



UN Department of Safety and Security, Afghanistan Security Situation Report, Week 35, 27 August – 2 September 2010

JOINT WEEKLY SECURITY ANALYSIS

A slight increase was recorded in the overall number of security incidents compared to the previous week with only the NR recording a slight decrease. The NR, SR and SER maintained relatively consistent incident levels, while the WR, ER and CR recorded increases with the WR recording a significant increase by about 70%. The SR, SER and ER remained the most volatile areas of the country. Kunduz accounted for the majority of incidents in the NR, where increased armed clashes were recorded. AGE activity intensified in northern Takhar along the Tajikistan border. In the NR, AGE activity spread to areas previously considered as insurgent-free in Balkh and Samangan. Faryab continued to account for the majority of the security incidents in the region. In the WR, AGE activity focused as usual on Badghis, but also spread in and around Hirat City. In the SR, Hilmand and Kandahar remained the main area of AGE focus, while incidents in Uruzgan Province keep increasing. A tactical shift from armed clashes to more IED incidents was noticed in the SR. The SER witnessed a high tempo of AGE activity across all provinces, reflected in a number of spectacular though unsuccessful attacks. In the ER, in the traditional focal provinces, Kunar recorded the majority of stand-off attacks and Nangarhar the bulk of IED incidents. The increase in the CR is attributed to increased AGE kinetic activity in Wardak Province and increased arrests and seizures in Kabul. AGE focus shifted to attacks against the main supply routes through Wardak and Logar targeting in particular PSCs. The Ghorband valley and Kohi Safi of Parwan Province saw also an intensification of AGE activity ahead an expected decrease over the end of Ramadan.

Incidents directly involving the UN increased with four incidents recorded. In the NR, a UN convoy was ambushed in Dawlatabad District of Faryab Province at the same location, where ten minutes prior an election candidate's convoy had been attacked. The attack was repelled by the escort team and there were no casualties or damages. It is believed that the attack was not specifically targeting the UN. In the SR, unknown perpetrators fired four rifle-launched grenades at the ANSF guarding the UNAMA compound in Kandahar City, injuring one of them. Armed clashes in close vicinity of two UN agency compounds, although not against them, triggered a reaction from the MOI guards stationed at both facilities. The attacks are not assessed to have directly targeted the UN and follow the previous week's RPG attacks on the neighbouring house of a local politician. In the SER, several bullets impacted inside a UN agency compound in Gardez City during an attack against an ANA patrol in the vicinity. There were no injuries to UN staff or guards. In the ER, a UN national staff member received threatening telephone calls asking him to quit his job.

Incidents affecting the aid community significantly increased. In the NR, an INGO vehicle was targeted by an RCIED in Badakhshan, killing two INGO national staff members and wounding another one together with a community volunteer. In Faryab, nine INGO/NGO employees were abducted in three separate incidents. In Balkh, national staff of a UN implementing partner NGO travelling in an unmarked private vehicle in Sholgara District, managed to escape an abduction attempt by AGE. In the WR, unknown individuals approached an INGO compound in Hirat City and handed over an anti-elections flyer to the guards, asking them to post it inside the premises. In Ghor, national staff members of an INGO came under AGE attack. The attack was repelled by local villagers. Additionally, in the SER in Khost Province, an NGO national staff member was temporarily detained together with four family members on allegations of having ties with AGE. He has since been released. Four INGO staff members abducted in two separate incidents on 27 July and on 23 August respectively in Hirat province were released.

Asymmetric tactics against the population also increased. At least 23 individuals were assassinated during the week. In addition three additional unsuccessful assassination attempts were made in Kandahar City. The bulk (11) of the victims were assassinated in the WR. At least 44 individuals were abducted in ten separate incidents, including the abduction of INGO staff in the NR. The target profile included ANSF

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members, community elders and individuals perceived as insufficiently supportive of the insurgency, elections staff, campaigners and candidates. Intimidation campaign of the AGE continued across the country with distribution of night letters discouraging the population against participation in the elections (NR, WR); AGE illegal roadblocks (NR, ER); and arson at an elections campaign office in Kohi Safi, CR. There was a visible increase of intimidation in the ER. This is attributed to the recent infiltration of AGE elements from Pakistan. Such incidents are expected to continuously increase as the elections period closes in and will continue to undermine the local population's support of the GoA and the wider aid community throughout the country.

Amongst the 15 incidents related to the elections, two involved electoral staff and the remainder candidates and their supporters. In one case AGE abducted the District Field Coordinator and 28 staff members, but released them following intervention of local elders. In several cases these incidents involved clashes between candidates rather than AGE attacks. In some cases, AGE were seen to act on behalf of candidates. The incidents are concentrated in the NER, NR and WR as well as in the ER. Candidate activities in the rest of the country seem to be maintaining a particularly low profile. AGE intimidation by illegal roadblocks is aiming to limit the population movement in the run-up to the elections, and preparations are underway to attack population centers with stand-off attacks to achieve a low turnout.

Four suicide attacks were recorded during the week in the WR and SER, including the large-scale complex attack against two IM bases near Khost City, involving a failed SVBIED and multiple BBIEDs. The attack however, was successfully prevented by IM and ANSF, neutralizing around 30 attackers and arresting five others. Some of these attackers were in US military uniforms. In Ghazni, a suicide attacker detonated his BBIED after being identified by ANP and shot upon, killing only himself. Another failed SVBIED attack occurred in Khost, where an insurgent tried to target an IM convoy, but the main charge failed to detonate. In the WR, in Farah City, two BBIED attackers attempting to gain access to the Governor's compound were challenged by ANSF and prematurely detonated. In addition to these, three potential suicide attackers with BBIEDs were arrested by ANSF in Kabul City and a BBIED suspect together with an IED expert were arrested in Kunduz. In Kandahar City, a suicide attacker with a BBIED and a booby-trapped VBIED were neutralized by the ANSF before an attack could take place. Suicide attack threat reporting maintains elevated levels and increased attempts are expected in the lead up to the elections, with a focus on urban centers.

RISK ANALYSIS

High levels of threat reporting continue, and spectacular attacks in major urban centres remain probable. The highest risk to the United Nations in Afghanistan taking into account mitigating measures is exposure to direct suicide and complex suicide attacks in work, residence or travel situations. The second highest risk is targeting by IED of UN compounds or of UN staff working in government premises. Collateral damage as a result of such attacks against other entities remains a significant concern. Abduction of UN staff for political or criminal motives remains a significant risk, in particular in areas where the use of armoured vehicles is not yet widespread and new insurgent groups start operating. Abuse by local power holders is also rated as a high risk. Perceptions of the UN's role in Afghanistan's electoral process can result in a higher threat profile against the organization.

Significant Incidents after the end of the reporting period:

On 4 September Kunduz Province, Kunduz City, 300 meters from UN office, at 1000 hrs BBIED on motor cycle attack against ANP, six AMP and four civilians killed, seven civilians and three AMP wounded.

On 4 September, Kandahar Province, Kandahar City, at 1700 hrs, VBIED attack on a passing IM convoy. Three civilians killed and 14 wounded. No reports on IM casualties.

NORTH EASTERN REGION

The general security situation of the North Eastern Region remained unstable in the reporting period. The situation in Kunduz and Baghlan Provinces is tense, unstable and to some extent volatile. Badakhshan and Takhar Provinces are relatively calm and stable despite some security incidents related to AGE and IAGs.

Analysis of the Week's Events

The number of incidents remained consistent with 36 incidents compared to last week's 35. Out of these, 22 incidents were AGE related. Kunduz Province recorded a total of 14 incidents followed by Takhar and Badakhshan Provinces with 8 incidents both and Baghlan Province with 7 incidents recorded. The consistent level of incidents recorded during the last two weeks still attributed in most part for lack of sufficient ANSF presence in the districts even though IM/ANSF are conducting selective raid operations in different areas of the region.

The reporting week has seen a slight increase in armed clashes and in Kunduz and Takhar Provinces in particular. 14 of the overall incidents recorded were armed clashes, out of which 5 were in Kunduz and 5 in Takhar. IED explosions targeting IM and ANP have been reported in some part of the Kunduz, Takhar and Baghlan Provinces. Intimidation and harassment of the local population and the candidates of the upcoming parliamentary elections continued.

During the week, the IM/ANSF conducted joint operations in selected areas and districts in region. On 02 September, Takhar Province, Rustaq District, Kewan area, at 1000 hrs, a convoy of WJ candidate was struck by IM air strike. Reportedly, ten members of convoy were killed and two others injured including a parliamentary candidate from Takhar Province. IM sources reported that the target was a prominent AGE Commander. Investigations are ongoing.

There were some significant incidents recorded during the reporting period that occurred in Kunduz. Takhar Province, Darqad District AGE attacked 5 ABP CPs and over run them. AGE captured ABP officers and seized weapons and ammunition. Badakhshan Province, Shahri Buzurg District, Qari Qasab area, a RCIED detonated and struck an INGO vehicle, killing three people onboard including two INGO national SMs and injuring two others including one INGO national SM. The motive behind the attack is not clear. Kunduz Province, Kunduz City, Dashti Abdan area, a private mobile Telecomm company Tower was set on fire and one of its armed guards was abducted by AGE.

The tense situation along Kunduz – Baghlan Highway since April 2010 remains a matter of concern as the ANSF and IM are still battling to clear the road from AGE influence and secure the peripheral districts along the main high way. On 28 August, Baghlan Province, Puli Khumri City, along the Puli Khumri-Mazar main road, Cheshma Sher area, at 1600 hrs, AGE opened SAF on a passing civilian convoy with relatives of a prominent politician based in the NR. The attack was repelled by ANSF escort. Two members of the convoy were reportedly injured, and five attackers were killed.

In the NER three security incidents occurred in the context of the elections. An armed supporter of a candidate was killed in a clash with another candidate's group in Baghlan, where a large number of campaigners (reportedly 28) for one candidate or local IEC personnel was abducted alongside. The DFC and the others were after a few hours released with a warning not to continue their work. This abduction shows the AGE readiness to abduct large numbers of election staff members. Ten supporters – including a senior former Taliban commander – of a candidate were killed when an IM airstrike targeted the convoy in Rustaq District of Takhar Province. The failure in the vetting process to reduce the numbers of candidates with illegal armed groups running for parliament is leading to an increased violence amongst the candidates.

Re-appearance and persistent activities of AGE in Takhar Province along with AGE network in northern part of Kunduz Province is reported. AGE influence continued to spread, where ANSF presence is less or lacking in the region. Northern and south west districts of Takhar, Eastern districts of Baghlan and

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bordering districts of Badakhshan with Takhar, despite the reports of AGE infiltrations from Nuristan Province to Badakhshan.

ANSF and IM have remained major targets during the reporting period, while threat warnings of presence of suicide attackers in Kunduz and Baghlan Provinces persist.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Attack/Armed Clash

There were 14 armed clashes recorded over the week, out of which 5 were reported from Kunduz, 3 from Baghlan, 5 from Takhar and 1 from Badakhshan Provinces.

Air Strike

Two air supported raid/operations were conducted during the week. The airstrike on the candidate in Takhar targeted the vehicle of a former Taliban commander Muhammad Amin Murcha, who had joined the campaign of the candidate in question. The International Military responsible for the attack maintains that the commander was in touch with al-Qaida related terrorist group of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and had not relinquished his ties to the Taliban. His close connection to a local powerbroker and senator makes this case particularly controversial, and was probably the reason for President Karzai condemning this incident.

IED Detonated/Discovered

8 IED related incidents were reported during the week, four of incidents were reported in Kunduz Province. Out of them the most relevant affecting the aid community occurred on 30 August, Badakhshan Province, Shahri Buzurg District, Qari Qasab area, at 1130 hrs, a RCIED detonated and struck an INGO vehicle, killing three people on board including two INGO SM and injuring two others including one INGO SM. The motive behind is not clear.

Cache

One Incident reported. On 28 August, Badakhshan Province, Argo District, Bakhti Shah Village, at unknown time, NDS conducted a search operation in the area seizing assorted weapons and ammunitions. No arrest was made in connection to the case.

Abduction

2 incidents reported. On 02 September, Bahgfan Province, Burka District, Fulul area, at 1000 hrs, AGE kidnapped a District Field Coordinator member of IEC who was released few hours later.

Crime

6 instances of crime were reported from all four provinces

Arrest

Four arrests reported. The most significant occurred in Kunduz City were IM arrested apparently one suicide bomber and an IED expert.

NORTHERN REGION

The general security situation in the Northern Region remained calm and stable during the week.

Analysis of the Week's Events

The region experienced a slight decrease in the number of security incidents. A total of **28** incidents were reported compared to last week's **31**. Showing 10% decrease. Faryab Province has been the scene of the highest number of the incidents for the second consecutive week totalling **16**. Jawzjan province recorded 1, Sari Pul Province recorded **5** and Balkh Province reported 4 incidents. Samangan Province maintained a relative profile of stability with **2** security incidents reported after a long gap during the week.

There was a minor decrease in armed clashes recorded throughout the region; 11 attacks as compared

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to 12 in the previous week. Of the 11 armed attacks/clash reported during the week; Faryab Province accounted for 7 in total followed by Sari Pul and Balkh Provinces. The most significant of this type incidents, was the attack against a UN road mission in Jangle area of Dawlatabad District of Faryab Province. There was no casualty or damage reported to the mission as UNPU responded to the attack. It is assessed that the attack was not a directed against UN; however they were close to a political campaign convoy that seems to be the target. AGE activities along the highway especially the Jangle area of Dawlatabad District has increased during the last three weeks.

As the Parliamentary elections draw near, the political climate is currently charge and as a result two incidents of election related violence has been reported in the province. Significant to note is the threat against candidates and their supporters. During the reporting period, a campaign team was ambushed in Dawlatabad District resulting to injury of one civilian. Another parliamentary campaign team was attacked in Gurziwan District which also resulted to injury of one ANP officer that responded to the attack. This substantiated the assessment of the last week that there would be an increase in asymmetric attacks against the local parliamentary candidates and supporters of the forthcoming elections. Similarly, AGE attacks on IM/ANSF/GoA facilities and/or personnel are likely to increase with the aim of discouraging the populace from participating in the electoral process.

IED incidents are a major concern on the main access and secondary road to may districts throughout the region. Four IED detonations were occurred in Faryab, Sari Pul and Samangan Province resulting in two civilian and one AGE being killed in Sari Pul and Faryab Provinces. The most significant of these was the detonation of a command wire IED between two vehicles of an international private security company on the main road Mazar- Samangan in Hazarti Sultan district. This is the first incident of this nature in this specific section of the road this also attributed to the reported movement and infiltration of AGE. The trend and frequency strongly suggest the presence of a professional IED cell in the area and accordingly IED attacks are most likely to increase in the coming few weeks in the region.

Assassination, intimidation and abduction of locals/GoA continued in the region during the reporting period. At least two local civilians were assassinated in Pashtun Kot District in relation to the election. Six incident of abduction reported throughout the region and abduction of NGO staff remains a great threat and concern to communities in Faryab aid Province. Three incidents of abduction reported in Faryab affecting the aid community in total nine national staff members of NGO/INGO were abducted from Dawlatabad, Qaramqol and Kohistan district of Faryab Province and one failed attempted of abduction reported against a local NGO implementing partner to an UN agency in Sholgara District of Balkh Province. This was coupled with abduction of three ANA soldiers in Darzab District of Jawzjan Province while one abduction incident reported in Samangan Province which is said to be criminal related. In another development, AGE distributed night letters in Sari Pul asking local residents not to cooperate with US and its allies, ANA and ANP personnel should quit their job. Otherwise, they will face consequences. This is the second time that AGEs distribute night letters during two consecutive weeks.

Three incidents linked directly to the elections were recorded in the NR, all in Faryab Province. Two campaigners for one candidate were killed allegedly by armed men of a sitting MP close to the provincial capital Maymana in Pashtun Kot District. In the same province, two attacks on candidates' convoys were recorded. In Dawlatabad, a bodyguard of a candidate was injured in the above mentioned ambush, and in Gurziwan, one ANP was injured in an ambush against another candidate's campaigners led by his half-brother, who is a prominent local powerbroker. The failure in the vetting process to reduce the numbers of candidates with illegal armed groups running for parliament is leading to an increased violence amongst the candidates.

In the overall analysis and apart from the AGE drive related to the ongoing/upcoming electoral process, there is no significant change in the general trend, frequency or pattern of AGE acts of hostility including the target profile. None of the reported incidents of this week is expected to fundamentally affect the general security situation in the region. The UN programmes delivery in Qush Tepa, Dara-i-Sufi Payin and Bala, Kishindih, Sayyad, Darzab and the rural areas of Balkh, Chimtal, Chahar Bolak in addition to the eastern parts of Sholgara Districts of Jawzjan, Sari Pul and Balkh Provinces will most likely continue to be hampered due to the active presence of various AGE/IAG networks.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Attack/Armed Clash

Eleven armed clashes were reported in Faryab, Balkh, Sari Pul Provinces.

IED Detonated/Discovered

In total, four IED detonations were recorded in Faryab, Sari Pul, Samangan and Balkh Provinces.

Assassination

One incident of assassination recorded in Faryab Province.

Abduction

Six abduction incidents reported in the region three of which affected directly aid communities like NGO/INGO national workers in Faryab Province.

Intimidation

Two incidents of intimidation were reported in Faryab and Sari Pul Provinces. Both of them were directly related to AGEs

WESTERN REGION

The security situation in Western Region remained unstable.

Analysis of the Week's Events

There was an increase in the number of security related incidents to 44 compared to 26 last week.

The increase in incidents is indicative of the deteriorating security climate of the Western Region. Targeting of election and election-related activities rose with the assassinations of seven election campaigners and the killing of an election candidate in Herat. As the election draws closer abductions, assassinations and intimidations are very likely to increase as insurgents try to disrupt the elections. The UN, international community and prominent targets are particularly at risk as the insurgents try to effect maximum international impact against the elections.

AGE activities were centered in Badghis with seven armed clashes in a drive to extricate the opposing IM and ANSF. The AGE's efforts were thwarted as the IM and ANSF effectively subdued the attacks. Based on the history and recent trends by the AGEs in Badghis such armed clashes is likely to be maintained or elevated in coming weeks as Ramadan is over and a push is made prior to the winter recess.

IED strategy remained balanced as the most consistent and widely used tool of the insurgents. Detonation and discovery were five and three respectively as compared to six and two and, six and four for weeks 33 and 34 respectively. The efforts of the security forces to combat IEDs and explosives were boosted with the seizure of a cache containing 150 kg of explosive devices, 27 RPGs, 50 mortar bombs and an assortment of weapons and ammunitions.

Three incidents occurred in the WR in the context of the elections. In addition to the assassinations (see below), AGE approached an INGO office on the road between Hirat and the airport and asked the office to display AGE letters inside the compound asking people not to vote. In Badghis province, night letters had been distributed during the previous period asking people not to participate in the elections.

Threats to UN staff are assessed as: direct loss in suicide and IED attacks, collateral damage due to close proximity to IED, abduction for political or criminal motives. Staff has been advised to be alert and to adhere to security guidelines. Security drills will be conducted at all UN facilities in the WR so that staff is fully aware of what to do in case of an emergency during the election period.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Suicide Attack

In Farah Province, Farah City, two BBIED attackers attempting to gain access into the Governor's office compound prematurely detonated the explosive devices and was killed in the process.

Attack/Armed Clash

Nine (9) armed clashes were reported. There were seven in Badghis and two in Ghor. All the armed clashes were initiated by AGE.

Stand-Off Attack

In Badghis Province, IM/ANSF conducted an air operation targeting AGE. Two AGEs were wounded.

IED Detonated /Discovered

Five IED detonated; Two ANP and five local civilians were wounded in the vicinity of Governor's Office in Farah when a RCIED attached to a motorcycle detonated. In Farah an IM convoy was struck by a roadside IED but no casualty or damage was reported and, one AGE was killed and another wounded during placement of an IED in Farah province. In Herat Province an ANP vehicle was targeted by a roadside IED but no casualty or damage was reported and in Ghor an IM vehicle was struck by a roadside IED. No casualty or damage was reported Three IEDs were discovered. They were in Farah, Herat and Ghor Province. All defused safely.

Cache

In Guizara, Herat Province, NDS seized a cache containing 150 kg of explosive devices, 27 RPGs, 50 mortar bombs and an assortment of weapons and ammunitions. No arrest was reported.

Assassination

Seven (7) assassinations were reported. In Herat Province, ANP found the mortal remains of five local civilians who were from a team of ten persons campaigning for the Parliamentary Election. The remaining five others returned safe and had been out of the mobile network reach. In Herat Province in SHindand District, a candidate for the Parliamentary Election was shot and killed by two unknown armed motorcyclists and an ANA was shot dead by unknown armed men Herat Province. In Farah, the Deputy District Chief of Police was shot dead by unknown armed men. An ANP was killed by a group of unknown armed men. In Ghor, ANP found the mortal remains of a local civilian abducted on 28 August 2010.

Crime

Four (4) incidents of crimes were reported. In Herat a local businessman was shot dead by two unknown armed motorcyclists. And, a local civilian was shot and wounded by two unknown armed men. In Ghor a passenger vehicle was stopped by a group of unknown armed men. The passengers were robbed of their cash and valuables and, the mortal remains of a local civilian were found. The motive remains unknown.

Arrest

Four arrests were reported; In Ghor ANP arrested three AGE and seized two pistols, one rifle and a motorcycle. And, ANP arrested a suspect for murder. In Badghis ANSF arrested 20 persons involved in the 25/8/10 demonstration. In Herat, ANP arrested a suspect in the killing of an ANA on 29 August 10.

Intimidation

Two incidents of intimidation were reported. In Herat Province two men approached an INGO compound and handed over two copies of a letter to the INGO security guards and requested that the letters be placed on the compound perimeter wall. The letters requested locals not to cooperate with GoA and to avoid taking part in the forthcoming Parliamentary Election. In Farah Province a hand grenade was lobbed at the private residence of a local civilian. No casualty was reported. However, the building was partially damaged and some house equipment caught fire.

Narcotic Incident

In Herat, Afghan Border Police (ABP) arrested seven individuals and seized 40 kg of opium.

Confrontation / Dispute

Two incidents of dispute were reported in Ghor Province. A confrontation between local villagers over a tribal dispute resulted in the death of one person. And, a fight occurred between villagers over a personal dispute. No casualty was reported. ANP arrested five persons in connection with the incident.

Other

In Herat two INGO staff abducted on 27/7/10 was released after negotiations by local elders and AGE and, two employees of an International Organization abducted on 23/8/10 were released. ANP captured on 24/8/10 by AGE from Murghab District was released after negotiations by local elders and AGE.

SOUTHERN REGION

The security situation in the Southern Region remains volatile. The residual risk to both UN national and international staff is assessed as Very High.

Analysis of the Week's Events

The total number of reported security incidents remains stable with 179 reported security incidents in the previous reporting period to 181 incidents this week. Increases were primarily recorded in Hilmand Province, Uruzgan Province and Nimroz Province, whilst Kandahar and Zabul Provinces recorded relatively consistent numbers. The types of incidents recorded remained consistent, with armed clashes and IEDs forming the bulk of all incidents reported.

Hilmand Province and Kandahar Province remained the main areas of AGE's activity in the region. In Hilmand Province Sangin, Nahri Sarraj, Nad Ali and Marja Districts saw the highest activity, while in Kandahar Province, Zhari and Panjwayi Districts remained the most active followed by Kandahar District. There was a significant decrease in armed clashes recorded throughout the region; 57 attacks as compared to 72 in the previous week. Of the 57 armed attacks/clashes reported during the week, 29 occurred in Hilmand Province while 17 occurred in Kandahar Province. Again there was a significant reporting of AGE attacks in Uruzgan Province over the period, with 8 armed attacks compared to 11 reported last week. Despite the decrease recorded in armed clashes, they still maintained high levels, which demonstrates a sustained insurgent intent, capacity and capability in the face of IM/ANSF ongoing operations in the region. IM/ANSF CPs, patrols, convoys and IM contracted logistic convoys remained primary targets of these attacks; consistent with previous patterns.

The number of IED incidents in the region significantly increased, with the majority occurring in Kandahar, Helmand and Uruzgan Provinces. A total of 68 IED incidents including 44 detonations were recorded in the region, representing a 55% increase as compared to the previous week. AGE continued to target IM/ANSF patrols and convoys, PSC vehicles and civilians. There has been a steady deterioration in the security situation in TirinKot, Chora and Dihrawud Districts of Uruzgan Province, and in Khash Rod District of Nimroz Province, attributable to the reported movement and infiltration of AGE with IED making expertise. IEDs remain a primary concern on the main access and secondary roads to many districts throughout the region. Although no suicide attack occurred in the region this week, threat reporting indicating the potential for suicide attacks, particularly in urban centres in the region, remains high. During the clean up operation in Malajat area of Kandahar City a potential suicide attacker with a BBIED hiding on a tree and a VBIED booby-trapped underneath the tree were captured and neutralized by the ANSF.

Assassination, abduction, and intimidation incidents against those perceived to be unsupportive of insurgents activity continued to occur at high levels during the week. Most significantly, targeted killings decreased from 19 to 10 people assassinated, with incidents reported in all provinces except Nimroz and the majority from Kandahar Province. In Kandahar, the director of Department of Pilgrimage, one religious scholar, one tribal elder, one officer of fire brigade department and four ANP officers were assassinated, while one ANP officer and one civilian who was accused of spying for IM were killed in Hilmand. One prosecutor, two ANP officers and two businessmen survived wounded assassination attempts in Kandahar. AGE also erected illegal checkpoints all over Dand District, Kandahar.

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There was one incident directly involving the UN in the region. Unknown perpetrators fired four rifle launched grenades against MOI guarding the UNAMA compound Kandahar, wounding one. There were several armed clashes reported in Asadabad area, District 8, north of WFP and IOM facilities. In one occasion MOI security guards and PSC opened blind fire in panicking response.

There is an ongoing military operation in Majalat area, neighbouring UNAMA office Kandahar, District 6. Even officially claimed as accomplished the fighting still continues.

Joint IM/ANSF operation in Arghandab district has been extended for one more month.

The likelihood of an incident taking place and involving UN staff is very likely with expected impact assessed as critical (i.e. involving death or serious injury). All UN activities must be considered and deemed critical to program delivery before they take place.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Attack/Armed Clash

There were 57 reported armed clashes/attacks over the period, in comparison to 72 the previous week

Stand-Off Attack

Six stand-off attacks were reported during the week

IED Detonated/Discovered

68 IED detonations were reported during the week; an increase compared to 37 reported the previous week. 24 IED discoveries were made. Most defused by EOD teams.

Assassination

10 incidents were recorded during the week; a decrease compared to 17 reported the previous week.

SOUTH EASTERN REGION

The security situation in the South-Eastern Region remained volatile during the reporting period.

Analysis of the Week's Events

The number of security incidents recorded in the SER remained somewhat consistent with the previous week's level - a total of 161 security reports received (including 12 late) as compared to 166 the week before. The week was characterized by several rather high-profile incidents and witnessed increased levels of violence throughout the AOR. The highlights of the week were three ineffective suicide attacks, including a large scale complex AGE attack targeting two IM bases in the Khost city, a number of IM/ANSF operations which resulted in heavy casualties inflicted on the AGE, a failed armed assault on the IM base in Barmal Paktika as well as the persistent tempo of AGE attacks throughout the SER on a variety of targets. In the Ghazni province, which accounted for 62 incidents (same as the week before), AGE remained particularly active in most of the southern districts transited by the Kabul – Kandahar Highway. Consistently with earlier trends, northeast and northwest districts of Paktika, where a total of 46 incidents were reported from as compared to 44 during the preceding week, remained volatile. In the meantime, incident levels have slightly decreased in the provinces of Khost, where 29 incidents occurred (32 during the previous week) and Paktya with 24 incidents as compared to 28 the week before.

Insurgents continued to be perceived to possess initiative in the SER with 84 percent of the security incidents believed to be AGE initiated (89 last week) and were particularly active in the districts of Andar, Ghazni, Deh Yak, Qarabagh, and Gelan of the Ghazni province, the Khost (Matun), Sabari, and Tani districts of the Khost province, the Gardez district of the Paktya province as well as the Yousuf Khel, Yahya Khel, Barmal, and Urgun districts of the Paktika. In line with the earlier trends, the AGE tactics

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remained a variety of complex / armed / standoff / IED attacks targeting IM / ANSF / GoA facilities / supply convoys, road construction companies, local population, and targets of opportunity as well as actions aimed at intimidating local populace. Hit-and-run armed attacks on IM / ANSF and supply convoys remained the tactics of choice in the Ghazni province, while IED attacks were more frequent in Paktika and Paktya, and standoff attacks on static facilities remained signature tactics in the Khost province. AGE are reported to have been continuing with re-supplying and infiltration of fighters for future operations in the SER.

During the reporting period, IM/ANSF operations resulted in infliction of heavy casualties on the AGE (both killed and arrested) in Zurmat and Gardez of Paktya, Khost (Matun), Sabari, and Tere Zayi of Khost, Gelan, Deh Yak, Ghazni and Andar of Ghazni as well as Yosuf Khel, Urgan, and Barmal of Paktika. IM also continued with the planned deployment and relocation of troops into Paktika, Khost and Ghazni.

At least 96 people were killed, 83 wounded, and 81 arrested as a result the security incidents reported during last week in the SER (the number casualties is yet to be verified independently).

During an AGE attack on an ANA patrol in Gardez on 02 September several bullets, reportedly, impacted inside the UNOPS (GMAC) compound and staff members were directed to the bunker.

The Head of the Khost Province's Afghan Red Crescent Society office and his family members arrested by IM on 27 August in Tani Khost Province have been, reportedly, released.

Only one incident was recorded in the context of the elections. A grenade was thrown into the campaign office of a candidate in Ghazni City, wounding him, a doctor and a bodyguard.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Suicide Attack

Three such incidents reported. The 28 August complex attack on two IM bases in the Khost city included a failed SVBIED and SBBIED, a mortar / RPG attack, and a direct armed assault attempt and reportedly resulted in around thirty AGE killed, four IM, one KPF, and one civilian wounded, and five AGE arrested. In another incident, a suicide bomber detonated his vest after ANP on duty identified him and engaged with SAF killing only himself on 29 August in Gelan Ghazni. Another ineffective SVBIED attack was reported on 01 September in Khost (Matun) of Khost when the bomber while attempting to target an IM convoy detonated the VBIED's initiator charge while the main charge failed to detonate.

Attack/Armed Clash

A total of 62 armed clashes reported (71 last week), the majority of which traditionally remaining hit-and-run attacks aimed at harassing IM / ANSF / targets of opportunity.

Air Strike

A total of seven air strikes reported (compared to two the week before). Around twenty AGE were killed as a result of a series of IM air strikes and ground operations following a failed armed attack on the IM base in Barmal Paktika on 01 September.

Stand-Off Attack

A total of 35 incidents recorded same as during the preceding week.

IED Detonated/Discovered

A total of 34 incidents reported as compared to 41 the week before, including 21 detonations (30 last week). This number also included two premature IED detonations while AGE were planting them, which resulted in six AGE killed in Gelan and Andar of Ghazni on 29 and 31 August respectively.

Abduction

One such incident reported (three the week before).

EASTERN REGION

The security situation in the Eastern Region remains volatile.

Analysis of the Week's Events

The region recorded a total of 116 security incidents during the current reporting period against the 90 incidents recorded during the past period, representing an increase of approximately 29%. The types of security incidents remained consistent with those recorded in the past few weeks.

Kunar and Nangarhar Provinces continued to be the most affected by AGE activities, although the dynamics differed; while Nangarhar Province recorded 36 incidents (i.e. 31%) out of the total number of incidents. Kunar Province however recorded majority of the significant incidents, and accounted for approximately 52% of the total number of recorded incidents. Overall the security situation now seems to be changing back to what it was previous to the start of Ramadan. It is expected that with the end of Ramadan next week and the upcoming elections that the number of incidents will continue to trend upwards.

Meeting engagements by the AGE on IM\ANA\ANP convoys continued without slowing down. The attacks mainly lasted for only twenty to thirty minutes until the AGE withdrew however there were several which lasted nearly an hour in this reporting period. The majority of the attacks occurred in the Kunar area with only four others being reported in the Nangarhar area.

The majority of stand-off attacks while mainly recorded in Kunar, however Jalalabad City has seen the resumption of regular rocket attacks this week. Of note is that several of the attacks are occurring in the early morning between 0500 and 0530hrs which is a change of the modus operandi compared to the previous attacks. These attacks have continued despite the reported capture of five suspects supposedly involved in the attacks by the ANSF.

IED incidents continued to be a major concern to UN AFP because of wrong-time wrong-place scenarios. The number of IEDs found and ones that detonated have increased over the previous week with a total of 16 over last weeks 6. The majority of which have been in Nangarhar. This includes an attack that killed the district governor of Lal Pur which occurred within 100 meters of the UNAMA compound in Jalalabad. However the majority of IEDs have been against fuel trucks during the reporting period. It is the opinion of the local authorities that these attacks may be perpetrated not by the AGEs but by the owner/drivers of the vehicles for insurance fraud. This opinion is supported by the fact that none of the drivers have been injured in the explosions. The threat to the main MSR's continues with several IED attacks against IM\GoA vehicles.

The AGE has continued to mount mobile CPs mainly in Laghman where the AGE seem to be operating with impunity in their setting up of check points (9 this week in Laghman). They continue to stop vehicles to check for persons working for the IM or GoA.

Nangarhar has also seen its share of intimidation tactics with the villagers of Memla and Wazir of Khogyani District, Nokurkhel and Hashemkhel of Sherzad District being told not to have anything to do with the IM or GoA otherwise they will face very strong consequences. These threats seem to be from newly infiltrating AGEs from Pakistan.

Two incidents were recorded in direct context to the elections: In Alishing District of Laghman Province in the ER, an IEC staff member was abducted and released on 5 September with a warning not to continue his activities. A demonstration in Bihsud District of Nangarhar involved another candidate.

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The current trend and intensity of security incidents in ER is expected to continue, and perhaps increase, into the next reporting period. This could impact on UN operations as a result of access restrictions to a number of districts, which may also affect urgent humanitarian missions to those in need.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Attacks/Armed Clash

Forty one incidents were reported.

Stand-Off Attack

Fifteen incidents were reported.

Air Strike

One strikes reported

IED Detonated/Discovered

Seventeen incidents were reported, eleven were detonations and six were discoveries.

Cache

One incident was reported.

Abduction

One incident was reported.

Crime

Eight incidents were reported.

Arrest

Twelve incidents were reported.

Intimidation

Twelve incidents were reported.

Demonstration

Two incidents were reported

Confrontation/Dispute

One incident was reported

Information

One incident was reported

Other

One incident was reported

CENTRAL REGION

The security situation in the Central Region remained unstable with the provinces of Wardak, Logar and Tagab District of Kapisa Province rated as volatile. The provinces of Parwan and Panjsher remained calm. Kabul Province and Kabul City continued to be unstable.

Analysis of the Week's Events

The reporting period saw an increase in the number of security incidents in CR with 56 incidents reported; representing an 18% increase over the previous week's 46 incidents. AGE activity has also covered a

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broad spectrum over the period, with direct attacks, IED and stand-off attacks supplemented by assassinations and intimidatory attacks.

The increase reported is attributed to a rise in armed clash, IED incidents and arrests. Assassinations decreased marginally with other category of incidents following similar trend as the previous weeks.

Arrests incidents of suspected AGE were noticeably high during the week, coupled with seizures of munitions. Threat reporting in Kabul City also indicated that AGE cells being present and building up resources in and around the city.

There was a significant increase in security activity in Wardak Province, which saw its highest levels of activity within CR for a considerable period of time. AGE activities in Parwan, Panjsher and Kapisa Provinces were at much lower level. Only four security incidents were in Parwan and two for Kapisa. There were no security incidents in Panjsher. In Kabul City, many of the incidents involved security forces operations to include criminality, narco-crimes and arrests.

The sustained levels and gradual spread of AGE activity during the last four weeks, indicates the resilience of insurgent groups against stepped up operations by security forces in CR. For instance, direct attacks against IM and GoA convoys in Shakar Dara, Qarabagh and Musayi Districts. These attacks also substantiate the last week's assessment regarding the expansion of AGE area of operations/influence.

In Wardak, 11 PSC personnel were killed in four separate attacks in the span of two days.

There were no suicide or complex attacks over the period. Three potential suicide attackers with BBIEDs were however, arrested by the ANSF in Kabul City during the week and there are reports of at least one terrorist cell comprising four BBIEDs being present in the city. There were also seven stand-off attacks using rockets, three against the same DAC in Wardak in the space of three days.

13 IED incidents were recorded, nine detonations and four IEDs discovered. All the nine IED detonations in Logar and Wardak Provinces targeting IM, ANSF and PSC convoys were successful. There were four reports of IED discovery. Out of nine successful attacks, seven were in Wardak Province, mostly along the ring road and two attacks occurred on the Logar-Wardak link road in Baraki Barak District. This shows that AGE are again concentrating their efforts to the MSR and roads frequently used by IM/ANSF in order to disrupt IM/ANSF operations as well as intimidating the local population. The tactics and intensity of these attacks would suggest that AGE activity is being sustained at a higher level and the reports of regular infiltration by IED experts and foreign fighters in Wardak and Logar are further confirmed. Therefore, further attempted spectacular attacks including harassing indirect fire attacks are expected mainly in Kabul City/Provincial Centres in order to focus IM attention away from the interior, so that the AGE can conduct logistics operations without any interference from IM/ANSF.

No incidents directly related to the election were recorded.

It is expected that levels of security incidents will remain elevated in the next reporting period. Asymmetric attacks against the population, electoral staff, candidates and campaign personnel is likely to increase. Suicide/complex attack threat reporting will remain high and the possibility of such attacks particularly in Kabul City and provincial centres will remain potential threat that can affect the UN.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Attack/Armed Clash

There were 13 reported armed clashes/attacks over the period. 10 of these were initiated by AGE against IM/ANSF, DAC and logistics convoys while two armed clashes were reportedly initiated by IM during joint search operations and one clash erupted between campaigners and local commanders in Parwan Province. At least four PSC personnel, three AGE, two ANP and a local male were killed while one ANP, one AGE, one civilian and a PSC member were wounded in the course of the attacks. IM also arrested one AGE during a search operation.

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Stand-Off Attack

There were seven stand-off attacks recorded during the week. The DAC of Jaghatu, Nirkh and Maydan Shahr Centre of Wardak and Shinwari DAC in Parwan came under AGE multiple rocket attacks. On three separate occasions on 28, 31 August and 1 September, the Jaghatu DAC in Wardak Province was attacked with several rockets. During the night of 2 September, AGE fired three rockets apparently targeting an IM base/Presidential Palace in Kabul City. Again the rockets missed the target and in one instance failed to detonate demonstrating the low quality of ammunition available to insurgents.

IED Detonated/Discovered

There were nine reports of IED detonation. Five ANA and seven PSC personnel were killed and two ANP were wounded in those attacks. There were four reports of IED detection. All the devices were subsequently defused by EOD teams.

Mine/UXO Incident

One shepherd was killed in an accidental UXO explosion in Surkhi Parsa District of Parwan Province.

Cache

IM/ANSF discovered two caches in Kabul and Wardak Provinces and seized a quantity of munitions.

Assassination

In Musayi District, AGE attacked a morning shuttle-bus belonging to the Supreme Court. As a result, two Supreme Court employees were killed and six others were wounded.

Crime

AGE hijacked two IM contracted loaded logistics trucks on the ring road in Saydabad District, Wardak. In PD 5 of Kabul City, ANP recovered the dead body of a local male inside a parked vehicle. In another incident, a civilian was shot and wounded in Dih Sabz District, Kabul Province by unknown gunmen. The increased requirement for money before the Eid holidays probably prompted an increase in attacks on high profile cars (UN, NGO operated SUVs). Several vehicles had been stopped, the driver distracted and then the tires slashed by an accomplice. The MO of the criminals seems to be then to wait until the driver and passengers concentrate on changing the tire and steal valuables from the car. Two such incidents affected UN cars, though a theft was avoided by the drivers and passengers continuing until reaching a safe locations.

Arrest

IM/ANSF conducted a number of raids on suspected AGE locations in Kabul, Logar and Wardak Provinces, capturing at least 28 suspected AGE together with their weapons. ANP also detained one PC candidate for his alleged involvement in narcotics trade.

Intimidation

Unknown perpetrators burned an election campaign office of a parliamentary candidate in Kohi Safi District, Parwan Province. On 30 August, AGE reportedly burned a private bus in Saydabad District.

Narcotic Incident

ANP arrested a local dealer and seized a large quantity of narcotics during a house search operation in PD 7, Kabul City. It was also reported that ANP eradicated approx 1 hector of poppy cultivation in Kapisa.

Demonstration

There was also a peaceful demonstration in front of the Parliament by former ANA officers for their long standing issue of retirement benefits.

Other

A FAO vehicle, plate number UN-992 had an accident on the KAIA road. One local civilian was injured. He was taken to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The FAO vehicle and driver have been detained by the police.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGION

The security situation in the Central Highlands Region remained calm, with the exception of the areas bordering the NER (Shikari valley in Bamyan Province) and Uruzgan/Hilmand Province (Kijran in Day Kundi Province).

END OF REPORT
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