



*Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data*

## Weekly News Update

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6 July 2012

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



An Afghan policeman stands next to the wreckage of a car used in a suicide bomb attack in Kandahar. The car was packed with explosives and exploded near the gates of a university, killing seven people and wounding dozens of others. (Photo: REUTERS/Stringer)

[See [Seven Killed In Suicide Attack In Afghanistan](#)]

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## **1. [Attack, Afghanistan] Roadside Bomb Kills Five Afghan Civilians, 11 People Injured**

Sunday, July 1 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/Roadside-bomb-kills-5-Afghan-civilians-11-people-injured/articleshow/14550057.cms>

Police say a roadside bomb has killed five Afghan civilians in an eastern province.

Deputy provincial police chief Maj. Mohammad Hussain says a bus full of people struck the explosives on Sunday morning while driving near Ghazni city, capital of the province of the same name.

He says another 11 people were wounded, and the dead include women and children. The bus was traveling from Kabul to the southern city of Kandahar.

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## **2. [Trend, Pakistan] Five LI Militants Killed In IED Explosion**

Sunday, July 1 2012

<http://paktribune.com/news/5-LI-militants-killed-in-IED-explosion-251086.html>

Five militants affiliated to Lashker-e-Islam (LI) were killed on Saturday in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast on their post on a mountain in Tirah Valley.

Sources said three LI men also sustained injuries in the explosion in Khara Wala. Other sources, however, said the blast occurred on militants' post in Sher Saley area of Zakhakhel.

The valley of Tirah has been dominant by various militant groups such as LI, led by Mangal Bagh; Ansarul Islam, led by Mehboobul Haq; TTP, led by Hakeemullah Mehsud, and pro-government peace group of Zakhakhel. The Zakhakhel group and Ansarul Islam have been fighting since long against LI. There is also another small group of militants known as Amarat, led by Dost Muhammad Zakhakhel. This group does not have great influence in the area because of its less strength of fighters.

As a result of clashes among militant groups, LI has been confined to a small pocket of the area in Tirah. Security forces have also launched a full-fledged military offensive against militant organisations in Bara, sub-division of Khyber Agency, for the last three years but have not cleared the area so far.

Consequently, some half a million residents of Bara have been forced to migrate to Peshawar and settle in Jalozai refugees camp. Similarly, as many as 100,000 people have evacuated the area of Kokikhel in Tirah due to internal feuds among armed groups and the Kokikhel peace group.

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### 3. [Attack, Afghanistan] Seven Killed In Suicide Attack In Afghanistan

Monday, July 2 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/7-killed-in-suicide-attack-in-Afghanistan/articleshow/14613155.cms>

A suicide bomber blew up a car packed with explosives near the gates of a university in southern Afghanistan on Monday, killing at least seven people, officials said.

Ahmad Javed Faisal, the spokesman for the governor of Kandahar province, said the blast near the entrance to Kandahar University also wounded 23 people. He said all of the casualties were civilians.

Attacks in Kandahar, the birthplace of the Taliban, have been on the rise.

Earlier Monday, a spokesman for the eastern province of Logar said a NATO airstrike killed three civilians in the province. A spokesman for the coalition says initial reports do not suggest any civilian deaths.

Logar province spokesman Din Mohammad Darwesh said NATO forces were on a foot patrol in Charkh district Monday morning when they came under fire from insurgents. He added that they called in an airstrike and the bombardment killed three shopkeepers.

NATO spokesman Maj. Martyn Crighton said initial reports show only one airstrike in Charkh on Monday, with no civilian deaths. He said the strike was called on insurgents who were planting a bomb.

Crighton said a number were killed and the body of at least one tested positive for traces of homemade explosives.



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#### **4. [Attack, Pakistan] Government School Blasted In Swabi**

Monday, July 2 2012

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2012/07/02/news/national/govt-school-blasted-in-swabi/>

Unknown miscreants blew up a government run school with explosives here on Monday.

According to police, unknown miscreants had planted explosives outside a government school located in village Darra of Swabi which exploded with a big bang.

The school building was destroyed due the blast while window panes of surrounding house were also smashed. However, no causality or injury was reported as the building was lying vacant at the time of the blast.

The police cordoned off the area after the explosion and launched search operation but no arrest was made.

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## 5. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Explodes At Railway Track Near Bin Qasim

Monday, July 2 2012

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\07\02\story\\_2-7-2012\\_pg12\\_3](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\07\02\story_2-7-2012_pg12_3)

Tension prevailed in Bin Qasim area after a locally made bomb exploded at the railway track near Bin Qasim Town police station on Sunday morning. Unidentified persons planted the locally made bomb.

A heavy contingent of law enforcers, including district and railway police, Rangers and the personnel of the bomb disposal squad (BDS) rushed to the scene and initiated investigation. They said that a nationalist party of Sindh was behind the attack as the law enforcers also found the hand written slip from the blast site. They said that the hand written slips confirmed that the Sindhu Desh Liberation Front had claimed the responsibility of the blast. It has become a routine to target the railway tracks in Karachi and other parts of Sindh but despite several similar attacks at the railway tracks, no proper security measures have been taken against the culprits.

Earlier in February, 14 blasts hit the railway tracks across Sindh and similarly, the nationalists' parties of Sindh had claimed the responsibility of the blasts but the police remained unable to arrest the culprits.

On Sunday, the railway traffic was also suspended when a low intensity bomb planted at the railway track on Bin Qasim area went off with a loud explosion.

According to railway police officials, the explosion did not damage the track as it occurred on the isolated place, adding that there was another bomb planted on the railway track, which fortunately could not be exploded.

They said that the blast occurred in the early morning hours, as it is a tactics of the culprits to plan the bombs at the railway tracks on the darkest hours to avoid their arrests, adding that nobody was killed or injured in the attack. They said that at first, the patrolling police reached the site after they heard the sound of the blast and immediately informed the high ups, who also reached the site.

Railway SSP Arshad Kamal Kiyani also reached the site. The officer while quoting BDS experts' finding said that it was the locally made bomb, which weighted around 100 grammes. The officer said that the railway track remained safe in the explosion as the culprits did not plant the bomb in a proper way, adding that it could be a harmful if it is planted in a proper way.

The officer said that Hazara Express and Awami Express were scheduled to cross the tracks for their respective destinations but the trains were left after clearance from the BDS.

An FIR (11/12) under Sections 34 explosive, 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act and 126 of Railway Act was registered at the Landhi Railway police station on the complaint of railway employee, namely Asad against unidentified persons.

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## **6. [Attack, Pakistan] One Security Official Killed, Four Injured In Bajaur Blast**

Tuesday, July 3 2012

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2012/07/03/news/national/one-security-official-killed-4-injured-in-bajaur-blast/>

One person was killed and four others were injured in a remote-controlled blast in the Bara Kamangra area of Nawagai tehsil in Bajaur Agency on Tuesday.

An official of the Nawagai Political Administration said that Frontier Corps (FC) personnel had launched a search operation in the area after an early morning blast.

A second blast occurred when a remote-controlled bomb detonated near the FC personnel, killing one of them on the spot and injuring four others.

The injured were rushed to the Agency Headquarters Hospital Khar, while security forces along with paramilitary troops rushed to the area and started another search operation. No suspects were arrested.

The official killed in the blast was identified as Kaleemullah and those injured were identified as Noor Sher, Zafar Khan, Saddam and Rehmat Nawaz.

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## 7. [Attack, Pakistan] Roadside Bomb Kills Woman, Injures Three

Thursday, July 5 2012

<http://paktribune.com/news/Roadside-bomb-kills-woman-injures-3-251225.html>

One woman was killed and three others were injured, including a child, when their car hit a hidden roadside bomb in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province on Wednesday, local officials said.

The incident took place in the Marjeh district of Helmand on Wednesday morning when the civilian car struck the improvised explosive device (IED) hidden in the road, provincial spokesman Daoud Ahmadi said.

No group, including the Taliban, has claimed responsibility for the blast.

It comes five days after a similar incident in Helmand's Greshk district where four civilians were killed.

Insurgents frequently hide improvised explosive devices on roads to target Afghan and Nato troops, but most of the victims are civilians.

Meanwhile, a NATO soldier died in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday, the military alliance confirmed in a statement issued here. "An International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service member died as a result of a non-battle related injury in southern Afghanistan today," the NATO-led ISAF said in the statement.

The brief statement did not disclose the nationality of the victim under ISAF policy.

Troops mainly from U.S., Britain and Australia have been stationed in the southern region within the framework of ISAF to curb Taliban-linked insurgency there.

Currently over 130,000 NATO-led ISAF troops with majority of them Americans have been serving in the central Asian country. A total of 224 foreign soldiers have so far been killed in Afghanistan in 2012.

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## 8. [Security, Afghanistan] Combined Force Detains Several Suspected Insurgents

Friday, July 6 2012

<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=117034>

An Afghan and coalition security force detained several suspected insurgents during a search for a Taliban improvised explosive device expert in the Ghorak district of Afghanistan's Kandahar province today, military officials reported.

The expert constructs IEDs and supplies them to Taliban leaders throughout the region for use in attacks against Afghan and coalition forces, officials said.

In other Afghanistan operations today:

-- Officials confirmed that the Lashkar-e-Taiba insurgent leader Ammar was killed June 29 during an airstrike in the Watahpur district of Kunar province. Ammar had managed a network of insurgents and directed attacks against Afghan and coalition forces throughout the province. The airstrike also killed the LeT leader, Khatab Shafiq, and several other insurgents. A follow-on assessment confirmed the airstrike had not injured any civilians and had not damaged any civilian property.

-- In the Terayzai district of Khost province, a combined force detained several suspected insurgents and seized one firearm and multiple grenades during a search for a Haqqani leader. The Haqqani leader plans and coordinates attacks against the Afghan government throughout the province.

-- A combined force detained two suspected insurgents during a search for a Taliban bomb maker in the Khugyani district of Nangarhar province. The Taliban bomb maker plans and coordinates attacks against Afghan and coalition forces throughout the region.

-- A combined force found and cleared four IEDs in Ghazni province. Two IEDs were found in the province's Ghazni district, one in the Khwaia Omari district and one in the Gelan district.

-- A combined force discovered a weapons cache in Ghazni province's Ab Band district. The cache contained items used to create IEDs.

-- A combined force found and cleared an IED in Logar province's Pul-E Alam district.

-- A combined force found and cleared four IEDs in Nangarhar province. Two IEDs were found in the province's La'L Pur district, one in the Chapahar district and one in the Achin district.

-- A combined force discovered a weapons cache containing grenades and mortar rounds used to make IEDs in Wardak province's Maidan Shahr district.

-- A combined force killed two insurgents in Wardak province's Sayyidabad district. The insurgents were found with IED-making materials, small arms and ammunition.

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## **9. [Attack, Afghanistan] Child Killed By Insurgent Device In Helmand Province**

Friday, July 6 2012

[http://www.dvidshub.net/news/91172/child-killed-insurgent-device-helmand-province#.T\\_cABJGO6So](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/91172/child-killed-insurgent-device-helmand-province#.T_cABJGO6So)

Today (Friday), three young children were struck from the blast of an improvised explosive device in Nahr-e-Saraj district. One of the children died as a result of the blast and the other two have been taken to an ISAF medical facility for treatment.

Update: A total of six local national children were struck from the blast of an improvised explosive device in Nahr-e-Saraj district today (Friday). Four of the children have died as a result of the blast and two are being treated at an ISAF medical facility.

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## 10. [Attack, Kenya] Seventeen Dead, 50 Injured In Twin Garissa Church Attacks

Sunday, July 1 2012

[http://www.keydmedia.net/en/news/article/17\\_dead\\_50\\_injured\\_in\\_twin\\_garissa\\_church\\_attacks/](http://www.keydmedia.net/en/news/article/17_dead_50_injured_in_twin_garissa_church_attacks/)

Two police officers are among 17 people killed in two simultaneous attacks in Garissa when masked gunmen sprayed bullets and hurled grenades at Catholic's Central Cathedral and AIC churches, Kenya Red Cross say.

However, Police Spokesman Eric Kiraithe said 14 people were killed during the attacks.

"12 worshipers including nine women were killed. Two police officers on patrol around the AIC church were also killed in the attack," he said.

According to North Eastern Deputy PPO, Philip Ndolo, the gunmen attacked and killed two police officers on duty and took their firearms before raiding the churches.

He said AIC church suffered more casualties as it accounts for most deaths and at least 50 injured persons resulting from gunshot wounds.

Catholic's Central Cathedral had three casualties from a grenade attack.

The dead include two police officers, four men, nine women and two children.

An eye witness who was attending a service at AIC church, Mr Dennis Nzioki said they heard noises from the rooftop of falling objects.

"We heard something like stones being thrown on top of the roof, then, we realised that we were being shot at," he said.

Paul Mwalali, 52, who was at the AIC church recounted similar event.

"I had a front row seat in the church. I heard something fall on the roof. Then there was a huge explosion. I dived on the ground and went under the seat. Then there was shooting and people were screaming all over. When the shooting stopped, I felt a sharp pain on my leg."

Another eye witness Felix Kimanzi said the masked gunmen wearing blue uniforms sprayed bullets at the congregation of the AIC church resulting in the deaths and the high number of casualties.

He also said two grenades were hurled but only one exploded.

"I was 100 metres away from the church when I saw two gunmen at the entrance spray bullets at the congregation. I hid from their sight," he said.

"They were joined by two more gunmen in blue uniforms who hurled grenades and they all fled on foot," he added.

The casualties have been admitted at Garissa Provincial General Hospital.

Leaders condemn attacks

Following the attacks, PM Raila Odinga has cancelled a meeting scheduled for Monday with PSs and will instead lead a government security team for a visit Garissa.

Following the attacks, PM Raila Odinga has cancelled a meeting scheduled for Monday with PSs and will instead lead a government security team for a visit Garissa.

Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka condemned Sunday's church attacks noting that they were religious places for worship.

“Places of worship including churches, temples and mosques among others should be respected, it is unfortunate that two police officers assigned at the church were shot and killed,” said VP Musyoka.

Development of Northern Kenya Minister Mohamed Elmi said the attackers intend to create a religious rift between Christians and Muslims.

“Kenya is an indivisible country and we will not be divided by those who want to create fear within us,” said Elmi, who is also the MP for Wajir East.

Supreme Council of Kenya (Supkem) national chairman Prof Abdulghafur El-Busaidy condemned the attacks saying that places of worship should be respected by all.

“We detest such acts and as Supkem we are condemning the act from the bottom of our hearts,” Prof El-Busaidy said.

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## 11. [Law Enforcement, Kenya] Kenyan Police Uncover Iranian Bomb Plot On Israeli Targets

Tuesday, July 3 2012

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/2012/0703/Kenyan-police-uncover-Iranian-bomb-plot-on-Israeli-targets>

Kenyan police arrested two Iranian nationals in Nairobi, linked to a shipment of bomb material arriving in the port city of Mombasa. Police say they were casing US, Israeli, British targets.

Two Iranians suspected of plotting attacks in Kenya on Western embassies and Israeli interests including a synagogue and tourist hotels were recently arrested in Nairobi.

The pair, allegedly agents of the elite al-Quds division of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, were charged with possession of 33 pounds of RDX – a component of the plastic explosive Semtex – that they had imported via Iraq. Both have denied charges of planning "acts intending to cause grievous harm."

But senior Kenyan police officers told the Monitor that investigators believe the men planned to try to explode several devices at sites across Kenya.

"Our officers were highly suspicious of them from the moment that they landed in-country," a senior detective with knowledge of the case tells The Monitor. "They were driving around Nairobi, they went past the British High Commission, they went past the [Nairobi Hebrew Congregation] synagogue in town, they went to the Israeli embassy.

"The only reason they avoided the US embassy was that it is in a complicated area," the detective continued. "It is very clear that they were casing these places, that they were up to no good. From what we saw, their intention was clear to plan and execute terrorism attacks."

Following al-Qaeda bombings at the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998, most diplomatic missions in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, are heavily fortified and guarded. The Israeli embassy is especially well-protected.

"That would have been a very ambitious target for a terror attack," one Nairobi-based security analyst said. "But the fact that they were looking there illustrates that they were not aiming low."

The men – Ahmad Abolfathi Mohammad and Sayed Mansour Mousavi – were arrested after police linked them to a package containing the explosives that had been delivered to a warehouse near the port in Mombasa, Kenya's main coast city.

Investigators believe that the men planned to attack Western interests in Kenya because of the country's ongoing battle against Islamist militants from neighboring Somalia.

There is no indication that Iran is linked to the Somali militant group Al-Shabab, security experts say, but any major bomb attacks would likely immediately be blamed on al-Shabab rather than Iran, which has

not known to have carried out significant direct or proxy strikes against the West, or Israel, in East Africa.

Had the attacks been successful, they would have matched an emerging pattern of Iranian actions against Israel taking place across the globe.

Last October, the US justice ministry said it had uncovered an Iranian conspiracy to use members of a Mexican drug cartel to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to Washington.

Other overseas plots believed to have been carried out by Iranian agents include bomb plans in Thailand, an attack against the wife of an Israeli diplomat in India, and the targeting of Israeli teachers at a Jewish school in Azerbaijan.

It has been claimed that the missions were part of a retaliation program against Israel following the deaths of five Iranian scientists with links to Tehran's nuclear program.

"Iranian terrorism knows no borders," Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, said in a statement late Monday. "The international community must fight against this major player in the world of terrorism."

Security sources said that Israeli-owned hotels and businesses on Kenya's coast, and a smart shopping centre in Nairobi that is part-owned by Israelis could also have been targets.

Fifteen people died when an al-Qaeda cell dispatched suicide bombers to target the Paradise Hotel north of Mombasa in 2002, the same day that other agents failed to shoot down an Israel-bound charter jet taking off from the city's airport.

Eric Kiraithe, official spokesman for the Kenya Police, would not go into any details of the case. "It is a matter before the court and I will not comment," he said.

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## **12. [Attack, Nigeria] Bomb Blast Rocks Abuja Popular Shopping District**

Wednesday, July 4 2012

<http://tribune.com.ng/index.php/news/43615-bomb-blast-rocks-abuja-popular-shopping-district>

A bomb blast, on Tuesday night rocked an area in Wuse II, Abuja, notable for housing big shopping malls.

The malls in the area include Park and Shop frequented by wealthy men and members of the international community, Sherrif Plaza, and Banex Plaza.

Wuse II where the blast occurred is one of the high-brow areas of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT.)

A night blast rocked the same Wuse II few weeks ago, close to a night club, Crystal Lounge, without any casualty.

Early information on the Tuesday's blast has it that it was a car bomb.

Details were sketchy as at the time of filing this report as no information was available yet whether there are casualties.

Residents told Nigerian Tribune on condition of anonymity that they heard loud blast but were scared to leave their homes.

They confirmed hearing sirens after suggesting arrival of security operatives and possibly emergency service providers.

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Commissioner of Police, Mr Aderenle Shinab, visited the scene of the incidence few minutes after the blast.

Recently, bombers threatened to attack the territory.

Such threats had also forced United States Embassy in Abuja to issue security alert to US citizens.

Following previous attacks and subsequent threats, embassies, high commissions and other diplomatic community had expressed concerns over safety of their staff.

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### **13. [Attack, Nigeria] Four Injured As Bomb Explosion Rocks Mararaban Jos, Along Kaduna-Zaria Expressway**

Thursday, July 5 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201207050597.html>

At least four were injured when an improvised explosive device exploded in Mararabar Jos, along the Kaduna-Zaria expressway.

Though the assistant director, Army public relations of 1 Mechanised Division, Colonel Sani Usman, said only one person received injuries, residents said about four people were affected.

The explosion is coming just three days into the week-long Army Day celebration in army formations in Jaji and Kaduna.

When LEADERSHIP visited the place, men and officers of the Nigerian Army had cordoned off the area.

Malam Aminu, a resident, told LEADERSHIP that the substance was planted by unknown persons by the roadside.

He said, "As I am talking to you, about four people have been injured and have been taken to hospitals."

Col. Usman, who confirmed the incident, said: "An improvised explosive device (IED) exploded in the early afternoon at Walkatabu Road, at Mararaban Jos, along the Kaduna-Zaria express road."

He said there was no causality, but confirmed that one person was injured but receiving treatment in the hospital and recuperating.

He said soldiers had been drafted to the area and had cordoned off the area, while assuring residents of their safety and that of their property.

He, however, solicited the collaboration of the populace with useful information whenever persons or groups and their movements are suspected, or any information that will assist the security agents in checkmating the activities of terrorists.

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## 14. [Security, Africa] Islamic Terrorism On The Rise In Africa

Friday, July 6 2012

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2012/07/06/islamic-terrorism-on-the-rise-in-africa>

From east to west Africa, a rise in Islamic extremism has led to a surge in deadly attacks and kidnappings by groups linked to Al-Qaeda.

While these groups are mostly occupied with domestic issues, their anti-western rhetoric and targeting of foreigners pose a wider challenge. So too does growing evidence of ties between armed groups from the Sahel and east Africa and Nigeria, observers say.

The three main Al Qaeda-linked groups are Somalia's Shebab in the Horn of Africa; Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) which is active across the Sahel; and Boko Haram, which has sharply increased its attacks in Nigeria since 2010.

"We do have enough evidence of some communication between Boko Haram and AQIM and affiliated groups," a Washington DC-based analyst focused on the Sahel told AFP.

However while both Boko Haram and AQIM had claimed support or training from Shebab, this had not been confirmed, he added.

General Carter Ham, head of US African command AFRICOM, warned in September 2011 that the various Islamist groups had said they wanted to "more closely collaborate and synchronize their efforts" in training and operations.

"If left unaddressed, you could have a network that ranges from East Africa, through the centre and into the Sahel and Maghreb, and I think that would be very, very worrying." The seizure by hardline Islamists of northern Mali has also stoked fears abroad.

Long a base for AQIM, involved in drug trafficking and the kidnapping of westerners for ransom, the region is now in the hands of Islamists intent on installing sharia law, who have openly allied with the Al-Qaeda franchise.

Former colonial power France has repeatedly raised concerns that the vast desert could become a new breeding ground for terrorism. AQIM grew out of the Algerian Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat which linked with Al-Qaeda in 2006.

"We pray to God that they will be a thorn in the side of the American and French crusaders and their allies," Al-Qaeda's then number two and now leader Ayman al-Zawahiri said at the time.

In January a United Nations report said ties had been established between Boko Haram in Nigeria and AQIM, along with its splinter group, the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) — and the Islamist fighters Ansar Dine (Defenders of Faith), who currently control Timbuktu in Mali.

Northern Mali lawmaker Abdou Sidibe has said “a good one hundred” Boko Haram fighters had been seen in Gao, which is controlled by MUJAO. They are believed to be attending a MUJAO-run training camp.



In Nigeria, Boko Haram has dramatically stepped up attacks on churches, government installations and other targets since resurfacing in 2010 after being crushed in a deadly government offensive a year earlier. The US State Department, which last month designated three Boko Haram leaders as global terrorists, says the group has killed more than 1,000 people since the beginning of 2011.

Despite some evidence of links to other African jihadists however, some observers insist the group has a narrow domestic focus in a region crippled by poverty. Professor Kyari Mohammed of Modibbo Adama University in Yola, a specialist on Boko Haram, is sceptical of claims that the group has extensive foreign ties.

“It’s a local insurgency, but they are aware of global events,” he said.

Statements boasting of its foreign links were possibly a bid to raise its stature as a global, extremist Islamist movement, he argued.

The links between Shebab and west African Islamists are also disputed.

On Monday, Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga expressed concern the Shebab “could link up with other terrorist groups like Boko Haram in Nigeria.” He was the day after masked gunmen killed 17 people in attacks on two churches, the worst such attack for a decade.

But the Shebab themselves have offered little public support for other African Islamists, speaking instead of ties to the Yemen-based Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. Nevertheless, some experts such as Ahmedou Ould Abadallah, creator of the Centre for Strategy and Security for the Sahel and Sahara, are convinced the ties run deeper.

“There are Shebab Somalians in the Sahel region and I am sure they have links with AQIM and Boko Haram. I have material proof,” said Abadallah, a former UN representative for west Africa. “It is a real danger. They all consider themselves fighters for Islam.” Shehu Sani, author of *The Killings Fields: Religious Violence in Northern Nigeria*, said he believed the various groups were “relating with each other even if they are not working together. “If you link the Chadian rebels, Boko Haram, the Tuaregs in Niger and now the rebels in northern Mali, you can see on the horizon an arc of terror. It’s not an axis of evil, it’s an arc.”

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## 15. [Attack, Syria] Twin Bombs Hit Damascus Court

Friday, June 29 2012

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/ipad/turkey-reinforces-syria-border/story-fn6ck55c-1226411690369>

Twin bombs exploded in Damascus as fighting raged and Turkey deployed missile batteries along the volatile border.

On the political front, world powers were preparing for a crucial meeting on ways to end the conflict and to discuss a plan by peace envoy Kofi Annan for an interim government. The meeting in Geneva, agreed only after wrangling between Moscow and Washington over the agenda and the guest list, will be attended by some regional governments but not by rival Middle East heavyweights Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Mr Annan's spokesman Ahmad Fawzi said delegates of countries attending the talks would gather in Geneva today for a "preparatory meeting."

Russia has already poured cold water on today's meeting, with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov saying Moscow rejects Western pressure for the ouster of President Bashar al-Assad.

In central Damascus, three people were wounded when bombs blasted a car park outside the Palace of Justice, state media reported. A police source said that two magnetic bombs exploded in judges' cars and that a third was being defused.

Elsewhere, violence killed at least 69 people, including 38 civilians, after one of the bloodiest days of the 15-month revolt left at least 149 dead on Wednesday, a watchdog said.

Yesterday's heaviest toll was in the northern Damascus suburb of Douma where 18 civilians, 12 from one family, were killed when troops clashed with rebel fighters, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The day's death toll also included 23 soldiers and eight rebels, said the watchdog, adding that that regime forces backed by helicopters pounded several areas of the eastern city of Deir Ezzor.

More than 15,800 people have been killed since the uprising broke out in March 2011, including nearly 4700 since April 12, when a UN-backed ceasefire was supposed to have taken effect, the Observatory says.

Turkey has sent missile batteries, tanks and troops to the border as a "security corridor" after Syria shot down a Turkish warplane last Friday, media



reports said. There was no official confirmation, but state-run TRT television showed dozens of military vehicles reportedly heading for the border, in a convoy that included air defence systems.

About 30 military vehicles accompanied by a truck towing missile batteries left a base in the southeastern province of Hatay for the border, about 50 kilometres away, Milliyet newspaper reported. The Turkish Phantom F-4 jet was downed by Syrian fire over the eastern Mediterranean in what Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said was a "heinous attack" over international waters.

Diplomats at the United Nations revealed on Wednesday that Mr Annan is proposing setting up a transitional government to include representatives of both sides in the Syria conflict. The proposed interim authority would exclude officials whose presence might jeopardise the transition "or undermine efforts to bring reconciliation," according to a summary given by one UN diplomat.

"The language of Annan's plan suggests that Assad could be excluded but also that certain opposition figures could be ruled out," said another UN diplomat. The Geneva meeting was agreed only after protracted wrangling between Moscow and Washington.

US officials had warned that US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton could stay away from the conference if transition from Assad's rule was not on the agenda. Russia also insists Iran should be part of the solution to Syria's conflict.

"Iran is an influential player in this situation and to leave it out of the Geneva meeting, I believe, is a mistake," Mr Lavrov said yesterday. And Assad's fate "must be decided within the framework of a Syrian dialogue by the Syrian people themselves" without foreign interference, he insisted.

Mrs Clinton, who will meet Mr Lavrov in Saint Petersburg later today, rejected any idea that Mr Annan was proposing a transition imposed from outside. "In his transition document it is a Syrian-led transition, but you have to have a transition that complies with international standards on human rights, accountable governance, the rule of law," she said.

The opposition Syrian National Council, meanwhile, said it would boycott any government if Assad stays.

SNC spokesman George Sabra said the group's position "remains that the opposition would not participate in any political project unless Bashar al-Assad is removed from power."

Syria's Muslim Brotherhood, an SNC member, criticised Annan's plan in a statement saying forming a national unity government as violence continues "would be to delude ourselves and play the regime's game."

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## 16. [Attack, Syria] In Syria, At Least 85 Killed By Car Bombing At Funeral

Saturday, June 30 2012

[http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world\\_now/2012/06/more-than-70-killed-by-car-bombing-at-funeral-in-syrian-town.html](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world_now/2012/06/more-than-70-killed-by-car-bombing-at-funeral-in-syrian-town.html)

At least 85 people were killed when a car bomb exploded during a funeral procession Saturday evening in the Syrian town of Zamalka, activists and human rights groups said.

People had gathered to honor a resident of the town near Damascus who had been killed earlier in the day, said Abu Omar, an activist in Zamalka who attended the funeral. The resident, Abdul Hadi Halabi, had been killed by gunfire when government forces briefly entered the town from their checkpoints, said Abu Omar, who requested to be identified by a nickname for his safety.



Men, women and children had gathered for the funeral for the town's 30th victim since the uprising began 16 months ago, a low number compared with some of the bloodshed nearby towns have experienced.

The car bomb went off as the procession passed a mosque. Hazy video clouded by dust in the first moments after the explosion showed dozens of mangled bodies lying on the road and the stretcher carrying Halabi's body on the ground nearby.

"I can't describe my feelings, because I am still numb right now given what I saw today," said Abu Omar, whose cousin was killed and father and uncle injured. "No one can withstand what we saw today."

The antigovernment Local Coordination Committees put the number of dead at 85. The toll and the accounts of the bombing could not be independently verified because the Syrian government has restricted outside journalists' access to the conflict zones.

Abu Omar said the death toll continued to rise late Saturday, with a large number of people critically injured.

The wounded were taken to field hospitals in nearby towns and a plea went out for people to donate blood. One doctor who was on his way to help was shot and killed by snipers, Abu Omar said.

Though protests and funeral processions have been attacked with gunfire and shelling, activists said it was the first time they could recall a bomb targeting such a gathering.

No one claimed immediate responsibility for the attack, but Abu Omar laid the blame on government forces.

"This is an attempt by the regime so that people will fear gathering because there could be another explosion," he said, noting that there probably would be a funeral procession Sunday for the dozens killed. "If we were going to fear, we wouldn't have gone out in the beginning of the revolution."

The state-run Syrian Arab News Agency had no information on the explosion but reported a car bomb in the commercial hub of Aleppo's business and financial district.

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## 17. [Attack, Iraq] Bombs Kill Four In Two Iraqi Cities, Judge Shot Dead As Violence Grinds On

Sunday, July 1 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/bombs-kill-4-in-2-iraqi-cities-as-violence-grinds-on/2012/07/01/gJQAMOhjFW\\_story.html?wprss=rss\\_social-world-headlines&](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/bombs-kill-4-in-2-iraqi-cities-as-violence-grinds-on/2012/07/01/gJQAMOhjFW_story.html?wprss=rss_social-world-headlines&)

Bombers killed four people in two Iraqi cities and gunmen assassinated a judge, officials said Sunday, as al-Qaida's affiliate ramped up attacks six months after the last U.S. troops withdrew.

Three coordinated bomb attacks within minutes of each other Sunday morning hit the central city of Tikrit, 130 kilometers (80 miles) north of Baghdad, a provincial official said. A civilian walking by was killed and two others were wounded.

The bombs went off near a middle school where students were taking exams, but authorities said none of the students was hurt.

Further south, three policemen died when a suicide car bomb and three roadside bombs exploded at a security checkpoint on Saturday night in Samarra, 95 kilometers (60 miles) north of Baghdad, a police official said.

The bombing Saturday night raised the death toll for June to at least 237, the second-bloodiest month since U.S. troops withdrew from Iraq in mid-December.

In the northern city of Mosul, gunmen killed criminal court judge Abdul-Latif Mohammed in a drive-by shooting as he was returning home from work, police said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

Government officials and security forces are among the chief targets of al-Qaida-affiliated insurgents, who experts say have been emboldened by political feuding that has paralyzed the government and are hoping to reignite fighting among the country's ethnic and sectarian factions.



More significant than the numbers was the fact that insurgents appeared able to sustain the level of violence over a longer period than before.

There was a major bombing or shooting rampage almost every three days in June, many targeting Shiite pilgrims on their way to the annual Baghdad commemoration of a revered imam. Shiites are also often targeted by the extremist Sunni insurgency.

Another Shiite pilgrimage set for this week has security forces on high alert.

Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims are expected to travel to the holy city of Karbala, 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Baghdad, for the festival of Shabaniyah, celebrating the birth of the ninth-century Shiite leader known as the Hidden Imam. The pilgrimage peaks on Friday.

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## **18. [Security, Yemen] Yemeni Security Forces Foil Plot To Carry Out Ten Suicide Bombings In Sana'a**

Monday, July 2 2012

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/07/02/223975.html>

Yemeni security forces have foiled a plot to carry out 10 suicide bombings against government buildings in the capital Sana'a, the defense ministry's news website reported on Monday.

A wave of arrests targeting a suspected al-Qaeda cell held responsible for a May attack that killed more than 100 soldiers in the capital netted the 10 militants charged with carrying out the bombings, the 26sep.net website quoted "informed sources" as saying.

The arrests "foiled 10 terrorist suicide bombings in the capital Sana'a which the group was planning to carry out against several government facilities," it reported, according to AFP.

Security services have also found the last testament of the May 21 bomber, who was less than 18 years old, 26sep.net added.

National security chief Ali Mohammed al-Ansi said in comments published by the ministry's 26 September newspaper on Thursday that the security forces had made multiple arrests.

They followed the announcement on June 20 of the arrest of Majed al-Qulaisi, a suspected member of the cell that planned the May attack against troops rehearsing for a military parade.

Ansi vowed to continue the "hunt" for al-Qaeda fighters, saying security forces have carried out a "series of operations against al-Qaeda terrorists" across Yemen.

Last month, Yemeni troops recaptured a string of al-Qaeda bastions across the troubled south and east where the militants had seized control last year.

Separately, Yemen's state news agency SABA reported that Saudi Arabia plans to reopen its embassy in Sana'a, which was closed after the kidnapping of Abdullah al-Khalidi, Saudi Arabia's deputy consul in the Yemeni port city of Aden. SABA cited a telephone call between King Abdullah and Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi on Sunday night in which the Saudi king reportedly said he would soon order the opening of the embassy in the Yemeni capital, according to Reuters.

The United States and its Gulf Arab allies have watched with mounting alarm as Islamist fighters, emboldened by political instability in Yemen, went on a rampage in the south of the country.

Hundreds of militants have been on the run since U.S.-backed Yemeni forces drove them out of towns and cities they had seized last year.

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula is seen by U.S. officials as the most dangerous offshoot of the global militant network.

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## 19. [Law Enforcement, Bahrain] British Police Investigate Bahrain Bomb Plot

Monday, July 2 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-18680185>

Britain has sent a team of forensic detectives from the Metropolitan Police to Bahrain to help investigate a huge find of advanced bomb-making materials. Officials say the explosives, which altogether weighed over 100kg, would have had catastrophic consequences. Some of it was packaged into bombs and combined with hundreds of iron balls to inflict maximum casualties, they said.

A statement by the opposition said it did not condone violence and that bomb-making was "wholly unacceptable".

Clashes between riot police and masked protesters hurling homemade petrol bombs are a regular occurrence in certain Shia-dominated villages.

However, on Monday a senior police official, who asked not to be named, described the step-up in sophistication as "a game changer" and said the devices "could not have been put together without help from outside the country".

The bomb-making materials were discovered in raids last month in the towns of Salmabad and Hamad following a tip-off. Officials say it is not clear whether the intended target was a crowded area like a shopping mall or whether the explosives were to be used in an ambush site.

The Bahraini authorities have published the names of three suspects on the run whom the pro-government press says had training from Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Bahraini officials suspect privately that Iran has been training anti-government activists but an independent investigation last year into the violence that has erupted in Bahrain in the wake of the Arab Spring found no evidence that Iran was behind the protests in the troubled Gulf state.

Activists from the Shia majority community are demanding democratic reforms and a bigger role in government, with some calling for the overthrow of the Sunni monarchy that has ruled Bahrain for two centuries.

A statement issued on Monday by the political opposition group al-Wefaq said "making bombs is wholly unacceptable" and said it "condemned any violence in the past, present or future," and added, "We find it hard to trust this government as they have fabricated claims in the past".

But Britain, it seems, is taking the find seriously, reinforcing its resident police team at embassies in the Gulf with forensic experts sent out from the UK. Samples of seized materials are expected to be sent for analysis to Scotland Yard's Bomb Data Centre to trace their source.

A counter-terrorism expert told the BBC: "It is very serious indeed; this is almost at the level and style of the dissident IRA."

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## 20. [Attack, Iraq] Bombs Kill 44 Before Shiite Ritual In Iraq

Tuesday, July 3 2012

[http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2012/07/03/world/middleeast/03reuters-iraq-violence.html?\\_r=3&partner=rss&emc=rss](http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2012/07/03/world/middleeast/03reuters-iraq-violence.html?_r=3&partner=rss&emc=rss)

A bomb in a small truck exploded in a market in the Iraqi city of Diwaniya on Tuesday, killing 40 people, and a bomb blast killed four more near the city of Kerbala, police and officials said - the latest in a series of sectarian attacks.

The Diwaniya bombing was near a Shi'ite mosque where pilgrims gather on their way to Kerbala to celebrate the birthday of one of the most important imams, al-Mahdi, this week.

In Diwaniya, 150 km (93 miles) south of Baghdad and 130 kms south east of Kerbala, police announced a partial curfew and blocked all entrances to the city as they searched for more explosives. Two police sources said 75 people had been wounded.

Attacks have increased in Iraq in recent weeks, raising fears that the country may slip back into widespread violence between Iraqi Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims.

"All of a sudden the explosion happened, I felt the power of the blast, it was so strong, it broke all the glass in my windows," butcher Ahmed Hassan, 23, said in his shop close to where the explosion took place.

"I smelled blood and gunpowder."

He said a fellow shopkeeper had been taking dead bodies to the hospital morgue.

"We even saw body parts on the top of building, we took them down," said Hassan, looking pale and confused as he swept glass from his shop floor.

### SPIKE IN VIOLENCE

Shoes, toys and vegetables were scattered across the ground and at least 15 shops were destroyed, a Reuters reporter at the scene in Diwaniya said. Two burnt-out vehicles were abandoned near the site of the explosion. Witnesses said the bomb appeared to have been planted in a delivery truck.

Earlier in the day, two bombs in a vegetable wholesale market killed four people and wounded 29 near the central Iraqi city of Kerbala, hospital and police sources said.

"The bomb happened because of sticky bombs attached to two parked cars which went off separately," said Hussein Shadhan, a provincial council member, who was at the hospital.

"Four of the wounded people are seriously injured and their medical situation is very critical," he said.

Reuters pictures showed pulverized tomatoes and bits of salad covering the blackened market floor. People picked their way through twisted pieces of metal and broken wooden crates.

Hospital and police sources said earlier they believed the attack had also been targeting Shi'ite pilgrims on their way to Kerbala.

Last month at least 237 people were killed and 603 wounded mainly in bomb attacks, according to a Reuters tally, making June one of the bloodiest months in Iraq since U.S. troops withdrew at the end of last year.

The deadliest attack occurred on June 13 when bombers targeting Shi'ite pilgrims killed more than 70 people.

Sunni insurgents often attack Shi'ite targets to try to reignite sectarian violence that killed tens of thousands of people in 2006-2007. Iraq's al Qaeda wing has claimed some of the recent bombings against Shi'ites.



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## **21. [Attack, Yemen] Bomb Hidden Under Driver's Seat Of A Car Kills Senior Yemeni Intelligence Officer In Sanaa**

Monday, July 2 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/yemen-shell-in-southern-battlefield-town-kills-child-injures-7-others/2012/07/02/gJQA2FvHW\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/yemen-shell-in-southern-battlefield-town-kills-child-injures-7-others/2012/07/02/gJQA2FvHW_story.html)

A bomb hidden under the driver's seat of a car killed a senior Yemeni intelligence officer in the nation's capital Monday, a security official said.

Lt. Col. Mohammed al-Qudami, who was the intelligence chief for one of the sectors of Sanaa, was killed in the blast, the official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but Yemeni security officials are frequent targets for assassination.

Last month, a suicide bomber killed Maj. Gen. Salem Ali al-Quton, a Yemeni army commander who was leading the fight against al-Qaida in the country's south, while he was traveling in a three-car convoy in the southern city of Aden.

In the south, a group of children accidentally detonated an artillery shell they were playing with, killing one and wounding seven others, officials said.

The officials say the explosion took place Sunday in the town of Jaar, which was the scene of heavy fighting recently between al-Qaida militants and the army, and the boy died early Monday.

Landmines laid by al-Qaida fighters and unexploded shells in battlefields have so far killed more than 85 soldiers and civilians around Zinjibar, the capital of Abyan province, and nearby Jaar since the army recaptured the towns from militants last month.

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## 22. [Attack, Iraq] Suicide Bomber Kills Three In Northern Iraq

Thursday, July 5 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/05/us-iraq-security-mosul-idUSBRE8640MM20120705>

At least three people were killed and 15 wounded on Thursday when a suicide bomber blew himself up in a barber's shop popular with police in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, police and hospital sources said. The attack is the latest in a wave of bombings across the country in recent weeks which have raised fears that Iraq could slip back into sectarian bloodletting of the kind that peaked in 2006-07.

Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, is the capital of the mainly Sunni Muslim Nineveh province where al Qaeda has been particularly active. Tensions have run high as Shi'ite, Sunni and Kurdish political factions vie for power.

In a separate attack, in the northern city of Samarra, a bomb in a parked car wounded two people when it destroyed the side of a government-run bank. In Baiji, 180 km (112 miles) north of Baghdad, bombs attached to fuel tankers wounded three drivers.

Last month at least 237 people were killed and 603 wounded in attacks, mainly bombings, according to a Reuters tally, making June one of the bloodiest months in Iraq since U.S. troops withdrew at the end of last year.

The worst incident occurred on June 13 when bombers targeted Shi'ite pilgrims, killing more than 70 people. Iraq's al Qaeda wing has claimed some of the recent bombings against Shi'ites.

Late on Wednesday, gunmen bombed a Baghdad Municipality employee's house, killing his wife and two of his daughters and wounding him and two other children, police said.



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## 23. [Special Interest, United Kingdom] Qaida Plot To Bomb US Jet During Olympics?

Monday, July 2 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/uk/Qaida-plot-to-bomb-US-jet-during-Olympics/articleshow/14578263.cms>

Al-Qaida is plotting to blow up an American airliner in the run-up to this month's London Olympics and has trained a Norwegian Muslim convert in an attempt to evade airport security, a media report said on Sunday.

Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has trained the Norwegian convert and is understood to have also selected a target, believed to be a US passenger jet, The Sunday Times quoted intelligence sources as saying. "The Norwegian recruit goes under the name of Muslim Abu Abdurrahman. He is understood to be in his thirties and a 'clean skin' , with no previous criminal record," it said.

"He converted in 2008 and quickly became radicalized. He later travelled to Yemen , where he has spent several months, to complete his training," the paper said.

The plot confirms fears among US and British intelligence agencies that al-Qaida is seeking to recruit radicalised westerners in an attempt to evade airport security, it said. The Norwegian was believed to have been in the southeastern town of Azzan, the longtime home of AQAP, until last month. He then moved to Dammaj, a town in the north.

The new plot is the terror group's fourth to be detected since 2009, when AQAP sent a Nigerian-born British student on a plane with an underpants bomb. The bomb failed to detonate over Detroit and the man was arrested and jailed. In 2010, it sent two bombs hidden in printer cartridges on cargo planes destined for Chicago. They were intercepted and defused in Dubai and Britain. Two months ago, a third plot was averted when a British undercover agent, who had infiltrated AQAP, volunteered to be a suicide bomber. He smuggled out the latest version of the sophisticated underpants bomb to US authorities.

"There is terrorist plotting going on irrespective of the Olympics (from July 27 to August 12). The only thing that connects this to the Olympics is the fact that they are about to happen," said a Whitehall official.

The intelligence officials said the latest plot should be seen in the context of al-Qaida's continuing ambitions to blow up American planes.

AQAP has no history of targeting Britain . However, that did not mean British citizens were not at risk.

"If you are blowing up aeroplanes you are likely to be killing Brits or having a big impact on the European or British economy. (So it) would in effect be an attack against Britain," the official said.

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## 24. [Law Enforcement, United Kingdom] London Police Arrest Six Terrorism Suspects

Thursday, July 5 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/05/uk-britain-security-idUSLNE86402820120705>

Five men and one woman suspected of preparing terrorist attacks were arrested during early morning police raids across London on Thursday, the capital's Metropolitan Police said. Police said the operation was not linked to the Olympics, which start in London on July 27, but was part of a planned intelligence-led operation.

In a separate and apparently unrelated incident, armed police closed both carriageways of a motorway near Britain's second biggest city, Birmingham, after reports of a man acting suspiciously on a coach heading for London. A security source said the London arrests were related to international Islamist terrorism and were made at an early stage of plotting. It was not clear if any targets were identified.

During the raids, a 29-year-old man was arrested on a street in west London while the others, aged between 18 and 30, were detained at residential addresses in east and west London. A 24-year-old man was tasered during the operation by armed police but did not require hospital treatment.

Police said the six were arrested on suspicion of the "commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism" and were taken to a police station in southeast London. Detectives were searching eight homes in east, west and north London, and one business address in east London.

British security forces are on high alert for any signs of trouble ahead of the Olympics. Seven years ago suicide bombers killed 52 people in a string of coordinated attacks in London.

In the Birmingham incident, coach operator Megabus confirmed police were investigating an allegation against a passenger on the coach which had been travelling from Preston in north England to London. All the passengers were taken off the coach and lined up on the tarmac of the M6 toll motorway just north of Birmingham. Live helicopter television footage showed about 30 people sitting or standing inside a large rectangular police cordon. Emergency vehicles and a bomb disposal unit were at the scene, the BBC reported.



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## 25. [Security, India] Tiffin Bomb Recovered In Kandhamal

Thursday, June 28 2012

<http://www.odishatv.in/NewsDetail.asp?newsId=NS61424>

CRPF jawans have detected a tiffin bomb which was planted by Maoists under a low level bridge near Padipanga village in Kandhamal district, police said today.

The jawans found the tiffin bomb yesterday during combing operation near Padipanga village in Srirampur-Ora GP road under Kotagarh police limit. The bomb was immediately defused, police said.

"The security personel have detected planting of tiffin bombs at least five times earlietr during a span of one year," a senior police officer said adding that three jawans were killed in a bomb blast on January 3 this year.

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## 26. [Attack, India] One Hurt In Bomb Attack DTO Building

Thursday, July 5 2012

<http://e-pao.net/GP.asp?src=27..050712.jul12>

A powerful bomb was exploded at an under construction building owned by District Transport Officer, Transport Department, Manipur at Dewlaland in the heart of the Imphal on Wednesday, injuring a mason.

The blast occurred around noon when suspected militants hurled a powerful bomb at the building which is under construction, injuring one mason who was working at the site at the time of the explosion.

The injured has been identified as Ramdev, hailing from Bihar but presently staying at Mantripukhri here.

He has been brought back home after receiving treatment at Raj Polyclinic (hospital) at North AOC in Imphal.

Ramdev is stated to be out of danger.

The under construction building belongs to Simon Keishing, District Transport Officer, Manipur Transport Department.

Nganingmei Keishing, son of Simon Keishing, told Newmai News Network that Wednesday's incident was "unfortunate" as the blast wounded an innocent labourer and caused unnecessary panic to the surrounding residents.

Asked about any monetary demand served to the family, Keishing ruled out such demand from any militant organization.

He also insisted that the real motive behind the bomb attack is yet to be ascertained.

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## 27. [Security, India] Explosives Recovered In Jharkhand

Thursday, July 5 2012

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/article3604471.ece>

Police on Wednesday recovered 2 kg explosives which were being transported to Maoists and arrested one person at Toto village in Gumla district.

Following a tip-off, a police team intercepted a car, seized the explosive materials that included ammonium nitrate and five detonators, and arrested one Mohammad Imitiaz in this connection, Superintendent of Police Jatin Narwal told reporters here.

“Mohammad Imitiaz was taking the explosives to Maoist sub-zonal commander Budheswar Oraon when the police caught him and seized the explosives,” Mr. Narwal said.

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## 28. [Attack, India] Grenade Attack Reported In Manipur

Friday, July 6 2012

[http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed\\_news.asp?date1=7/6/2012&id=6#6](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=7/6/2012&id=6#6)

Kanglaonline reports that some unidentified persons lobbed a Chinese made hand grenade at the premises of Shija Hospitals and Research Institute in Imphal West District at around 9 am on July 5. According to Police, the grenade was hurled from the main road and fell unexploded near the canteen. The grenade was later diffused. The attack could be related to a monetary demand made by some underground organization to the hospital authorities, informed a reliable source.

In another incident, another hand grenade was recovered from the Kakching Wairi Ningthou Pareng residence of one Mayanglambam Koireng (45) in Thoubal District in the morning of July 5, reports The Sangai Express. Police recovered the grenade, suspected to have been lobbed in the night of July 4.

Meanwhile, Security Forces (SFs) arrested one woman cadre of People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) identified as Kongrailakpam Indu Devi from Wangjing Bazarat around 12.45 pm on July 5.

In another incident, a People's United Liberation Front (PULF) cadre identified as Muhammad Sadam (20) was arrested by SFs from Keirao Litan Makhong in Imphal East District on July 3. One small arm and three live rounds were recovered from his possession.

Further, the Special Intelligence Unit of Imphal West arrested an extortionist of Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL) outfit identified as Nitai Choudhury from Thangal Bazar area at around 6.30 pm on July 4, reports Kanglaonline.. A sum of INR 73,000 extorted from the owners of utensil shops of Thangal Bazar was also recovered from him. He further disclosed that he was working under Babul Kangsha Banik who has been extorting money from the shopkeepers of Thangal Bazar in the name of various underground organizations for the last two years.

Separately, a day after the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF)'s accusation of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) of practicing the anti-Naga policy, the Manipur Naga Revolutionary Front (MNRF), on July 5, alleged that wherever there is NSCN-IM, there is a problem. MNRF publicity secretary Apam Ningshen informed that in today's world of Tangkhul Naga community, every village or area has problem due to the involvement of the NSCN-IM in petty matters.

Meanwhile, asserting that it was "unfortunate" to find the rise of ZUF "under the garb of defending Zeliangrong interests", the NSCN-IM on July 5 said ZUF's actions however failed to reflect such agenda other than "rubbing the NSCN the wrong way," reports Nagaland Post

Also, the 'lieutenant' of PREPAK, Wahengbam Nanao alias Sana alias Raghu alias Loya who was arrested from Gandhi Vihar in Delhi on July 1 has been brought back to Imphal on July 5, reports Kanglaonline. It may be mentioned that the outfit PREPAK has already clarified that Nanao is not a member of the outfit.

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## **29. [Security, Nepal] Bomb Planted At Maoist Party Office, Chitwan Difused**

Friday, July 6 2012

[http://www.reviewnepal.com/detail\\_news.php?id=4161](http://www.reviewnepal.com/detail_news.php?id=4161)

A bomb disposal team of the Nepal Army defused three socket bombs planted at the premises of UCPN (Maoist) party's office in Chitwan.

Nepal Army was urged to dispose the bomb as the bombs were found at garbage site in the office, police said. It is said that three bomb were planted in and around the compound of the party office.

Maoist cadres have repeatedly been skirmishing on the issue of party office. The splinter faction of the UCPN Maoist has been demanding a share in the party office. During the clash dozens of the Maoist cadres were injured.

Following the security threat, the government has mobilized police personnel to protect the party office.

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### **30. [Attack, Mexico] Bomb Explodes In Mexican City Days Before Election**

Friday, June 29 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/29/us-mexico-drugs-idUSBRE85S1EK20120629>

An explosive device blew up inside a truck parked outside the town hall of Mexico's northern city of Nuevo Laredo on Friday, injuring seven people but causing no casualties, officials said.

The blast comes two days before Mexico votes for a new president to replace Felipe Calderon, who has waged a 5-1/2-year battle against drug traffickers.

Police did not immediately confirm whether the attack was drug-related but Mexican cartels have been increasingly using improvised explosive devices in cars. Most are relatively small compared to the car bombs used in conflict zones such as Iraq.

The explosion went off mid-morning, tearing apart the vehicle and damaging 11 other cars as well as a wall of the town hall, the Tamaulipas state attorney general's office said in a statement.

Soldiers, marines and police sealed off the scene and were taking evidence to determine the type of explosive material used, the release said.

Staff from the town hall immediately evacuated the building and the emergency services were on alert for other blasts.

Nuevo Laredo, across the Rio Grande from Laredo Texas, has been a hotpot for drug related violence as the Zetas cartel battles rivals for control of billion dollar narcotics trafficking routes to the United States.

More than 55,000 people have died in drug-related violence since Calderon took office in late 2006.

Mexican presidents are barred by the constitution from running for a second term, but the candidate from Calderon's ruling National Action Party (PAN) is in third place, according to most polls.

Enrique Pena Nieto, of the opposition Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), is expected to win the election by a wide margin according to the polls.

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### **31. [Attack, Mexico] Bomb In Car Kills Two Policemen In Northern Mexico**

Tuesday, July 3 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/03/us-mexico-drugs-idUSBRE8620ZO20120703>

An explosive device blew up a car in the northern Mexican city of Ciudad Victoria on Tuesday, killing two policemen and injuring another four in an attack that bore the hallmarks of drug cartels, police said.

The improvised bomb, two days after a presidential election, was revenge for recent arrests of gang members, the attorney general's office for Tamaulipas state said in a news release.

It went off shortly after midnight outside the home of the Tamaulipas security secretary, where the policemen stood guard, the release said.

Army bomb experts had sealed the scene and were determining the type of explosive materials used.

The device had been packed into a Ford Focus that had been parked outside for several days and was likely set off by a cell phone, local media reported.

There has been a wave of recent attacks using improvised explosive devices in cars in northeast Mexico, where the Zetas cartel battle rivals for control of drug trafficking routes to the United States.

On Friday, a bomb blew up a pickup truck in the border city of Nuevo Laredo, injuring seven people but causing no deaths.

There has been very little TV footage or photos of the incidents because of attacks and threats on journalists in the region.

On Sunday, Enrique Pena Nieto won Mexico's presidential election to replace Felipe Calderon, who has waged a five-and-a-half-year offensive against drug gangs.

Calderon was barred by the constitution from running for a second term, but the candidate for his National Action Party, Josefina Vazquez Mota, finished in third place, with dissatisfaction over the drug war cited as a reason for her poor turnout.

Pena Nieto of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) takes office in January and has promised to continue fighting drug cartels but said he will focus on reducing homicides, extortion and kidnapping.

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## 32. [Attack, United States] Sparkler Bomb Found In West Wichita Park

Tuesday, July 3 2012

<http://www.kansas.com/2012/07/03/2396243/sparkler-bomb-found-in-west-wichita.html>

Wichita police said Tuesday that they are investigating the second sparkler bomb found in the city in the past two days.

Unlike the first bomb, the second bomb did not detonate, said Lt. Chris Bannister, who heads the explosive ordnance department. It was found under a tree in Harvest Park, 9500 W. Provincial, southwest of 13th and Tyler Road, at about 9 p.m. Monday by a man who had gone to the park with his son.

The bomb squad confirmed it was a sparkler bomb, Bannister said. Investigators are collecting evidence from the device, which was about the size of two fingers taped together.

“This is not a recent phenomenon,” Bannister said. “We’ve seen these ... in Wichita in recent years.”

Sparkler bombs have become so common, in fact, that fireworks manufacturers are switching from metal to wood stems on sparklers, he said. Bombers prefer the metal stems because the shrapnel can cause more damage than wood splinters.

Bannister said he had a detective go out to buy sparklers for a demonstration, and at stands where no metal stems were available he was asked, “What are you going to do, make sparkler bombs?”

“So they know what’s going on,” he said.

Since sparklers are typically used by young children, Bannister said, parents should be wary if their teenager shows a strong interest in them.



Sparkler bombs “are very powerful, very dangerous, and they burn very hot,” he said.

Numerous deaths and injuries have resulted from the detonation of sparkler bombs around the country.

A sparkler bomb exploded inside a mailbox in the 2200 block of South Greenway, near Pawnee and McLean, on Sunday night, police said. Remnants of the mailbox flew several dozen feet, shattered a window and damaged the wall of a nearby house.

No injuries were reported from the Sunday night incident.

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### 33. [Trend, United States] Bomb Squad Investigates Explosion Outside Church

Tuesday, July 3 2012

<http://fox2now.com/2012/07/03/bomb-squad-investigates-loud-noise-at-brentwood-church/>

An explosion outside Immacolata Catholic Church in Richmond Heights is under investigation by police, federal agents and the county bomb unit. The blast shook neighbors and their homes.

Police said a large amount of consumer grade fireworks was used to make the explosive device. Brian McMahon heard the blast, "It was a big explosion." It happened around 10:20 p.m. Monday night. A woman who lives nearby said, "It was like a very, very loud crash of thunder."

Police canvassed the area and found nothing. Tuesday morning church workers discovered the damage the explosion caused. Two dumpers were damaged, one had a hole in it. A parish grade school window was shattered. Captain Craig Mueller with the Richmond Heights Police said, "Right now it's completely out of the blue and we're not linking it to the church or school at all it's in a very secluded area at the very far side of this parking lot."

Church officials said the parish has not received any threats or had any problems. Authorities searched the grounds including the roof of the church look for evidence. The glass top of a neighbor's patio table was destroyed. Captain Mueller added, 'We'd like to know obviously what the device was and how far the device carried and any other evidence that might indicate who set off the device.'

The explosion won't soon be forgotten by people who live near the parish. McMahon said, "My sister who lives right here called and said my windows just shook unbelievably."

Captain Mueller said, "If anybody has any information related to hearing this, knowing someone in the area that maybe responsible, anyone bragging about such a thing please call the Richmond heights police department immediately."

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### **34. [Trend, United States] Teen Killed After Sparkler Bomb Explodes**

Thursday, July 5 2012

[http://www.couriernews.com/view/full\\_story/19214703/article-Teen-killed-after-sparkler-bomb-explodes](http://www.couriernews.com/view/full_story/19214703/article-Teen-killed-after-sparkler-bomb-explodes)

An teenager was killed and another was injured when their homemade sparkler bomb exploded before they could back away safely, authorities said Thursday.

The teens, who were celebrating the Fourth of July, used electrical tape to bind sparklers together and lit another sparkler to act as a fuse. The bundle detonated sooner than expected as one of the teens was placing a 5-gallon bucket over it, said Pete Richardson, Lafayette County's chief sheriff's deputy.

Wrapping together sparklers "makes a pretty awesome bomb," Richardson said.

Both teens were taken to the hospital, where Justin Smith, 17, of Buckner died. Authorities didn't release the injured teen's name, but said he is in stable condition and from nearby Mount Holly.

Two other people witnessed the blast but were not injured.

Lafayette County is under a burn ban, which means fireworks are illegal unless a resident receives written permission to ignite them. Richardson said he didn't know if the teens had permission to use fireworks.

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### **35. [Trend, United States] Pipe Bomb Found At Indianwood, Site Of Next Week's U.S. Senior Open**

Friday, July 6 2012

<http://www.freep.com/article/20120706/SPORTS15/120706023/indianwood-golf-country-club-pipe-bomb?odyssey=nav|head>

Authorities say they found what appeared to be a small pipe bomb near a service gate at Orion Township's Indianwood Golf & Country Club, which is hosting next week's U.S. Senior Open.

Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said in a statement that there was "no credible information of any specific threat" to Indianwood nor the tournament following Thursday's discovery. Bouchard said it's believed it was left as a "random act."

A bomb squad responded Thursday, and the sheriff's department is testing the homemade device. Investigators said today they were seeking tips from the public.

The U.S. Senior Open runs Monday through July 15 at the Lake Orion course.

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### 36. [Special Interest, United States] Oklahoma Researchers Develop Way To Detect Surgically Implanted Bombs

Friday, July 6 2012

<http://newsok.com/oklahoma-researchers-develop-way-to-detect-surgically-implanted-bombs/article/3689975>

A device to detect explosives that have been surgically implanted into a person's body has been developed by an Edmond police detective and a University of Oklahoma assistant professor.

The device uses X-rays to generate a negative image of the body and, potentially, the bomb inside it.

The initial challenge for researchers was learning if bomb squads could use an X-ray dosage high enough to pass through a human body and detect a hidden bomb without causing radiation poisoning or sickness. Research found that not only were these things possible, but they could be accomplished using equipment common to bomb squads across the country.

Marion Cain, a detective and bomb technician for the Edmond Police Department, came up with the idea for the project after attending a bomb technician recertification conference in Huntsville, Ala. While in a class, the subject of suicide bombing came up, specifically the use of X-ray scans to find bombs located underneath the skin. No one at the conference had ever attempted it.

"I thought to myself, 'If no one's doing it, let's see if we can do it,'" Cain said.

Cain teamed up with Isaac Rutel, an assistant professor for the department of radiological sciences at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, in order to determine a proper X-ray dosage that could be used to detect a bomb threat. While researching, Rutel found it was possible to detect such devices using energy levels common in his field.

"We found them to be consistent with some fairly common types of routines you might see in medical imaging," Rutel said.

How they did it

Cain and Rutel tested the process using cadavers donated to the cause by a state agency. Devices were attached to the cadavers, not implanted, and the bodies were placed in a variety of positions that bomb technicians could possibly encounter while in the field.

The research conducted by Cain and Rutel has received positive feedback from those in his line of work. An article they wrote about their work was published last November in *The Detonator*, a trade magazine for the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators. Both Cain and Rutel were asked to speak at the association's international training convention held last month in Hershey, Pa.

"It was a wonderful experience to be up on that stage where so many EOD (Explosion Ordnance Disposal) greats have been before," Cain said. "I mean, you're talking about the guys who practically invented my field were in the audience."

“To have them ask you questions and comment positively on your work is a pretty great achievement.”

Cain outlined a number of instances his procedure could have been used in the past. A 2009 al-Qaida assassination attempt on a Saudi prince involved an explosive device placed in the bomber's rectum. Last May, a woman was removed from a US Airways flight after claiming she had a bomb surgically placed in her body.

Though the process Cain and Rutel have developed is ready to be used by any bomb squad at any time, they are not aware of any instance in which it has been used in the field.

Research on the project is ongoing. Cain's goal is to stay a step ahead of would-be bombers.

“I think the important part for our program is to make sure that if we want to stay involved, if we want to play a role, then we're going to have to move with the trend and keep our ear and our eyes on what that is and make sure that we can hopefully match that through our efforts here,” he said.



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### **37. [Attack, Colombia] FARC' Bomb Police Station In Southwest Colombia**

Tuesday, July 3 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/24901-farc-bomb-police-station-in-southwest-colombia.html>

An alleged FARC attack on a police station in southwestern Colombia Monday injured nine officers, reported Radio Caracol Tuesday.

The clash occurred around 5PM in El Mango, a village in the central part of the Cauca department.

According to Cauca's police commander Ricardo Alarcon, the Air Force arrived about an hour after the attack to face the group of supposed guerrillas responsible for the bombing.

The group reportedly used gas cylinder and tatuco bombs to target the station.

Alarcon also reported that Army troops came to back up El Mango's police forces. Numbers for total injured and killed are still pending.

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### **38. [Attack, Colombia] Colombian Bomb Attack On Oil Well Kills Five Workers**

Wednesday, July 4 2012

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2012/07/04/colombian-bomb-attack-on-oil-well-kills-5-workers/>

Five oil workers in southern Colombia died Wednesday when an "illegal, armed group" used dynamite to attack an oil well, state energy company Ecopetrol (EC, ECOPELROL.BO) said.

"Ecopetrol is sorry to inform that early this morning, five workers from the companies Independence and Contranur, which are contracting firms, were slain while doing maintenance work at the Sibundoy 1 well," Ecopetrol said in a statement. "The attack also left three people injured."

The Ecopetrol statement didn't say whether the contractors were foreigners or Colombian.

It also didn't say which of many armed groups operating in Colombia may have been responsible for the attack. But an army commander in the area, which is near the border with Ecuador, told local Caracol Radio that the attack bore the hallmarks of the country's main leftist rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

The deadly attack comes one day after suspected leftist rebels in the northern part of Colombia bombed the country's second-longest oil pipeline, the Cano Limon, forcing pumping to be halted until repair crews can fix the damage.

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### 39. [Attack, Colombia] Bomb Targeting Police Station Explodes In Northern Colombian Town

Wednesday, July 4 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/24927-bomb-targeting-police-station-explodes-in-northern-colombian-town.html>

A bomb apparently targeting a police station exploded in a town in northeast Colombia Wednesday.

Though the blast occurred in one of the main plazas of the town of Pamplona and caused significant material damage, no one was hurt.

Business in the plaza has been temporarily shut down as police investigate the explosion. Authorities told Caracol Radio the bomb seemed to have been directed at the area's Center for Immediate Attention, a type of small community police station that exists throughout Colombia.

Officials said this is the first major violent event to have occurred in the city in the last four years. The department of Norte de Santander surrounding Pamplona has experienced several outbreaks of violence from armed groups, however, keeping police and health officials in a state of high alert.



Photo: El Universal

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