



**UN Department of Safety and Security, Afghanistan  
Security Situation Report, Week 36,  
3 - 9 September 2010**

**JOINT WEEKLY SECURITY ANALYSIS**

As expected towards the end of Ramadan, a significant decrease was recorded in the overall number of security incidents compared to the previous week. Security incidents decreased significantly in nearly all regions, only the NR and CR recorded relatively consistent levels and the CHR four incidents compared to no incidents. Most incidents were concentrated as usual in Kunduz, Faryab, Hilmand, Kandahar, Khost and Kunar provinces. The WR continued to record increased IED incidents, mainly in Hirat and Farah. Kandahar City in the Malajat area and Hilmand in the Sangin, Grishk, Nad Ali and Marja belt recorded high levels of armed clashes. In the SER Khost recorded a marginal increase despite an overall decrease of incidents throughout the region – which remained the most volatile region of the country. In the ER the use of magnetic IEDs increased, as did stand-off attacks in the CR against District Centers.

Incidents affecting the UN and the aid community decreased. This is assessed to be due to a shorter working week with Eid al-Fitr and Ahmad Shah Massoud Memorial holidays starting on Tuesday afternoon. The UN was directly affected by only one incident compared to four in the previous week: On 8 September a UN convoy was shot at from afar on the Mazari Sharif - Shibirghan road in Chahar Bolak District. Three abduction attempts or short term abductions against NGOs were recorded in the NR. The aid community was affected also by two robberies of food in the NER and WR.

The use of asymmetric tactics against the population by AGE also decreased: 14 victims were recorded in 13 assassinations compared to 23 in the previous week, mainly concentrated in the SR and CR. 16 cases of abduction with 29 victims were recorded in the NR, WR, SER, ER and CR, a decrease compared to the 44 victims abducted during the week prior. Nine cases of intimidation, mostly related to elections were recorded in the NR, SER and ER. Eid al-Fitr is assessed to be a major cause for this significant decrease.

Three suicide attacks were recorded during the week in the NER and SR, in line with the yearly average and the focus of terrorist elements on the provinces of Kunduz and Baghlan since the beginning of the year. One of the two attacks in the NER was conducted by a teenage suicide attacker.

15 incidents were related to the elections, the same level as during the previous week. During the reporting period the Taliban movement made four public statements in which they denounced the elections as a tool to 'legitimise the occupation' and vowed to punish those involved in the process.

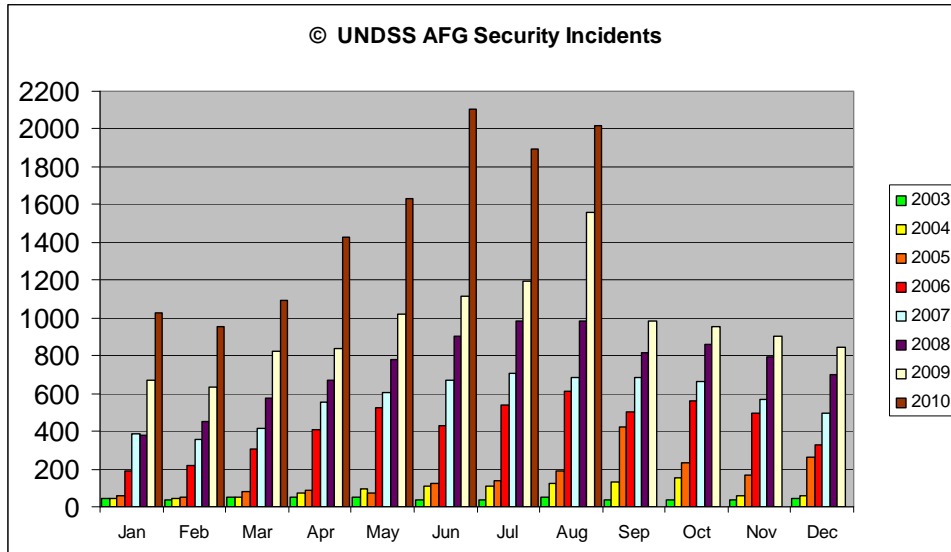
Several demonstrations were held against the IEC and ECC due to discontent over the barring of candidates and polling centers. The week also saw a significant increase in demonstrations prompted by radical religious rhetoric in both the US and Afghanistan.

**AUGUST MONTHLY OVERVIEW**

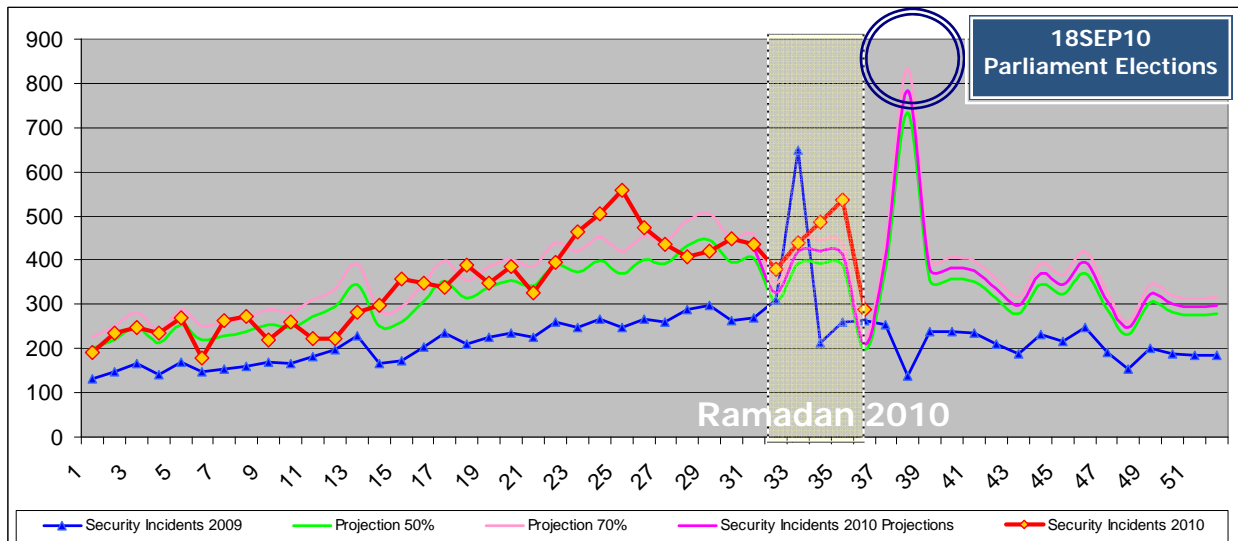
A total of 2,017 security incidents were recorded in the month of August, 30% above last year's August, but over double the monthly average of 2009 (see Figure 1). Taking into account that August 2009 included Election Day and therefore was unusually high, and three weeks of August 2010 fell in the Ramadan period, the daily average of 65 security incidents is more than double the average of last year's Ramadan period. Compared to July, armed clashes, air strikes and intimidation increased, which are assessed to be a result of the inflow of international troops and the electoral process. Also demonstrations increased in the context of the electoral process. Slight decreases were noted in IED detonations and discoveries, stand-off attacks and cache finds. A probable explanation for this trend is

deliberate stockpiling of IEDs and stand-off ammunition by AGEs for use on Election Day. Assassinations increased significantly, and also the numbers of persons abducted rose.

During the month of August, staff of the United Nations was affected by nine security incidents, including five intimidation incidents. This is in line with the 2010 trend. The larger aid community was affected by 29 additional incidents. While numbers are lower than the highest levels experienced in other months of 2010, three assassinations and one IED incident claimed a total of 14 aid workers' lives. AGE increasingly use short-term abductions of staff members in order to gain control over NGO operations.



**Figure 1: Monthly levels of security incidents 2003-2010**



**Figure 2: Weekly security incident forecasts and actual incidents 2009 and 2010**

**RISK ANALYSIS**

High levels of terrorist and insurgents threat reporting continue, and spectacular terrorist attacks in major urban centres remain probable. The overall volatility due to the armed conflict and terrorism will peak on the day of the Parliamentary Elections on 18 September (see Figure 2) with an expected 600 security incidents expected for the day itself, and around 100 security incidents per day in Week 37. The highest

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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.

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### **Significant Incidents after the end of the reporting period**

On 10 September, Nangarhar Province, Kuz Kunar District, Shigay Area, Asadabad-Jalalabad Main Route, a large crowd staged a peaceful demonstration blocking the road, apparently in protest against the planned Quran-burning in the US.

On 11 September, Fayzabad Province, Fayzabad City approximately 200 persons staged a peaceful demonstration.

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### **NORTH EASTERN REGION**

The security situation in the North East Region remained unstable. Kunduz Province and some districts of Takhar and Baghlan Provinces particularly districts along the main highway remain unstable, while Badakhshan Province though stable could easily deteriorate.

### **Analysis of the Week's Events**

There were 28 incidents reported representing an approximate decrease of 25% after three consecutive weeks of steady increases. The majority of incidents were recorded in Kunduz Province which registered 11, Takhar eight, Baghlan seven and Badakhshan two. The target profile remained consistent as majority of the incidents were initiated by the AGE.

During the period, there were two election related incidents. In Puli Khumri, capital of Baghlan and Farkhar District of Takhar supporters of opposing candidates clashed. One person was wounded in the latter incident. With the election date drawing closer, the likelihood of violence amongst candidates increases.

AGE activities continued in Kunduz Province with another suicide attack in the provincial capital. In Imam Sahib District a three hour engagement was fought with the pro-government militia. Around Kunduz City skirmishes against IM/ANSF targets too place in Zakhel and Qazaq areas. A police post near the city guarding the Seyab bridge area was attacked by AGE and suffered heavy casualties. This was followed by a stand off attack towards the DAC in Dashti Archi. After the end of Ramadan increased activities are expected in Chahar Dara, Dashti Archi and Imam Sahib Districts.

The most significant security incident for the week occurred in Baghlan Province on 6 September when the District Administrator of Nahrin District and his driver were killed by AGE while en-route to Kunduz. The AGE also established an illegal CP in Chashmayi Sher area in Puli Khumri District on the main road towards Mazari Sharif, resulting in an armed clash with the ANSF. Two passengers and vehicle were seized by the AGE after the encounter. On 9 September, AGE attacked the residence of the acting District CoP in Dahanayi Ghorri and took hostage three local militiamen (*arbaki*) who were protecting the residence. A teenage suicide bomber activated his BBIED and killed two militiamen and injured another, near the city of Puli Khumri, despite a threat warning received two days earlier.

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In Takhar, the ANSF/ IM operations in the Northern Districts inflicted heavy losses to the AGE including significant arrests. The local authorities have requested for similar missions to rid the Province of insurgents. Following the air strike against a suspected pro-Taliban commander travelling in a WJ candidate's convoy on 2 September, the population of Rustaq District held a peaceful demonstration to protest against the attack.

Badakhshan witnessed a significant decrease in incidents reported from eight to three which could be short lived as the situation could easily deteriorate with a medium likelihood of AGE planning to attack ANSF targets in Kishm and Taqab Districts.

The next reporting period is likely to witness fresh targeting of rival WJ candidates, supporters and electoral personnel as the elections reaches its final stages.

### **Description of the Week's Significant Events**

#### **Suicide Attack**

There were two BBIED attacks. On 4 September, a BBIED targeted ANP in Kunduz City. Four ANP, three civilians were killed whilst two other ANP and two civilians were injured. The second incident occurred when a teenager boy detonated his device in Danhanayi Shihabuddin area, near Puli Khumri on 8 September. Two militiamen were killed and another sustained injuries. A threat warning was received on 6 September.

#### **Attack/Armed Clash**

Eleven attacks/ armed clashes were reported during the week; four in Baghlan, four in Kunduz and three in Takhar. Majority of these attacks/ clashes are AGE initiated. The ANSF/ IM Operations in Takhar Province particularly the Northern Districts however stands out as decisive blow against the insurgents in the short term.

#### **Stand-Off Attack**

AGE fired 107 mm rockets towards the DAC in Dashti Archi, Kunduz Province with null effect.

#### **IED Detonated/ Discovered**

There were two IED incidents reflecting a significant decrease compared to the previous week. A premature detonation of RCIED was reported in Takhar Province, Khwaja Ghar District whilst the ANSF discovered and safely defused a similar device in Kunduz Province, Khanabad District.

#### **Abduction**

Two abductions were recorded.

#### **Crime**

Five crime related incidents were recorded: two each in Baghlan and Takhar with one in Badakhshan Province. Of significance was the incident in Baghlan Province, Dahanayi Ghori District where unknown armed men stormed the residence of NSP staff and robbed WFP food supplies allocated for distribution.

#### **Arrest**

There were four separate arrests reported: three in Kunduz Province and one in Badakhshan. The alertness of the Security Guards at the UNOPS premises in Kunduz City resulted in the arrest of two suspects by the ANP – it however turned out later that there had been no surveillance attempted by the suspects.

#### **Demonstration**

On 4 September, in Takhar Province, Khwaja Bahauddin DAC, 400 protestors staged a peaceful demonstration against the IM air strike which occurred on 2 September 2010.

On 9 September, Fayzabad Province, Fayzabad City, around 1400hrs, large crowd staged a Demonstration in front of PRT, It was reported that the crowd started throwing stones at the PRT's local armed guards injuring several guards including the head of the local security. The provocation prompted

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the armed guards to open fire towards the crowd. Latest and unconfirmed reports indicate that three civilian protesters were killed and about six injured.

### **Information**

One ANA was killed and three others were injured when an ANA convoy had a road traffic accident at Takhar Province, Khwaja Bahauddin District, Sujani Village.

## **NORTHERN REGION**

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

### **Analysis of the Week's Events**

The number of the security related incidents in the region remained consistent with the previous week. 32 incidents were reported compared to 31 on previous reporting period. However majority of the incidents – 27 – were AGE related.

15 armed clashes occurred in the region during the week, nine of them in Faryab Province. The main target continues to be ANSF. The most significant series of coordinated attacks occurred in Sari Pul Province, Sayyad District when on 05 September insurgents attacked four different ANP check posts. Reportedly some clashes lasted even up to six hours. In total one AGE and two ANP were killed while three AGE and two ANP were injured.

The security incident that affected the UN directly occurred in the afternoon of 08 September on the Mazar-Shibirghan Highway, which has been a serious security concern for UN already for months as it is affecting the programme delivery in four provinces. A UN road mission travelling towards Shibirghan came under small arms fire in Chahar Bolak District. The mission managed to speed through the area and arrived safely to Shibirghan. No damage to UN assets or injuries to staff members were caused by this attack. This is the first attack on UN road mission in the mentioned area and has a serious impact on the UN freedom of movement in the region for the next coming months unless the international and national security forces will take necessary action to clear Chahar Bolak District from AGE and improve the security along the Mazar-Shibirghan Highway. It follows another attack on a UN road mission on the ringroad last week in Jangal area of Dawlatabad District of Faryab.

Four abductions and one abduction attempt took place in Samangan, Balkh and Faryab Provinces. Three of these incidents were related to NGO/INGOs. In Samangan Province, two national staff members of an INGO who were travelling on a horse in Dara-i-Sufi Payin District were for a short period of time detained by a group of gunmen believed to be AGE. In Balkh District of Balkh Province the joint monitoring mission of INGO and international company was targeted by AGE and three persons were abducted. However all of them managed either to escape or were released from the captivity. In Sholgara District of Balkh Province the armed men stopped an INGO vehicle with four staff members on board. The perpetrators forced the vehicle to move to certain direction however the INGO vehicle managed to accelerate and escape. Even though the small arms fire was opened on the vehicle, all the passengers managed to escape unharmed. In addition to the incidents described above, the AGE abducted one international working for a private construction company in Qaysar District of Faryab Province. On the next day the ANP convoy went to investigate the incident and was attacked by the AGE in the same village where the construction worker was abducted resulting in the two hours long exchange of fire between the AGE and ANP. The abducted person remains in the captivity and no information has been received about his whereabouts.

During the week three intimidation incidents occurred in Balkh and Jawzjan Provinces. Two of them were related to the upcoming elections and were also the only election related incidents during the week. In Balkh Province, relatively calm Marmul District, a vehicle of a candidate, parked in front of the office, was set ablaze. In Qush Tepa and Darzab Districts of Jawzjan Province the insurgents reportedly had collected a high number of voting cards from the local population. What is of interest is that there are

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rumours about the AGE intention to give those cards to one of the candidates on the upcoming elections in exchange for his support to AGE.

In the overall analysis, there is no significant change in the general trend, frequency and pattern of AGE acts of hostility including the target profile. The next week is expected to witness increase in the number of security related incidents due to the end of Ramadan, upcoming elections as well as the politically significant incident in US and related to the possible burning of a Qoran. The UN programme delivery in Qush Tepa, Dara-i-Sufi Payin and Bala, Kishindih, Sayyad, Darzab and the rural areas of Balkh, Chintal, Chahar Bolak, the eastern parts of Sholgara Districts of Jawzjan, Sari Pul and Balkh Provinces continue to be hampered due to the active presence of various AGE/IAG networks.

### **Description of the Week's Significant Events**

#### **Attack/Armed Clash**

15 armed clashes were reported in all the provinces of the region.

#### **IED Detonated**

Two IEDs detonated during the week, both in Faryab Province, Ghormach District. In the first incident a bridge was destroyed by an IED and in second an IM vehicle was targeted by RCIED. Four IM were injured as a result of the explosion.

#### **Abduction**

Four abductions were reported. In total seven persons were abducted during the week. Only two of them remain in the captivity - the Chinese road construction worker and one ANP officer.

#### **Intimidation**

Three incidents were reported in Balkh and Jawzjan Provinces.

## **WESTERN REGION**

The security situation in WR remained unstable.

### **Analysis of the Week's Events**

Although incident levels decreased in all Provinces except in Hirat Province, the nature and geographical spread remained consistent with the previous reporting period. There were 30 incidents recorded compared to 44 during the preceding week, representing a 32% decline.

There were six armed clashes/attacks targeting ANSF/IM patrols, CPs and convoys: two each in Farah and Badghis Province, one each in Hirat and Ghor Province, all of which were initiated by the AGE. In Hirat Province, Karukh District, an IM-contracted convoy consisting of six fuel tankers en-route to Qala-I-Naw was attacked and set ablaze by a group of AGE. In two separate incidents, in as many days, an international IM-contracted PSC escorting logistics material was attacked by AGE in Farah Province. Five security guards were killed while another was wounded and abducted. Six trucks were burned. In Ghor Province, a convoy of a candidate for the forthcoming elections came under SAF. No casualty was reported.

IED incidents increased. There were nine IED strikes compared to five last week; five of which occurred in Hirat and four in Farah Province. Two significant incidents occurred in Hirat City: In one incident, several explosives, including two 107mm rockets, which had been emplaced in a rickshaw detonated, reportedly causing no casualties. A similar attack had attempted to target the former "Five Star Hotel" (used by US consulate staff) on 12 July 2010 but prematurely detonated. In the other incident, an IED emplaced in close proximity to the office of a candidate in the forthcoming parliamentary elections detonated, causing no harm or damage. In Hirat Province, Kushk District, an ANA vehicle was struck by a roadside IED killing five soldiers. The likelihood of increased IED strikes as a tactic of hard intimidations targeting the local

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population, those associated with forthcoming parliamentary elections including candidates and supporters, security forces and GoA officials, is high.

Abductions, assassinations and intimidation incidents continued: Two separate incidents occurred on the same date in Ghor Province. In Taywara District, two IEC employees and a driver were abducted by AGE. The two elections officials were later released but the whereabouts of the driver remain unknown. Also in Ghor, a commercial truck carrying non-food items belonging to an INGO was stopped and diverted by AGE. In this incident the truck driver was taken hostage and his whereabouts remain unknown. In Kushk District, two IM-contracted vehicles were set ablaze by a group of AGE who proceeded to abduct and behead the two drivers. A sustained increase in asymmetric actions against the local population, candidates and supporters of the forthcoming Wolesi Jirga Elections is anticipated.

Sustained generic threat reporting of possible AGE intent continues unabated. Main threats to UN staff are assessed as: direct loss in suicide and IED attacks, collateral damage due to close proximity to IED, suicide attacks and, abduction for political or criminal motives.

### **Description of the Week's Significant Events**

#### **Attack/Armed Clash**

Six incidents were reported. Two each in Farah and Badghis Province, one each in Hirat and Ghor Province, all of which were initiated by the AGE. Five PSC were killed and four vehicles were destroyed.

#### **Stand-Off Attack**

One incident recorded in Farah Province, Pusht Rod District, targeting IM/ANSF base. No casualty or damage was reported.

#### **IED Detonated**

Nine incidents were reported, five of which occurred in Hirat and four in Farah Province. Two civilians and six ANSF were killed and several others injured.

#### **IED Discovery**

Six incidents were reported; three in Hirat and three in Badghis Province. No arrests were reported.

#### **Assassination**

In Hirat Province, Kushk District, two IM-contracted drivers who were abducted were subsequently killed.

#### **Abduction**

Two incidents were reported. Two IEC employees were briefly abducted in Ghor Province, Taywara District and later released, although the whereabouts of the driver remain unknown. In Hirat Province, Kushk District, two IM-contracted vehicles were set ablaze by AGE, who subsequently abducted and killed the two drivers.

#### **Cache**

One incident was reported. ANP recorded significant weapons and ammunition seizures in Hirat Province.

#### **Crime**

Two incidents were reported in Ghor Province.

#### **Arrest**

Three incidents were reported in Hirat and Farah Province.

## **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 dropped significantly, by 40%, with 107 reported security incidents, compared to 179 in the previous week. This drop is attributed to fewer reports received due to the shorter work week caused by the Ei-ul-Fitr holiday and a general decrease of incidents because of Eid. 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 Lashkar Gan and Nad Ali saw the highest activity, while in Kandahar Province Kandahar District was the most active.

Compared with IED attacks and discoveries armed clashes are the main security incident category. This is caused by the ongoing IM operations in Kandahar and Helmand provinces, specifically in the districts around Kandahar City.

IM/ANSF CPs, patrols, convoys and IM contracted logistic convoys remained primary targets of these attacks; consistent with previous patterns.

The sustained increase in security incidents in Uruzgan Province may have been caused by displacement of AGE fighters from Helmand and Kandahar provinces into these areas due to the increased IM presence and activity in latter. However, generally the increase in reported security incidents is attributed to an increased IM footprint and resulting number of engagements with AGE across the entire SR.

Assassination, abduction, and intimidation incidents against those perceived to be unsupportive of insurgents activity continued to occur at high levels during the week, the drop from last week mainly attributed to fewer reporting days in this period. Targeted were ANP officers, elders and NGO workers, as well as contractors for IM. Thus no change in the groups targeted, however now even relatively low-level ANSF officers are targeted, indicating a widening of the assassination campaign. In all cases the killings were carried out by small teams of AGE using small arms, mainly pistols. No arrests have been reported in any of the incidents. This impunity and the perceived ability to strike everywhere aids to the intimidation and propaganda effect of this AGE effort.

IM have commenced military operations in Zhari and Panjwayi districts of Kandahar Province with the onset of Eid, with operations in the Malajat area, south of Kandahar City District 6 are continuing.

The holy month of Ramadan finished with Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations across SR. Although there was heavy celebratory gunfire from many directions in Kandahar City, no damages or injuries were reported by UN agencies.

There have been only muted public reactions to the media reports of the plans of a US church to burn copies of the Holy Quran. Although the issue was topic in Friday prayers no demonstrations as in other parts of the country have taken place thus far. Since the matter does not appear to be finally resolved and has already caused significant upheaval in the Muslim world UN agencies in the SR must be vigilant for possible fallout in the region.

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**

#### **Suicide Attack**

One suicide attack was carried out in Kandahar City.

#### **Attack/Armed Clash**

There were 47 reported armed clashes/attacks over the period, in comparison to 57 the previous week.



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### **Stand-Off Attack**

Three stand-off attacks were reported during the week

### **IED Detonated/Discovered**

17 IED detonations were reported during the week.

18 IED discoveries were made. Most defused by EOD teams.

### **Assassination**

Six incidents were recorded during the week; a decrease compared to 10 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**

During the reporting period there was a 15 percent drop in the security incident statistics in the SER with a total of 137 security reports received (including 16 late) as compared to 161 the week before. This could be attributed to a relative lull in AGE activity at the end of the week related to preparation for the Eid celebrations. The decreases, however, were unevenly distributed by provinces, i.e. the biggest decline was registered in the Ghazni province, which accounted for 44 incidents (62 the week before) whereas a total of 38 incidents were reported from Paktika as compared to 46 during the preceding week. At the same time, incident levels remained consistent in the provinces of Khost with 31 incidents reported (29 during the previous week) and Paktya, where 24 incidents occurred – same as the week before.

80 percent of the security incidents reported last week are believed to be AGE initiated (84 the week before). No major changes have been noted in the AGE tactics – certainly, with some fluctuations in comparison with the earlier weeks regarding the numbers of the incidents and the insurgents' focus areas as well as types and modes of asymmetric attacks. Consistently with the earlier trends, the AGE modus operandi 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. The AGE were more active in the districts of Andar, Arjistan, Ghazni, and Qarabagh of the Ghazni province, the Khost (Matun), Sabari, Nadir Shah Kot, and Tere Zayi districts of the Khost province, the Gardez and Sayid Karam districts of the Paktya province as well as the Yousuf Khel, Yahya Khel, and Barmal districts of Paktika.

During the reporting period, IM/ANSF continued with various operations aimed at disruption of insurgents' kinetic activity and logistics and degrading AGE fighting capabilities with an immediate-term goal to support the upcoming parliamentary elections. IM/ANSF operational focus was more visible in Zurmat, Gardez, and Ahmadabad of Paktya, Khost (Matun), Sabari, and Gurbuz of Khost, Ghazni and Andar of Ghazni as well as Yosuf Khel and Yahya Khel of Paktika. During the reporting period IM finalized deployment of the Force Package Three into the SER (deployment and relocation of troops into Paktika, Khost and Ghazni). ANSF have, reportedly, finalized security planning for the upcoming elections, which they have taken lead for with IM support.

At least 69 people were killed and 107 were wounded as a result the security incidents reported during last week in the SER (the number casualties is yet to be verified independently).

### **Description of the Week's Significant Events**

#### **Attack/Armed Clash**

A total of 46 armed clashes reported (62 last week), the majority of which traditionally remaining hit-and-run attacks aimed at harassing IM / ANSF / targets of opportunity.

#### **Stand-Off Attack**

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A total of 20 incidents recorded (35 during the preceding week).

### **Air Strike**

A total of five air strikes reported (compared to seven the week before).

### **IED Discovered/Detonated**

A total of 37 incidents reported as compared to 34 the week before, including 19 detonations (21 last week), including capture of two BBIED vests by NDS at a local school in the Ghazni city on 02 Sep 10.

### **Abduction**

Two such incidents reported (one the week before).

### **Arrest**

At least 36 suspected AGE were arrested as a result of a series of joint IM / ANSF search operations in the SER, including the 03 September capture of three AGE in process of assembling a VBIED and arrest of two suspected suicide bombers in the Ghazni city on 02 September.

### **Intimidation**

A total of five incidents reported, including arson of a boys' high school in Shamal Khost on 07 September.

### **Other**

A total of sixteen passengers were killed and twenty-three were wounded as a result of a passenger bus rollover in Andar Ghazni on 08 September.

## **EASTERN REGION**

The security situation in the Eastern Region remained volatile.

### **Analysis of the Week's Events**

The region recorded a 35% decrease in reported incidents, with 75 incidents reported compared to 116 the previous week. AGE driven activities accounted for 78% of the overall incidents, which is within the average rate for the last four weeks. Of the 24 armed attacks: 18 occurred in Kunar, 4 in Nangarhar, and 2 in Laghman. Targeting profiles remain consistent with last week. Although the number of stand-off attacks decreased by 60% and no casualty incurred, it appears that the insurgent's precision tactics has improved since most of the rockets impacted inside the intended targets. It is hard to determine any particular reason to this decrease except to say that the AGE may have been waiting for reinforcements and supplies after extensive engagements with the security forces last week. However, it is assessed that the intensity and frequency of incidents will increase again during the next reporting period, particularly as AGE and ANSF/IM attempt to gain strategic control over key areas. These on-going attacks are affecting area stability and impacting on UN Operations conducted through implementing partners, government and/or third party contractors.

While election candidates and political parties continues with their campaign, local population appears to play "wait and see" response. No rallies or direct insecurities directly relating to the electoral process were recorded, during this reporting period. However, an indirect suspicious phone call threat against two regional UNDP Elect staffs was reported during the period as a result of which the two staffs have been recall to Kabul.

IED incidents continued to feature this week, with an increase of 23% incidents reported over the period. The increase of IED incidents, particularly in Nangarhar Province tends to indicate that AGE groups operating in this province prefer to utilise such approach. Majority of the incidents involved home-made magnetic IED being placed upon local IM contracted fuel tanker trucks. A key IED incident this week occurred in Shinwar District, Nangarhar Province which involved an IED detonation against an ABP

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vehicle as a result of which an ABP member was killed and three others sustained severe injuries. IED remains a primary concern on the main access and secondary access roads to many districts through out the region. This assessment is supported by a number of information received indicating AGE intentions to conduct attacks against IM/ANSF and GoA through out the region.

AGE intimidation tactics were prominent throughout the week. Tactics employed to discourage local people from supporting the government and international entities included; the abduction of four male government officials at Khaira area, Mano Gai District and the killing of a local male employee of an IM base at Nari District, Kunar Province.

A huge demonstration was staged at Dara i nur District, Nangahar Province (approx. 2000 – 2500 people) was recorded during the period. The demonstration was against the recent planned burning of holy Koran by a church pastor in the US. The demonstration lasted for about 4hrs and ended peacefully after the demonstrators handed in their petition to some government officials.

Collateral damage due to the close proximity to IED and suicide attacks is the highest assessed general risk to UN staff members. Threat of direct loss in suicide and IED attacks is assessed as second and abduction of political or criminal motives is assessed as the third highest risk. The next reporting period is expected to experience more intensified intimidation and acts of violence.

### **Description of the Week's Significant Events**

#### **Attack/Armed Clash**

Twenty eight incidents were reported.

#### **Stand-Off Attack**

Six incidents were reported.

#### **IED Detonations/Discoveries**

Twenty two incidents were reported, ten were detonations and twelve were discoveries

#### **Assassination**

One incident was reported, the murder of a local male employee of IM base in Nari District, Kunar Province.

#### **Abductions**

Four incidents were reported. One abduction incident occurred in Khaira area, Mano Gai District, Kunar Province involved four abductees (government officials). The four abductees were all released on the next day upon the local elders' mediation. Until today 5 people are still under the custody of their captors (three separate incidents)

#### **Crime**

Seven incidents were reported.

#### **Arrests**

Three incidents were reported.

#### **Intimidation**

One incident was reported.

#### **Demonstration**

One incident was reported.

#### **Confrontation/Dispute**

One incident was reported.

**CENTRAL REGION**

The security situation in the region continue to be unstable and marred with constant unpredictability. While Panjsher and Parwan remain calm, the provinces of Kabul, Logar and Wardak continued to be unstable and thus accounted for the bulk of the incidents.

**Analysis of the Week's Events**

There were 59 security related incidents reported this week compared to the 56 incidents of the previous reporting period. This in effect, shows a marginal increase of 5%. AGE activities continue to be a perceptible factor of insecurity in the region as amply manifested in the persistent use of IEDs, armed clashes and stand-off attacks as preferred methods of attack. As the parliamentary elections approaches, the overall political climate in the region remained charged which ostensibly seems to trigger a surge in violence as indicated by increased abduction and assassination incidents. The presence of AGE sleeper-cells in Kabul City continue to feature in numerous threat reporting. Therefore, AGE intent and capability to launch spectacular attacks before and during the period of the parliamentary elections should not be underestimated. Regardless of the fact that some threat reports never matured into actual attacks, the credibility of such threats are incontestable with the recent Taliban announcement in the media of plans to disrupt polling on election day. Anti-election propaganda by way of dissuading voters from participation tied to stern warnings of dire consequences for anyone who participates in the votes persist in the region especially in isolated communities.

Of significance this week, are two demonstrations in Kabul staged by a group of locals protesting the planned desecration of the Qur'an by a church in the US in commemoration of the 9/11 attack in the US. This proposed burning of the Qur'an continue to be condemned by many among the local population and if accomplished, more protests are likely to be launched that may potentially have some security ramification for the IC in the city. The abduction and assignation of ANSF personnel, other government employees and locals for political and criminal and motives continue to be reported. There were three abduction incidents reported in Wardak and one in Kabul. Noteworthy are the abduction of a Headmaster of a Primary School, an ANP Officer and six ANA soldiers an illegal CP mounted by the AGE. Similarly there were five assassinations that include a local religious leader(mullah) in Parwan, the bodyguard of a parliamentary candidate in Logar and an employee of a local TV station in Kabul. Abductions and targeted killing of candidates and campaign officials especially may intensify or continue at a sustained level in the short to the medium term as the elections draws nearer.

Although there is a significant reduction in the number of armed clashes this week in comparison to last week, the number of IED incidents remain consistent as ANSF and IM continue to bear the brunt of most IED attacks that more often than not culminated in fatalities and injuries. Stand-Off attacks in the form of rocket launches on District Administration Centres continue in Wardak, Parwan and Kapisa. However, Wardak Province, as usual accounted for more than 70% of such attacks even though no casualty was reported in all these attacks.

On a positive note, it has been reported at Azra District of Logar Province that ANSF has successfully rescued three engineers of a private Telecommunication Company and an unspecified number of ANA soldiers that were abducted by AGE in the past.

The situation in the region in general is likely to remain unpredictable during the coming weeks with consistent levels of insurgent activities. Kabul city is expected to witness increased enhancement of security measures with strict checks at entry points as the parliamentary elections approaches.

**Description of the Week's Significant Events**

**Attack/Armed Clash**

There were seven reported armed clashes/attacks during the week. All attacks were initiated by AGE against ANP CP and patrols, one PSC convoy and one against some ANA soldiers travelling on board a private vehicle. A total of two AGE were killed and eight arrested, one ANP and one ANA were also injured during all these clashes.

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### **Stand-Off Attack**

A total of ten stand-off attacks were recorded during the period. The DACs of Alasay and Tagab Districts of Kapisa were suffered two rocket attacks and Kohi Safi DAC of Parwan was also attacked once. In Wardak Province, The DACs of Jaghatu was attacked thrice, Maydan Shahr twice, Saydabad and Chaki Wardak one each using rockets. The attacks resulted in neither deaths nor injuries.

### **IED Detonated/ Discovered**

There were five incidents of IED detonation. One ANP and two PSC personnel were killed while four PSC personnel, three IM and one ANP sustained injuries in he attacks. There were seven reports of IED discoveries. All the devices were defused by EOD teams.

### **Mine/UXO Incident**

There were two UXO incidents. Two children were killed and five other children wounded in an explosion. The other incident was a discovery and the subsequent recovery and for controlled demolition.

### **Cache**

IM/ANSF discovered three caches; two in Kabul and one in Logar. A combined total of 63 rockets, 21kg of explosive powder, one rocket launcher, three hand grenades and an assortment of ammunition.

### **Assassination**

Five incidents of assassination were reported. In Barak-I-Barak District of Logar Province, one local was shot dead by suspected AGE and in Kharwar District of Logar, the bodyguard of a candidate for the parliamentary election was shot dead by suspected AGE. A local guard was shot in Alasay District of Kapisa Province, a religious leader(mullah) was killed in Tatum Darra area of Parwan and a journalist, who also had been a candidate in the 2005 elections was stabbed to death in the Mikrorayon area of PD9 in Kabul City.

### **Abduction**

Four incidents of abduction reported over the week. In PD11, the son of a former head of the District Shura(council) of Shaker Dara District was abducted by unidentified armed men. In Alsang village of Chaki District of Wardak AGE abducted the Headmaster of a Primary School . In Jalrez District of Wardak, AGE abducted an ANP Officer and in Saydabad District of Wardak, six ANA soldiers travelling in a private vehicle were also abducted at an illegal CP mounted by the AGE.

### **Arrest**

There were nine incidents of arrest. A total of 20 AGE were arrested and one killed in chain of search operations in the region.

### **Demonstration**

There were five demonstrations during. Two were in Kabul and in relation to the planned desecration of the Qur'an by a church in the US and one in Kabul in response to the ECC's removal of the name of a candidate for the parliamentary elections from the list of candidates due to his failure to resign from a GOA job. The other two occurred in Kapisa and Wardak concerning AGE killing of a local guard and ANSF operation. All demonstration ended peacefully.

### **Information**

In Azra District of Logar Province ANSF rescued three engineers of a private Telecommunication Company and an unspecified number of ANA soldiers that were abducted in the area by AGE in the past.

### **Other**

In PD 9 of Kabul City Kabul City, on the KAIA road, a national staff member of a UN agency died in a fatal road traffic accident.

## **CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGION**

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The security situation in Central Highlands Region remained calm during the reporting period with the exception of Kajran District which raised security concerns due to a strong AGE presence in the neighboring Baghram and Gizab Districts of Helmand and Uruzgan Provinces in SR.

### **Analysis of the Week's Events**

There were four security related incidents, a slight increase comparing to nil of the previous week. In Bamyán Province, Shikary valley of Kahmard and Shibar Districts are still unstable areas due to presence of AGE. IM and ANSF closely observe the area trying to neutralize the AGE, who are reportedly once in a while infiltrating by the neighboring Baghlan Province in NER. The rest of the region remains accessible and open for UN activities. No major change in security related incident is expected for the next reporting period.

### **Description of the Week's Significant Events**

#### **IED Detonated**

On 02 September, Daykundi Province, Kajran District, Dowazda Imam Pass area, at around 1600hrs; reportedly, a motorcyclist was struck by IED in the area. Other anti personnel mine exploded while ANP investigated in the same area. As a result; one ANP, one civilian and two children were killed, and one ANP injured.

#### **Mine/UXO Incident**

On 01 September, Bamyán Province, Bamyán Center, Sar Asyab village, Gonbatak area, at around 1500hrs; locals located UXO / remnant of war in the area. The device was safely defused by PRT EOD Team.

#### **Confrontation / Dispute**

On 05 September, Daykundi Province Khadir District, Shakardara village, reportedly at 1600hrs; a school was partially burned by unknown people in the area. The school is a primary school for both sexes and is not allocated for any election purposes. The reason for the incident is believed to be a dispute among two communities concerning the location of this school.

#### **Crime**

On 07 September, Daykundi Province, Sangi Takht District, Qarawdal Village, at about 1900 hrs, a group of three armed criminals on motorcycles stopped a local minibus transport and robbed the passengers' valuables. ANP is investigating the case.

**END OF REPORT**

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