents there.



AFPAK

10. [Trend, Pakistan] Explosive Devices Defused In Bannu

Friday, February 22 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-161422-Explosive-devices-defused-in-Bannu>

The police defused explosive devices, which were placed near the girls' school in the limits of Mandan Police Station on Thursday, official sources said. The sources said that acting on a tip-off, the police along with bomb disposal unit (BDU) officials reached Bangashkhel village where unidentified miscreants had placed a bag containing four explosive devices and nine handgrenades in a local graveyard near the Government Girls High School.



AFRICOM

11. [Attack, Nigeria] Bomb Explosion Kills One, Injures Policeman In Lagos

Tuesday, February 19 2013

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2013/02/bomb-explosion-kills-one-injures-policeman-in-lagos/>

A bomb, yesterday, exploded at Miracle Sand Beach, located under Festac link bridge in Amuwo Odofin Local Government Area of Lagos State, leaving the chairman of the Local Dredgers Association, Chief Oladele Pius, dead.

A Police Inspector simply identified as Sanni, also had his leg shattered by the explosion.

There were different accounts as to how the late Chief Oladele Pius was killed. A version of the account had it that the deceased was handed a letter bomb by an unknown person at about 11.30am, shortly after he resumed work. Chief Oladele reportedly attempted to open the letter, when it exploded, killing him instantly.

Inspector Sanni, said to be with the deceased also had his legs shattered by its impact as he attempted to flee the scene.

Eye witnesses said Inspector Sanni begged passers-by to help his friend to the hospital. But rather than being pitied, the policeman was reportedly attacked by some persons, who accused him of planting the explosive substance. Sanni who was in mufti, was said to have brought out his identity card, which saved him from being lynched.

However, another version of the account had it that the late Chief Oladele was discussing with his police friend when the explosion occurred right under the low fence, where he sat.

A local dredger who identified himself as Adeola Peter said the deceased resumed work yesterday. Having parked his white Pathfinder SUV with Number plate LSR 957 AZ, the deceased made for his usual duty post, oblivious of the impending tragedy.

Thirty minutes later, he was said to have received a phone call, following which he drove out and returned in the company of Inspector Sanni and made straight for his usual sitting position on the fence. He reportedly called one of his staff simply identified as Dogo, to buy 'Alomo Bitters', a local gin which he shared with his police friend.

According to Adeola: "He sat under the dwarf fence having drinks with his police friend when the bomb exploded. The bomb must have been planted where he usually sat. But I don't think it was planted today because we have been working here since morning and if someone was doing such a thing in our presence we would have noticed." Another eyewitness, Mr. Thomas Wawe, a motorist narrated thus: "The incident happened at about 12 noon as I was driving back to my office at Mile-2 area. All of a sudden there was a thunderous blast and everybody started running helter skelter.

"It took a while before people started gathering near the blast having made sure there was no more unexploded device. The sympathizers and rescue team recovered a man from under the bridge. I saw the leg of the man already ripped off and motionless. Apparently, the leg was severed as a result of the devastating effect of the explosion. Police men later arrived and condoned off the entire place. That was all I saw."

Immediately the explosion occurred, news went round the entire area that members of the Boko Haram sect could have penetrated the area, a development that threw residents into confusion.

The Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Mr Umar Manko who was at the scene, described the explosion as a minor one, calling on Lagosians not to panic.

According to him, "there was a minor explosion here this morning. It's not the kind that most Nigerians should be apprehensive about. It was just a mischievous person who played around with batteries and some other objects. The experts are looking at it now. But I can assure you that Lagosians have no cause to fear."

Hours later, the Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Umar Manko, briefed journalists in his office, stating that the explosion was caused by an electrical fault.

According to him: "Contrary to people's fear that it was bomb blast, it was a mere electrical fault at the Amuwo Odofin Bridge. Anti-bomb experts have been called in to assess the situation and I will be adequately briefed later.



“From the investigation so far, it has been revealed that it was not a terrorist attack; not an act of Boko Haram, neither was it a bomb blast.

“I urged Lagosians to go about their lawful businesses without fear because Lagos remains a peaceful and safe state. It is not a question of letter bomb. This is not an incident that will attract fear. So, Lagosians should feel free.

“The state is not under any attack from anywhere. We are investigating the matter and experts will report to me after their investigation.

Chairman of Amuwo Odofin Local Government Area, Comrade Ayodele Adewale, who visited the scene shortly after the incident occurred, advised residents living around the Miracle sand beach where the incident occurred to look for alternative accommodation, disclosing that they might be asked to relocate, pending the outcome of investigation.

Reacting to the incident, chairman, Lagos State Emergency Management Agency, Dr. Femi Oke-Osoyintolu, in a statement said: “An explosive device was detonated under the Festac Bridge close to Apple Junction today; we have one person confirmed dead and the other injured. The situation is being handled by LASEMA, Civil Defence, the Navy, and the Police Anti-Bomb Squad.”

As sympathizers thronged the scene of the incident, the deceased’s widow, said to have been informed of an explosion around the area, rushed to the place to ascertain the state of her husband, only to see his remains. Unable to withstand the impact of the shock, Mrs Oladele slumped. She was immediately rushed out to an undisclosed destination.

Already the scene of the explosion had been cordoned off by the Bomb Disposal Unit of the Nigeria Police with officials of the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency, LASEMA, also on ground to unravel the cause of the explosion.

My last moment with Chief

Meanwhile, the deceased’s bosom friend, one Mathias, who is still trying to come to terms with the tragedy, shared his last moment with him. The deceased according to Mathias, was with him until 12. 30 am.

“He had been selling sand under that bridge for years. In fact, we were together until 12.30am when we retired. He called me yesterday morning to meet him at the office by 9.30am. But I could not make it at that time. I was therefore shocked to hear that he was handed a letter bomb which exploded and killed him in the process”

One person arrested

Vanguard gathered that one person had been arrested in connection with the explosion. The suspect, a male, was said to be at the Area ‘E’ Police Command, Festac, where operatives have started investigation.

It could, however, not be ascertained whether the suspect was the person that planted the bomb or handed the letter bomb to the deceased. But Police sources at Area ‘E’ said investigation would ascertain that.

Meanwhile, NEMA has advised onlookers not to stay around the explosion scene. “When it comes to bomb blasts like this, there may be a secondary disaster waiting to happen and that may be more serious than the first because there are usually more people around. That is why we advise you to stay away from this place until it is fully cleared.” a NEMA official informed.

At the deceased’s Raji Rasaki Estate residence, uniform and plain clothed policemen were on standby, as sympathizers thronged to commiserate with Oladele’s widow. The late Oladele and his wife as gathered, waited for 10 years before they were blessed with two children of ages 3 and 1.

Widows’ account

From his widows’ account, it was obvious that the late Oladele had premonition of his death right from when he resumed work yesterday. His first widow, Omolola who was with him under the bridge when the explosion occurred, told Vanguard that her husband had his breakfast at work. But all of a sudden, she said, he started complaining that he had stomach upset and that he needed to rush home to ease off.

“He left me and drove home with a promise to be back”, Omolola said.

At this point, his second widow, Seun, took over saying, “ when he got home, he rushed straight to the toilet and when he came out, he said he felt weak and did not feel like going out again; that he wanted to sleep.

He went upstairs to sleep. His phone later rang and he answered. From the conversation, it was obvious that the



caller was one of his customers, who said he was waiting for him (Oladele) at his place of work. He told the caller he was coming but went back to sleep.

Another call came in again. But he refused to pick it. When it rang again, our one- year -two- month-old baby took the phone to him but he refused to pick the call. He finally picked it when it kept ringing and got up from the bed, informing us that he was going back to work. I insisted he stayed back home and rest since he was tired but he said he needed to go since he needed to feed his children.

As he was about to move out, he called me to come and lock the gate. At that point, our baby started yelling. He even commented that the baby's cry was unusual and I told him he probably did not want him to go out. He told me to go and cuddle him to sleep that he would be back soon". Seun stated in tears.

Back at his place of work, his first wife, Omolola said: "When he came back, I told him not to sit on the pavement he usually sat on because I noticed his clothes were stained behind. He just dusted the stain with his hands and said he did not care and went to sit there.

The next thing I heard was a blast. I did not know where it came from. All I saw were people running here and there and I asked, baba da? Meaning where is my husband. At that point, I rushed to where he was seated, only for me to see his body scattered all over the place".

The late Oladele is survived by his two widows and five children, born after 17 years of marriage.

Meanwhile when contacted, Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr Aderemi Ibirogba, declined comment, saying the state commissioner of Police had already spoken on the development and would not want to make further comment.

"The state police commissioner has briefed the governor on the development and investigation is already on. That is all I can say now. But I want to assure Lagos residents that they are very safe as adequate measures are already on ground to ensure maximum protection of lives and property in the state."

Alleged power tussle behind blast

Body parts of late Mr Oladele Pius littered the scene of the explosion when Vanguard visited yesterday. The man's shoes, torn pieces of his blue jeans and patches of his blood were also all over the place. The blood was even on the roof of the bridge where the explosion flung it.

Eye witnesses at the scene of the explosion suspected a power tussle in the sand dealers' association as being responsible for the incident. Oladele, was said to have risen from grass to grace as a snacks seller (puff puff), who rose to become leader of several sand associations in Lagos State.



AFRICOM

12. [Security, Kenya] Man Killed Assembling Bomb Before Kenya Political Rally

Tuesday, February 19 2013

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201302190098.html>

A man was killed when the bomb he was apparently trying to assemble near a Kenyan primary school before it hosted a presidential candidate's rally exploded, police said on Sunday.

Residents heard a blast late on Saturday night in the eastern frontier town of Garissa but police said they only identified the site of the explosion caused by an improvised explosive device (IED) at a primary school field on Sunday.

Martha Karua, the only female presidential candidate in the March 4 vote and among the lower-ranked contenders according to most polls, had been expected to speak at the grounds on Sunday afternoon, regional police chief Charlton Mureithi said.

"Our initial assessment reveals the man was trying to set up an IED near the dais, but killed himself as the device exploded on him, ripping his body into pieces," Mureithi told reporters.

The open field also lies next to an army camp in a town used as a support base for Kenya's military mission in Somalia.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the intended attack, police said.

Karua kept her date with her supporters in the town but spoke from a different venue.

"I would have loved to hold this gathering in the open place where terrorists planted explosives last night," she told a crowd, pledging to improve security if elected.

Kenya has experienced a spate of violent attacks, mostly in the capital and close to the Somali border, since it sent soldiers into its anarchic neighbour in October 2011 to drive out al Shabaab Islamist rebels linked to Al Qaeda.

The rebels have promised to retaliate and have launched grenade and gun attacks that have raised concerns over how secure the country is heading into the March 4 national elections, the first since tribal fighting killed about 1,200 people following a disputed presidential vote in 2007.

Garissa, a market centre for trade in camels, donkeys, goats and cattle some 200 km (120 miles) from the Somali border, has borne the brunt of the attacks. The largely Muslim town has a significant ethnic Somali population.

In October, Kenyan soldiers and Somali forces seized Kismayu, al Shabaab's last big urban stronghold in southern Somalia, driving the militants out.

"Its by the grace of God that the person who was planning evil died. Many people would have lost their lives if that mission succeeded," said Abdi Jama'a, a local resident.



AFRICOM

13. [Trend, Nigeria] Bomb Experts Confused Over Type Of Device

Wednesday, February 20 2013

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2013/02/lagos-explosion-bomb-experts-confused-over-type-of-device/>

Vanguard, yesterday, reliably gathered that bomb experts are finding it difficult to ascertain the type of explosive used for the substance which exploded Monday at Miracle Sand Beach in Amuwo Odofin Local Government Area of Lagos, killing the Chairman of the Sand Dredgers Association, Chief Oladele Pius, and injured a policeman. The experts, according to a reliable source, suspect that the exhibits at the explosive scene were tampered with before their arrival.

Consequently, some of the bomb experts visited the explosion scene again, yesterday, to get fresh clues for their investigation.

But it was learnt that they arrived the scene late, on the day of the incident, an action our source said was attributed to lack of logistics.

Colleagues disagree with CP

Meantime, bemoaning the loss of Oladele, his colleagues at Miracle Sand Beach, eulogized his virtues, expressing their displeasure over the Lagos State Police Commissioner's statement that the tragic incident was caused by an electrical fault.

One of them who could not hide his consternation over the report, attempted to rough handle some newsmen, blaming them for taking sides with the police. The report, according to some of them, was part of the reason why some journalists were barred from entering the deceased's apartment.

"Why would you people believe everything that is said? Is investigation not part of your job? Look around for yourselves; are there any electrical gadgets here? Then, why must you add that in your report?" Mr. Showunmi, as he was later identified, asked.

Materials collected from the scene

So far, it was gathered that materials collected from the scene of the blast included blood stained sand; pieces of black Jumbo radio set, six 1.5 volt tiger head battery, red and white wire measuring 34cm in length; flexible twin wire measuring 529 centimeters in length and one glass tumbler.

However, Police sources hinted that the major substance of Improvised Explosive Device IED, among the exhibits were absent, hinting that they could have been tampered with before the arrival of bomb experts. But the wire and battery were said to be the only components of IED.

Sources said from the length of the recovered wire, it was obvious that the explosive could have been planted and controlled through the river, a vantage position attributed to the ease with which the mission was accomplished.

Benefactors suspect foul play

Sympathizers, majority of whom claimed to be beneficiaries of the deceased's benevolence, besieged his Lake View estate residence to condole the widows.

Among them were social miscreants, who staged a protest against what they described as a premeditated act. They alleged that the deceased whom they all referred to as Apase, could have been killed by his rivals over chairmanship tussle.

In a show of solidarity to their late benefactor, the youths took over security, as they conducted search on every caller at the residence. The search, according to them, was to ensure that those they alleged killed Oladele would not come and plant another bomb in his residence.

Some arrests made

Vanguard reliably gathered that as part of on-going investigation, some persons have been arrested over the tragic incident. The arrested persons were reportedly those who spoke with the deceased shortly before the explosion occurred.



Vanguard's findings revealed that after the late Oladele left his office for home that fateful morning, he was reluctant to go back to the office, as he complained to his second wife, Seun, of having an usual feeling. The first phone call he received was reportedly from the policeman that was with him when the blast occurred. Other calls came in at about 10.54 am, 11.06 am, 11.25am and 11.30am respectively. The persistent call which eventually forced the Ondo State-born father of five out of bed came in, two seconds intermittently.

It was also learnt that the late Oladele had once escaped an assassination attempt.

"Several assassination attempts, including diabolical, have been made on his life in the past but none succeeded. I think they wanted to ensure he died this time around, that was why they planted a bomb where he usually seat," one of the sympathizers said.





AFRICOM

14. [Attack, Nigeria] Bomb Kills Three In Nigerian Islamist Stronghold

Wednesday, February 20 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/20/us-nigeria-bomb-idUSBRE91J18S20130220>

Three people were killed on Wednesday when a bomb exploded in Nigeria's northeastern town of Maiduguri, the army said, the latest attack in the stronghold of Islamist sect Boko Haram.

Boko Haram killed hundreds of people last year in an attempt to carve out an Islamic state in a country of 160 million split roughly equally between Christians and Muslims. Its main target is the security forces.

"An improvised explosive device targeted at a Joint Task Force patrol team exploded at Post Office roundabout about 1:00 p.m.," Sagir Musa, spokesman for the military force, said in a statement.

"The explosion led to the death of three civilians, including the bomber and wounded two others."

Boko Haram is the biggest security threat to Africa's top oil producer and Western governments are concerned about Islamists groups in Nigeria linking up with extremists elsewhere, including al Qaeda's north African wing.

A French family were kidnapped just over the border in northern Cameroon on Tuesday and were driven into Nigeria by their abductors, Cameroon officials have said.

French President Francois Hollande said Boko Haram was behind the abduction of the three adults and four children. No group has taken responsibility.

An al Qaeda linked group called Ansaru, thought to have ties with Boko Haram, claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of another seven foreigners in a separate incident in northern Nigeria's Bauchi state on Sunday.

The abductions highlight the risk to French nationals and their foreign allies since Paris sent forces to Mali to oust Islamist rebels last month.



AFRICOM

15. [Security, Nigeria] Iran-Backed Terror Cell Exposed In Nigeria

Wednesday, February 20 2013

http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2013/02/iran-backed_cell_exposed_in_ni.php

Nigeria's State Security Service (SSS) announced the arrest of three members of an Iranian-backed terror cell that was reportedly planning to carry out attacks on US and Israeli interests as well as former Nigerian officials.

A spokesperson for the SSS, Marilyn Ogar, said that the cell was led by a Shiite leader, Abdullahi Mustapha Berende, who was arrested last December. Berende, who had received training in Iran, was aided by Sulaiman Saka, Saheed Adewumi, and Bunyamin Yusuf. Yusuf is still at large, according to the Premium Times.

Berende reportedly confessed to receiving training in Iran "in the use of AK 47 rifle and pistol" as well as "the production and detonation of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)." The SSS said that "there is conclusive evidence that Berende, in collaboration with his Iranian handlers, were involved in grievous crimes against the national security of this country." According to Haaretz, Berende last met his Iranian contacts in April 2012 in Dubai.

The cell was said to be planning attacks against a number of targets in Nigeria, including "the Lagos offices of the U.S. Agency for International Development [USAID], the Haifa-based ZIM Integrated Shipping Services Ltd. and the Jewish Cultural Center," according to Bloomberg. Additional press reports have indicated that the cell also staked out hotels frequented by Israelis and Americans.

The targeting of Israeli and Jewish targets by Iran and Hezbollah appears to be on the rise. Only weeks ago, Bulgaria declared that Hezbollah was responsible for the terror attack in Burgas that killed five Israeli tourists and a Bulgarian national last July. And today in Cyprus, Hossam Taleb Yaacoub, a 24-year-old Lebanese-Swedish dual citizen who was arrested on July 7, 2012, admitted in court to being a member of Hezbollah and conducting reconnaissance for the Iranian-sponsored terror group.

Immediately following the Burgas attack, the NYPD's Intelligence Division said Iran has "sharply increased its operational tempo and its willingness to conduct terrorist attacks targeting Israeli interests and the International Jewish community worldwide." Between May 2011 and July 2012, over 20 attacks tied to Iran and Hezbollah against Israelis and Jews abroad were thwarted. These thwarted attacks, not all of which were publicly reported, took place in Cyprus, Turkey, Kenya, India, Thailand, and Azerbaijan, and elsewhere.



AFRICOM

16. [Attack, Mali] Fighting In Gao, Car Bomb In Kidal, Mali Conflict Continues

Thursday, February 21 2013

<http://www.english.rfi.fr/africa/20130221-fighting-gao-car-bomb-kidal-mali-conflict-continues>

Heavy fighting has broken out in the centre of Gao, the largest town in northern Mali. A car bomb in the northern Mali town of Kidal has killed one person and injured another, according to a journalist at the scene.

Malian troops were fighting Islamists in Gao on Thursday.

The clashes left the main courthouse in flames.

Troops from Niger were the first to respond after heavy weapons fire was heard at at least two entries to the town overnight.

By midday Thursday the Malian army was battling what one military source said was a group of around 40 insurgents.

The source said at least three rebels had already been killed in the fighting.

Rebel fighters tried to carry out suicide attacks in the city, in one case successfully, on 8-10 February.

One person was killed and another injured by the Kidal bomb, according to a journalist in the town speaking to the Reuters news agency.

Other witnesses told the AFP agency that two civilians had been injured.

The blast was within a kilometre of the camp where French and Malian soldiers have been stationed since they arrived in the town on 29 January, following its takeover by dissident Islamists and Tuareg separatists from Al Qaeda-linked armed groups.

A French soldier was killed on Tuesday in fighting in the Ifoghas mountains, north of Kidal, where the hardline Islamists have taken refuge. About 20 rebels were also killed, according to the French military.



CENTCOM

17. [Attack, Iraq] Iraq Intelligence Officer Dies In Suicide Bombing

Saturday, February 16 2013

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/iraq-intelligence-officer-dies-suicide-bombing>

A suicide bomber killed a senior Iraqi army intelligence officer and two bodyguards in a northern town on Saturday after storming his well-guarded home.

One bomber was shot outside the home of Brigadier-General Aouni Ali, the director of the Defense Ministry's intelligence school, in the northern town of Tal Afar. But a second attacker managed to detonate his explosives.

"Guards killed one suicide bomber, but when the brigadier general and his bodyguards went out another bomber ran among them and blew himself up," a local official said.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Tal Afar is near the Syrian border, about 420 km north of Baghdad and just west of the volatile northern city of Mosul.

More than 10 suicide attackers have struck Iraq since January. Last year, more than 4,400 people were killed, the first annual climb in Iraq's death toll in three years.

Violence is far from the bloodletting that killed tens of thousands in 2006-2007. But after the US occupation ended in December 2011, insurgents have carried out at least one big attack a month.

Increasing sectarian violence has accompanied growing political unrest in Iraq as thousands of Sunni Muslims in western provinces rally against Shia Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, accusing him of marginalizing their minority sect.



CENTCOM

18. [Attack, Iraq] Blasts In Baghdad's Shiite Neighborhoods Kill 21

Sunday, February 17 2013

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/18/world/middleeast/baghdad-bomb-blasts.html>

A wave of attacks in Shiite neighborhoods in Baghdad killed at least 21 people and wounded 125 on Sunday, a security official said.

Four car bombs exploded in a market, a bus station and on a major road in the Sadr City district, killing seven people and wounding more than 30 others, officials said.

More people were killed and dozens were wounded when car bombs were set off in a market in Husseiniya, north-east of Baghdad; in the southeastern Baghdad neighborhood of Al Ameen; and in the Kamaliya area in Baghdad's eastern suburbs.

In the central Baghdad neighborhood of Karada, near the Babil Hotel, a roadside bomb killed one person and wounded five others.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, but Sunni extremists have stepped up their efforts to undermine the Shiite-led government and stoke sectarian divisions since the beginning of the year. More than 200 people have been killed in attacks across Iraq since January.

Sunnis, who are a minority in Iraq, complain of discrimination by officials and accuse Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki and his political allies of seeking to monopolize power before the provincial elections this spring.

The government's arrests of a Sunni politician's bodyguards in December set off weekly protests in several Iraqi cities. But the protesters have rejected calls for violence and have distanced themselves from extremist groups.





CENTCOM

19. [Trend, Iraq] Iraq's Al-Qaeda Wing Claims Baghdad Blasts

Monday, February 18 2013

<http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/index.cfm?method=home.regcon&contentid=20130218153697>

Al-Qaeda's Iraqi wing claimed responsibility on Monday for car bomb blasts that killed 28 people in Shi'ite Muslim districts in Baghdad, saying it was taking revenge for perceived state repression of Sunni Muslims.

The Al-Qaeda affiliate Islamic State of Iraq and other Sunni Islamist groups oppose Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki's government which they say discriminates against the country's Sunni minority.

Once at the heart of the insurgency against US troops in Iraq, Al-Qaeda now targets mainly Shi'ites and local security forces in an attempt to trigger the kind of widespread sectarian violence that drove the oil producer to the edge of civil war in 2006-2007.

"We say to the Sunnis in Baghdad and elsewhere: The situation in which you are living today is exactly what the mujahideen warned you of years ago. You are walking in a dark tunnel," said the statement posted on an Islamist website on Monday.

At least eight car bombs exploded near shops, restaurants in Baghdad's busy commercial streets on Sunday.

One blast tore off shop fronts in Qaiyara district while another left the remains of a car and its twisted engine littered across a high street in the busy, commercial Karrada district.

Insurgents are stepping up attacks at a time when Maliki is facing two months of protests by thousands in western provinces, who accuse his government of marginalizing their sect.

Maliki's power-sharing government includes Shi'ites, Sunnis and ethnic Kurds. The Shi'ite premier has offered concessions to protesters, such as releasing detainees held by security forces and modifying laws Sunnis say are used to target them.

The wave of attacks was the latest sign of a campaign that has escalated since the start of the year and had heightened the risk of wider inter-communal violence in the OPEC country.



CENTCOM

20. [Attack, Syria] Syrian Rocket Attack On Aleppo Kills 20

Tuesday, February 19 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/19/us-syria-crisis-idUSBRE9110GK20130219>

A Syrian army rocket attack on a rebel-held district in the city of Aleppo killed at least 20 people and another 25 were missing, opposition activists said on Tuesday.

The missile was identified from its remains as a Scud-type rocket that government forces have increasingly used in areas under opposition control in the province of Aleppo and in the province of Deir a-Zor to the east, they said.

"The rocket brought down three adjacent buildings in Jabal Badro district. The bodies are being dug up gradually. Some, including children, have died in hospitals," Mohammad Nour said by phone from Aleppo. He said testimony from survivors indicated that 25 people were still under the rubble.

Video footage showed dozens of people scouring the site for missing victims and inspecting the damage. A body was being pulled from under a collapsed concrete structure. At a nearby hospital, a baby said to have been dug out from under the wreckage was shown dying in the hands of doctors.

Abdeljabbar al-Akeidi, head of the rebel Aleppo Military Council in Syria's largest city and erstwhile commercial hub, was shown in video footage inspecting the scene.

Syrian opposition fighters have captured several army bases in Aleppo in the last two months, depriving the army of secure sites from which troops have been firing artillery at rebel-held districts of the city and surrounding rural areas.

Rocket salvos over the last week have hit the towns of Tel Rifaat and Dar Izza in rural Aleppo, as well the eastern towns of Abu Kamal and Mou Hassan near the border with Iraq.



Abu Mujahed of the Sham News Network opposition group in Aleppo said that although rebels were present in Jabal Badro, the area on the city's eastern edge had little strategic value.

"Jabal Badro has been with the opposition for months and life was normal in the district. Shops were open and people were going to work," Abu Mujahed said. "Using a devastating weapon like a Scud aims to stir anger against the (rebel) Free Syrian Army and undermine its base of popular support."

Syria has been convulsed by an uprising and civil war for almost two years, with an estimated 70,000 people killed, and U.N. investigators say war crimes, including deliberate attacks on civilians, have been committed by both sides.



CENTCOM

21. [Attack, Lebanon] Bomb Attack On Syrian Refugee Centre In Lebanon

Tuesday, February 19 2013

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/middle-east/226180-bomb-attack-on-syrian-refugee-centre-in-lebanon.html>

Unknown attackers lobbed a bomb at an Islamic aid centre which assists Syrian refugees in the northern Lebanon city of Tripoli, wounding three people, a security official said.

The attack on the aid organisation, known to be hostile to Syrian President Bashar Al Assad's regime and which hangs flags of the Syrian revolution on the walls of its headquarters, came late on Sunday, the official said.

"Unidentified men hurled at around 11pm (2100 GMT) a bomb at the headquarters of an Islamic aid centre that assists Syrian refugees in Tripoli's district of Qubbe," the official said on condition of anonymity.

"The shrapnel from the explosion hurt three people." Lebanon has seen a spillover of violence from neighbouring Syria since a revolt against Assad morphed into an insurgency after Damascus launched a brutal crackdown against dissent.

Lebanon is sharply divided into pro- and anti-Damascus camps, with the majority of Tripoli's Sunnis supporting the anti-Assad revolt, while the city's Alawite community to which Syria's Assad belongs backs the regime.



CENTCOM

22. [Attack, Syria] Mortars Kill Football Player In Syrian Capital

Wednesday, February 20 2013

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Feb-20/207216-mortars-hit-damascus-stadium-kill-football-player.ashx#axzz2LXhWgDKA>

Two mortars exploded next to a soccer stadium in central Damascus on Wednesday, killing one player as violence moved closer to the heart of President Bashar Assad's seat of power and into areas of the capital once considered safe.

The mortar attack was the second in as many days in Damascus. On Tuesday, two mortars exploded near one of Assad's palaces, but no one was hurt.

The SANA state news agency said the mortars on Wednesday landed in a complex housing Tishrin Stadium and a hotel in the Baramkeh neighborhood, killing a player from al-Wathbah club based in Homs. He was wounded inside the hotel as players were getting ready for practice and died later at a hospital.

State TV broadcast video of what it said was the hotel. The explosion blew out the windows on the first floor of the building, while shattered glass covered three beds in a one of the rooms. A bloodied duffle bag lay on the floor.

Players from al-Wathbah team who witnessed the attack identified the dead teammate as Youssef Suleiman. The 19-year-old striker had played internationally on one of Syria's national youth teams. They said he was the father of a 6-month-old baby.

Suleiman's teammates said the mortars landed in front of the hotel, where players normally stayed.

"We were collecting our things about to head to the stadium when we heard the first explosion and the windows were blown off," said Ali Ghosn, a 20-year-old player.

"Youssef was hit in the neck. We ran out to the corridor when the second explosion struck and I saw Youssef fall down bleeding from his neck," he told The Associated Press in Damascus as some of his colleagues wept.

Three other players were wounded, including one who was in critical condition.

The attack occurred a few hours before the team was to play the Hama-based al-Mawaair club. The game was postponed after the mortar strike.

The match is part of the domestic league, which has been delayed several times due to fighting. The nine-team league got under way just last week with all matches scheduled to be played in the heavily guarded capital in front of empty stands.

"We are football players," Ghosn said. "These people don't want what is good for Syria. They are criminals."

Assad has tried to maintain an image as the head of a functioning state even as rebels edge closer to the heart of Damascus and targeted attacks suggest rebels may be trying to shatter the sense of normalcy he has tried to portray in the capital.



Damascus has largely been spared the violence that has left other cities in ruins.

In recent weeks, however, rebels who established footholds in the suburbs of Damascus have been clashing with government forces, pushing closer to the center of the capital from the east and south.

The United Nations says at least 70,000 people have been killed since the conflict began in March 2011 as an uprising against Assad's rule. The revolt turned into a civil war that has taken increasingly sectarian overtones with mostly Sunni Muslim opposition forces fighting to topple the regime dominated by Alawites, an offshoot Shiite group.

The international community is at a loss as to how to end the bloodshed.

On Wednesday, Russia and the Arab League offered to broker talks between Assad's regime and the Cairo-based opposition group dominated by the Muslim Brotherhood movement. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Moscow and the Arab League were trying to establish direct contact between the two sides, saying that only a negotiated settlement will end the fighting.

"Neither side can allow itself to rely on a military solution to the conflict, because it's a road to nowhere - a road to mutual destruction of the people," Lavrov told reporters in Moscow after hosting Arab League officials and the foreign ministers of Egypt, Lebanon and other countries.

No conditions for negotiations have been set.

Both Lavrov and Arab League General Secretary Nabil Elaraby said the main priority was to set up a transitional government in Syria to navigate a way out of the conflict.

The Western-backed opposition coalition has rejected talks with Damascus as long as Assad remains in power. The Syrian leader has repeatedly made it clear that he will not step down, but offered the opposition to open reconciliation talks that he would lead.

Moscow has been the main protector of Assad's beleaguered regime, joining with China at the U.N. Security Council to block attempts to impose sanctions on Assad's regime.

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem will lead a delegation to Moscow on Monday, and Russia is expecting a visit in March from the Syrian National Coalition leader, Mouaz al-Khatib.

For now, fighting continues unabated around the country.

Activists said government war planes hit rebel positions around Damascus and near the northern city of Aleppo, where troops have been battling rebels for control of an international airport.

The pro-government Al-Watan newspaper said the military was "valiantly defending" the airport. The report claimed the airport remained under military control but was under intense "attacks by gunmen" - a rare acknowledgement of the fierce fighting around Aleppo, Syria's largest city.

In the Damascus suburb of Douma, rebels shot down a government fighter jet, according to the Britain-based activist group Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.



CENTCOM

23. [Security, Iran] Found! Iran's Secret Ballistic Missile Base

Wednesday, February 20 2013

<http://www.wnd.com/2013/02/found-irans-secret-ballistic-missile-base/>

WND has learned of the existence of a secret ballistic missile base in Iran's Semnan Province to which the Islamic regime has moved missiles armed with microbial warheads.

The Badr base, a center for air defense which has about 50 underground missile silos housing Iran's Shahab 3 ballistic missiles, serves as Iran's second-largest missile-launching site, and is under the control of the Revolutionary Guards.

The base, in the deserts of Semnan far from any city, has many underground tunnels connecting to the silo launching pads, according to a source in the Revolutionary Guards intelligence unit.

The base's command and control are connected to other bases in Noje, Hamdan, Shahid Doran in Shiraz and the country's air traffic control centers in Tehran, Birjand and Bandar Abass.

Last year, the Revolutionary Guards aired footage on Iranian TV showing commanders along with a reporter travel via private jet to the base to observe a test launch of a Shahab 3 from an underground silo.

At that time, Brig. Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the commander of the Revolutionary Guards aerospace division, claimed that by placing the ballistic missiles in underground silos, the country is preparing for asymmetrical warfare, which will allow the country to stand up to more powerful enemies. Asymmetric warfare is war between belligerents whose relative military power differs significantly, or whose strategy or tactics differ significantly.

Hajizadeh last September warned Israel that the Islamic regime would launch a pre-emptive attack if it felt its enemies were preparing to attack Iran.

"We cannot imagine the Zionist regime starting a war without America's support," he said. "Therefore, in case of a war, we will get into a war with both of them and we will certainly get into a conflict with American bases. ... In that case, unpredictable and unimaginable things would happen and it could turn into a World War III."

The regime holds one of the largest ballistic missile arsenals in the Middle East and, as reported exclusively on WND, with the help of Russian and North Korean scientists, it has developed

eight microbial agents, including anthrax, plague, smallpox and SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome), with some of the microbes genetically altered to leave the world defenseless against such an attack.

Iran has 170 missiles targeted at Tel Aviv from underground silos, some of which are armed with biological warheads, according to another source who served in Iran's Intelligence Ministry and who recently defected.

The first source said the Semnan ballistic missile base is surrounded by many smaller bases that provide training to the support forces from the Badr and Khatamol Anbia brigades. The base and the surrounding bases also serve as the center for the regime's aerospace activities, including the launches of Safir missiles that successfully placed satellites into orbit. Those launches are part of the intercontinental ballistic missile program.

Brig. Gen. Larimi commands the missile base, with Col. Ahmad Reza Azizi in charge of security and protection.

The Guards have mapped out an extensive list of U.S. bases in the Middle East to attack with their missiles in case





of a confrontation over the regime's illicit nuclear program, disrupting the movement of U.S. forces and the operation of the U.S. Air Force, which the Guards believe will be the main thrust of any attack by America. In their preparations, the Guards have also drawn up plans to disrupt the oil flow from the Persian Gulf. They know that about 20 percent of the world's oil and the majority of oil exports of eight countries in the Persian Gulf pass through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway that could be blocked by the regime's forces. The Semnan base, the source said, serves as a key role for that purpose with its capability to target Israel, U.S. military bases in the region and targets in the Persian Gulf. The source warned that the regime will not give up its pursuit of the nuclear bomb and therefore is preparing for war and that the time wasted by meaningless negotiations has only empowered them with their preparations, which will engulf the region and collapse the global economy.





CENTCOM

24. [Attack, Iraq] Bomb Attack Causes Fire In Iraq Fuel Pipeline Again

Wednesday, February 20 2013

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/bomb-attack-causes-fire-iraq-fuel-pipeline-again-133124163.html>

A bomb set fire to a pipeline carrying fuel oil from Iraq's largest refinery to a province north of Baghdad on Wednesday, the second attack in less than a week on the same pipeline, the oil ministry said.

The line was targeted Saturday when a bomb attack disabled the 16-inch pipeline transporting fuel oil from Iraq's largest refinery of Baji to Nineveh province in the north.

The oil ministry said a technical crew managed to repair the damaged part of the line, which normally pumps around 7 million litres of fuel per day, and resumed fuel pumping Saturday evening.

The second bomb blast - which was occurred Wednesday morning near the province of Nineveh, has halted flow and firefighters were still trying to control the blaze and assess damage, the ministry said in a statement.

"Terrorists placed bombs and landmines around the location of the attack to prevent the technical crew from reaching the place," it said.

Iraq has seen fewer attacks against energy infrastructure following the withdrawal of U.S. forces in December 2011. But at least three bombs targeted oil storage and pipeline networks in the country's southern oilfields in 2011.

Attacks have declined as security gradually improved after the U.S.-led invasion in 2003 and the OPEC country has attracted more foreign investment.



CENTCOM

25. [Attack, Syria] Car Bomb Kills 35 Near Damascus Ruling Party Building

Thursday, February 21 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/21/us-syria-crisis-blast-idUSBRE91K09W20130221>

A car bomb killed at least 35 people and wounded more than 200 in central Damascus on Thursday when it exploded on a busy highway close to ruling Baath Party offices and the Russian embassy, Syrian television said.

TV footage showed at least four charred and bloodied bodies strewn across the street after the blast, which state media said was the result of a suicide bombing by "terrorists" battling President Bashar al-Assad.

Central Damascus has been relatively insulated from almost two years of unrest and civil war in which around 70,000 people have been killed across the country, but the bloodshed has shattered suburbs around the capital.

Rebels who control districts to the south and east of Damascus have attacked Assad's power base for nearly a month and struck with devastating bombs over the last year.

The al Qaeda-linked rebel group Jabhat al-Nusra, which claimed responsibility for several of those bombs, says it carried out 17 attacks around Damascus in the first half of February, including at least seven bombings.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights put the death toll from Thursday's attack in the Mazraa district of Damascus at 31, mostly civilians. Other activists said 40 people had died, including children from a nearby school.

Opposition activists reported further explosions elsewhere in the city after the mid-morning explosion in Mazraa.

One resident in the heart of the capital heard three or four projectiles whistling through the sky, followed by explosions. At least one of them landed in a public garden in the Abu Rummaneh district, she said, but no one was hurt.

EMBASSY DAMAGED

The Britain-based Observatory, which monitors violence via a network of sources inside Syria, said the Mazraa car bomb detonated at a checkpoint close to the Baath Party building, located about 200 meters (660 feet) from the Russian embassy.

Russia's Itar-Tass news agency quoted a diplomat as saying the blast blew out windows at the embassy but no employees were wounded. "The building has really been damaged ... The windows are shattered," the diplomat said.

The vehicle was carrying between 1 and 1.5 tonnes of explosives, Damascus Governor Bishr Sabban told Reuters.

A correspondent for Syrian television said he saw seven body bags with corpses at the scene. He counted 17 burnt-out cars and another 40 that were destroyed or badly damaged by the force of the blast, which ripped a crater 1.5 meters deep into the road.

The official SANA news agency said casualties included children at a nearby school in Mazraa, which it described as a busy residential district of the capital.



Later, the Observatory reported, two car bombs exploded outside security centers in the northeastern district of Barzeh, but there were no details of casualties.

Syrian TV said security forces detained a would-be suicide bomber with five bombs in his car, one of them weighing 300 kg (440 pounds).





EUCOM

26. [Special Interest, Bulgaria] Bulgaria Links Lebanese To Bombing, Printer And Telecom Evidence

Monday, February 18 2013

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/bulgaria-links-lebanese-bombing-printer-and-telecom-evidence>

As Bulgaria claims to have found new evidence linking Hezbollah to the deadly attack on Israeli tourists last July, Israel, the United States, Britain, and the Netherlands have continued to pressure the European Union to declare Hezbollah a terrorist organization and impose sanctions on the resistance group.

Placing Hezbollah on the terror list requires unanimity among the EU's 27 member states.

France and Italy have so far opposed sanctions, but Israel says they may be convinced to put some senior Hezbollah officials on the terror list.

"If we get that we'll consider it an achievement," said a senior Foreign Ministry official, cited in Haaretz Monday.

Lebanese Kataeb Party leader Amin Gemayel said Monday that the accusation by the Bulgarian government was evidence that Hezbollah could not be seen as "neutral."

The Bulgarian opposition accused the government in early February of prematurely accusing Hezbollah before the investigation had been concluded.

Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) leader Sergei Stanishev had said that Bulgaria was acting under US and Israeli pressure and had entered "into a political game in an irresponsible manner, without calculating the consequences."

Hezbollah's Naim Kassem, the group's number two, slammed the "international campaign of intimidation waged by Israel against Hezbollah" three weeks ago, saying it is "ever improving its equipment and training" and that "these charges will change nothing."

The Bulgarian government had released a report concluding that three Hezbollah members were behind the July attack that killed five Israeli tourists, based on evidence including a computer printer in Beirut, DNA traces on a SIM card and telephone calls from the bombers to Hezbollah officials.

The Bulgarian government said they had well-grounded reasons to suspect that the three attackers were Lebanese with foreign passports and forged drivers licenses from Canada and Australia.

With the help of foreign intelligence agents, drivers licenses were shown to have been printed on a printer in Lebanon, according to the Bulgarian report.

The US government have in the past convinced some color laser printer manufacturers to encode every page printed with identifying information, but not all printers do so.

Two of the attackers were said to have returned to Lebanon after the attack, while one of attackers died unintentionally during the bombing.



Two Israelis had allegedly confronted the unintentional suicide bomber while he was trying to put his booby-trapped backpack into the bus' cargo hold. The bomb was said to have exploded prematurely because of the "shaking."

The investigation's allegations regarding the role of Lebanon and Hezbollah in the bombing remain unclear and disputed.

Aware of the traceability of mobile phones and internet communications, Hezbollah currently operates within a highly secure landline network to avoid tracking.

The debate on the usefulness and reliability of telephone calls or found SIM cards as evidence in criminal investigations has been ongoing in Lebanon, particularly since evidence of telephone calls linking certain individuals to the Hariri assassination in 2005 was leaked as part of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

The evidence is considered especially unreliable in Lebanon, given Israel's known tampering in telephone networks in Lebanon, with the capability of forging SIM cards and tampering with collected data on the networks.

The International Telecommunications Union in 2010 passed three resolutions against Israel for "piracy and attacks against fixed and cellular telephone networks in Lebanon."

The resolutions determined that "Lebanon's telecommunication facilities have been and are still being subjected to piracy, interference and interruption, and sedition by Israel against Lebanon's fixed and cellular telephone networks."

Israel has not yet halted their activities or provided Lebanon with reparations for the damages incurred so far.



EUCOM

27. [Security, England] Bomb Discovered At Blickling Hall

Wednesday, February 20 2013

http://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/bomb_discovered_at_blickling_hall_1_1942103

An unexploded wartime bomb discovered in the grounds of Blickling Hall has created extra drama and excitement for visitors and staff.

Bomb disposal experts from Colchester arrived yesterday morning to blow up the three-inch phosphorous device at the National Trust stately home, near Aylsham.

The discovery has been linked to a possible mammoth VE Day party in May 1945 and it will mean a small area of the grounds remains out of bounds to visitors until spring.

The bomb was uncovered on Monday afternoon during conservation work to shore up the edge of the lake which involved lowering the water level, according to Jo Bosch, marketing and engagement manager at the hall.

A team of volunteer litter pickers had been collecting debris revealed by the work when one of them, Dave Martin, had spotted the device.

“He took two very big steps back and called all the people he needed to call,” said Ms Bosch.

Spike Malin, Blickling’s premises manager who had once served in the RAF, had recognised it as a piece of Second World War ordnance and rang the police.

A 100m cordon was set up around the site and Ms Bosch said a policeman had kept watch through the night.

The incident coincided with the start of the school half-term holiday and there had been about 600 visitors to Blickling Hall on Monday, according to Ms Bosch. About two dozen of them had been moved away from the danger area.

The bomb squad arrived early yesterday morning and carried out a controlled explosion, first moving the device to a site about 150 yards from the lake.

Ms Bosch said the speculation was that the white phosphorous device could have been among the homemade fireworks known to have been made by Canadian airmen billeted at Blickling Hall in the war.

“We know they threw a big, fun party on VE Day and this could have been something from it which didn’t go off.

“Because phosphorous burns when it is exposed to air, we have had to fence an area off – about 50 yards square – which people won’t be able to use for three months,” Ms Bosch added. It would not affect visitors’ enjoyment of the lakeside walk.

When the lake level had been lowered on a previous occasion, a headless stone garden statue of the goddess Diana had been uncovered.

It was thought to have been thrown into the water during a party in the 1930s and was currently lying in the Orangery awaiting conservation after which it would be put back on display.





EUCOM

28. [Trend, Ireland] Bomb Disrupts Rail And Road Travel

Tuesday, February 19 2013

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/republic-of-ireland/bomb-disrupts-rail-and-road-travel-29081639.html>

Commuter trains were disrupted and a busy street closed when a pipe bomb was discovered in Dublin's north inner city.

An army bomb disposal team was called to examine the device, found outside a house on Preston Street, just off Amiens Street.

The team arrived on scene at 3.20pm on Tuesday and a cordon and traffic restrictions were put in place for public safety.

"The rail lines that are in the vicinity of the find were also shut as a precaution," said a Defence Forces spokesperson.

"The suspect device was rendered safe in situ without the need for a controlled explosion and was then moved to a secure military location for further technical examination and testing.

"The scene was declared safe at 4pm."

Commuter trains departing from two platforms in Connolly Station were disrupted for half an hour and Amiens Street closed to traffic.

The viable improvised explosive device (IED) and its component parts will be handed over to the Gardaí for investigation.

This is the 34th call-out by the bomb disposal teams so far this year, which resulted in 21 viable IEDs dealt with.





EUCOM

29. [Trend, Spain] Car Bomb Left Outside Megabrothel

Thursday, February 21 2013

<http://www.euroweeklynews.com/news/spain/item/113315>

Spain's largest legal brothel had to evacuate 300 people on Sunday.

The Paradise brothel in La Jonquera, Gerona has hit the headlines again. This time a security guard called police after masked men in two cars. A man got out of one of the vehicles brandishing a weapon and shouted he was leaving the car with a bomb in the back. He then sped off with four other people in the second vehicle.

A bomb squad took several hours to deactivate the device, but no details were released about the size or weight of the explosives found.

Paradise is currently under investigation for keeping young Rumanian girls in slave-like conditions.

In a separate incident, police arrested nineteen people involved in two organisations bringing young girls from Rumania to work as prostitutes in Junquera which is on the border with France.

The girls were enticed by offers of genuine employment in Spain but once in the country were forced to work as prostitutes, being controlled by violence, intimidation and even fingerprint scanners.

The establishment is well known in the area for offering private entrances to guests seeking secrecy, attracting Spanish and French clientele.



EUCOM

30. [Attack, Northern Ireland] Petrol Bomb Follows Police Protest

Friday, February 22 2013

<http://www.derryjournal.com/news/local/petrol-bomb-follows-police-protest-1-4819127>

A petrol bomb attack on the home of an elderly couple in Bishop Street has been described as “an act of madness”.

Shortly after 9pm a petrol bomb was thrown from Corporation Street over the roofs of houses on Bishop Street. It struck one of the houses and damaged guttering.

The PSNI were mounting a vehicle checkpoint on Bishop Street at the time of the incident.

Foyle MP Mark Durkan condemned the attack. “It is a disgrace that this elderly couple and their neighbours were put through such distress and disruption. Those responsible were out to cause damage and their contemptible actions only show they have an utter disregard for the many people who live nearby,” he said.

Sinn Féin Councillor Patricia Logue said the attack put lives at risk. “What happened in Bishop Street can only be described as an act of madness. A petrol bomb was thrown blindly from the car park in Corporation Street over the roofs of houses that face onto Bishop Street. Whoever threw this device had no regard for residents, pedestrians, motorists or indeed anyone in the vicinity at the time. They have only succeeded in terrorising their own community,” she said.

The incident followed a protest in the area by members of the 32 County Sovereignty Movement against a visit by PSNI Chief Constable Matt Baggot to Lumen Christi College.

A 32CSM spokesperson claimed the police were heavy handed when dealing with protestors. “The police came out of the school grounds and pushed the protestors back, Is this the type of activity that should be happening on school grounds?

“A number of the protestors met with the school principal to discuss their concerns,” he said.

The PSNI said that no arrests were made.



PACOM

31. [Attack, India] Bomb Goes Off At Garbage Dump: Woman Killed

Monday, February 18 2013

<http://newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/article1468587.ece>

A woman rag-picker died when a bomb concealed in the garbage dump went off. The incident happened in Unit VIII area under Khandagiri police limits on Sunday.

The woman, identified as Rashida Khatoon, was collecting polythene and other recyclable items from the garbage dump behind Kalyani Market Complex when she found a circular object. As she picked it up and was examining it, the object exploded.

She sustained serious injuries in the blast. No one came to her aid even though she was lying on the dump and crying out in sheer pain. People gathered around were simply watching her.

Even though police were informed, they arrived at the spot after more than half an hour. The woman was first taken to a private hospital here from where she was shifted to SCB Medical, Cuttack where she succumbed to her injuries late on Sunday night.

Police have registered a case and investigation is on. Forensics team was deployed to determine the nature of the bomb. It is believed that the bomb might have been concealed by criminals in the dump.



PACOM

32. [Attack, Thailand] Muslim Insurgents Launch 50 Attacks In Thailand's Deep South

Monday, February 18 2013

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/thailand/9877429/Muslim-insurgents-launch-50-attacks-in-Thailands-deep-south.html>

Muslim insurgents fighting for a separate state in Thailand's deep south launched 50 bomb and arson attacks over the weekend, killing three members of the security forces as violence in the troubled region intensifies. The three local defence volunteers died after a bomb hidden in a pile of clothes exploded outside a restaurant in Pattani Town on Sunday lunchtime.

Another nine people were injured in the blast.

A coordinated campaign of terror started at 6pm local time on Saturday, when seven bombs were planted outside shops, supermarkets and a karaoke bar in Pattani Town, the capital of Pattani Province, one of the three southernmost provinces of Thailand with a Muslim majority population.

Bomb disposal experts defused five of the bombs. But further devices were detonated later that night and on Sunday, while a wave of arson attacks gutted shops in Pattani Town and targeted mobile phone towers, security cameras and local defence bases elsewhere in Pattani Province.

"Intelligence estimates suggest there were 50 coordinated attacks. We managed to prevent attacks in eight spots," Police Major General Ekkaphob Prasitwattanachai told local media.

Shops in Pattani City were closed on Monday and streets deserted, as residents stayed indoors fearing more violence. The bombing and arson campaign is being regarded as revenge for the killing of 16 militants who attacked a marine base in Narathiwat Province last Wednesday. It was the deadliest day the insurgents have suffered in almost a decade.

Almost 5,400 people have died, and more than 9,500 have been injured, since the insurgency started in earnest in 2004.

Around 80 per cent of the 1.8 million people in the three southernmost provinces of Thailand – Pattani, Narathiwat and Yala -, that border Malaysia are ethnic Malay Muslims. Many regard the overwhelmingly Buddhist Thai state as a colonial power and want their own independent nation.

On Monday, deputy prime minister and deep south security chief Chalerm Yubamrung said he had been "forced" by Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to agree to travel to the deep south next month. Mr Chalerm has been repeatedly criticised for his failure to visit the region during his 19 months in office.





PACOM

33. [Attack, India] Bomb Blast In Nagaland Kills One

Wednesday, February 20 2013

http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report__1802017

A bomb blast close to Dimapur railway station in poll-bound Nagaland killed one person this morning, police said.

Pradeep Thapa was going on his bike near the station when the bomb planted on the roadside suddenly went off killing him on the spot at 8 AM.

Police is trying to find out those behind the incident. In the meantime, the area has been cordoned off.



PACOM

34. [Attack, Thailand] Yala Road Bomb Injures Volunteers

Wednesday, February 20 2013

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/336822/>

Two defence volunteers were seriously injured by a roadside bomb explosion in Yala's Muang district on Wednesday morning.

Pol Capt Rusdee Kado, duty officer at Muang Yala police station, said he received a report of a bomb attack on a local road at Ban Bor Jed Look in tambon Yupo of Muang district about 7.15am.

He led a team of police and an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) unit to the scene.

Police were told that eight defence volunteers from Muang Yala district were traveling along the rural road on four motorcycles to escort teachers to school, when an improvised explosive device buried near the roadside was detonated.

Two defence volunteers, Suthep Chanwanno, 30, and Pinyo Kongthon, 39, were seriously wounded in the explosion and taken to Yala hospital.

Police blamed members of a separatist group led by Rorki Dorloh which is active in Ban Thung Yamu and Ban Yupo areas of Yala province.



PACOM

35. [Attack, India] Serial Bomb Blasts Rock Hyderabad

Thursday, February 21 2013

<http://world.time.com/2013/02/21/hyderabad-bomb-blasts-two-deadly-explosions-leave-terror-cloud-over-india/>

At least 12 people have been killed and scores injured on Thursday in twin bombings that authorities believe may have been a terrorist attack in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad. There has been no official confirmation as to the nature of the blasts, but government officials have said they were carried out by a “well trained” group and were coordinated.

Local media are reporting that the blasts come two days after government security agencies sent an advisory to states to tighten security in light of potential threats from militant groups operating in the region related to the recent executions of convicted terrorists Ajmal Kasab and Mohammed Afzal Guru.

In tweets sent out after the attacks on Thursday evening, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh appealed to the public to remain calm. “This is a dastardly attack, the guilty will not go unpunished,” he tweeted. The attack was the first major bombing in India since a blast outside a court in New Delhi in 2011 that killed 11 people.

India has been on alert since Guru, who was Kashmiri, was executed earlier this month in New Delhi’s Tihar Jail. Guru was convicted of involvement in the 2001 attacks on Parliament in which 14 people were killed, but many in Kashmir in particular believe he did not receive a fair trial and were upset by the handling of his execution.

Forensics teams have reportedly been deployed to the bomb sites along with officials from the National Investigative Agency and Intelligence Bureau. The bombs, which authorities say were attached to two bicycles, were detonated around 7 p.m. outside a movie theater and bus station in a busy area of the city of some 10 million people, according to police.

Singh, in addition to condemning the attacks, announced the government would give 200,000 rupees (\$3,700) to relatives of the deceased and 50,000 rupees (\$900) to those injured in the attacks. Further compensation has also been offered by the chief minister of the state of Andhra Pradesh, where Hyderabad is located.

Almsgiving after terrorist attacks, though, is an unfortunate tactic all too frequently deployed by the government. Long-standing questions about the capability of India’s security and intelligence infrastructure — which reached their highest pitch following the shocking, deadly 2008 assault on one of Mumbai’s ritziest neighborhood — are once more being raised. And speculation

swirls: some analysts point the finger at the Indian *mujahedin*, an Islamist extremist group.

In 2007, Hyderabad suffered twin bombings that claimed at least 42 lives; blame then fell on Harkat-ul-Jihad Islam, another extremist group then anchored in Bangladesh.

But no clear leads have emerged, and both politicians and TV commentators urged caution against “rumor mongering” in the breathless hours that followed the attack. Hyderabad, a historic city that’s now one of India’s leading tech centers, is also at the heart of the Telangana movement, which seeks to carve a new state out of Andhra Pradesh. Tensions surrounding the bid have flared up in recent years.





PACOM

36. [Attack, Thailand] Pattani Bomb Wounds Two Soldiers

Friday, February 22 2013

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/337215/>

Two soldiers providing security for teachers were seriously injured by a bomb explosion in Patani's Khok Pho district on Friday morning.

Pol Lt Col Chamlong Suwanluck, chief of Khok Pho police station, said the bomb exploded about 7.53am near a building of Ban Koh Ta school in tambon Tung Pla.

Two soldiers were seriously wounded -- Pvt Banharn Lucknakuan, 23, and Pvt Phak Kaewchu, 23, of No 24 Pattani special task force.

They were admitted to Kho Pho hospital.

Earlier this morning, police received a report on another bomb explosion in front of a health station in Moo 4, tambon Taloh Dueraman of Khok Pho district, but no one was hurt.

Police were told that the improvised explosive device buried near the side of a rural road was detonated as six soldiers patrolling on foot passed in front of the health station.

However, the bomb exploded after the soldiers had passed safely by.

Police blamed insurgents for both bombings.

According to Deep South Watch, which monitors the southern violence, more than 5,000 people have been killed and over 9,000 injured in more than 11,000 incidents, or about 3.5 a day, in the three southernmost provinces and the four districts of Songkhla since the violence erupted afresh in January 2004.



NORTHCOM

37. [Security, United States] Bomb Squad Neutralizes Explosive Left In Eureka Yard

Tuesday, February 19 2013

http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_22619093/bomb-squad-neutralizes-explosive-left-eureka-yard

Police officers Sunday neutralized an explosive device found in the front yard of a residence near the intersection of Hodgson and F streets in Eureka.

According to a Eureka Police Department press release, had it detonated, the explosive device could have caused great bodily injury to anyone in close proximity.

A homeowner reported finding the duffel bag hidden in some shrubbery with wires and a battery visibly sticking out at about 8:15 a.m., the release said.

Once officers determined the bag could hold an explosive device, surrounding streets were blocked off, a perimeter around the device was established, and residents in the vicinity were evacuated. The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad was called to the house at about 10:55 a.m. to neutralize the device, which had been determined to be a working firebomb. The process resulted in a small explosion and fire which was quickly extinguished, the release said.

The release also noted that the residents who discovered the bag acted correctly by not touching or moving it and reporting the bag to authorities.

This investigation is ongoing as officials work to determine an intended target, motive and suspect.



NORTHCOM

38. [Security, United States] Many Explosive Devices Found In Aurora Home

Tuesday, February 19 2013

<http://www.9news.com/rss/article/317926/222/Many-explosive-devices-found-in-Aurora-home>

An Aurora man is facing charges after half a dozen homemade pipe bombs were found inside his home during a fire.

A bomb squad is still investigating the scene of a house fire in the 1400 block of South Bahama Street in Aurora Tuesday morning.

Pipe bombs were found inside the home. The man who lives in the home - later identified as Michael Grover, 55 - was arrested by Aurora Police. Grover is going to be charged with possession of an explosive device. He is being held the Arapahoe County Jail on a \$250,000 bond. Originally on Tuesday morning, his bond was set at \$6,000, but it was increased as the investigation developed.

A fire broke out Monday around 10:30 p.m. in the home. When firefighters arrived at the home, Grover told the firefighters that he had pipe bombs inside a shed near the home. Firefighters also found illegal fireworks, apparent homemade explosive devices and other bomb-making materials in the house. Police say they found more than six explosive items in the basement and the shed.

"We haven't found any sort of motivation, no writings or anything like that this early on in the investigation," the Aurora Police Department Public Information Officer Cassidee Carlson said. "Whether he decides to talk to us at this point or offer anything up, we'll go from there."

9NEWS Reporter Anastasiya Bolton spoke with a neighbor, and he was shocked to hear about the pipe bombs.

"I knew he'd stockpiled some guns," Donn Daniels, Grover's neighbor, said. "He was kind of one of those 'doomsday' guys. I thought '[if] that's what you want to do, then fine.' There was no intent to do anything with them. That was his thought process, and I just dismissed it. I just thought it was just another guy with some crazy thoughts. I didn't [think] a whole lot of it."

Daniels says he heard Grover talking about the government taking away his guns, that "everything was coming to an end," and that martial law was going to be involved.

"He was seriously counting on 12-21 to be the last day," Daniels said. "I told [him] 'When 12-22 rolls around, you need to buy me a steak dinner.'"

The Arapahoe County Bomb Squad arrived to assess the situation. They were able to take the two pipe bombs away from the scene.

"We're called out often for ... old grenades or different devices that maybe people have, but this is taking it to a whole new level," Carlson said. "The fact that every time we try to make entry to search the house, we're finding something else that shows us down. Now we're to the point the substance and not have it recognized immediately by our Hazmat unit and having to call reinforcement. I think it probably speaks to what we're finding in this house."



Daniels was surprised to hear about the explosive devices.

"Then, I heard about [the] bomb-making materials and combine that with the fire, I can see my house going up in flames and ... that doesn't settle at all," Daniels said. "He's just like any other neighbor. [He's a] normal kind of guy. We'd take turns [shoveling] the snow on the walk. This comes as a surprise with the bomb stuff."

The Aurora Police Department got a search warrant for the home after the incident.

"Our goal today is to make it through the house and get it searched to make sure we remove everything that could be potentially dangerous," Carlson said. "We may then secure the scene throughout the night."

Four homes were evacuated during the investigation. Police do not know when they will let those residents back in their houses.

"At this time, we don't believe there is any threat to the public as far as what was found, but we just wanted to take all the precautionary measures to make sure this is disposed of properly," Carlson said.





NORTHCOM

39. [Security, United States] US Issues Worldwide Caution Of Terror Threats To Its Citizens

Wednesday, February 20 2013

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/us-issues-worldwide-caution-of-terror-threats-to-its-citizens-333097>

The United States has issued a worldwide travel alert to its citizens, including South Asia, where it said the terrorist outfits like Al Qaeda, the Taliban and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) might harm them.

"US citizens are reminded to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness," the State Department said in a statement on Tuesday.

Noting that current information suggests that Al Qaeda, its affiliated organisations, and other terrorist outfits continue to plan terrorist attacks against US interests in multiple regions, including Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, the State Department said these attacks may employ a wide variety of tactics including suicide operations, assassinations, kidnappings, hijackings, and bombings.

It said extremists may elect to use conventional or non-conventional weapons, and target both official and private interests.

Examples of such targets include high-profile sporting events, residential areas, business offices, hotels, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, schools, public areas, and other tourist destinations both in the United States and abroad where the country's citizens gather in large numbers, including during holidays, the State Department said.

In South Asia, the presence of Al Qaeda, Taliban elements, indigenous sectarian groups, and other terror organisations, many of which are on the US government's list of Foreign Terror Organisations (FTOs), poses a potential danger to US citizens in the region, it said.

Terrorists and their sympathisers have demonstrated their willingness and ability to attack targets where US citizens or Westerners are known to congregate or visit.

According to the State Department, anti-Western terrorist groups, some on the US government's list of FTOs, have been active in India, including Islamist extremist groups such as Harkat-ul-Jihad-i-Islami, Harakat ul-Mujahidin, Indian Mujahideen, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e Taiba.

Terrorists have targeted public places in India frequented by Westerners, including luxury and other hotels, trains, train stations, markets, cinemas, mosques, and restaurants in large urban areas, it added.



NORTHCOM

40. [Security, United States] School Principal Taking 'No Chances' After Explosive Found

Wednesday, February 20 2013

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20130219/NEWS/130219458>

A school principal said that he was taking “no chances” with a crude device that found on a playground Tuesday and disposed of by Omaha police.

Eric Nelson, principal of Fontenelle Elementary School, said Wednesday that the student who found the device about 3:15 p.m. notified a security officer. Nelson said the device was a deodorant stick with a fuse and battery attached.

“It was pretty crude looking but you could tell it was explosive,” Nelson said. “The main part was green, so we couldn't see into and that made us very cautious.”

A police spokesman said the playground was cleared and the children were kept in the school until the normal dismissal time at 3:55 p.m., Nelson said.

The playground is at the rear of the school property at 3905 N. 52nd St., and school officials were able to keep everyone away from the area until the police bomb squad arrived. Nelson said the device was exploded on the playground after most of the students had gone.

Sgt. Matt Manhart of the bomb squad said he didn't know how powerful the device would have been. But, he said, “even small explosives, such as fireworks, can cause damage or hurt someone.”

The bomb squad responds to an average of eight to 10 calls a month, Manhart said. Many are precautionary, and few involve explosives.

Manhart said it's tough to know what to look for, but advised people to call 911 if they are unsure if something is dangerous. People should be overly cautious rather than overlook something, he said.

Nelson said his building engineer routinely checks for dangerous objects. Now, the engineer and an assistant will increase their checks, including kicking the gravel on the playground to look for objects.

“This particular object wasn't really noticeable until you were right on top of it,” Nelson said.



NORTHCOM

41. [Security, United States] Explosive Devices At NC Storage Unit

Friday, February 22 2013

<http://www.wltx.com/news/national/article/223151/2/Explosive-Devices-at-NC-Storage-Unit>

Law enforcement officers are monitoring a commercial storage facility in New Hanover County after two explosive devices were found there and detonated.

Authorities are not saying much about the incident or if there have been any arrests.

But two devices described as being like pipe bombs were exploded Thursday and other materials taken from the storage facility were put in a containment vessel so they could be safely moved.

Officers were on the scene overnight Thursday watching the storage center for suspicious activity. The FBI is involved in the investigation.

Authorities went to the scene Thursday after they got a call from neighbors who said they heard an explosion at the storage facility.



SOUTHCOM

42. [Attack, Colombia] FARC Destroys Police Station In South Colombia Attack

Saturday, February 16 2013

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/28203-farc-destroys-police-station-in-south-colombia-attack.html>

Alleged rebels of the FARC destroyed a police station during an attack on a town in the south of Colombia Saturday.

According to reports, two policemen were injured in the attack that destroyed most of the police station and damaged some 30 homes in the vicinity of the building.

The local police commander blamed the FARC for the bomb attack.

The Puerto Asis attack is the second on a police station in the southern Putumayo department this month.

While the FARC is engaged in peace talks with the administration of President Juan Manuel Santos, violence between the warring parties continues.



Photo: Caracol Radio



SOUTHCOM

43. [Attack, Colombia] FARC Launches Series Of Attacks Over Weekend

Monday, February 18 2013

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/28211-farc-launches-series-of-attacks-over-weekend.html>

In a weekend chalk full of rebel violence, members of the FARC -- Colombia's largest left-wing guerrilla group -- destroy electricity towers, kill soldiers, and burn several buses in the northwestern department of Antioquia.

Suspected FARC rebels on Saturday sabotaged electricity infrastructure in the northern part of the Antioquia department.

"Guerrillas from the 36th Front blew up an electricity tower [in the Yarmual municipality] and left six municipalities without light in the north of Antioquia. The service has [returned] after the intervention of the Public Enterprises of Medellin (EPM)," said Gustavo Chavarro, the top commander of the Antioquia police force, according to newscast CM.

Meanwhile, in the neighboring Ituango municipality, FARC rebels dressed in civilian clothing positioned an explosive-laden bus on a local road, effectively blocking traffic between Ituango and the San Andres de Cuerquia municipality.

"Because of this there is no public service transport as of today [Monday]," said the mayor of Ituango.

In the same municipality another group of FARC guerrillas on Saturday burned an oil transportation truck belonging to a local, private company. Rebels burned yet another bus in the Toledo municipality, also in northern Antioquia.

Two soldiers from the Colombian army's 17th Brigade were killed on Friday in a FARC minefield in the Dabieba municipality close to Antioquia's Caribbean coast, reported national radio station RCN. An additional two soldiers were wounded in the Urrao municipality in western Antioquia on Friday as well.

Attacks on oil infrastructure in northeastern Colombia continued on Saturday, when insurgents blew up a section of the Caño Limon Coveñas oil pipeline in the Teorama municipality located in Norte de Santander Catatumbo region. According to Colombia's state-owned oil company, Ecopetrol, the assault resulted in an oil spill near the Catatumbo river. There is a risk that the spillover could reach Venezuelan territory by Sunday. Representatives from the Venezuelan state-owned oil giant, PDVSA, told the Venezuelan newspaper El Tiempo that there were no reports of environmental damage, but nevertheless, the Venezuelan company maintained a state of "high alert" on Monday.

Guerrillas attacked a police station in the Riohacha municipality in the Caribbean La Guajira department, leaving one person wounded, while a soldier from the Colombian army was hurt in a FARC minefield in the northeastern Arauca department.

In February alone, there have been 51 reported FARC attacks against military personnel, police, and infrastructure projects. In that span, 25 soldiers and policemen have been killed.

The rebels and the government are currently engaged in peace talks in the Cuban capital of Havana.



SOUTHCOM

44. [Trend, Colombia] Number Of Land Mines In Colombia Greatly Exaggerated: NGO

Tuesday, February 19 2013

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/28234-number-of-land-mines-in-colombia-greatly-exaggerated-ngo.html>

A British NGO on Tuesday said that the Colombian government's landmine statistics have been "overinflated" and while the country still has a serious mine contamination problem, it is "not as bad as people think."

"The government's records are a good starting point, but do perhaps overinflate the actual number of minefields in Colombia...there's no doubt that Colombia has a very serious mine contamination problem, but the good news is that it isn't as bad as most people think, and that the actual minefields themselves are actually quite small and easily cleared," Grant Salisbury, the director of HALO Trust's mine removal program in Colombia told Colombia Reports.

Salisbury's findings were drawn from a comprehensive survey HALO carried out in Colombia's southeastern Antioquia department between 2010 and 2011.

"We were able to visit every village in seven municipalities, so about 459 villages in total, and ask 50-100% of the households in those villages whether they knew of any minefields in the area, so that gave us a very good understanding of what the mine situation in Colombia actually is," said Salisbury.

"What we found was that for every 10 reports [of minefields] on the [Colombian] national database, we found one possible minefield," said the NGO director.

From the 779 reports of minefields the HALO Trust surveyed that were listed in the national database, a mere 78 were identified as possible minefields. In fact, 359 of the 459 villages were free of landmines altogether. According to Salisbury, there is a good reason for this.

"This happens around the world. People want to err on the side of caution when it comes to landmines. If there's any suspicion of mines they want to submit a report that then gets logged in a national database," explained the director.

Salisbury also mentioned that many of the people submitting the reports either have little technical knowledge of minefields or lack the appropriate tools to adequately map their location, or both.

What is unique about Colombia's situation, however, is the nature of the land mines themselves.

"The single biggest difference is that Colombia is the first country that we've worked in, indeed the first country that I know of, where all the mines used are improvised [explosive devices] -- every other country where we work, the vast majority of mines come from state factories," said Salisbury.

According to the HALO Trust, Colombia's security forces have removed the only mines they laid, but "NSAGs [Non-State Armed Groups] -- particularly the FARC [Colombia's largest rebel force] -- and paramilitary organizations have laid mines extensively and continue to do so."



So, while Colombia's situation has allegedly been exaggerated, it does present its own set of problems.

"In most countries there is a limited set of mines you're looking for -- you know exactly what the threat is, how they operate etc. Here, there's potentially quite a lot of regional variation depending on who was the actual bombmaker," said Salisbury.

The good news, though, is that it looks like there are far less mines riddling Colombia's countryside than was initially forecast. Also, despite bureaucratic road blocks, the Colombian government appears determined to tackle the problem.

"The Colombian government has signed up to the Ottawa antipersonnel mine commission, and that obliges Colombia to clear all minefields within its territory by 2021...[and] Colombia's plan calls for a ratio of one third military de-mining teams and two thirds civilian de-mining teams...so its national plan says civilian de-mining capacity must increase massively in order for it to meet its own international obligations," said Salisbury.

Assuming the Colombian government gives the go-ahead, the HALO Trust will be able to begin its de-mining program sometime around April, with just under 50 trained staff members. The large majority of these employees will be Colombians who have been affected by the country's internal conflict.

"With the exception of our senior staff...our model is to recruit all people from the conflict affected areas, specifically from the communities that are directly affected by minefields. So we've been working in conjunction with the local administration, the local mayors' offices, to publicize this recruitment, and to get men and women from poor and rural areas in the most mine affected parts of Antioquia, and then to train them," said Salisbury.

Of the 14 candidates from HALO's first training course, 11 of them were registered as internally displaced persons (IDPs). In essence, the program will not only remove minefields and the threat they pose, but will also provide employment, and a livelihood, to those who may have lost theirs as a result of the conflict.



Photo: Alertnet



SOUTHCOM

45. [Security, Colombia] Young Woman Killed And Eight Wounded In Northwest Colombia Minefield

Wednesday, February 20 2013

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/28241-dnp-1-civlian-killed-and-8-wounded-in-northwest-colombia-minefield.html>

A young woman was killed and eight more civilians on Wednesday were wounded by landmines allegedly planted by FARC guerrillas in the northwestern department of Antioquia.

Santiago Londoño, the government secretary of Antioquia, said the group stepped into the minefield near a school in the Briceño municipality located in the northern part of the department.

The secretary attributed the deaths to the 36th Front of the FARC.

"Because of the mine fields which have been installed and keep being installed by guerrillas of the FARC's 36th Front in the north of Antioquia, a young person lost her life and eight young people were wounded in the Briceño municipality," said Londoño.